

coachingfocus

A clubgolf special for coaches

www.clubgolfscotland.com

2009/2010



PGA Pro, Adam Hunter, introduces a clubgolf special highlighting the fantastic coaching being done across the country

"For junior golf in Scotland, 2009 has been quite a year..."

Through clubgolf 38,000 primary school children were introduced to the game. More than 10,000 juniors are being coached in over 270 clubs and facilities offering clubgolf programmes. Boys and girls from clubgolf's initial intake are progressing to national academies.

At the same time attitudes to juniors are changing; clubs are becoming more welcoming and more flexible. In many junior memberships are growing, in others they are flourishing.

clubgolf works well thanks to high quality coaching, by both professionals and volunteers. Over 1,260 qualified Level 1 and 2 volunteer coaches are doing a fantastic job, working with more children at grass roots than we've ever seen.

The most successful clubgolf programmes have a PGA Pro involved. Whether it is coaching children in Stages 1 and 2, taking on children once they reach

Stage 3 to keep the pathway and children developing, working with volunteer coaches, mentoring or planning a club's junior programme.

As pros our involvement is essential if we are to make the most of the interest being generated. And in many ways, as those with the responsibility of building the game, we have the most to gain by helping develop junior programmes.

As you will see in this edition an increasing number of pros are getting involved in clubgolf. But many more are needed to turn enthusiastic juniors who have been taught the basic skills into good players.

clubgolf is shaping up to be a great legacy for Scotland's successful bid to host the 2014 Ryder Cup. To make it a remarkable one we need your support."

Adam Hunter, December 2009



Adam Hunter works with Paul Lawrie during an SGU Academy training day

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A guide to the structure of clubgolf

COACH PATHWAY

PLAYER PATHWAY



PGA Pros who have attended orientation can deliver clubgolf Stages 1-3



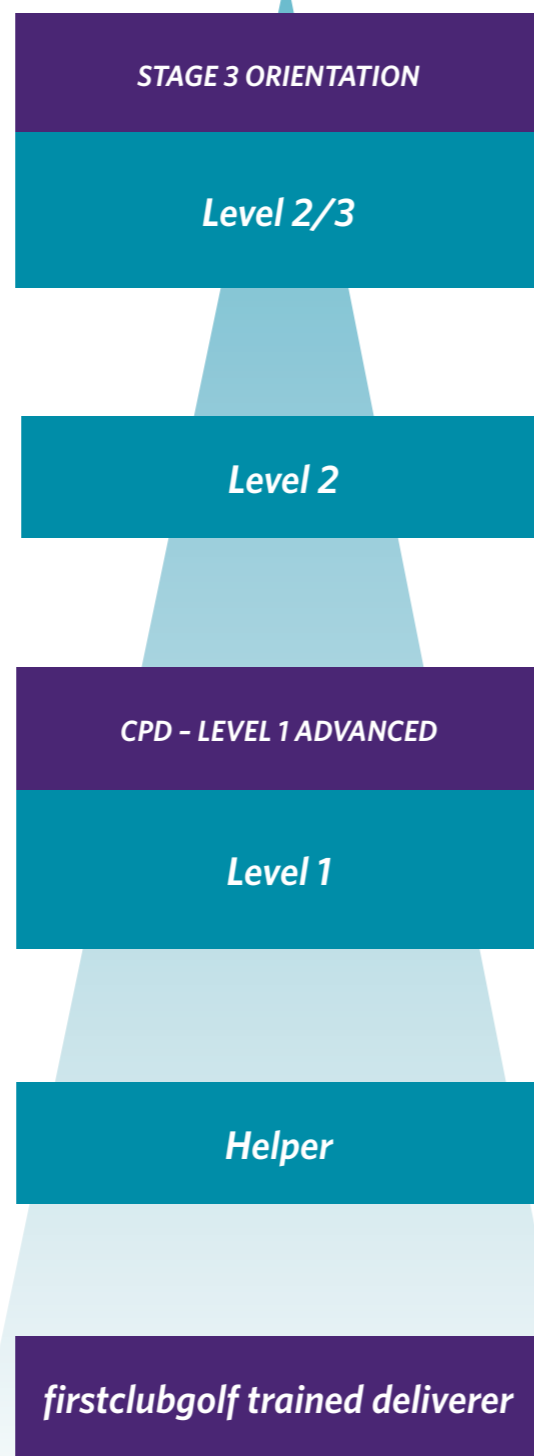
Assistant Pros or volunteer coaches attaining Level 2 can deliver clubgolf Stages 1 & 2



Level 1 coaches can complete further CPD and deliver clubgolf Stages 1 & 2
Volunteers who successfully complete Level 1 can deliver clubgolf Stage 1

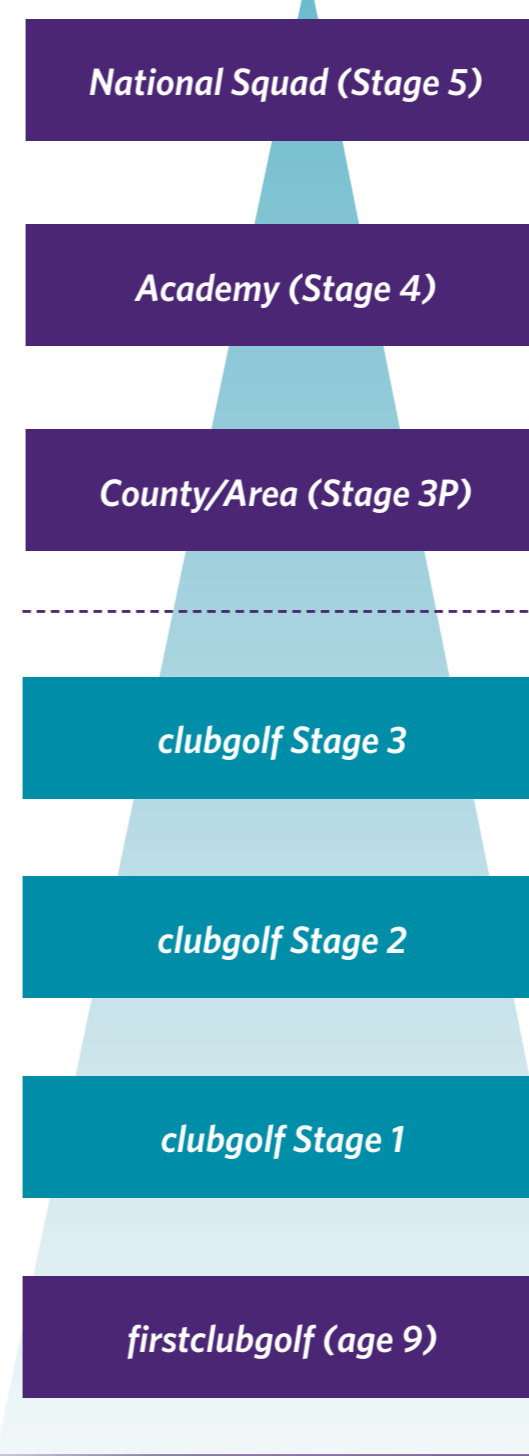


Teachers can deliver firstclubgolf after completing local training



Volunteers can develop their coaching skills as a Level 1 coach (UKCC compliant)

Progression through participation, achievement & selection for advanced coaching



Selection
Delivered by PGA Pros who have completed clubgolf Stage 3 orientation
Delivered by Level 1 Advanced coaches or by Assistant Pros (Level 2)
Delivered by Level 1 coaches (Volunteers)
Delivered in schools (P5) by teachers



Involvement through Junior club membership and lifelong participation in golf

Junior mastermind



Eymouth Golf Club expanded its junior section from 12 to 75, after a new initiative verging on being revolutionary – free membership for children!

The club committee, on the recommendation of professional Michael Hackett, began offering free membership for under 12 year olds and developing its junior coaching.

“Juniors are the future of the game and the future of any golf club,” said Michael (pictured above). “If you don’t have a thriving junior section you don’t have future members coming through as adults.”

Michael, together with assistant Daniel Wood, and volunteer helper Jim Martin (pictured right), began offering junior coaching and was supported by a clubgolf grant of £350 to put member Bob Holmes, through the Level 1 coach training course (to find out about clubgolf’s discretionary grant aid scheme visit www.clubgolfsotland.com).

A share of this grant went towards improving the club’s practice facilities to benefit the juniors, in addition to a £10,000 Awards for All grant the previous year for an indoor area complete with video analysis equipment.

For the first time the club could offer three stages of coaching. Bob teaches the youngest children the fundamentals, including the basics of the swing and etiquette.

Michael develops their skills and prepares them for playing on the course. Daniel and Jim take them onto the golf course to play holes.

Through the coaches’ efforts the club’s junior membership now stands at 75.



“Hopefully we will have another group of kids coming through after this one, which will put the club in a very strong position,” said Michael. “If we can then get half of the children becoming adult club members it will have been very worthwhile.”

Pitlochry team effort bearing fruit

An initiative which took root in 2008, with Pitlochry pro Mark Pirie helping teachers and Active Schools Co-ordinators deliver clubgolf’s introductory game to 200 children in eight local schools, is bearing fruit.

This season the club’s junior membership was up at 84 - 45 of them were part of its clubgolf programme, held in two hour long sessions on Tuesday nights through the season. In addition, Mark ran a Wednesday night class session for what he calls his ‘elite’ juniors.

Pitlochry’s clubgolf programme is still in its infancy and its early popularity is a credit to Mark’s vision, his planning and his team of 12 qualified volunteer coaches.



“Quite categorically, without volunteers we wouldn’t be in the strong situation we are now in and I’m enormously grateful for their endeavours and their good will,” said Mark, who oversees the clubgolf coaching.

“Prior to the season we meet to get everything in tune and organise a rota programme for the volunteers. I set out the programme and we have planning sessions before the coaching so we all know what we are going to do and what we hope to achieve.

“I’m there on a Tuesday night to lead them, I’ll walk around and help where necessary, and they know they can approach me at any time with questions. It’s very much a case that they know their capabilities, they know where they should be coaching to and they know they have me as back up.”

Mark’s own ‘elite’ coaching group, for juniors with handicaps of 30 or better, now numbers 11. Amongst them are players he believes have huge potential.

“To get where we are today it’s been a three year programme,” said Mark, who hopes to have a further two volunteers qualified to coach in 2010. “It’s involved a lot of hard work and endeavour and now we are reaping the rewards.”

Portpatrick based pro finds solution

In the 60 miles between Portpatrick and Castle Douglas there are nine golf clubs yet none has a golf professional, and a small number of local children are club members.

Aware that clubgolf was spreading across Scotland at the same time as his club’s membership was aging and dwindling, Portpatrick based PGA Pro James Erskine (pictured right) seized the opportunity by beginning coaching clubgolf Stages 1 and 2 to children in all nine local clubs.

He also took clubgolf’s introductory game, firstclubgolf, into all 11 of the area’s primary schools, teaching over 1500 children in after schools clubs.

He recently began Stage 3 coaching for the South of Scotland under 14 squad. This year he encouraged local club members to become qualified clubgolf volunteer coaches.

“I recommended to all clubs to get involved with clubgolf,” said James this summer.



“To get some Level 1 volunteers and have a drive to attract juniors. The kids will get coaching weekly from the volunteer coaches and I’ll go once a month, twice a month to some. I also help the Level 1 coaches with their organisation and planning and will be there to support them.”

The drive to attract juniors is already working. Portpatrick’s junior membership rose from 69 to 101 in one year. The target for the next two years is to get another 10 percent of children involved in the nine clubs, which equates to a further 200 active junior members.

Through his fundraising efforts James raised £4000 for juniors in one dinner this summer.

“This will be used to purchase junior equipment for kids so they don’t have to buy their own to come here and play,” he said.

“It means I can now pay for our regional team’s clothing for the year, afford for our better juniors to go to the Scottish Boys event and all the under 14s to play in national events. If we can improve practice facilities we can encourage schools to play the game throughout the year.”

Pros build monster junior membership at Loch Ness

From its beginnings in 1996, Loch Ness Golf Course has been junior orientated. But it’s not easy to build a children’s junior membership from scratch – even six year ago its juniors numbered in the low 30s.

Long before clubgolf, the club’s enthusiastic pros, Martin Piggot and Michael Campbell, had begun laying solid junior foundations.

“We realised a lot of juniors wanted to play but couldn’t because their parents didn’t play the game and couldn’t provide the help and know how,” said Martin.

“So we had created an integrated junior programme and had a system where we taught rules, etiquette, order of play, how to mark a ball, in addition to the technical side of coaching.”

In 2005, just after clubgolf’s introductory game began fostering an interest in golf in Inverness primary schools, the club added extra tees and greens, created a shorter 18 hole course, along

with a new 9 hole course, increasing its capacity for coaching juniors.

“We are in a very fortunate position because we have the facilities, PGA Pros who do the hands on coaching and access to club funds to make it happen,” said Martin.

“clubgolf has been a bonus in getting golf into schools and driving the volume of junior golfers higher, boosting the numbers we have access to.”

The club is reliant on its qualified clubgolf volunteers for helping handle the high number of juniors.

“clubgolf has given us more structure. Because the volunteers have been trained, they are able to

organise the children better, make sure they are safe and make sure they are doing what we are coaching them to do.

“On a Monday night we have as many as 120 kids on the go at one time, either out on the course, working on the putting green, in bunkers or in the classroom. It would be a physical impossibility to look after these numbers without our volunteers.”

Through a combination of well structured junior coaching, a junior friendly attitude and appropriate junior facilities, the club’s rise in junior membership has been staggering. They now have over 200 in coaching.

clubgolf recently awarded the club a £500 discretionary grant which is subsidising winter training for a group of Martin’s advanced juniors.

Elie Sports Club pro takes golf to local schools



Elie Sports Club pro, Ian Muir (pictured above), and his three assistants have given firstclubgolf coaching to 200 children in seven local primary schools for the past two seasons.

The town is a popular holiday resort and around 80% of the club's 300 plus junior membership comprise seasonal visitors.

"I'm determined to reverse that statistic and get the local community involved in golf," said Ian, who invites the children to the club for subsidised coaching after four weeks of golf lessons in school.

"We are finding the junior membership is growing slowly and the kids are also bringing their parents, who are asking what we are able to offer for adults. So we will aim to launch a similar scheme for them off the back of it.

"Next year we will go back into the schools and also look to launch a junior golf section so children can learn to play golf, practise and have competitions over our 9 hole course."

Ian also plans to replicate his schools coaching plan in the Kirkcaldy area after taking on the shop at Dunnikier Park Golf Club earlier this summer.

"We will do an exact mirror of what we are doing here at Elie," he said. "Go into four primary schools

and teach the introductory game with a view to bringing them back to the club for coaching at Easter."

Dunnikier already has a clubgolf programme in place and six qualified volunteer coaches are key to the programme.

"The club already has a thriving junior section and on top of the work the volunteers are doing we will have the opportunity to set up Stage 2/3 coaching," said Ian.

At a time when many clubs are seeing reductions in membership numbers, Ian and team have a refreshingly modern attitude to developing the game which would work elsewhere in Scotland.

"As pros it's our job to build the game of golf and if we don't grow it then in ten years time we are all in trouble," he said.

"You've got to take the bull by the horns, evolve and change. It's in our own interest and the winter, when the assistants aren't as busy, is a great time to get out and into the schools."

Reaching the parts that other pros can't

So popular is Orkney Golf Club's clubgolf programme, that eight Level 1 and four Level 1 Advanced coaches plus a support team of 40 helpers teach around 70 children each week.

The only thing missing on the islands is a resident pro. The nearest one is a two hour boat trip and long drive and away!

But in 2008 the resourceful islanders found the solution by inviting up Pumpherston pro Richard Fyvie to teach a summer school.

The club funded the trip with sponsorship from local businesses, George Bain, Sheila Fleet and the Glass Shop. Their combined donation was matched through the Sportsmatch scheme, managed by sportscotland.

"Many mainland golf clubs could look at Orkney Golf Club as an example of having a vision for the future"

Richard, who delivered Stages 1, 2 and 3 to 46 children, headed back in 2009 with Craighielaw pro, Jonathan Porteous, to give summer schools at the start and the end of the school holidays.

"Doing it that way gave the children and coaches the whole holiday to practise and play," said Richard, who also mentored the coaches.

"Our coaching reinforces what the island's volunteer coaches have been doing and helps take the kids to the next stage.

"Because the kids are a year older and hitting the ball further, we worked more on the technical issues and on swing movements. With the bigger ones we looked at aspects such as ball flights and explained impact factors.

"Now Orkney has a new indoor facility, golf on the island is really going places and weather is no longer a factor. Many mainland golf clubs could look at Orkney Golf Club as an example of having a vision for the future."

