

press release

12-14th September 2016



News article

English disabled golfers triumph against Scots

ENGLAND 15.5 / SCOTLAND 8.5

This year's 'Auld Enemies Cup', the first in a series of pan-disabled Ryder Cup style match in the World, between the disabled golfers of England and Scotland took place at the prestigious MacDonald Cardrona in Peebles, Scotland on 12-14th September 2016.

After 3 days England won the trophy back and now the series stands at 3-2 to England in terms of matches played – strangely it's always been the Away side who have won so far – England won at Slaley Hall 2011, Scotland at Breadsall Priory 2012, England at Kinross 2013, Scotland at The Shire London in 2014, and now England at Cardona in 2016.

Results

Monday 12th September - 6 x Foursomes, England 4 / Scotland 2

Tuesday 13th September - 6 x Fourballs, England 4 / Scotland 2

Wednesday 14th September - 12 x Singles, England 7.5 / Scotland 4.5

Final Score England 15.5 / Scotland 8.5

Victorious TEAM ENGLAND Captain Graeme Robertson said "I am very proud of my team for their efforts and sportsmanship. I put together a team from our Order of Merit running throughout the year, that represents what the Disabled Golf Association is all about – different abilities/disabilities, ages and parts of the country joining together.

We have ex-serving service members, amputees, Parkinsons, MS, blind and stroke survivors all participating together.

Such has been the popularity of our Order of Merit events, we have 2 really strong teams in 2016 playing against Scotland and another team playing against the Welsh at The Cotswolds GC 16/17th October.

Cardrona provided a great test of golf made for a matchplay event and enjoyed the

camaraderie providing a link to both the excitement of the Paralympics and the upcoming Ryder Cup.

Thanks go to everyone who supported our DRIVE2DRIVE fundraising campaign throughout the season and our sponsors supporting kit for TEAM ENGLAND for the event; including – Bellway Homes, FORE Business Network, and Dangerous Golf”.

Scottish Captain Alan Robertson said “Another great auld enemies cup match with SDGP team Scotland and DGA Team England played this year at Cardrona in the Scottish Borders. The setting and the weather was perfect for a great match and some of the golf on show was incredible. Some really close matches and congratulations must go to Graeme and his team who I thought were on top form. Although disappointed in the result, the SDGP will be determined to win the cup back in 2018! “

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

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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 Berkshire 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 audiences 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.

Our history

In our first year in 2010 we achieved over 200 members; we arranged or were involved with 12 events attracting a true cross section of disabilities and our members realise they can enjoy a friendly and enjoyable experience.

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.

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 700 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.

2014 we scheduled events every week of the season in England – with 6 courses selected for the BGL Race to Burhill, 11 courses participating in the Order of Merit (OOM) and plenty more excellent independent 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 were 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 produced and maintained entirely in house by volunteers. In 2014, Mark James from the Seniors Tour agreed to become Patron for the DGA.**

2015 was an equally hectic schedule. We have in place a network of regional volunteers to help us grow the sport of disabled and impaired golf. **We are now formally recognised as a DPULO, which is a Disabled People's User-Led Organisation of which we couldn't be more proud; at a fundamental level, a DPULO is an organisation run by and for disabled people.** We repeated the OOM again this year and used this as means of selection for Team England to play Wales at The Vale in September. To help DGA to grow in a sustainable and manageable way we have formed a Handicap Committee and a Marketing Committee at the start of 2015, to run alongside and assist our team of events volunteers.

2016 we started the year with 820 members and the year ahead sees a continuation of our sterling efforts to date with each of the established regions becoming more established and self-sufficient in terms of operation of events. There are still areas with fewer members – west midlands, east of England, south west, north east. We hope to expand both our membership in these areas and our network of volunteers to each area to reach right across the country within the next two years. We are very excited to have been selected as charity of the year by the **FORE Business network** and to have sponsorship for Team England from **Bellway Homes**. 2016 saw the inaugural North of England Open at Wychwood Park, to run alongside the now established Golf Trust Open held at The Shire London annually. **At the beginning of May 2016 we appointed David Edwards of the European Tour as an Ambassador for the DGA; David has an internationally acclaimed Trick Shot Show and hopes to meet more of our members in 2016. This will be Graeme Robertson's sixth year as Team England Captain.**

We are continuing with support from BGL and Titleist with team kit sponsored by Bellway Homes, FORE Business Network and Dangerous Golf. Realising the challenge of funding and with two home internationals in 2016, Graeme & Sue Robertson have spear-headed a fundraising campaign **DRIVE2DRIVE** to help offset the costs related to Team England and associated costs for the DGA.

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