

## Question & Answers on the SLCGA Coaching Programme and Order of Merit

### Coaching Programme

#### 1) What has changed?

- This year instead of offering funded coaching to two groups of players we are offering coaching to only one group of players.
- This year's funded programme will run from October through to July, thus assisting players in the "off season" identifying areas to work on, and helping these players be fully prepared for the beginning of the competitive season. The coaching will conclude in mid-July, coinciding with the height of the playing season.
- This year's coaching is a performance based programme, aimed at providing players with the necessary tools to achieve their potential and take responsibility for their performance.
- Lisa McGowan has stepped down as 1<sup>st</sup> Team Captain. Ann Gems, County Captain will take over Lisa's responsibility as 1<sup>st</sup> Team captain. A 1<sup>st</sup> team player representative will be elected for the 1<sup>st</sup> team when it is selected in mid-April 2012.
- James Lockrose remains Head Coach, and Rachel Aaby will continue as assistant coach.
- Julia Brook, the Junior Training Officer will be assisting with the administration of the programme and order of merit.

#### 2) Why has it changed?

- The coaching programme has been in continual development for the last few years. All the work previously has been transitional. Each year we try to learn from previous year's good and not so good elements, and adjust them accordingly.
- Over the last few years we have been able to increase the number of players receiving coaching, be it funded or self funded.
- The standard of golf in Surrey has improved, the talent pool has widened, and competition for places has increased.
- County Coaching has evolved and is now more about developing performance, physical, nutritional and psychological competency. As such we are limited in the number of players we can provide this level of coaching to on a funded basis.
- These changes to coaching are not unique to Surrey. Nationally coaches are becoming more professional and better informed about how to aid players. Golf coaching now involves many varied disciplines including how to swing a golf club.

#### 3) I had funded coaching last year, but am not included this year, why?

- Funded coaching in this year's programme is being offered to those players who demonstrate the potential for significant further development. In previous years we have provided funded coaching to a wide range of players, unfortunately as the coaching programme develops we cannot afford to offer so many players funded places.

#### 4) Does this mean I'm not going to get in to the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> team?

- Absolutely not
- Whether you attend funded coaching, self funded coaching or no coaching at all has no bearing on whether you are selected for the 1<sup>st</sup> team, 2<sup>nd</sup> team, junior team or senior team.
- The order of merit has been introduced to help inform captains about players' performances and assist in making selection decisions. We are working on developing a junior and senior order of merit as well.

#### 5) Are juniors getting two lots of coaching?

- No. The funded squad is made up of juniors, intermediates and adults. This is the only coaching Surrey will be providing these players.

- Juniors who are not in the funded squad may be offered other junior specific funded coaching. Intermediates and Adults will have access to self funded coaching.

**6) How many funded places are there?**

- This year we have written to 20 players, 10 juniors, 10 adults offering them spots in the funded squad. We anticipate having a squad of around 15 players, the majority of whom will be juniors.
- Adults offered places are: Lauren Blease, Andrea Downer, Katie Fewster, Charlotte Griffith, Daisy May Kenny, Hannah Lovelock, Lisa McGowan, Kirsty Rands, Alice Spani Molella and Nicola Taylor.
- Juniors who have been offered places are: Sarah Duns, Shannon Flynn, Samantha Fuller, Lauren Horsford, Daisy Macve, Inci Mehmet, Lizzie Prior, Sana Tufail and Rachel Williams. A further junior player has been offered a place.

**7) What happens to new players, or to players whose handicaps come down?**

- New players to Surrey will be invited to attend a coaching session to allow the head coach and county captain to gain an understanding of their golf and whether they should be offered funded or self funded coaching.
- Players whose handicaps come down into single figures should contact the Junior Training Officer.
- Players' performances should be evident through the order of merit system. Players are encouraged to highlight their achievements by contacting the Junior Training Officer.

**8) If we are not involved in funded or self funded coaching how do we know what is going on?**

- Information about the coaching programme will be available on the SLCGA website in due course.
- In the meantime you should initially contact the Junior Training Officer or feel free to get in touch with the County Coach: James Lockrose or the County Captain: Ann Gems.
- Every effort will be made to keep in touch with all players who want information – it is important for you to keep us up to date with your contact details, etc.

## **Order of Merit**

**1) Why is the order of merit being backdated?**

- This the first year of the order of merit and we have to start somewhere.
- The county championship is the obvious start and end event, particularly as the order of merit is being introduced to help with county week team selection. It is important to conclude the order of merit at the appropriate time. We would anticipate announcing the county team in the week following the county championship.
- We have included club medals specifically to offer players who have limited time an opportunity to submit scores.

**2) Why weren't we informed about the Order of Merit earlier?**

- This training programme and the order of merit have come together over the last 2 months. It has taken time to work through each issue, etc. If we could have got it out earlier we would have done.
- We have only just finished this year's season, the junior county week was held in Mid August.
- A timeline detailing the county year is provided at the end of this document.

**3) What about the Hicks and Derry Cup or other Matchplay competitions.**

- The Hicks and Derry Cup are valuable matchplay opportunities. Unfortunately because each club has a mix of category 1 and 2 players, and availability for these matches is so variable, it is not fair to include these in the Order of Merit.
- Some clubs will have lots of single figure players competing for places, whilst others will have very few and may in some instances not even enter these competitions.
- Competitions like the Rothchild Trophy are open to all single figure players, hence why it has been included.

- Other competitions like the Inter Club Champions Gold Medal will be reviewed annually to determine how points should be awarded. (Again the qualification process for this varies significantly from club to club).

#### 4) What about other competitions, like the Guinness Trophy?

- Where appropriate scratch competitions will be taken in to account, so yes we can include the Guinness Trophy.
- The weighting of these competitions will vary according to the number of category one and two players in the field. The fewer players the less the weighting – so the Guinness Trophy this year will be a category A weighting as only 2 cat 1 and 5 cat 2 players competed.
- Inevitably we will have missed some competitions and included others that shouldn't be included, as mentioned previously this is the first year, and we can only apologise for any errors.
- Please also remember you can submit 5 medal scores, and these can be from competitions at your home club or away, so long as a CSS has been calculated.

**We hope that this document has gone some way to answering some of your queries.**

**Please do get in touch if you have queries or concerns.**

#### Contact Details

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#### Timeline

<b>April</b>	<p align="center"><b>County Championship</b>  <b>County 1<sup>st</sup> Team Selected</b>  <b>County 2<sup>nd</sup> Team squad selected</b>  <b>County Junior Team selected</b></p>
<b>June</b>	<p align="center"><b>County Match Week</b>  <b>Stovold (2<sup>nd</sup> Team) matches commence</b></p>
<b>July</b>	<p align="center"><b>Final Coaching Session – player debrief</b></p>
<b>August</b>	<p align="center"><b>Junior County Match Week</b>  <b>Stovold (2<sup>nd</sup> Team) matches conclude</b>  <b>Coaching / 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Junior Team Performance review</b></p>
<b>September</b>	<p align="center"><b>Planning for following year's coaching programme</b>  <b>Budget Preparation</b>  <b>Budget Approval</b></p>
<b>October</b>	<p align="center"><b>Year commences</b>  <b>Coaching begins</b></p>
<b>November – May</b>	<p align="center"><b>Winter Training Programme: Technical and Physical Development</b>  <b>Late Winter / Early Spring: Psychological Focus</b>  <b>Late Spring: Tournament Preparation</b>  <b>Summer: Tournament Play</b></p>
<b>December</b>	<p align="center"><b>SLCGA AGM</b></p>