

## Juniors' Section 2017

To be eligible to play in the EFGC Juniors' Section, Club members must be under 18 years on 1<sup>st</sup> May (the start of the subscription year). For competition purposes they will remain Juniors for the whole of that playing year but eligible boys and girls with a CONGU handicap are welcome into the Club's main competitions.

EFGC Juniors' section currently (January 2017) has 13 members – 2 of whom are girls. Two have official CONGU handicaps and, indeed, compete in adult competitions. For the coming season we'll be looking to allocate club handicaps (up to a maximum 54). Whilst not official CONGU handicaps, this will hopefully encourage the youngsters to compete in Junior Club competitions and measure their improvement. As an added benefit, handicaps can be allocated from 6-9 holes for those youngsters who can't yet manage all 18 holes.

Current Junior events are limited to a Summer and Christmas competition along with the Junior Championship. For the coming season (starting towards the end of March) there'll be monthly (may become fortnightly if there's sufficient demand) competitions. We'll use a variety of teeing areas depending on abilities and try and make it as much fun as possible. Likelihood is competitions will take place on weekend afternoons when the course is a little quieter – hopefully there'll also be a Junior presence at Captains' and Charity days. Perhaps we'll start an Order of Merit also, so the competition structure can mirror the main Club. As the summer comes will also look to introduce some midweek fun competitions after school – again depending on demand.

We have no inter-club matches planned for 2017, although this is something we may consider adding to the Juniors' programme in 2018.

Head Professional Matthew Rea provides a high level of coaching via the Golf Passport programme aimed at improving skills in the key areas and all Juniors are welcome to attend, irrespective of experience or ability. Equipment is available to borrow for those just getting started.

We want all our Juniors to have fun in a safe, friendly environment. Everyone involved with coaching/competitions has been cleared through the DBS (Disclosure & Barring Service<sup>1</sup>) which means there is no reason why they shouldn't be involved supervising children and young people. They have also attended a PGA Safeguarding and Protecting Children in Golf workshop. In addition, Zoe Clark is our Juniors' welfare officer; this means that she is available to any juniors or their parents who have safeguarding concerns that they wouldn't wish to take up with golf coaches or organisers.

If anyone has any thoughts about or suggestions for the Juniors' Section please get in touch with Colin Bayliss, the Juniors' Organiser, whose contact details can be found in Section 2 of this Handbook and in the Club diary.

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<sup>1</sup> Formerly known as the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB)