

Our focus is on providing low cost golf days for people with impairments and disabilities. Sometimes you need to be with like-minded people who understand where you're at with your disability so you feel comfortable out on the course or in a social circle.

The **Disabled Golf Association** is a pan disabled organisation so everyone together –

- ex- service members alongside civilians together
- Disabled golf has traditionally been about amputees, one-arm, blind, deaf golfers, but our members play alongside people with congenital and often hidden disabilities such as cerebral palsy, fibromyalgia, Down's syndrome; playing alongside those with conditions often, but not always, diagnosed later in life such as MS, arthritis, Parkinson's, stroke survivors – all together
- We have a lot of young people coming through to join us with autism/ADHD/tourettes/hypermobility/global delay, the kind of kids who are often bullied at school who can gain real confidence in life from playing golf.

Everyone is welcome. We all have one thing in common - a love, call it an unescapable passion, for the great game of golf

Sometimes a picture can speak a thousand words. We have event reviews and photos looking back at the 2015 season which illustrate what we're all about on our **flickr** photo album at [-www.flickr.com/photos/disabledgolf/albums](http://www.flickr.com/photos/disabledgolf/albums)

So what will we do with your money?
We enable our members to participate in competition. Members sign up via our website and we maintain a membership database with over 800 members in the UK (and more overseas). Membership is free and we provide regular newsletters via email and details of events published on the website.

My name is Graeme Robertson and I am Captain of TEAM ENGLAND for #disabledgolf



Formerly a keen sportsman, I have primary progressive MS and have found a way to play again.

It truly is amazing the power of the human mind to overcome adversity. Sport can be vital in therapy and rehabilitation of disabled people, as well of course as those with impairments/hidden disabilities. Golf of course compared to other sports, played with a stationary ball, can stimulate neural pathways and I know from personal experience the difference my participation has made on my health having primary progressive MS.

I am writing to ask for your support in 2016 to help us continue our work. I'm based in Berkshire, but organize events all over the country. I hope from this newsletter you can see how creative we have been at trying to help ourselves, but sometimes we just need a boost. Please help if you can.

Our members are mostly quite competitive even if one person's journey is different to another, it's all about self-improvement – improving your own Stableford score from week to week, being able to stand or walk longer or further, being able to balance, adapting to play one-handed, learning to face the world again after diagnosis, accident, trauma or injury, being out in the fresh air, or just being happier – and for some of course, it's about being the best! We run an **Order of Merit** published on mastersscoreboard (as a Society) for all to see. We aim to play once or twice a week throughout the season from March to October. For the last 3 years we have worked with BGL providing the BGL Race to Burhill where the top 3 of 7 events have opportunity to play in a complementary day at Burhill at the end of the season. **We subsidise event costs including prizes from funds raised. Our members gain great fun and enjoyment from their participation**

Financial hardship - We recognise there are some cases of financial hardship so run a bursary scheme for a limited number of players.



We inspire our members and educate others -

Through the

OOM we make selection for our home internationals. We started a series of home international events in 2011 to **showcase and celebrate that disabled and impaired golfers can play some awesome golf**

We would like to do more to support TEAM ENGLAND – initially we had a two-year deal with Glenbrae sponsoring uniform (and they continue to give us a good deal), but largely players have to pay their own way; we are going up to Scotland in 2016 so would like to be able to offer assistance with travel costs.



Our OOM and the chance to represent your country in TEAM ENGLAND has proved to be an inspiration to new golfers and for new members, something to aim for through the season, and helps to educate able-bodied people too – disabledgolf.org.uk/teamengland



We can't do what we do from fresh air, it all costs money

Lesley Bain (pictured left) is our Lady's Ambassador and attends England Golf's Women's and Girl's Golf Panel.



Lesley is pictured with Jacki Witt, both ladies have relapsing remitting MS.

We work with Partner Organisations

Our staff give valuable input to the Technical Committee for England Golf and are involved with the European Symposium for the future of disabled golf.

About us as an organisation

We have been running sustainably for 4 years now with over 800 members participating. We don't have overheads of offices and have produced and maintain our own website/social media.

We have minimal staff who work from home. We have Handicap, Events, and Marketing Committees 100% made up of volunteers. **An organisation largely run by volunteers, staff employed are all disabled so we are providing employment where disability can be seen in a positive light.**

- We are formally recognised as a **DPULO**, which is a Disabled People's User-Led Organisation; at a fundamental level, a DPULO is an organisation run by and for disabled people.
- The Disabled Golf Association is registered with HMRC as a community interest company. **Recognised by the Charities Aid Foundation as a charitable not for profit community interest company we couldn't be more proud of our special status.**
- We have taken our time in developing a network of trusted volunteers to run events on the day so our employed staff are busy making arrangements before the events, providing an event pack/scoring template including up to date player handicaps, doing press releases after the event, making things easier for our volunteers so we can keep costs low.
- We have connected with the joininuk.org initiative to reinforce and support our own volunteer network. Some days we are simply going to struggle physically to help a fellow player, perhaps unloading a buggy or putting a tee into the ground, so it's good to have more able people around to lend a hand, even just to bring a welcome cuppa over.

For CORPORATE SPONSORS:

DGA as a possible recipient for your CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP for 2016

Advantages for you:

- **Favourable PR:** we are the largest organisation in the UK working with and for disabled golfers
- **Brand association:** DGA has brand awareness of over 60%
- **Commercial benefits:** the benefit of working with a respectable disability organisation which can generate goodwill
- **Disability sport is in public eye** after the success of the Paralympics
- **Corporate social responsibility:** by supporting us you will show you care about those who may be vulnerable in your community
- **Universal appeal:** there are over 11 million people living in the U K today with a disability
- **Feature as a sponsor on our website,** has 1,000's of hits per month disabledgolf.org.uk
- **Feature in DGA correspondence, banners etc**

In 2016 we have been selected for British Waterways Annual Golf Day. For the last 3 years we have worked with BGL providing the BGL Race to Burhill; this will be repeated in 2016.

There is more information on our website about corporate sponsorship -

disabledgolf.org.uk/aboutus/sponsors

We do everything we possibly can to make every penny count and our accounts are published with companies house so there is complete transparency

Without your support, quite simply, we couldn't exist

Graeme Robertson

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Disabled Golf Association CIC

Registered no. 8399867

For GOLF CLUBS:

DGA have been fortunate to be recipients as Captain or Lady Captain's Charity in the last few years

The Seniors at **Kingsdown GC, Wiltshire** have also chosen us as their charity this year. We celebrated participation by joining members of Kingsdown in a 3BBB day held in July. We did something similar with Ealing GC in 2015 and the members enjoyed playing together so much they invited us back in 2016.

We are yet to hear from any clubs considering us as their Charity in 2016 but are hopeful to hear from some over the winter.

There is more information on our website - testimonials and clubs who have supported us in previous years - see

<http://disabledgolf.org.uk/aboutus/fundraising>



In 2014 we were supported by Captain at Ken Gordon at Mill Green GC and Lady Captain Jane Chivers at Malden GC.

In 2015 we are both Captain and Lady Captain's Charity for **Carden Park GC, Cheshire**. Graeme, Sue and their daughter attended their Charity Day in August where a number of fourball vouchers were auctioned to raise funds for DGA.

Other fourball vouchers kindly donated by clubs across the country and have been sold to DGA members with proceeds going to support our Team England squad of players at home internationals.



**DISABLED GOLF
ASSOCIATION**

*INSPIRATION - MOTIVATION - REHABILITATION &
THERAPY - WELL-BEING - COMPETITION*