He believes there is great potential for pros to offer similar summer schools, "I see it as a good opportunity for golf pros, whether it is pros looking for additional income or qualified assistants looking for work." Richard will head back to Orkney this spring to get the kids on track for the new season.

Bearsden pros start junior coaching drive

In a drive to increase junior interest, pros at The Golfing House at Bearsden Golf Range began offering four week coaching courses this autumn.

"Our plan is to coach 120 children in six hour long classes of 10 kids each day on Saturday and Sunday," said PGA Pro Daryn Cochrane who is giving the coaching with his two assistants (one of them pictured below).

"When I was a junior there was very little encouragement for children to play. So it appeals to me to encourage juniors to play the game and with the numbers of children taking part in clubgolf at school, there's a great opportunity for everyone here.



"We are developing the coaching so we can get children playing in a good environment. They can wear what they like, and they can learn about golf and when they have developed the necessary skills will hopefully find a local golf club that will be welcoming to juniors.

"Following the four week course the plan is to offer children an eight week course for just £5 a week.

"If the coaching blossoms and kids move on to the eight week course, then I can employ another assistant to teach further lessons and we can increase our capacity.

"At that point we can make the free four week course a permanent feature."

Structured junior coaching suits Cluny Golf to a tee



Young golfers in the Glenrothes and Kirkcaldy area are reaping the benefits after Cluny Golf joined forces with clubgolf.

"We'd heard some good reports about clubgolf from other pros who are involved," said Cluny pro Colin Mitchell (pictured above).

"We had tried other junior programmes before but clubgolf has got such a good structure, which takes children right through a pathway from complete beginner that we thought it would be the best way to go."

Mitchell has already gone the extra mile this year by teaching clubgolf's introductory game, firstclubgolf, in eight local schools, in his own time.

One of the schools, Auchtertool Primary School, enjoyed the experience so much that it now brings its children to Cluny Golf for clubgolf Stage 1 coaching on Wednesday afternoons.

Recently Cluny Golf opened its clubgolf Stage 1 coaching course for local children and 17 children signed up. It is another encouraging sign that golf amongst children is on the up.

"We are starting by teaching Stage 1 but because I am a PGA Professional I can potentially coach children to the advanced stages," said Mitchell.

"Because 17 of our bays are under cover we have the ideal set up to coach children at any time of the year and in any weather.

"Our 9-hole course is perfect for children and we will be putting in junior tees next year, so children will have their own course. We also plan to keep the coaching going year round."

clubgolf offers a new approach to junior golf development and Cluny Golf shares a growing view of juniors' importance in the game.

"Getting so many children involved in golf at such a young age never happened before so our aim is to encourage children to play and keep them interested and developing," added Mitchell.

"By teaching them good habits and the right skills they will have a game for life."

New Deer Park youth drive gaining momentum

Like many clubs, Livingston's Deer Park Golf & Country Club has a lot of juniors on its books yet only a handful play regularly.

In 2009 the club took action halving its membership fee for eight to 13 year olds to £89. It began offering clubgolf coaching and started developing a short course for juniors.

"Kids have always been keen to play here but it was too expensive and we were becoming a feeder for other clubs," said Sandy Strachan (pictured right), who joined the Club as Head Pro from Bathgate two years ago and is leading the junior drive.

"That's fine for getting kids into golf but we weren't seeing the benefit. So reducing the membership has really given us the opportunity to get active and get kids in. My aim was to get the membership fee right then make a heavy push on the coaching and build a junior section."

"We have been working with clubgolf and Active Schools to get the message out to local schools and the potential for children to come here for coaching is massive."

Thirty children, many of them from non golfing families, have attended Sandy's clubgolf Stage 1 coaching this year.



At just £20 for the eight week course the programme, which is subsidised by a £400 grant from clubgolf is affordable (to find out about clubgolf's discretionary grant aid scheme visit www.clubgolfscotland.com).

"I'm doing the teaching because I feel that by catching children straight away I can nurture them from there and make sure they are going to be good junior members," said Sandy.

"I have got my Stage 3 qualification, as has John Murray, who joined us from Turnhouse (John was one of the first Pros in Scotland to offer clubgolf

Stage 3 coaching) so we can take the children right through to the advanced stages.

"We are coordinating with the schools that have done clubgolf's introductory game to get another intake of children after Christmas. With around 20 schools in the Livingston area the potential is large.

"We are obviously at the start but what we are working towards is to create a Deer Park Junior Academy where we take in children from a very young age and coach them right through to Scottish level and hopefully even professional."

there was no coaching when I was this age" said Marshall, whose tuition is subsidised by sportcentral. "So this is a good opportunity for them and at £2 each for an hour's coaching it's not expensive for parents."

Marshall is teaching the children the fundamentals and is already seeing an improvement. "It's all about making sure they start right with good habits, by teaching them the basics," he said.

"They have all made big improvements and two of them could probably play on the course right now. Some of them have come back to practise and two of them have booked individual lessons with me so they are obviously keen.

"There seem to be plenty of children wanting to be coached and once we've finished this course I'm sure there will be a knock on effect and we will think about running more."



Roxburgh pro fills the gap



Kelso was one of the first clubs in the south east to offer clubgolf, but like all but three Borders clubs it doesn't have a resident professional.

Fortunately the nearby Roxburgh Hotel and Golf Course has stepped in with a solution - its assistant pro, Steve Johnson (pictured above), is offering coaching to take the children through to more advanced levels.

"These children already have good foundations because of the time and work that the volunteer coaches put in," said Steve, who became involved in 2008 by offering girls-only coaching for Kelso.

"This is the second season for the girls, who have been coming here every fortnight and it's really taken off. They've got handicaps on the go now and one girl who started at 36 is now down to 15."

Steve has since branched out further by coaching boys from Kelso after the club started a clubgolf

programme for boys for the first time this year. He also performs a vital role in keeping the volunteer coaches on course through mentoring them and offering advice.

"As with the girls, the coaches take the children as far as they feel they can then they bring them here for tuition, he said. "They brought 16 boys here at the end of the season and the plan is to bring them back from April onwards.

"I produce a work book with each child which includes an assessment that the coaches can use. It has details on what they are required to do to develop the children more and how they can work together as coaches."

A passion for junior coaching

Former European Tour and Challenge Tour competitor and head pro Alan Reid began a junior drive at West Lothian Golf Club this season.

"Our junior membership has never been as healthy as it should be," said Alan in the spring. "We've got 60 juniors but only 25 play so we want to get them all on board.

"As well as bringing in new junior members we want to get a better junior member within the club by training them and teaching them the right way to play."

Since then Alan, supported by assistant Ross Ewen and four club members who are qualified Level 1 coaches, have offered clubgolf Stage 1 coaching.

In the summer and October holidays they organised additional coaching for children from local schools and were due to give more coaching during the Christmas holidays.

To encourage children to join they have created an under 14s annual membership of just £20 starting in the New Year. Alan also plans to start coaching in local primary schools in 2010.

"Now is a great opportunity for youngsters to take up golf," said Alan. "In conjunction with the local schools we will get a constant trail of youngsters coming to the club.

As Alan is qualified to coach Stage 3 of the programme, the club is in a strong position to coach juniors from complete beginner to advanced levels.

Harburn creates new opportunities for girls

Harburn Golf Club PGA Pro Stephen Mills and clubgolf Level 2 volunteer coach Macrina Crawford (both pictured below) have taken the lead in encouraging more girls to play golf.

Over the last five years the West Calder club has created a thriving junior set up through clubgolf, yet the number of boys attending weekly coaching outnumbered the girls.

"We've been giving clubgolf coaching for a number of years and it's working well in all levels with great support from our members," said Stephen. "But we wanted to get more girls and, after an open day which 12 came to, we organised an eight week coaching course for girls."



Through clubgolf, Harburn was awarded a discretionary grant for £500, which supports Stephen Mills' involvement in the coaching (to find out about clubgolf's discretionary grant aid scheme visit www.clubgolfscotland.com).

"We want to make golf a sport for everyone and we recognise that girls' participation could be a lot better," he said. "Girls only coaching is certainly proving to be a good way to keep them involved. Some of these girls have already joined the club which is very encouraging."

Supported by Macrina, Stephen is planning further girls coaching courses in 2010 as well as other developments which will support juniors.

"I don't have an assistant so it's great to have someone as keen as Macrina to work with," said Stephen. "We plan to run another girls coaching course in the spring and will get them out playing and hopefully get them handicaps.

