



Volunteering Opportunities with Hertfordshire Golf

Your County Needs You!

Hertfordshire Golf represents 60 golf clubs and over 23,000 golfers across the county. We deliver services for our member Clubs that strengthen and develop the game of golf in Hertfordshire. This includes organising championships and competitions, managing interclub league matches, supporting clubs with WHS and handicapping advice and encouraging new people into the game. We are also responsible for carrying out a Course Rating assessment of all golf courses approximately on a 10 year cycle.

We rely very much on volunteers to help our small team of staff to deliver our programme of activities and currently more than 50 or so volunteers support us. If you would like to get involved, we would love to hear from you.

Here's a taster of some of the volunteering opportunities:

Starters

From March to November, we stage more than 40 competitions and championships for all age groups. You could help at any of these events as a Starter. Starters on the 1st tee help to manage the flow of golfers on the course, ensure that players are in the right place at the right time, are carrying legitimate equipment and are advised of any special information that they need to know. It's usually an early start and you would need to be at the host club by 7.30 am and be on the Starting tee for 2 -3 hours.

We provide Hertfordshire Golf jumpers and/or jackets and would provide you with all the training and information you need. Ideally, we would like you to be able to commit to, say, 5 – 8 events per year. We produce a schedule at the start of the season and so you would have ample advance notification of the dates when you are needed.

Referees

If you are interested in becoming a referee, our Director of Championships, Alan Thomson, would be happy to speak to you and give you more information about the skills and qualifications required.

Course Raters

Course Rating is a core service that is provided to all golf clubs affiliated to Hertfordshire Golf. The Course Rating gives the playing difficulty of a golf course for a scratch golfer (handicap 0.0) under normal playing conditions and Slope Rating compares this with that of a bogey player (handicap approx. 20.0 men, 24.0 women). Course Rating is a cornerstone of the World Handicap System (WHS).

The process of rating a course involves a team of four who visit the course and record detailed measurements and assessments of each hole. This usually takes four or five hours. We assess six golf courses every year between April and September.

Volunteers should be golfers with the experience to judge how players outside of their ability range might cope with various situations on the course. The team use technology such as GPS devices, lasers and satellite imagery to ensure assessments are accurate. The best teams comprise of both male and female golfers with a range of handicaps and wide experience of playing different types of courses.

Once you have taken part in a number of course ratings we hope you would consider training to be a Team Leader. For this role you will need to possess numeracy and computer skills, and a high level of commitment to the task of mastering all the England Golf requirements. Team Leaders initiate and maintain contact with the clubs and prepare the paperwork in advance of the visit. Afterwards they complete the application on Excel spreadsheets, using the data collected, before these are submitted for checking and processing. An attendance at some England Golf training sessions will also be required.

We are always looking for volunteers and those who take part find it a particularly rewarding experience.

Team Managers or Assistant Team Managers

We run 8 teams - Men, Women, Senior Men, Senior Women, Boys Under 14, Boys Under 16, Boys Under 18 and Girls.

The team manager is responsible for selecting, managing and supporting the team, including attending training sessions and all match fixtures.

The job includes preparing and managing an annual budget, agreeing dates and venues for the matches, working with the county coaches, communicating with the team and providing regular match reports.

Matches take place between April and October between counties across the East of England and all the teams have various matches and activity over the year.

At the moment we are particularly looking for volunteers to be Assistant Team Managers, to aid the Team Manager and potentially provide some contingency.

Board directors and Committee Members

A team of ten Directors is responsible for the management of Hertfordshire Golf and each director has a supporting committee.

The Chair: Responsible for Governance and the adoption of standards, policies and procedures to become a model of best practice.

Director of Finance: Responsible for ensuring we maintain strong and sustainable finances.

Director of Championships: Responsible for delivering a programme of high-quality championships and competitions and promoting the knowledge, understanding and application of Rules of Golf.

Director of Club Services: Responsible for providing clubs with course ratings, handicap expertise and networking opportunities.

Director of Golf Development: Responsible for growing the game in Hertfordshire

Director of Player Development: Responsible for optimising the talent in the squads to build a series of winning teams and develop a population of lifelong golfers in a fun and engaging environment.

Director of Marketing and Communications: Responsible for promoting our services and activities.

Two Directors Without Portfolio support the work of the Board in general.

The Board meets six times per year and those with specific responsibilities meet with their respective Committees approximately four to eight times per year. The tasks and duties of each Board member and Committee member varies but on average they dedicate 3 to 4 days per month carrying out these duties, maybe more in the peak season.

We would be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to serve on one of the committees or learn more about joining the Board of Directors.

Please contact:

Louis Matamala

County Secretary

secretary@hertfordshiregolf.org