

Withington Junior Newsletter Spring 2010

Welcome to the Spring Newsletter.

The season is almost upon us and I am pleased to say that the Junior Committee has been working hard in recent months to organise a wide range of golf activities for all our junior members.

Starting with the team matches, the season opens away to Northenden Golf Club on the 18th April 2010. Our Junior Captain Iain Stewart will lead the side and Ben Etherington has agreed to act as Manager. It is not that long ago that Ben was playing in the highly successful Shrigley Hall Junior side and I am sure he will relate with the youngsters very well and pass on valuable advice. I hope that this year there will be competition for places and that we can supplement the League fixtures with some friendly matches.

To be selected for the teams the principal showcase is the Junior Medals, the next one is due to take place on 23rd May 2010. The event will be over 18 holes played from the white competition tees for males and red tees for females and is suitable for juniors with a handicap of up to a maximum of 28. As it is the Committee's intention to introduce every junior member to events on the Golf Course, we will also run a supplemental tournament played from the yellow tees over either 9 or 12 holes. This will help the committee to assess handicaps and decide when it is appropriate for a player to enter the Medal Competitions.

Finally on the subject of playing the course I am delighted to report that Club Directors have supported the Junior Committees proposal for a short 6 hole course to be introduced for our youngest members. Therefore in addition to the competitive tournaments outlined, non competitive fully supervised events will take place over the new course that will be open to our young "cubs" (typically 8-10 year olds).

More exciting news is that Steve Marr and his assistants Richard and Andy have agreed to organise the (free) junior practice sessions again this year. These will commence on **Saturday 22nd May 2010 at 10:00am**. The initial week will be an assessment hour where we will go over the basics and segregate the players according to ability/age. It is then proposed to hold two sessions; the first group from 10:00 to 10:45am and a second group session from 10:45 to 11:30am. It will be our aim to fully complete the EGU Junior Golf passport for all participants. It is also proposed to cover Golf Rules and Etiquette and provide an insight into the junior facilities at Withington.

I hope that you are all now receiving regular e-mails regarding events and that you are checking the notice board and reviewing the Club web site. Going forward the Junior Section will be utilising our web page to promote our section and highlight events.

Handicaps

The aim of the Junior Committee is to ensure that all Junior Members have a handicap and that every opportunity is given to help players reduce their handicap and maximise their playing potential.

An appropriate handicap is essential for a player to enjoy the pleasures of golf both in a competitive environment and playing sociably with friends and family. It provides a balance to enable all abilities and ages to play the game together.

It should help with your Maths as well if you study the subject!!

For the low handicap junior players i.e. below 28 we will ensure CONGU handicaps are prepared following competitions played from the competition tees. For all players under the age of 14 or who are assessed to have a handicap in excess of 28, a Club Handicap allocated by the Junior Committee will be provided.

Handicaps will be assessed based on scores from the Yellow Tee markers for boys and Red Tee markers for girls. Handicaps will also be adjusted following competition scores.

We will accept cards over 6 holes or 9 holes for youngsters up to the age of 14 and cards over 18 holes for older children. All cards must be signed by an experienced golf player with a handicap themselves.

The committee will consider handicap adjustments based on General Play in special circumstances.

An **example** might be as follows:

A youngster plays six holes – **hole 1** par 3 score 6, **hole 2** par 4 score 6, **hole 3** par 4 score 7, **hole 4** par 3 score 4, **hole 5** par 5 score 8, **hole 6** par 4 score 5.

Total Score 36

Gross up the holes to 18 and the score accordingly.....multiply by 3

18 holes equates to 108

The Standard Scratch Score for the course is 69

The Junior has scored 38 over Par. **His handicap is set at 38.** There may be an adjustment to account for Stableford Score Adjustment. This ensures a handicap is not inflated due to one or two particularly poor scoring holes.