"We are looking to run an academy programme next year for different age groups from beginners to 14."

Who coaches the volunteers?

With almost 1300 qualified volunteer coaches active in clubgolf programmes, there's a new opportunity for PGA Professionals – the role of mentor and supporter.

We caught up with John Mulgrew (JM), PGA Advanced Fellow (pictured here with a group of South Lanarkshire clubgolf volunteer coaches), to find out how his work with the North and South Lanarkshire Golf Development Groups, which he helped set up to support the areas' volunteer coaches, is working.

What is the purpose of the two coaching development Groups?

JM It's a helpline for the coaches. After volunteers have been through Level 1 coaching we want them to know that they have support.

How does it work?

JM We meet as a group through the year so that coaches can share how things are going, both good and bad. I watch them coaching, give them advice and partly deliver a session as well. The most important aspect is that they can work with me and it's been very successful.



How many volunteer coaches do you work with?

JM We have almost 130 volunteer coaches in the two groups and it's building all the time. When I take a group of volunteer coaches there will be up to 10 of them but sometimes it will be on a one to one basis.

During the Johnnie Walker Championships, PGA Pros gave clubgolf lessons to groups of children, and each had a clubgolf volunteer coach working with them. These volunteers said it's the best mentoring they have had because they can see at first hand the structure of the session and help us deliver it.

What advice can you give volunteers who have just qualified as Level 1 coaches?

JM Volunteers have to take so much in during the Level 1 training. The most important part, when they are coaching at their clubs, is keeping it simple.

Sometimes golfers try to be too helpful and give the children too much information or tend to be too technical. It's all well meaning and often happens when someone has been a golfer all their life and wants to put something back in.

Very often we see coaches who are not golfers, but have perhaps coached in other sports, finding it easier to coach because they are sticking to the script.

Have you found any common challenges facing volunteer coaches?

JM One of the aspects I find most difficult for coaches is timekeeping. If you have an hour for coaching you need to stick to it. But it can be difficult, especially if a coach gets bogged down with one of the kids which makes it difficult to spend equal time with the rest.

Is coach mentoring a good opportunity for other pros?

JM There is enormous potential for pros to take on a mentoring role and we're working to get more involved.

A pro can make between £20 and £30 an hour for mentoring which is a good additional income. I've found when I go to clubs which don't have a professional, they invite me back to give them lessons.

And how can PGA Pros benefit from clubgolf in general?

JM There are so many opportunities for pros. Colin Girvan (Golf Development Officer at South Lanarkshire Council) has opportunities for professionals at the advanced stages of clubgolf and also in coach mentoring and support roles.

There's funding available for junior coaching (to find out about clubgolf's discretionary grant aid scheme visit www.clubgolfsotland.com). There is the obvious spin off that the kids you bring in are likely to stay with you. When they buy equipment you are the person they will buy it from.

Are you noticing more pros coming on board with clubgolf?

JM At the very start of clubgolf a lot of pros were sceptical about volunteers taking business away from them but nothing could be further from the truth. Most sports have volunteers working at the initial stages.

They are crucial in introducing kids to the game and we are finding right across Scotland that volunteers are enthusing children. Over 10,000 children were involved in clubgolf programmes at clubs this summer and most of them were introduced by volunteers.

These children are all potential club members who will take lessons so there are enormous benefits for pros. Thankfully more pros are realising the potential and getting involved.

What feedback do volunteer coaches give you about your mentoring and support?

JM All the volunteers we have worked with really enjoy the experience. Frequently they all say it's an eye opener and they realise how good the pro is. When they see pros delivering they realise how professional we are and they have a better respect for what we do.



Coach mentoring programme in Central

Allan Martin, PGA Pro at Callander Golf Club, has been mentoring eight volunteer coaches from as far afield as Dunblane, Harburn and Killin to help them bridge the gap between Level 1 and 2.

"When coaches advance beyond Level 1 teaching becomes far more technical and without mentoring a lot would struggle to reach Level 2," said Allan (the scheme is funded by Active Sports Stirling).

"They have to be able to relate what the ball is doing in its flight back to a player's technique rather than watching what happens in the player's set up.



Seven months into Allan's programme, West Lothian's Macrina Crawford (pictured above) became its first coach to qualify at Level 2.

"The Mentoring Programme was an invaluable asset and together with my personal commitment proved crucial in my achievement of a positive result in Level 2 assessment," said Macrina, who, since becoming a Level 1 coach in 2005, has coached at three golf clubs, Pumpherston, Harburn, Polkemmett, as well as the newly opened Peak at Stirling University.

"You can't coach if you don't have the technical knowledge," she said. "I wasn't good at observation and observing ball flight and that was the thing I needed to understand for Level 2. Allan observed me coaching and gave me feedback. He demonstrated it and showed me different ball flights and how it related to impact factors."

Level 1 Coaching Course Schedule

Course Date	clubgolf Area	clubgolf Regional Manager	Venue	Course Code	Application Closing Date
6th & 7th February 2010	Grampian	Audra Booth	East Aberdeenshire Golf Centre	SC00110	25th December 2009
27th & 28th February 2010	East of Scotland	Laura Rushby	Swanston Golf Club, Edinburgh	SC00210	15th January 2010
27th & 28th February 2010	Central Scotland	Mandy Martin	Stirling University	SC00310	15th January-2010
6th & 7th March 2010	Grampian	Audra Booth	East Aberdeenshire Golf Centre	SC00410	29th January 2010
6th & 7th March 2010	South West Scotland	Ann Lang	Brighthouse Bay Holiday Park & Golf Course	SC00510	22nd January 2010
13th & 14th March 2010	Tayside & Fife	Martin Ritchie	Elmwood Golf Club, Cupar	SC00610	29th January 2010
20th & 21st March 2010	Highland	Willie Mackay	Loch Ness Golf Club, Castle Heather	SC00710	5th February 2010
20th & 21st March 2010	Argyll & Dunbartonshire	Colin Bell	Bishopbriggs Golf Club	SC00810	5th February 2010
20th & 21st March 2010	Grampian	Audra Booth	East Aberdeenshire Golf Centre	SC00910	5th February 2010
27th & 28th March 2010	Argyll & Dunbartonshire	Colin Bell	Mid Argyll Sports Centre, Lochgilphead	SC01010	12th February 2010
27th & 28th March 2010	West of Scotland	Dawn Middleton	Coatbridge Driving Range	SC01110	12th February 2010
27th & 28th March 2010	Central Scotland	Mandy Martin	Oatridge College, Broxburn	SC01210	12th February 2010
10th & 11th April 2010	East of Scotland	Laura Rushby	Craigielaw Golf Club	SC01310	26th February 2010
24th & 25th April 2010	Highland	Willie Mackay	Loch Ness Golf Club, Castle Heather	SC01410	12th March 2010
8th & 9th May 2010	South West Scotland	Ann Lang	Sportscotland National Centre	SC01510	26th March 2010
8th & 9th May 2010	Highland	Willie Mackay	Orkney Golf Club, Kirkwall	SC01610	26th March 2010
15th & 16th May 2010	Central Scotland	Mandy Martin	Stirling University	SC01710	2nd April 2010
15th & 16th May 2010	West of Scotland	Dawn Middleton	Coatbridge Driving Range	SC01810	2nd April 2010
22nd & 23rd May 2010	East of Scotland	Laura Rushby	Swanston Golf Club, Edinburgh	SC01910	9th April 2010
22nd & 23rd May 2010	Tayside & Fife	Martin Ritchie	Cluny Clays Activity Centre	SC02010	9th April 2010

For information on how to apply to attend a Level 1 coaching course visit www.clubgolfscotland.com then, in the left column, click on 'How can I become a volunteer'? If you are interested in becoming a clubgolf Level 1 coach, but are unable to book a place on one of these courses, please contact your clubgolf Regional Manager.

Become a qualified volunteer coach

Introducing a new generation of children to golf at school through clubgolf's introductory game firstclubgolf is the start.

Many of the 38,000 children who had a first experience of golf at school last year have progressed to Stage 1 coaching at local clubs and facilities.

Qualified volunteer coaches are a crucial link at this point in the chain. Some 1300 volunteer coaches are active in clubgolf programmes but more are needed to help teach children the basic skills. Through the PGA, clubgolf organises Level 1 coaching courses throughout the winter and spring.

