

press release

25th August 2014



News article

Sunday 24th & Monday 25th August 2014 – The Wiltshire GC played host to the second home countries international event for disabled and impaired golfers with England defending last year's win against Wales, playing for THE OLDFIELD TROPHY.

Many different disabilities were represented from amputees, one arm, arthritis, MS and stroke survivors and came from as far afield as Yorkshire, Cheshire, Hampshire, Essex and Berkshire and South/West Wales.

Sunday 24th August consisted of six fourballs played on the excellent golf course in excellent conditions, after some close matches England finished the day with a 4-2 lead.

It was all to play for on day 2 with 12 points available in the singles.

The weather on Monday was awful with persistent rain, but it didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the players, especially Team England who won the Singles 8-4 thus retaining the Oldfield Trophy won previously at Pontypridd in 2013 – so the final score was ENGLAND 12 – WALES 6.

Graeme Robertson, non-playing captain of the English Team “I am very proud of the team with their performance/sportsmanship and the camaraderie with the Welsh on and off the course was superb. Many players had family supporting which added to the atmosphere. It takes 2 teams to have a good match, but there can only be one winner - but the real winner was disabled golf, it was great to see guys with different disabilities playing with/against each other enjoying the game we all love.”

Haydn Barrell, Director at The Wiltshire “The Wiltshire Hotel Golf & Leisure Club was very privileged to host the recent Disabled Golf Association's England vs Wales match. The skill, determination and good humour of all these players was wonderful to behold and it was a great pleasure to have them staying and playing at our facility. We are certainly looking forward to getting involved in any future tournaments or matches where possible. We wish them all the best for the future.”

Sue Robertson, Project Manager for international events at DGA “Many thanks for all at The Wiltshire for making our event so successful; the course, food, facilities and especially the welcome/service we received was excellent. Head Pro Marc McCracken and his grounds staff are to be congratulated on the quality of this excellent and challenging

course. Glenbrae once again pulled out all the stops to provide polo shirts for Team England embroidered with the event logo; both teams looked very smart.”

The OLDFIELD TROPHY is a stunning piece of artwork, named after the blacksmith's who forged the trophy from recycled golf irons atop a block of marble, and daffodil and rose flowers created in brass to represent the two countries.

Next month sees The Shire play host to the next home countries international, a 3-day Ryder Cup styled event, with England (DGA) again defending last year's win, and Scotland (represented by SDGP) playing for the AULD ENEMIES CUP Monday 15th-Wednesday 17th September 2014.

DGA is a pan-disability, not-for-profit organization, membership is free. More information is at disabledgolf.org.uk with events scheduled all over the country.

About the Disabled Golf Association

Our main aims are to promote the game of golf as a pathway to a healthier lifestyle and greater social inclusion for those who are disabled, irrespective of age, gender or disability. This includes providing the means to make it easier for the disabled player to access the facilities both on and off the course. We aim to provide information about equipment to permit that increased accessibility, this can be done by means of single-seater buggies specifically designed for the disabled player, bespoke club and prosthetic adaptation as well as supplying professional coaching at events from those who have been trained to teach the sport. We aim to attract not only those who have played in the past prior to an illness or injury, but also those who have never played the sport but are seeking the unique benefits of a sport which can be played by anyone either alone against the course, or in teams against each other.

We look to provide a playing environment where the clubs are disabled friendly and accessible and the courses are pre-vetted to ensure that they are capable of being played by those with limited mobility. We are helping to assist in the launching of coaching academies and training sessions throughout the UK. Also from our base in Gloucestershire we aim to provide information on courses, equipment and holiday resorts for the disabled golfer. We hope to offer all of these benefits for our members and others but also employment for those in the area who are disabled and can join us.

All our members are kept aware of the activities of the association by a comprehensive web site and active facebook site, which attract new members on a daily basis. We also actively seek and need the feedback from our members on such diverse subjects as new events, holiday resorts, new equipment, as well as opportunities to volunteer and assist in future direction.

In our first year in 2010 we achieved over 200 members with associates throughout Europe and have links with other disabled golfing organisations throughout the world. In 2010 we arranged or were involved with 12 events which is unique in the world of disabled golf, we have attracted a true cross section of disabilities and our members realise they can enjoy a friendly and enjoyable experience.

In 2011 we increased our membership to 500 and introduced a series of events for newcomers as well as those requesting competition plus a unique series of par-3 events for those with limited mobility. In July 2011 we were featured in a 4-page centre spread in Motability Lifestyle magazine which led to 100 new members in just one week! We held 24 events in 2011. In August 2011 DGS received notification of official registration as a shared-enterprise Community Interest Company.

By the close of the 2012 season (where we had 40 events) we had over 600 members, making us the largest pan-disabled not-for-profit golf organisation in the UK – and possibly the world! We took the opportunity to rebrand and change our name from Society to Association to reflect our national role in the UK.

In 2013 we held over 50 events throughout – England, Wales and Northern Ireland – and a whole series of

taster sessions for those new to golf, supported by Sport England. We closed with over 800 members and with BGL, Glenbrae and Titleist as supporters. We made the decision to cease trading 31st December 2013 as DGS and England/Wales split to form two separate organisations as much to aide with funding streams, still very much working together – DGA in England and WDGA in Wales.

In 2014 we have events scheduled every week of the season in England – with 6 courses selected for the BGL Race to Burhill, 11 courses including a large number of Crown courses participating in the Order of Merit (OOM) and plenty more excellent courses providing DGA Local Events where we take golf to the places where people live; we also have a good number of charity events planned throughout the season having been chosen as Captain and Lady Captain charities in 2014. In Wales there are a further 8 OOM events planned. **Recognised officially by the Charities Aid Foundation as a charitable Community Interest Company (CIC) we have launched our new website disabledgolf.org.uk along with justgiving link.**

We are continuing with support from BGL, Titleist, Glenbrae and from MASS and added Crown Golf as supporters for DGA. New for 2014 is a partnership with IGEM South West and with PACE Rehabilitation. DGA have an ongoing partnership with the Motor Accident Solicitors Society (MASS) who have chosen DGA as their charity of choice on an ongoing basis bringing much needed funding to support the infrastructure of the organisation.

About the Motor Accident Solicitors Society (MASS)

MASS is a non-profit making national association of solicitors who specialise in road traffic accidents, representing the accident victim. Formed in 1991, MASS promotes the highest standards of legal services through education and representation in the pursuit of justice for the victims of road traffic accidents. MASS comprises 190 solicitor firms that employ over 2,000 legal staff, throughout the UK. Collectively member firms conduct in excess of 600,000 road traffic accident personal injury claims each year. The victim, and what is in their best interests, must remain at the centre of the debate. Our goal in this debate is to both protect the rights and interests of consumers who are victims of genuine road traffic accidents as our constitutional objective.

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