

GolfSixes' team ethos



Photo: Lookboard Photography

Right from the launch of GolfSixes at Centurion Club in May 2017, the Golf Foundation has relished the opportunity to work with the European Tour and develop its own successful junior version in partnership with England Golf. It now promises to be one of the charity's most successful and high-profile initiatives.

In both editions of the Tour's GolfSixes event at Centurion Club, a wealth of European Tour players have helped inspire the youngsters to

help launch this initiative into the wider country. At this year's event the likes of Kiradech Aphibarnrat, Alexander Bjork, Edoardo Molinari, Lucas Bjerregaard, Thorbjorn Olesen and others encouraged the youngsters. Over the summer, GolfSixes Leagues will feature 125 golf clubs from 25 regional inter-club leagues playing weekly team golf. Around 1,500 boys and girls will be representing their golf clubs, wearing coloured team shirts with GolfSixes branding; squads of 12 juniors will

play six holes against other clubs in a Texas Scramble format. Youngsters work with their club's PGA professional during the week to prepare for the big matches at the weekend, supported by watching parents. Matches should be fast, fun and a foundation for a long-lasting love of golf.

The leagues take place mainly in England but include five pilot leagues in Wales and Scotland, with this number expected to rise significantly in 2019 in support of Wales Golf and Scottish Golf.

GolfSixes magic

RDO Jason Sorrell said: "These are the two things I keep hearing from parents. Firstly, GolfSixes is great fun and the perfect entry level competition; very low pressure as part of a team. Secondly, a couple of parents have told me that GolfSixes has helped build confidence in their kids. One said that her daughter could be a little quiet at school but as part of her GolfSixes team she is becoming more outgoing and happier to chat; this is now being reflected outside of golf back at school, which is great!"

A great start to GolfSixes at Overstone Park GC in Northants (pictured) and a big thank you to fantastic Junior Organiser Sau Pham and Head Pro Brian Mudge. Foundation RDO Alice Lowe said: "We have three brilliant clubs in our league who are all so welcoming.

Northampton GC, Peterborough Milton and Overstone Park, fabulous examples of friendly clubs."

In Lancashire, the Duxbury Park team put on free food and drinks for all the kids and supporting parents; more than 50 family members enjoying the facilities. The children played football together while the scores were totted up.

"The exciting thing was we also received lots of positive comments from those parents who were very much new to golf," said the Golf Foundation's Andy Leigh.