"On the Level 1 coaching course we teach the basic principles of coaching," said Level 1 tutor Allan Martin. "You don't need to be an expert golfer to go on the course, in fact I have coached a number of volunteers that don't even play golf. At this stage

it's all about enthusing children and whetting their appetites so that they want to progress further.

"We cover a lot on the two days; how to explain and demonstrate, how to observe, how to analyse and give feedback. Giving volunteers practical, hands on experience during the course is a very worthwhile experience that many of them haven't had before. It's obviously the future practice opportunities that will enable them to enhance these skills.

"All Level 1 coaches are given the Stage 1 manual in CD format, which has a great number of coaching sessions which are easy to follow. We also give them home study books which they use as an ongoing resource to develop their skills."



Volunteer coaches with Level 1 course tutor Allan Martin

Allan Martin, Callander GC Head Pro

Callander Golf Club Head Pro Allan Martin was one of the first pros to see the benefits of the clubgolf programme.

Five years after offering its first clubgolf lesson, the club has 80 under 12 year olds in its coaching programme, over 30 in advanced coaching and eight on its elite squad, six of them with single

figure handicaps. The club has excellent links with Callander Primary School which delivers clubgolf's introductory game.

Allan is supported by his assistant, Stewart Winter, and 10 active qualified volunteer coaches. In addition to his clubgolf coaching at the club Allan is a Level 1 and 2 tutor and mentors volunteer coaches from the region's clubs.

What the volunteers thought of the Level 1 Coaching Course...

"I thought the course was absolutely superb and we learnt a lot in the two days. I would recommend this course 100% to anyone who has got any desire to coach or help coach at their club. It's essential to make sure you can teach the correct way."

Willie White
West Lothian GC volunteer coach

"The Level 1 training is well run and well taught and the perfect course for preparing us to become good coaches and start kids in the game. It was an excellent course and in the two days I learnt a lot."

John Ross
Fort William GC's Junior Convenor

"The Level 1 training is well run and well taught and the perfect course for preparing us to become good coaches and start kids in the game. It was an excellent course and in the two days I learnt a lot."

Bob Holmes
Eyemouth GC's Junior Convenor

"Once you've been through the two day Level 1 coaching course it makes it very easy to teach the kids."

Peter Halkett
Kirkintilloch GC's Junior Convenor

"The Level 1 coaching course was enjoyable, thorough and very worthwhile. It's given us the tools to be able to coach children."

John McNab
Tarbert GC's clubgolf Coordinator

Tunn proves golf not always in the family

This autumn Reay Golf Club's Eleanor Tunn became the first player from a non golfing family to progress through the clubgolf programme to the Scottish Golf Academy.

The 14 year old was selected after completing her first season travelling to competitions beyond Caithness and finishing 47th in the SLGA Order of Merit.

Eleanor started golf as a five year old, attracted to the club by its thriving junior coaching. When the club joined forces with clubgolf in 2004 she was one of the first children to benefit from its new, structured coaching programme.

Caithness does not have a pro but club volunteer Evan Sutherland has developed his own coaching expertise to fill the gap. He became the first

amateur coach in Scotland to earn the Level 2 coaching qualification and has attended Stage 3 Orientation.

"No one can take away the fact that Eleanor's progress is down to her and her parents' commitment as well as the coaching structure in place through clubgolf," said Evan.



"However there is one other major contributor in this - the PGA and professionals who have helped both Eleanor and me to this stage.

"Since I gained my Level 1 qualification in 2004 I have been able through the PGA to continually build on my knowledge and coaching skills with progressive coach education opportunities.

"The training I was given by the PGA through Ron Wallace, Dave Colclough, Craig Singleton and Spencer Henderson from the SGU on the Stage 3 Orientation, and the help I was given from Karen Dallas in the early days, instilled a professional attitude in my coaching.

"And on visits for coaching from professionals Stuart Morrison at Tain, Brian Anderson at Brora and Gordon Morrison, when he was based at Croy, I have learnt just as much as Eleanor."

The recent addition of a remote video link with Brian Anderson at Brora means that Evan can tap into professional advice that was previously unavailable -without a lengthy journey.

Eleanor has now started her Scottish Golf Academy winter programme with regional academy coach Stuart Morrison, based at Tain Golf Club.

"She has been a pleasure to coach throughout the last five years," said Evan. "She has the talent, drive and determination to do well and this coaching programme will be a huge benefit to her.

"Hopefully it will spur on many of the other juniors we are training through the clubgolf coaching system to reach their own golfing goals."

Many clubgolfers in Caithness have reached a standard where they would benefit from specialist coaching from a PGA Pro. But that means a 140 mile round trip to their nearest professional, Brian Anderson, in Brora.

In 2009 the Caithness & North Sutherland Junior Golf Partnership invested in a video camera and software to enable them to send footage of their juniors' technique to Brian for analysis.

Brian analyses swings from volunteer coach Evan Sutherland's video tapes, identifies areas that can be improved and emails back his recommendations to Evan.

"You can see a fair bit on the video," said Brian. "There are 10 measuring positions in the golf swing, from the address right through to the finish. You can check out all these positions so the feedback I can give is pretty comprehensive."

Using video analysis could prove to be the way forwards for clubs in remote areas that do not have easy access to a Pro. To use it effectively both parties need to have access to a video recorder and video analysis system. The essential elements are



Video makes the golfing star

Reay GC volunteer coach Evan Sutherland videos a student

good communication and empathy between the professional and clubgolf coach.

"You've got to have the two coaches working together and in tune with one another," said Brian. "In our case Evan knows what I'm looking for so I can relate back to him what I think are the priorities.

"I find it quite fascinating to be able to do this and it's good for the kids to have someone else on board who is interested. It's a great idea and there is potential for it to spread to other parts of the country and hopefully we'll see pros servicing more rural areas."

National academy call up for three North Berwick juniors

It's taken just five years for three North Berwick teenagers to progress through every stage of the clubgolf programme into a national coaching academy.

In November, Clara Young (13) and Euan Bowden and Calum Hill (both 14) were selected for the SGU's East Academy, coached by Colin Brooks at the Braid Hills in Edinburgh (joining them in the academy is Borders-based North Berwick junior team member, Tara McTaggart).

Given that children in the vanguard of the clubgolf programme are only now beginning to reach academy-joining age, it's a remarkable achievement for the area.

"These are our first players to make the Academy, which is fantastic news and hopefully they will be followed by many more," said their coach, North Berwick Golf Club's Martyn Huish (pictured here with Clara Young at Heriot Watt University's indoor golf academy), one of the first PGA Pros in Scotland to offer clubgolf coaching.

The club has a 20 strong base of qualified volunteer coaches, 96 children in its clubgolf programme and 28 of them already at Stage 3.

"We are continually telling everyone in the programme what can happen at the end of it, so this makes it worth all the effort we have put in from the start."



All three players' progress has been helped, not only by Martyn's clubgolf Stage 3 coaching during the season, but also by weekly winter training at Heriot Watt University's indoor golf Academy.

"It kept them going through the winter, and it's the ideal time to work on their swing and development, so we will revisit that again this year and expand it so that we have two groups, one for the next batch coming through behind these three," said Martyn.

With a solid volunteer coaching structure in place at North Berwick, as well as other East Lothian clubs, Clara, Calum and Euan should be the first

of many ranks of good young players coming through the programme.

"We've got a good batch of kids here and they are all feeding off each other," said Martyn.

"We don't have the situation which you often get when one junior is a long way ahead of all the others and doesn't get the competition they need to develop.

"We keep them altogether which keeps them grounded. Because there is such competition within the club set up, these kids are all working hard to win their own competitions as well as outwith."

Iain's the hub for local clubs

Meldrum House pro Iain Donaldson has established an impressive clubgolf Stage 3 set up despite the club not having a junior membership.

Iain, who just completed his third season on clubgolf Stage 3, has through clubgolf linked in to clubs from the surrounding area that are all delivering clubgolf coaching but don't have resident pros.

"It works really well as these children don't get the opportunity to move on to Stage 3 at their club because they have no professional," said clubgolf's Grampian Manager, Audra Booth.

"I send letters to the parents of children identified as being ready for this level of coaching inviting

them to information evenings where we can tell them about clubgolf and Iain's Stage 3 coaching.

"When they start Stage 3 they get full use of the fantastic practice facilities at Meldrum House which is where the SGU Grampian Academy is based."

Iain runs two Stage 3 coaching sessions on both days of the weekend. "We cap each group to eight juniors and my squads are always full so there is obviously a demand," he said.