The message is play with an experienced partner or adult golf club member who can fill in your card carefully, that person must sign the card.....SIGN IT yourself....to confirm it is accurate and hand it in at the pro shop for the attention of the Junior Golf Committee.

Equipment

Mindful of the costs of new equipment and the speed in which youngsters grow out of golf clubs we are looking at building up a selection of junior clubs that can be borrowed as an when juniors are looking to move up to a bigger set.

In addition it will be useful when potential new members are thinking of joining and wish to borrow clubs for practice purposes.

Clearly, you cannot beat having your own set that are perfect fit for your game, however if you do have some old clubs lurking at the back of the garage please think about donating them to the Junior Section.

Steve Marr in the Pro Shop will accept any spare clubs that you may have.

Professional Shop

The golf shop at Withington is a friendly well stocked area where you can discuss your golfing requirements, purchase the right equipment for you, and arrange one to one or group lessons.

In addition to myself I have two young assistant golf professionals, Richard and Andy who will be familiar with your requirements. They were junior players themselves recently and can help you develop your game. Do not hesitate to ask either Richard or Andy for advice.

I look forward to meeting all the junior members during the group coaching sessions organised by the Junior Committee in 2010 and when you visit the course.

Steve Marr - Withington Golf Club Professional.

Good Behaviour at all times

We must remember that Withington Golf Club is a private members club and that it is important to respect all the other members that enjoy the excellent golf facilities.

Every junior member is responsible for their own behaviour, not only on the golf course but in and around the club house and on the practice facilities.

The standards of behaviour are not onerous and are no different to that which your parents would expect at home.

For example.....

Imagine that you have just sunk a twenty five foot birdie putt and you see your mate three fairways off in the distance..... Don't tell him there and then at the top of your voice about your putting success.....wait and tell him in the club house over a glass of coke.....it's just that us "oldies" don't like all the noise!

The Junior Committee expect the highest levels of mutual respect between all junior members. We expect excellent standards of behaviour and a high degree of sportsmanship as befits a golf club member. Shortfalls in standards will be viewed very seriously.

Junior Captain's Comments

Well the weather held and eventually we managed to play the Texas Scramble Competition. We had a great turnout and congrats to the winning team H,Ateeb, Josh and my dad (who I gather did a great job tending the flag!). Team matches start at Northenden on Sunday and I hope that everyone is raring to go. I hope to see you all down at the club for competitions and practice sessions.

Iain Stewart – Junior Captain

Standards of Care

The Withington Golf Club has a clear Child Protection Policy and our Coaches and Principal Committee members have been Criminal Records Bureau checked. The club fully adopts the guidance to sport's clubs highlighted in the Vetting and Barring Scheme.

Look after your valuables!

Withington Golf Club is not immune from criminal activity that occurs throughout society. Take care not to leave your golf equipment lying unattended and be wary of anyone requesting access to the locker rooms.

Competition Results

21st March 2010 Junior Texas Scramble (Mixed Seniors & Juniors) over 11 holes

1st	Harinder Ranshi, Josh Hinds, Ateeb Khan and Alan Stewart	35 points
2nd	James Doyle, Adam Caruana, Adam Marsh and Iain Stewart	34 points

28th March 2010 - 1st Junior Medal Competition over 18 holes

1st	Ateeb Khan (handicap 14) net score 73
2nd	Josh Hinds (handicap 24) net score 80

11th April 2010 - 2nd Junior Medal Competitions over 18 holes

1st	Tajinder Ranshi (handicap 13) net score 69
2nd	Iain Stewart (handicap 21) net score 71

Future Events

- 18th April 2010 - Junior Team Match vs. Northenden away start 2:00pm**
- 25th April 2010 - Mixed Junior/Adult Texas Scramble start 1:45 pm**
- 2nd May 2010 - Junior Team Match vs. Chorlton home start 2:00pm**
- 9th May 2010 - Junior Team Match vs. Sale home start 2:00pm**
- 23rd May 2010 - Junior Medal start 2:00pm**