

It's all about the 'Plus'...

HSBC Golf Roots 'Plus' projects (funded by HSBC and The Gerald Micklem Charitable Trust) are a key initiative within the Golf Foundation's drive to make 'Golf for All'. The projects support a range of partners at a local level to bring golf to an audience that would traditionally not consider golf as a leisure option. Since the HSBC Golf Roots Plus initiative was launched in 2012, 73 projects have been funded. Many have helped 'hard-to-reach' young people in deprived communities and boys and girls from challenging backgrounds.

There has recently been an emphasis on supporting projects with a disability focus and this year, all funds raised from the Foundation's recent Pro-Am (over £15,000) will go towards 'Plus' funding for disability projects. Some recent examples in this area can be read on these two pages:

Introducing 'Touch Golf'

Golf is one of three sports selected by Cerebral Palsy Sport to be modified to help young people with CP to reach their potential.

Andy Leigh, Foundation lead on golf and disability, is working closely with Cerebral Palsy Sport, England Golf and Sheffield Hallam University's Sport Industry Research Centre to create 'Touch Golf', a prototype format that could be played and enjoyed by those with Cerebral Palsy.

Touch Golf, RaceRunning and Frame Football are all being developed with the University's expertise.

Andy Leigh said: "It's a real privilege for the Golf Foundation to be part of this research and development and it's exciting to play a part in creating a new format for golf which could be of genuine benefit to many people who have Cerebral Palsy. All the partners are meeting again soon so that Touch Golf might be on offer for more young people in 2018."

Active Schools Leeds

The Active Schools Leeds Plus project is delivering golf activity for young people with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities in both primary, secondary, mainstream and special schools. The project arose after an attempt to organise a Level 3 School Games inclusive golf event in 2016 that did not go ahead because of a lack of engagement and entries from schools.

A 'come and try' inclusive golf festival was hosted at the John Charles Centre for Sport in Leeds in October and was a great success. Some 125 pupils with a wide range of disabilities rotated around eight Tri-Golf stations to play the games based around the Golf Foundation's inclusive golf Skills cards. Sport Leaders from West Leeds Academy were on hand to help the activities run smoothly.

According to Helen Holdsworth, School Games Organiser (SGO) and project lead, the festival focused on "skill development and personal achievement and... gave (the young people) an extra opportunity to experience a new environment, meet new people and in some cases try golf for the first time."

The following feedback was collected from pupils:

"This is so much fun, I want to do this at school." (Child)

"Through my training I am more confident to run and support this event." (Young Leader)

"I will be very interested in rolling out inclusive golf back at school." (Teacher)

Leeds City Council is also supporting the project by funding the follow-on coaching at nearby HSBC Golf Roots Centres Cookridge Hall GC and Howley Hall GC. Both clubs currently offer weekly inclusive golf sessions, and are keen to increase the number of young people attending these sessions.



Photos on this page: Leaderboard Photography

Tees Valley Sport

Tees Valley Sport was awarded funding in September 2017 to provide golf activity for young people with disabilities. The project is supporting a partnership between Tees Valley Sport County Sports Partnership, two schools for pupils with SEN and Cleveland Golf Club. Golf coaching will initially be delivered in a school setting, further follow-on activity will be held as

community activity where young people and carers can attend independently from the school.

Teachers at both schools and volunteers will be offered Tri-Golf and StreetGolf leadership training and all participants will be enrolled onto the Junior Golf Passport scheme and be invited to take part in inter-school events.

Hertfordshire autism project

Hertfordshire Golf Development received funding in November 2017 for its 'Autism in Golf' project that aims to offer golf activity to around 90 young autistic people. The project will target inactive youngsters to enable them to be physically active on a regular basis and gain the additional health benefits associated with regular exercise. The sessions will be delivered at Radlett

Golf Centre's Driving Range, which is an inclusive amenity that is adequately equipped to deal with the practical needs of autistic people. A new satellite club at Radlett GC will then be formed with a view to encouraging the participants to progress and build confidence in playing golf and in the longer term become regular players that join the golf club.

Brampton Heath Golf Club shows its support



Photos: Leaderboard Photography

Northamptonshire Sport submitted an HSBC Golf Roots Plus application as it wished to increase sports/PE participation for disabled youngsters and those with special educational needs. The funding was first awarded in November 2016 to support an inclusive golf project for pupils from eight special schools. Initially six children from each of the schools took part in two one-hour coaching sessions at Brampton Heath GC, led by PGA Professional Kieran Thomas.

Following this, a coaching academy where three pupils from every school could continue to receive weekly coaching was formed. At these sessions, players took part in a range of golf activities that included practice on the driving range and putting

greens. Over 60 children then had the chance to showcase their new golfing skills by taking part in two Tri-Golf festivals at Brampton Heath GC.

Michelle Reeves, from Northamptonshire Sport, said: "The project has been a great success... for the children who now, following the project, wish to continue to play the game regularly and join the club, with friends and family."

Recently appointed new Foundation RDO Alice Lowe is keeping the momentum going in the area. Alice ran a School Games workshop with special educational needs and disabled students in October and they recently put their new coaching skills into action at a Tri-Golf festival.

Pro-Am helps young people with disabilities



Golf lovers from the world of business, media and sport came together in October to compete in the Golf Foundation Pro-Am, supported by the European Tour. The 31st edition of this popular tournament raised more than £15,000 to help young people with disabilities to enjoy the benefits of golf.

Held at London Golf Club (the excellent Heritage course) for a sixth year, 20 teams from around the country enjoyed their golf day, guided by European Tour professionals. In a closely fought contest (including a -7, 65 from Tour Pro Zane Scotland), Pro Wraith Grant guided the all-women's team of 'PGA Ladies' to a memorable victory, with (pictured) Maureen Roberts, Di Horsley and Debbie Allmeyer, who are all great supporters of the Foundation, receiving the loudest applause of the day for their terrific win.

The generosity of all the players continued three decades of fundraising that has secured more than £500,000 to help make golf more accessible to youngsters from all backgrounds and abilities.

Golf Foundation Chairman Stephen Lewis said: "Everyone involved in our Pro-Am has been incredibly generous and we promise to spend every penny wisely. All the funds raised this year will support more young people who have a disability to enjoy the benefits of golf, from having an opportunity to experience the sport for the first time to following a pathway into our golf clubs."

For some great prizes and auction items, the Golf Foundation thanks: HSBC, Buckinghamshire Golf Club, London GC, Titleist, the European Tour, The R&A, ETIQUIS, Glenmuir, The Groucho Club, The Ryder Cup, PING, Toro, Tractor Hire, SRIXON, Woburn GC, Princes GC and everyone else who kindly donated prizes.