

My name is Byron Willis and I am a year one PGA Trainee golf professional.

What is my role as a PGA trainee?

My role as a PGA trainee at the Cromwell golf club is to provide members, visitors and customers with a memorable experience when playing golf. I am also here to encourage people to take up golf and enjoy the process of learning and improving their game. As a part of the PGA traineeship, I am working alongside Willie Moore to receive practical work experience and on the job training. As well as developing real skills for the workplace as a PGA trainee I will also work towards receiving nationally accredited qualifications in a variety of vocational disciplines.

Quite a large part of being a PGA trainee is growing and developing the sport in youth. It is important for me as a trainee to start developing and building the foundation for the future of golf.

Through the duration of each school term in 2021, at the Cromwell golf on a Wednesday and Thursday, I will be taking Junior group lessons. On a Wednesday the session will be for intermediate and college students and based around developing their golf skills to be used on the golf course. This session will run from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm. The Thursday session will be designed for primary school kids and based around learning the fundamentals for golf and game-based learning. This will run from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

The most important part about running these sessions is that they are designed for the kids to have fun and grow their enjoyment of the game of golf. As a past junior golfer myself, all I can remember is how much fun I had hitting golf balls on the driving range when I was 10. My goal is to use my past experiences to enhance the overall enjoyment juniors get from coming to these sessions.

As we progress throughout the year, in the primary school kids sessions I will teach the very basics to the juniors through game-based \ learning. The perk of using game-based learning is that it creates a fun and enjoyable environment for the kids whilst allowing me to step in and teach the simple things without overloading the mind of a junior with all the technical aspects of golf. For me, the goal is to keep the information I share with the juniors short and simple.

For the intermediate and college sessions, I will focus on developing each individual's skills accordingly. In most cases I expect all players to be at different skill levels. As a coach, I need to be able to adjust my approach based on each player's skill level. I plan to maximise the player's enjoyment of the sport and grow the player's skills as the year progresses.

I would like to encourage any juniors, experienced or inexperienced to come along to any of the sessions.

Come and give golf a go!

To all parents feel free to bring your kids along to these coaching sessions.

The main focus at the end of each day is to have fun.

Kind regards

Byron Willis