



JUNIOR REPORT

ELSHAM JUNIOR SECTION
OCTOBER 2020

A THRIVING JUNIOR SECTION

We currently have 65 Junior Golfers; 26 boys and 39 girls. Over 70% of our Juniors are regularly involved in activities at Elsham Golf Club.



LEADERSHIP

Our Junior Captain for the 2020 season is Callum Bruce and our incoming Junior Captain for 2021 is Callum Phillips. Our incoming Vice-Captain is Johnathan Kittle. The Elsham Girls Squad Captain is Livia Piner and the Vice-Captain is Lucy Robinson. Both will remain in post for the 2021 season. The Junior Captain's photos are proudly displayed in the Clubhouse. Following from the Girls Golf Rocks initiative, we have 5 Girl Ambassadors. The Elsham Girls Squad have 4 Buddies who support the upcoming Girl Golfers by taking them out on the course and marking scorecards for them.



COMPETITIONS AND PLAYING OPPORTUNITIES

We had a number of competitions planned for 2020 and have done our best to reschedule as many of these as possible, including Junior Cup, Junior Ryder Cup, Junior Mixed Pairs and the Junior Championship. The winners of the Junior Cup were Lucas Cox and Ruby Rowley and the Junior Ryder Cup Winning Team was Europe! The Junior Mixed Pairs winners were Fraser Hedley and Betsy Richardson. Junior Champion 2020 is McKenzie Lewis. At a regional level, Callum Bruce had a fantastic finish in the North of England Amateur Championship 2020 at Alwoodley Golf Club finishing 3rd in a field of over 100 players.



Juniors at Elsham can access the Men's, Women's and Mixed Section opportunities once they reach a certain ability (there are a few competitions with additional restrictions in place). These opportunities have really encouraged our juniors to succeed and excel and we hope the Golf Club will continue to encourage our Juniors to be involved with as many opportunities as possible. Successes within these include Callum Bruce who won the Men's Club Championship and Livia Piner who was the Nett Cup Runner Up in the Women's Club Championship. To encourage integration into the Women's Section, a 9 hole Girls Competition was organised during the School Holidays which Lucy Robinson won. There was also a Women and Girls Pairs Competition in February won by "Team Panda" Su Waldron and Livia Piner.

We run the Junior Order of Merit which is a series of 9 hole events open to Juniors of all abilities. Juniors receive points for taking part and then points based upon where they finish at each event. The points are accumulated to give a Boys and Girls winner at the end of the season. 2020 Winners will be announced in November 2020. These events have helped bridge the gap for our youngsters from coaching to membership and regular play.



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New to 2020, we have introduced a Junior Eclectic to encourage juniors to continue playing during winter. The Junior Section always aim to put on Junior events at quiet times and consult accordingly with the Manager and Professional Team on this. We ask members for their courtesy and understanding when juniors are on the course.

The green discs on the Course mark the 'Academy Course' which helps to break down barriers for our youngsters. We hope that in future there will be an official Academy Course which would certainly help our up and coming Juniors.

MATCHES

The Junior Section continues to compete in the North Lincolnshire Junior League run by the LUGC. Elsham plays an active part within this and the Elsham Junior League Team have experienced considerable success over recent years. We had intended to enter the North Lincolnshire Development League this year for our up and coming Juniors. Unfortunately, all Junior Leagues were cancelled but we look forward once again to competing in the 2021 season. In order to keep our Juniors engaged, we have managed to secure 2 friendly Away Matches. We played a 10 hole match against Seacroft on 21st August, with 6 Juniors (3 boys and 3 girls) representing Elsham and the result was a Draw. We are due to play at Lincoln Golf Centre in a GolfSixes event on Wednesday 28th October.



The Juniors led by Dane Duffin were due to enter into the GolfSixes League this year but this has been postponed until next year. The Elsham Girls Squad had plans to represent Elsham in the North Lincolnshire Girls GolfSixes League but unfortunately this was also postponed. The Girls Squad had matches planned with Grimsby, Belton Woods and Brough Golf Club. These are being rescheduled for next season. We did manage to run an Intra-GolfSixes event on Sunday 20th September which had 19 Juniors taking part, supported by 7 young leaders. Team USA took the win, Eva Roblin won best dressed in her USA-themed attire and Poppy Ormonde and Lucas Cox won the Pairs Competition.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Through the year, we run a series of social events which includes an Easter Family Scramble, Christmas Junior Get Together, Autumn Bowling and a newly introduced for 2020 Halloween event. Unfortunately, Covid stopped the official gathering of the Easter Family Scramble but we still ran an 'At Home' Easter Competition with Winners taking Home the Easter Eggs! The Christmas 2019 Junior Scramble saw poor weather (for the 3rd year in a row!) so we ran indoor Golf Games. Junior Organiser Tim Hartley along with Margaret popped on their Mr and Mrs Claus outfits! We plan to run this year's event on Sunday 13th December with a Family Fun event and Juniors will again have the opportunity to show off their best Christmas Jumpers and Santa Hats! Unfortunately, Autumn Bowling will not take place but we have the Halloween themed event on Sunday 1st November. This will be an on-course Competition with some Halloween themed Skills Challenges. Again, Juniors will have the chance to get their Best Fancy Dress outfits on – Witches, Ghosts and Pumpkins are sure to be on the cards!





