



press release

23rd September 2013

Team England end the season in style

News article Team England triumphed once again on Monday 23rd September for disabled golf as the two teams, representing Wales and England did battle in a one-day international at Pontypridd GC. Earlier in the year Team England were victorious in a 3-day international against Scotland so have had quite a season ably led by Captain Graeme Robertson.

Richard Morgan from HTV Wales filmed the start of the day which went out in regions of Wales and England on the day for the 6 o'clock news. The typical welsh weather made a difficult course ever so slightly harder with a few days rain stopping any run on the ball.

Pontypridd golf club, staff and members all came out to support with ball spotting, caddies, general help and spectators. Without their support the event would not have been as huge a success that it obviously was.

Both teams were kitted out in Glenbrae Golf uniform for the day and looked every bit the part in traditional colours – Wales in red and England in white shirts, with embroidered commemorative logo.

With great camaraderie shared by all, a fabulous day was had by all the players who travelled from across the two home countries. Players aged 12-63 with a range of disabilities including amputees, MS, polio, stroke survivors, deaf, spinal/mobility issues, intellectual difficulties.

The front nine was four ball better ball and all matches were closely fought out with each match having to play the full nine holes to secure either a win or a half. However England took a 4½ to a 3½ lead at the turn.

The second nine was 12 single matches. The first 6 singles saw Wales sharing the points to keep the scores tight. With only 6 matches left the scores were all set up to have the 18th hole playoff for the first ever winner of the Oldfield Trophy however a more experienced Team England team finished the job off strongly to clinch victory on welsh soil. Final score 11-7 to England.

Graeme Robertson, Captain of Team England said “I am hugely proud of my team, in June we beat the Scots in the Auld Enemies Cup at Kinross GC, and today we brought in some new, younger players alongside our more experience players, and still managed to win in

Wales, I couldn't be more delighted. It has been a hard fought match, played in the right spirit, commiserations to the Welsh but the real winner has been disabled golf I picked a team that represents what the Disabled Golf Association is all about, different disabilities, golf abilities, and parts of the country from Devon to Newcastle. My thanks also go to Glenbrae Golf for assisting us with rapid turnaround of the commemorative kit for both teams on the day. We look forward to welcoming the Welsh to come across the bridge to play for the trophy again next year".

Welsh Captain, Keith Wallace said "Everything is exactly like it is with the Welsh at football or rugby, we set out to win but it wasn't to be on the day. It was close to the wire but the more experienced English team caught us at the end".

Event organiser Nicki Jones continued "Huge thanks go out to all that were involved - Pontypridd golf club and Coors for staging and sponsoring the event for all participants; Oldfield Forge for designing and making the trophy; members for providing help throughout the day in all ways and for donating their personal buggies, without this the event wouldn't have gone ahead. I had an idea for the trophy design and came across the blacksmiths near Hay on Wye through a charity event my father has run for 31 years and was dazzled by what they can do with metal so I decided that I would ask if they would make a trophy and was so pleased with the results we agreed to name it after them".

The unique Oldfield Trophy had been commissioned especially for what is now hoped to be an annual international between Wales and England. Forged by traditional blacksmiths at the Oldfield Forge, comprising a daffodil, a rose and a putter bedded on a block of solid black granite. Materials were stainless steel, copper and brass from recycled golf clubs donated by a local recycling centre in Brecon. The rose is made from copper with stainless steel heated up and rolled before being shaped. The daffodil was made from brass and the stalks again made from stainless steel.

DGA is a pan-disability, not-for-profit organization, membership is free. More information is at www.disabledgolfassociation.co.uk with events scheduled all over the country.

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Information for editors

About the Disabled Golf Association

Our main aims are to promote the game of golf as a pathway to a healthier lifestyle and greater social inclusion for those who are disabled, irrespective of age, gender or disability. This includes providing the means to make it easier for the disabled player to access the facilities both on and off the course. We aim to provide information about equipment to permit that increased accessibility, this can be done by means of single-seater buggies specifically designed for the disabled player, bespoke club and prosthetic adaptation as well as supplying professional coaching at events from those who have been trained to teach the sport. We aim to attract not only those who have played in the past prior to an illness or injury, but also those who have never played the sport but are seeking the unique benefits of a sport which can be played by anyone either alone against the course,

or in teams against each other.

We look to provide a playing environment where the clubs are disabled friendly and accessible and the courses are pre-vetted to ensure that they are capable of being played by those with limited mobility. We are helping to assist in the launching of coaching academies and training sessions throughout the UK. Also from our base in Gloucestershire we aim to provide information on courses, equipment and holiday resorts for the disabled golfer. We hope to offer all of these benefits for our members and others but also employment for those in the area who are disabled and can join us.

All our members are kept aware of the activities of the association by a comprehensive web site and active facebook site, which attract new members on a daily basis. We also actively seek and need the feedback from our members on such diverse subjects as new events, holiday resorts, new equipment and opportunities to volunteer and assist in future direction.

We interact with all of the governing bodies of the sport as well as some well known major suppliers and a wide cross-section of disability organisations such as The Papworth Trust, Leonard Cheshire Disability, The Stroke Association, The Cerebral Palsy Association and CP Sport, REMAP and DIAL.

In our first year in 2010 we achieved over 200 members with associates throughout Europe and have links with other disabled golfing organisations throughout the world. In 2010 we arranged or been involved with 12 events which is unique in the world of disabled golf, we have attracted a true cross section of disabilities and our members realise they can enjoy friendly and enjoyable experience.

In 2011 we increased our membership to 500 and introduced a series of events for newcomers as well as those requesting competition plus a unique series of par-3 events for those with limited mobility. In July 2011 we were featured in a 4-page centre spread in Motability Lifestyle magazine which led to 100 new members in just one week! We held 24 events in 2011. In August 2011 we received notification of our official registration as a shared-enterprise Community Interest Company.

By the close of the 2012 season (where we had 40 events) we had over 600 members, making us the largest pan-disabled not-for-profit golf organisation in the UK – and possibly the world! We took the opportunity to rebrand and change our name from Society to Association to reflect our national role in the UK.

In 2013 we have over 50 events planned throughout – England, Wales and Northern Ireland – and a whole series of taster sessions for those new to golf, supported by Sport England. At the start of the season, DGA has entered into agreement with Glenbrae as Official Apparel Supplier to DGA members with the new range of Pro V+ balls being donated as prizes for the entire season by Titleist. In addition for 2013, DGA have announced a partnership with the BGL group of golf courses in a “BGL Race to Burhill” with the final to be held in October.

DGA are delighted to announce in August 2013, a new partnership with the Motor Accident Solicitors Society (MASS) who have chosen DGA as their charity of choice on an ongoing basis bringing much needed funding to support the infrastructure of the organisation. On 5th September 2013 DGA were announced as the winners of the Sports Award by Disability Motoring UK.

About the Motor Accident Solicitors Society



MASS is a non-profit making national association of solicitors who specialise in road traffic accidents, representing the accident victim. Formed in 1991, MASS promotes the highest standards of legal services through education and representation in the pursuit of justice for the victims of road traffic accidents. MASS comprises 190 solicitor firms that employ over 2,000 legal staff, throughout the UK. Collectively member firms conduct in excess of 600,000 road traffic accident personal injury claims each year.

The victim, and what is in their best interests, must remain at the centre of the debate. Our goal in this debate is to both protect the rights and interests of consumers who are victims of genuine road traffic accidents as our constitutional objective.