"From my Stage 3 juniors I've had some selected for the Academy squad and also a number moving on to north east district coaching. Some of the older ones have gone on and won events in the north east

as well, such as district match play and strokeplay and order of merits. I love coaching, my number one priority is developing these juniors and I get huge satisfaction from seeing them progress."

Iain's system is clearly producing better players and if it works at Meldrum House then why not elsewhere.

"I would encourage other pros to offer Stage 3 coaching," he said. "A lot of pros have a preconception of this method of teaching. Yes, there's a manual with guidelines but you adapt it to suit your personal style.

"Once pros have been to the Stage 3 orientation they come out with a completely different view of what's involved. I would encourage more people to go along and find out exactly what it is about because it's great for the future of Scottish golf."

clubgolf brothers selected for Academy

Aberdeenshire brothers Ray and Ryan Gordon have achieved a rare double in both progressing through every step of the clubgolf programme from Stage 1 to SGU National Academy.

Two years ago Ryan Gordon, now 14, became the first player to achieve the feat. This month he was joined in the Grampian Academy, run by Neil Marr, by 12 year old Ray.

As the brothers are members of Alford Golf Club it's a continuation of the local success story. Last year the club was crowned Junior Club of the Year, a fine accolade for its 15 qualified volunteer coaches who have built a well structured coaching programme in excess of 60 juniors.

Alford has a strong network of qualified volunteer coaches but no resident pro. The solution is to link with Andrew Locke, head pro at nearby Inchmarlo Golf Club, who coaches the club's most talented youngsters on Stage 3 of the clubgolf programme (Meldrum House pro, Iain Donaldson has also coached Ryan Gordon on his Stage 3 programme).

"I coach Stage 3 on weekends through the winter and it has been highly successful... It's something I would tell other pros they definitely have to look at"

"We don't have a pro at the club and Andrew has supported us ever since we started clubgolf," said Alford's coach co-ordinator Colin Hood.

"He helps the coaches out as well as the students. He looks at all the kids, helps us with coaching and



Alford brothers Ray and Ryan Gordon

comes to our coaches' development day at the start of the season to make sure we are up to speed.

"We take our Stage 1 and 2 juniors to Inchmarlo to do full swing coaching. Andrew can select those that are suitable to go forwards for his Stage 3 coaching so it's a natural progression."

Andrew, a district coach who has something of a production line for producing top players, has been involved with clubgolf for four years. His two assistants coach clubgolf Stage 2 and there are moves to bring in Inchmarlo members to coach Stage 1 on a voluntary basis.

"I coach Stage 3 on weekends through the winter and it has been highly successful," he said. "It's something I would tell other pros they definitely have to look at. If you do it right you can do very well as the juniors are with you for two years, or longer if you get them to Stage 3 Performance.

"The big thing is there is a proper structure to the programme which is good for us guys because life is busy and the structure is already written. It's helped me get to district coach because a lot of kids have come into it, we've developed them and they have gone on to the academies."

Andrew believes that, as well as a need for more pros to offer clubgolf coaching, Stage 1 and 2 of the programme are perfect opportunities for assistants. But, that said, he is full of praise for the work of clubs like Alford that have neither.

"You only have to look at Alford to see that they have a great junior convenor, a number of committed volunteers and a great junior set up with over 70 kids.

"I could never have got out and brought those 70 kids in because there are too many other things going on. Alford has done a great job."

Turnhouse coaching dream team

Scott Grieve, the young head pro at Turnhouse, could be one of the busier professionals in Edinburgh next year after a skills test for his 2010 Stage 3 course produced 24 new recruits.

Led by its indefatigable junior convenor, Iain Holt, and supported by 15 coaching members, Turnhouse has built a sustainable clubgolf programme over the last five years.

"We've got a long term approach which is working as we are now getting more clubgolf kids as members and on the waiting list," said Iain.

"Of the children that have joined year one of the Stage 1 programme over the years we have retained 82% for the second year, so it shows that they enjoy what we are offering."

Linking in with local schools has produced a conveyor belt of children to the club's junior coaching. This season 41 children took part in year two of the Stage 1 course. Having taught them basic skills, rules and etiquette, the volunteers have delivered them into the hands of the professional.

"The great thing about clubgolf is that it gets kids started in golf and gives them an opportunity they maybe wouldn't have had before," said Scott.

"Volunteers give the kids an insight into the game, make it enjoyable and give them the opportunity to play."

"The club is very supportive, its attitude is that juniors are tomorrow's members and we have to sow the seed early in order for them to become the golfers of the future."

Like a growing number of pros, Peter delivers Stage 3 of the clubgolf programme and also mentors qualified volunteer coaches who are delivering Stage 1.

"Stage 3 is important because it allows the juniors that are really serious about playing golf to develop their skills further and possibly get into county or area teams," he said.



Turnhouse Junior Convenor, Iain Holt, (left) with head pro, Scott Grieve

For his Stage 3 course, Scott is looking for real commitment to the game, hence his screening process.

"I'd like to see most of the kids that come to next year's Stage 3 coaching becoming members or at least have their names on the waiting list"

"I've been involved with Stage 3 for a year and had 12 children on my course this season," he said. "The kids we want involved in Stage 3 are those that want to be there, are keen to be there and want to progress, not because their parents want them to do it.

"I'd like to see most of the kids that come to next year's Stage 3 coaching becoming members or at least have their names on the waiting list. That's really important because it tells me they are really interested in the game."

The club's Stage 3 course has 36 one-hour coaching sessions over a two year period.

"Scott is very enthusiastic about our clubgolf programme and relates well with the children, which makes it a fun experience," said Iain.

"I'm hopeful from this year's group which is going to Scott that we will have a number of kids that become good players."

Hayston pro integral to club's junior coaching



PGA Pro Peter Kerr (pictured here with Stage 1 juniors) has been an integral part of the clubgolf programme at Hayston Golf Club in Kirkintilloch, Glasgow, for the past three seasons.

"We were involved with other junior coaching programmes in the past but we felt that as clubgolf is a Scottish initiative that we should go down this line," said Peter, who coaches the programme at all Stages from 1 to 3.

"It's something I think other pros should get involved in. It gives us the opportunity to put something back in to grass roots and it's very rewarding working with juniors. Their response has been absolutely fantastic. They are all very keen, very competitive and all want to do well.

"The volunteer coaches give the children a good start and sow the seed. We have had a full programme each year for the last three years, which in itself is testament to how good the clubgolf programme is."





Ron's the toast of Islay

Locals on the remote island of Islay are raising a toast to its PGA Pro Ron Goudie.

The former Epsom-based pro (pictured here at clubgolf's Argyll & Dumbartonshire volunteers event) who moved to the island in 2008 is responsible for developing a successful clubgolf coaching programme which has injected fresh impetus to Islay Golf Club and neighbouring Colonsay.

Starting the junior coaching programme has been a real community effort embracing the generosity of The Machrie Hotel, home of Islay Golf Club, with free use of their course for under-16s, while local builder, Gordon Currie, has literally proved a brick, giving his time to drain the practice area used by the juniors.

At the end of its first season of clubgolf coaching, the club had 36 juniors on its books with regular mini medals on Sundays and handicap competitions.

"I'm very happy here teaching and the Machrie is a fantastic, natural and world class course," said Goudie, who moved from Bishopbriggs to England as a youngster but is delighted to be back in Scotland where he is attached to the Machrie Hotel. Goudie's coaching skills have also been utilised by the neighbouring island of Colonsay, which

although home to less than 100 people and only accessible as a day trip from Islay on a Wednesday in the summer, boasts a 150-year-old links course.

Now thanks to Goudie its kids are also getting some expert coaching with the 44-year-old hopping on a ferry, with a bagful of equipment, to teach a dozen children and adults Stage 1 of the clubgolf programme.

"Having a PGA professional on the island has made an enormous difference and encourages the parents to bring kids along"

Goudie's impact on Islay's junior coaching programme is significant. The programme now in place means the island has a structure to potentially take juniors from complete beginner all the way through to national academy level.

He has been assisted by some committed club members who undertook a two day Level 1 training course with the PGA.

Once qualified, and together with seven helpers, they have been teaching the fundamentals of the game to local children.

Goudie's hands-on approach and experience is helping accelerate the coaching and his expertise will come to the fore fully when the children reach the point where professional help is needed to fully develop their potential.

"Having a PGA professional on the island has made an enormous difference and encourages the parents to bring kids along," said Islay GC's clubgolf Coordinator, Keith MacDonald, who can't remember the last time the island had a resident professional. "It's proved immensely popular. All we did was put out a few posters and all sessions were full."

