

ROYAL WINCHESTER GOLF CLUB
Sarum Road, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 5QE

November 2007

Dear Junior Member

Royal Winchester Golf Club (RWGC) is embarking on a new and exciting initiative to actively promote junior golf within the club. I have been brought in, along with my Deputy Dave Barnes, to guide and develop this initiative over the next ten years with the clear aim of producing the most successful and active junior section in Hampshire.

My background is fairly straight forward. I joined RWGC at the age of ten (now 45 years old) played off a one handicap whilst managing to scoop up a couple of club championships on the way! In other words I have been there and hopefully understand what support you need as a junior golfer.

We all have different aspirations and expectations for this great game but did you know that Justin Rose was once a junior member at this club? Just think what he has achieved!

Before I go any further I think it is very important to make clear that golf is just one of many sporting / leisure activities that you should pursue. It is not the only one and I would encourage you to carry on playing your football, tennis, cricket and netball etc. One day you may choose not to play golf; however, if this becomes the case then the great thing to remember is that it is a game for a life and one that you may wish to return to.

You will find enclosed with this letter a number of key documents:

- The Golf Foundation Junior Passport or you to retain
- The Royal Winchester Junior Golf Charter for signature and return
- A copy of the Royal Winchester Golf Charter for you to retain
- Prepaid return envelope

I believe that the junior section needs to become an integral part of the Royal Winchester membership to provide an opportunity for friendship, personal development and enjoyment which extends into the club's culture in order to form a basic foundation that helps to protect the future health of the golf club.

As the junior organiser I am pleased to say that I have the full support of Club Captain Bob Buley and members of both the Management and Captain's Committee which is vital in this time of change particularly when a snap shot is taken of the current junior section position.

The Snap Shot

The junior membership currently stands at forty five with an unequal split between boys (42) and girls (3) and, apart from the obvious gender imbalance, appears to be quite a healthy and flourishing section.

Unfortunately, what we see on paper does not reflect reality as there are only 11 juniors actually playing the game whilst in the majority of cases it is also in isolation to one another. In other words an active junior section does not exist, there are too many “**sleeping**” junior members who are inactive and are simply congesting membership places.

These junior sleepers need to be woken up and brought back into the network of active membership and this is why all the current junior members have been sent the junior passport and charter.

I am now inviting you holder of a Junior Golf Passport. This passport provides a comprehensive, progressive, structured programme that is designed to help young people learn about playing the game of golf. The programme encourages and motivates beginners through the achievement of attainment targets combined with rewards and the most important element – fun.

The passport scheme which is designed by the Golf Foundation will provide you with a record of achievement as you develop your skills and knowledge and covers the five core elements of the game: putting, short game, long game, playing and the golfers’ code. For each of these modules there are a series of targets that get progressively more challenging.

On completion of all levels a player will have completed his/her Junior Passport and will receive a certificate that enables the junior to play on the golf course independently having developed an understanding of the fundamental skills and traditions of the game.

I also invite you to sign and return (by Friday 30th November) the Junior Charter Certificate that confirms how the golf club will commit to its junior members and what you should commit to in return. The commitment you will be making is to simply play the game of golf, obtain a junior handicap and play in at least two competitions a year.

If you do not feel that you are in a position to make this commitment then it may be the case that junior membership at RWGC is not for you and that you may wish to consider making way for those juniors on the waiting list.

Although a very difficult situation to face, it is a necessary action to ensure the future health of junior golf at RWGC. If you are drawn towards this conclusion and cannot make the commitment then I would urge you or your parents to contact my email account **david.ellery1@ntlworld.com** or contact me during the day on 01962 871024 to discuss how I may help.

When I receive your signed Royal Winchester Junior Golf Charter an invitation will be extended to you and your parents / guardian to join an evening meeting in December for you to meet myself, my Deputy Dave Barnes and other club officials and, most importantly your fellow junior golfers.

Lastly, I would encourage you to go to the RWGC web site and click on the Junior Section tab where you will find a nineteen page development plan that will hopefully provide you with a flavour of the future.

I look forward to meeting you in December and hope that you intend to keep me busy throughout the next golf season.

With best regards for the future

David Ellery

RWGC Junior Golf Organiser