

Box of Tricks ideal for winter



The Box of Tricks is proving a genuine hit in its key role of retaining more youngsters in junior sections. The 'Box' is a resource with more than 50 top-class ideas and how to apply them, all with the aim of encouraging young golfers so that more girls and boys will 'stay' in our golf clubs (more than 400 golf clubs are now using the Box).

Feedback for the Box and the accompanying workshops has been highly positive; each workshop focuses on junior retention in four areas of the club, concerning Skill, Play, Social, and Marketing.

More and more golf clubs are finding that the ideas within the Box are proving to be highly beneficial in the Autumn and Winter months, a time when many golf clubs can lose contact with juniors and families and thus see a drop-off in interest when Spring arrives.

On-course skills trials, weekly meetings at the local driving range or bowling nights; Dice Golf to help learn the rules and fill in scorecards, Scavenger Hunt (zooming around the club to learn its history), 'Cricket Golf' and indoor putting are just some of the fresh ideas to keep kids keen.

This summer, the Box went over the border for the first time into Scotland (see page 14) and is progressing really well inside just three months. Thirteen workshops have trained volunteers from 137 clubs – great work Scottish Golf!

Eureka moments

Golf Foundation RDO Ian Harvey said: "Our whole team of 10 RDOs has received a brilliant reaction to the Box of Tricks, and the ideas that can be used in the colder months really are an excellent way to keep the juniors happy, focused, together, and importantly,



learning more about the game. As a retention resource, the Box is something we're all very proud of and excited about, as are the golf clubs using it."

Golf Foundation RDO Andy Leigh said: "We really enjoy our Box of Tricks workshops because we get very much a genuine positive reaction from Junior Organisers. When they see the wealth of ideas and how to apply them to help the junior section, it really provides a 'Eureka' moment."

North Wilts enthusiasm

North Wilts Golf Club reported on the "great enthusiasm" shown for the Box of Tricks. Junior Organiser June Poffley said: "Having a 'Family Skills Challenge' with BBQ was very well attended. 'Ryder Cup Putting' wasn't just enjoyed by the young participants, but also by adult members who stopped to admire. 'Cricket Golf' was approached warily, but proved enormously popular with those who took part!"

Garforth thinks inside the box

Youngsters enjoyed an end of season family golf party to remember at Garforth Golf Club in Yorkshire. Garforth is a HSBC Golf Roots Centre and has been trialling some of the ideas included in the Box of Tricks initiative.

The kids enjoyed a Scavenger Hunt in and around the clubhouse to learn more about



what makes this Leeds club tick, and a fun, family Texas Scramble tournament was staged (in one team, dad, mum, son and daughter were playing together to great effect!). A relaxed dress code, face painting and a prize giving ceremony were typical of the welcoming atmosphere, overseen by Junior Organiser Steve Carlisle, supported by PGA Pro Gareth Johnson.

Steve Carlisle said: "Seeing the happy, smiling faces of juniors and parents makes the job all worthwhile. Feedback from our members has also been great; they have sent me lots of positive messages and the junior section is creating a fantastic reputation within the club."



Whatever amount your club is able to donate to us will be greatly appreciated and will be invested in juniors to secure the future of the game.

"It was an easy decision to choose the Golf Foundation as my charity - an organisation which so successfully brings the sport to so many youngsters who may not have considered golf as their sport of choice."

Philip Tiddy,
Enfield GC

How can you support the Golf Foundation?

1. Choose the Golf Foundation as your **Captain's Charity** for the year.
2. Dedicate a club competition with a donation as an entry fee.
3. Consider asking your club to offer members the chance of adding an **optional donation** as part of their annual subscription.
4. Support Golf Foundation initiatives such as the **Brooch Competition**, where the money raised goes to developing girls' golf.
5. Organise social activities such as a quiz night or coffee morning to raise donations for our charity.

For more information about these initiatives please contact Vanessa Bell today on **01992 449830** or email fundraising@golf-foundation.org