"Once we've done a year of coaching the plan is for some of the volunteer coaches to go on a Level Two training course, so that Ron can concentrate on the children that have moved on to Stage 3 of coaching," said MacDonald.

"He's only been here a year but he has already made a big difference to our junior section."

Having PGA pros leading clubgolf programmes is critical for developing excellence in coaching. Meet Edinburgh's Lothianburn GC pro Kurt Mungall who saw clubgolf's potential three years ago and believes with a passion that it is the job of the pro to be the driving force.

"The future of golf as a whole is reliant on juniors and we, the people with the knowledge and the enthusiasm, are responsible for driving it forwards," he said.

At the time Lothianburn had junior numbers in the twenties and it had withdrawn from the summer league because of a lack of juniors with handicaps (they needed just eight for a team).

To reverse this worrying trend the club paid for two members to attend the Level 1 training course and in the 2008 season they began coaching the first intake of clubgolf children.

During the first two years Kurt has been a key player as volunteer recruiter, organiser, overseer and mentor. His ongoing input has been invaluable.

"Kurt has been heavily involved in getting more volunteer coaches on board and as the pro who sees members day in day out he is good at spotting potential candidates," said Alan Greenshields, the club's first qualified volunteer coach.



PGA Pro Kurt Mungall coaches area squad boys



"The volunteer training courses were very good to get you established but when it came to real life coaching, having the support of the pro is a considerable advantage.

"The future of golf as a whole is reliant on juniors and we, the people with the knowledge and the enthusiasm, are responsible for driving it forwards"

"As a volunteer you have mixed knowledge in terms of what works and you're looking for those little secrets which help you manage a group. It's been invaluable having the experience of someone like Kurt who has been coaching for a number of years."

Now, following a second year of clubgolf coaching in which coach numbers and structure has grown and developed, many of the first year's intake of

children have progressed to a point where Kurt is ready to get involved directly as their Stage 3 coach.

"All the volunteers have worked hard over the past two seasons and Alan Greenshields has been fantastic," said Kurt. "He's a great person to work with because he lifts the spirit of all the coaches.

"We have seen things materialise and we have enough kids now to roll out the Stage 3 programme, which we're looking forward to."

Kurt, supported by Alan, will begin clubgolf Stage 3 next spring, teaching around 20 children.

"The great thing is that there has been continuity," said Kurt. "The children have become familiar with coming to Lothianburn, we've see them commit to coaching and progress, so it's exciting for me to take the reins and take them on to the next level.

Complete player pathway in place at Tain



When, in 2008, Stuart Morrison became Tain Golf Club's PGA Pro, its clubgolf coaching programme was already one of the busiest in Scotland.

Mike Sangster has been the club's stalwart Level 1 and 2 volunteer coach since clubgolf began in 2004. Coaching up to 70 children in a week, single handedly until other volunteers were trained to support him, has been a Herculean effort.

Stuart, as a national academy coach, has added another two levels of coaching to an already extensive junior programme. "We are one of the few clubs in the country that can take kids from zero to Stage 4 and we are very fortunate to have Mike, who is an excellent coach," says Stuart (pictured above right with HRH The Earl of Wessex, Level 2 coach Mike Sangster and clubgolf's Highland Regional Manager Willie Mackay).

"Where I've been able to help is in taking up to 12 juniors off Mike on a Monday night, those who we felt were ready for Stage 3 coaching.

"It's freed up Mike so we could coach more kids and also handle them at different levels. I started Stage 3 coaching, as well as taking some out on the course because few had a handicap or were self sufficient to go on the course without supervision."

Stuart has also taken on a mentoring role with the club's volunteer coaches and has persuaded more club members to help chaperone children on the course to complement his Stage 3 work.

The club already realised that children in its coaching programmes were not gaining handicaps. But, following just one season's Stage 3 coaching with a pro, double the number of juniors are playing

in medals. Stuart admits these numbers are still low, around the dozen mark, but it shows that having a pro involved is working and the intention is to build on these numbers next season.

An interesting development is the return of older children, from amongst the club's earliest clubgolf intake, who for various reasons had drifted away.

"Previously they might have found themselves getting coaching next to a seven year old which they didn't find cool, or their friend had got better and they didn't have anyone to play with. So they stopped playing.

"Pros have to help keep the clubs alive... In the long term that means getting the kids when they are young, encouraging them, coaching them and getting them on the course."

"Now we're finding some 12, 13, 14 year olds have got the confidence to come back and get some coaching again, because they know there is another level for them to progress to.

It all underlines the point that the most successful clubgolf programmes have a pro involved. To Stuart, in his long term role as North District Coach, it's obvious that many children delivered to his talent ID days lacked skills that, apart from in a few exceptions, only a pro could impart.

"We were noticing that some of the children needed better basic coaching, and it was obvious they were from clubs that were struggling to get the support of the pros to help junior coaching" he said.

Talk to Stuart and you are left in no doubt that pros need to act now and get serious about junior coaching – both for the future of Scottish golf and for their own livelihoods.

"Getting lots of youngsters involved in clubgolf is great but the pros have got to step in and be involved at Stage 3 to help keep the pathway and kids going," he said.

"Things are tough now and as pros we have to be far more proactive and more multi tasking. Lots of clubs are struggling for members. If they go out of business there are fewer opportunities for pros and it becomes a vicious circle.

"clubgolf is a fantastic opportunity and it has got off to a great start. But you need avenues for kids to progress through and be welcomed by clubs where pros are involved in educating them on the art of playing golf on a course, to make a significant impact to club memberships.

"Pros have to help keep the clubs alive. In the long term that means getting the kids when they are young, keeping them coming in, encouraging them, coaching them and getting them on the course."

Could it be any simpler?

Mackie makes his mark

Scotsraig PGA Pro Craig Mackie has kept a long-term promise to himself by transforming the Fifa club's junior section where he once played as a youngster.

Since his arrival three years ago, Mackie has offered a structured programme of clubgolf with Stage 1, 2 and 3 coaching and the club is reaping the benefits with junior membership leaping from 65 to 95 in that period.

"When I was growing up here there was very little for junior golfers," he said. "I remember saying to myself that if I ever became a club pro I would be offering as much as I can to the kids."

Mackie has delivered on those commitments and has full backing from the club's committee and junior convenor.

"We introduce children to golf in school by inviting them to the club for eight weeks of coaching," he explained.

"We have deliberately targeted schools close by with children who could potentially become members and are within walking or driving distance.

"Stages 1 and 2 help them towards a handicap and to play in a few competitions and are the stepping stones to choosing potential players for stage three where we can help them progress as far as they can go."

The increase in junior membership (at £95 per child) and growing coaching numbers has meant higher revenue for the club, although increasing income is not the sole aim.

"...it creates a good reputation for the club to show what we can offer to children from the local villages."

"It is a good thing for the club to have a large number of juniors," added Mackie. "And it creates a good reputation for the club to show what we can offer to children from the local villages. A lot of our children are from non-golfing families so it shows we are really changing the way people see the game.

"If juniors become members, like the place, and get to know people here, it's likely they will become adult members."



Already Mackie is beginning to see performance levels amongst his players improve. One has just left for New Mexico to take up a golf scholarship. And there are other benefits. Eight parents have taken up full membership at Scotsraig as a direct result of their children's participation in the game.

Despite his success Mackie is only too aware that as his current juniors begin to join the adult ranks he needs to keep building the grass roots.

"Memberships go in peaks and troughs and the point will come where a dozen juniors suddenly become adults," he said.

"You've got to keep working at it and building up the numbers. That's where the schools come into it as well, getting them in and getting them young.

"The good thing is that after three years we are at the point where it's running very well and we've developed a very solid coaching structure."

Dornoch junior section revitalised

Gary's involvement has enhanced the work of the club's 14 volunteer coaches who were already delivering clubgolf Stage 1 coaching.

"For the past two seasons we have been able to give children a solid foundation with a full pathway in place to take them from Stage 1 to Stage 3," said Gary, who was capped 11 times for Scotland as a junior.

"We had a great summer programme this year with an average of 50 kids taking part all the way through from Stage 1 to Stage 2, in addition to our Stage 3 juniors. This year I started a junior league for the area which involved Tain, Brora and ourselves, with all juniors playing off scratch.

"We wouldn't have been able to do that a couple of years ago without the benefit of the clubgolf system bringing them through to a good standard.