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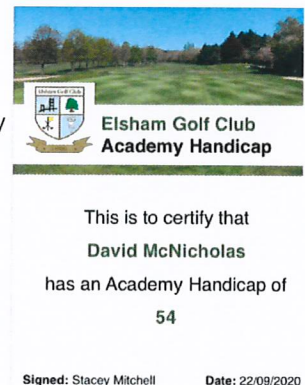
LOCKDOWN



Unfortunately, no golf at Elsham was possible during Lockdown. However, in order to keep our Juniors engaged, we ran virtual quizzes via Zoom, Golf Challenges and Competitions that the Juniors could take part in at home. A series of prizes were provided by volunteers to reward success and engagement. This helped to encourage retention within the Junior Section, with virtually all of our Junior Golfers returning to Golf Post-Lockdown.

HANDICAPS

Juniors can work towards gaining a CONGU handicap. We currently have 15 Juniors with CONGU handicaps – ranging from Callum Bruce who is our best player off a handicap of +2 up to Bella Lowery, one of our younger golfers at the age of 8 with a handicap of 48. The Juniors have to play to a certain level deemed by the Handicap Committees before they can gain a CONGU handicap. For those Juniors not meeting this criteria, we provide an academy handicap which is an unofficial handicap scheme. Juniors submit 3 x 9 hole Cards off either academy tees or red tees and we calculate a handicap for them. 21 Juniors currently hold an academy handicap and we have found this helps to retain them within the Golf Club, whilst gradually learning how scoring and handicaps really work.



ELSHAM GIRLS SQUAD



We are now fortunate to have 39 Girl Golfers at Elsham. Not only is this the largest number of girls within a Golf Club across Lincolnshire and the region but we may even have the largest number of girls in a Club in England. Within the Squad, we provide 1-2-1 funded coaching and group sessions with our PGA Professionals, David McNicholas and Dane Duffin. In 2020 alone, we have provided the Girls Squad with 100 free 1-2-1 lessons. The impact of these can be evidenced through now having 7 girls with a CONGU handicap and another 15 girls with an academy handicap.

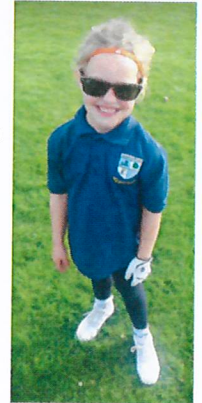
Last Autumn, the Elsham Girls Squad completed a Fundraiser which provided the investment needed for this tuition, but it also meant we have been able to source lots of other provision for the girls. This includes Kit, Practice Sessions, Practice Resources, Equipment, Refreshments, Transport to some matches, Social events, Leadership and Team building opportunities. We are grateful for the support of our Members, and the local Community, including those who have donated prizes and our 2 core sponsors; Kennedi Boutique and Axa Investments.



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We run practice sessions for the girls which develop their golf skills and enables them to socialise with other girl golfers. We successfully run social media channels which are regularly monitored and updated including Whatsapp, Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. Many girls now enjoy attending the Junior Section activities and it is great to see they have gained the confidence to get involved with these. We empower our girls to take on leadership roles and our Girls Captain is awarded a Captain badge (kindly donated by Suzanne Watson) - this replicates nicely the Women's Section tradition that takes place at their AGM each year.



We are sometimes asked why we have a 'separate' Girls Squad. We would like to take this opportunity to share that we feel the Elsham Girls Squad is an integral part of the Junior Section. The Girls Squad was created after finding the girls were not making the transition into the Junior Section programme. After consultation, some of the girls felt they did not have the confidence or didn't feel comfortable playing with the boys. The Squad has provided the ideal pathway to encourage the girls into the Junior Section and to give them the confidence, whilst nurturing and encouraging them. We have found many of the girls have flourished and are excelling and we are pleased to report that this pathway is a success.

VOLUNTEERS

The Junior Section is made up of a team of volunteers. Tim Hartley is the Junior Organiser. Tim is supported by Stacey Mitchell who is the Girls Squad Manager and there are number of Parents and Members who support the Junior Section. If there are any members that would like to get involved with helping the Junior Section, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Tim or Stacey.



FUNDRAISING

We are always looking for ways to generate funds to help our Junior Section grow and develop. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Baz Shrimpton and Derrick Hunt who have sponsored the polo shirts and jumpers for the Boys representing Elsham Golf Club in the North Lincolnshire Junior League Team. Within the Junior Section, we provide match meals to all Juniors who represent the team and fund or subsidise occasional social events such as the Autumn Bowling Trip. We will be holding fundraising activities over the Autumn/Winter months to help raise funds towards this and to get some coaching for the Junior Boys. If you would like to make a donation or can help in anyway with our fundraising efforts, please don't hesitate to contact Tim Hartley.

