

Junior Section AGM Report - March 2021

Overview

2020 was a very difficult year for Junior Golf as the COVID pandemic resulted in very little inter club competitive golf being played. The DCGU Team matches didn't take place and we didn't get the opportunity to defend our Blue Tee or Golf Sixes regional titles that the Durham Juniors won in 2019. The Northern Junior Golf Tour didn't take place either.

Despite team matches not taking place we did have a range of successes at other clubs Junior Opens over the summer. Kayla Hall and William Megginson won their respective girls and boys sections at Houghton-le-Spring's Junior Open and Jack Crampton won the Dinsdale Junior Open and in doing so qualified to play in the Champion of Champions Junior International Invitational in Co. Wicklow Ireland over 3 days in August 2021.

The Junior Academy has now grown to 40 active participants, with children aged between 5-16. Work will continue in 2021 to engage with more juniors and families through social media campaigns and fun days.

The Junior Academy continues to establish strong links with local schools including Durham High School for Girls and St. Margaret's School and we look forward to this being resurrected in 2021. A partnership has also started with the North East Autism Society and also we are looking at becoming a training centre for disability golf, particularly for junior players.

Committee Structure

The Junior committee have split the JLO role up across different personnel, including Team Management and oversight of the different age aspects of the Academy. Andrew Megginson and Nigel Crampton are acting as the leads for the running of the Junior Section.

Financial Position

Our current financial operating balance as of 1st March is £3,660

We have various spending plans to support purchasing equipment and Team clothing, improving practice facilities, continue to subsidise coaching and support cost of travel and social events for junior members including family days to promote an inclusive and welcoming club.

The Junior Bursary Day did take place in 2020 just before the first national COVID lockdown. Thanks to members generosity we raised over £650 for the junior section. This money has been allocated to support any wider practice area improvements for the benefit of the junior coaching programme and also the wider club membership.

Future Plans

2021 will be a transition year for the main Durham DCGU Junior Team as our more experienced Academy players will be making the transition up to 'white tee' match

play golf. Durham have always been in a strong position to field mixed Teams, this will continue. Durham will also hopefully get the opportunity to defend their Golf Sixes and Blue Tee league titles.

The Northern Junior Golf Tour will be holding their Regional Final event at Durham City on the afternoon of Saturday 14th August.

A new Academy Fee of £45 per child has been introduced from November 2020 for players with a handicap. This will cover academy clothing, 3 coaching sessions and the £15 affiliation fee that the club previously had to pay to the DCGU. A fee of £30 will be payable for Academy players who haven't started playing in competitions.

Andrew Megginson
Junior Liaison Officer
March 2021