Royal Dornoch Golf Club's teaching pro Gary Dingwall is beginning to see good results from the clubgolf Stage 3 coaching he began offering the club's more advances juniors two seasons ago.

We had the numbers of children but not the levels of handicap required to get six players and two travelling reserves."

It was the club's previous pro, Stuart Morrison, now pro at Tain Golf Club and SGU Highland Academy coach, who showed Gary the potential of clubgolf.

"We are all pros and we all interpret things differently... you have to take the model of the programme and adapt it to your own coaching style and circumstances"

"When I saw Stuart delivering Stage 4, it made complete sense to me that this is the perfect way to keep kids in golf and improve them," said Gary. "So I went through the Stage 3 orientation."

Gary's message to other pros is to get involved with clubgolf and attend the Stage 3 orientation.

"The big hurdle pros have to get over is thinking clubgolf coaching is a rigid coaching structure," he said. "We are all pros and we all interpret things differently from each other. So you have to take the model of the programme and adapt it to your own coaching style and circumstances. It's working well up here and we are getting good players coming through."

Gary's enthusiasm for junior development extends well beyond the reaches of Stage 3 coaching. Every two years he takes his most promising juniors to South Carolina's Hiltonhead Golf Complex (in a reciprocal agreement). "This trip is another incentive for our juniors to improve their handicaps," he added.

Catch the junior wave

Over 10,000 children in clubgolf coaching programmes at clubs and facilities in the 2009 means a wave of juniors is moving through the programme's initial stages.



For PGA Professionals looking for talented youngsters or new junior members this is an opportunity not to be missed.

Whilst clubgolf volunteer coaches guide these children through the early stages, they can take them only so far. Thereafter it's a pro's job to develop the children's talent on Stage 3 of the programme.

clubgolf children delivered into a pro's hands have learnt the basics and have acquired a grounding in rules and etiquette. For the pros it's both an immediate source of income and an investment for the future.

"Stage 3 is massively important because it's the first time PGA Professionals get involved in the programme," said SGU National Junior Coach, Spencer Henderson (pictured here wearing the white shirt).

"Kids that get to Stage 3 have already played golf for a few years, are now looking to take golf that bit further and need the expertise of these PGA Pros."

Engaging more pros is vital for the success of clubgolf. More than 100 pros in Scotland have been through the Stage 3 Orientation course, led by Spencer. Many are already teaching Stage 3 and seeing the benefits. But more are needed

"I'd love to see more pros coming along and getting involved," said Spencer. "My advice to pros is take a leap of faith and come and see what it's all about because you'll learn about what we are trying to achieve.

"We are not looking for everyone to coach in the same way. We are offering guidelines on how to effectively run a Stage 3 programme at clubs and facilities utilising the pro's expertise and knowledge.

"It's a day and a half and we focus on the player and coach pathway, long term player development, video analysis, coaching software, talent selection, where Stage 3 and coaches sit within the national structure and how it will help your junior section. It is interactive and involves a number of practical sessions outdoors."

"By coaching more kids it's going to help clubs and pros increase income. We are trying to produce as many good players as we can for the future. We want more junior members at clubs, more top class amateurs, more players competing on the various Tours, players in the Ryder and Solheim Cups and ultimately a World Number 1.

"If clubgolf can help us achieve these long term goals then we should all embrace it and look forward to a very exciting future for Scottish Golf."

What the pros thought of Stage 3 Orientation...

"When I did Stage 3 Orientation two years ago, I enjoyed it and found it very helpful.

My programme is quite flexible. You can add your own style to the course, you're certainly not teaching out of a book. I've added a lot of my own stuff in to the Stage 3 programme and it's working."

Portpatrick based James Erskine

"I found the Stage 3 Orientation very valuable. I've used a video camera since 1987 but I picked up some useful things.

There are guidelines but there is flexibility in it and I liked the structure of it. It's a nice steady incline of improvement and you can keep continuing to drive forwards and improving which is what we need in Scotland."

Kurt Mungall, Lothianburn GC

"I've been doing Stage 3 coaching for three years and I would encourage more people to go along and find out exactly what it is about because it's great for Scottish golf.

It was a good course and gave us an insight into the whole clubgolf player pathway. The course tutors were very good and helped broaden my knowledge."

Ian Donaldson, Meldrum House GC

"The course was excellent, really informative and gave us confidence in the structure being offered. The great thing about the programme is you have guidelines but you can still go and teach the way you want.

Having a good structure in place which will make coaching easier. We will be able to take it forwards and use it really well"

Tim Thompson-Green, Port Royal Golf Driving Range

"I did the course two years ago and have recommended it to other pros. A lot of pros haven't done video analysis and the course shows you the correct way to use your camera and how to get the best out of it, which is a big benefit.

By the time kids get to Stage 3 they are ready to take in some of the technical stuff about the swing. You keep the very first video you do and keep referring back to that."

Peter Kerr, Hayston GC

"The Stage 3 Orientation was fantastic and I use it as a guideline. Each pro has his own teaching style so you've got to look at how you teach and adapt it to yourself.

Our kids have benefitted tremendously from Stage 3. Not only are they getting a better understanding of their own golf swings but they are also understanding how the top players think...and not bringing out a driver at every hole."

Gary Dingwall, Royal Dornoch GC

"The course was very well delivered and it was nice to be taught by a well recognised coach.

I will go home, think about the structure and how to apply it. My advice to other pros is to do the course - it's fantastic"

Graeme Bell, Linlithgow GC



The following Stage 3 Orientation course is planned for early 2010: January 25th & 26th at St Andrews Links

For further information contact
Spencer Henderson on:
Email: s.henderson@scottishgolf.org
Tel: 07834 342213



Gleneagles Wee Course Offer 2010

Once again in 2010 clubgolf has teamed up with Gleneagles to allow participating clubs the fantastic opportunity to bring a group of 12 children to play the Wee Course.

If your club is signed up to clubgolf and currently delivering clubgolf coaching, you can take advantage of this offer by contacting the clubgolf Administrator on 01334 466493.



There is no charge, but places are limited and this offer has proved to be extremely popular in previous years, so book early to avoid disappointment.

A schedule of available dates is below.

TIMES

11.00 - 11.20 am for 3 tee times each day

DATES (with coaching)

4 April, 18 April
2 May, 16 May, 30 May
13 June, 27 June
11 July, 25 July
5 September, 19 September

DATES (without coaching)

11 April, 25 April
9 May, 23 May
6 June, 20 June
4 July, 18 July
12 September, 18 September

What has clubgolf achieved in 2009?

38,784 P5 children introduced to golf through firstclubgolf

10,436 children in clubgolf coaching programmes at clubs and golf facilities

831 children coached by PGA Pros on Stage 3 programmes

1264 clubgolf volunteer coaches active in clubs and facilities

273 clubs and facilities delivering clubgolf



How can you help?

We need PGA Pros who can:

- Play an integral part in clubs' junior programmes
- Teach Stage 3 of the clubgolf programme
- Mentor and support volunteer coaches in their areas

We need volunteer coaches who can:

- Teach in clubs
- Help at roadshows

We need companies that can provide sponsorship locally

Ron Wallace

PGA Coach Education Manager Scotland
ron.wallace@pga.org.uk T: 07919 804801

Colin Bell

clubgolf Regional Manager, Argyll & Dunbartonshire
cbell@clubgolfscotland.co.uk T: 07882 364340

Audra Booth

clubgolf Regional Manager, Grampian
clubgolfgrampian@hotmail.com T: 07956 540588

Ann Lang

clubgolf Regional Manager, South-West Scotland
ann@golf-foundation.org T: 07810 501577

Willie MacKay

clubgolf Regional Manager, Highland & Islands
willie.mackay@highland.gov.uk T: 07956 540575

Mandy Martin

clubgolf Regional Manager, Central Scotland
mmartin@clubgolfscotland.co.uk T: 07956 540587

Dawn Middleton

clubgolf Regional Manager, West of Scotland
clubgolfwest@hotmail.com T: 07956 540576

Martin Ritchie

clubgolf Regional Manager, Tayside & Fife
martin.ritchie@dundeecity.gov.uk T: 07917 165699

Laura Rushby

clubgolf Regional Manager, East of Scotland
lrushby@clubgolfscotland.co.uk T: 07956 540595

clubgolf Scotland Ltd, Scottish Golf Union, The Duke's, St Andrews KY16 8NX

www.clubgolfscotland.com

Written and photographed by Rob Eyton-Jones

Design: iain@sangsterdesign.co.uk