



*In Communities Team receive their Presidents' Award in 2014.*



## In Communities Project, Bradford

*A Skills for Life project helping 'hard to reach' youngsters*

The *In Communities* project in Bradford, gave 150 youngsters from some of the most socially deprived areas of West Yorkshire, the opportunity to take part in a 'Skills for Life' golf programme. The project was made possible thanks to funding from the charitable arm of Bradford based social housing provider "In Communities," Sportivate and the Golf Roots Plus programme (supported by HSBC and The Gerald Micklem Trust).

The programme started in 2012 and was coordinated by Level 2 PGA Coach Andy Watmuff, who is affiliated to Ghyll Beck Driving Range. Andy devised a unique Level 2 AQA Qualification in 'Golf and Personal Development' so that students could learn to develop physical and personal skills through golf. Pupils from three local secondary schools who were either academically low achievers, registered as having special education needs or had been permanently excluded from school, were invited to take part in the course hosted at Ghyll Beck. Many of the young people involved were expected to leave school without any qualifications so all the various employment opportunities within golf, such as catering, green keeping, event and business management were explored. The aim of the course was to help students attain a specific qualification that could be used when looking for future employment.

The project was such a success that in 2014, additional ICT and First Aid qualifications were added and the provision was extended to more schools (to address issues of social cohesion, schools with a large proportion of ethnic minority students were targeted.) Teachers were pleased with the scheme as they observed a noticeable improvement in the behaviour and attendance of the students involved. The majority of pupils achieved the qualifications and awards associated with the programme, and one young student went on to take up a work placement at West Bradford GC with the greenkeeping staff.

The *In Communities* project received the Golf Foundation Mackenzie Presidents' Award in 2014 in recognition of its positive impact on 'hard to reach' youngsters in Bradford, and Andy Watmuff is committed to continuing the delivery so that more students can benefit in the future.

### Main Achievements:

- Over 150 youngsters have taken part in the project, and so far 137 gained the qualification.
- Many of the students went on to volunteer at local golf facilities and after school clubs, and 8 pupils joined a local golf club.

### Quotes:

*"Over the ten-week period, I witnessed an improvement in the students' attitudes, coping skills, anger management and ability to focus."* Special Needs Teacher, Bradford

*"We have many students who have continued to play golf and become members at local clubs. One year 12 student has taken a job as a Golf Assistant at a local golf club, largely due to their interest in the sport being fuelled through Andy's coaching."*

Tony Hemingway, Sports Coordinator & PE Teacher, Immanuel College Bradford

