

JUNIOR GOLF

"A golf club where juniors and parents are welcome, new friends are made, and skills are developed in a fun environment."

Our Aims

- **Play Socially:** We want every junior, whatever their ability, to have lots of chances to play socially with their fellow juniors and enjoy the experience.
- **Inexpensive Coaching:** Our plan is to ensure that all juniors have access to inexpensive, group coaching opportunities to improve the quality of their play.
- **Competitions:** And if they want to, we will provide opportunities for competition play both within the club and in County competitions.
- **Stay Active:** But most of all, we want to give juniors the chance to develop a love and passion for the game and give them a sport that they can play and enjoy throughout their lives.



Golf for Juniors

Being part of the Junior Club at Barnham Broom is not just about the development of skills because being a good golfer is about so much more than that!

It's about creating friendships over a shared interest – friendships that could potentially last through into adulthood and beyond. Remember, golf is a sport that can be played at almost any time in life, so learning to play gives a junior a hobby that can be shaped around their time of life and picked back up at any time. It's a bit like riding a bike with friends ...

Golf is a game with rules – they are an integral part of the game and are part of what makes it a fair and equal game. Learning the rules is all part of the experience, and learning to play within them helps juniors understand boundaries and restrictions whilst maintaining a smile!

Lots of etiquette is at the heart of golf, too. Taking turns, giving way, treating other players with respect, demonstrating a belief in fairness and keeping a cool head are all learned and, of course, can be put to good use in other areas of life.

Our Junior Club Structure

The Junior Club at Barnham Broom is organised by a small volunteer committee of adult members. They are all players themselves, and some have children playing here at Barnham Broom. Others are grandparents, but all are enthusiastic about junior golf in general and may also have particular interests around coaching and developing skills, golf for girls or competitive play.

The committee organises the calendar for the year, manages results and prizes, creates opportunities for social play, guides juniors towards an initial handicap index and sets up subsidised coaching opportunities along with managing the finances and team selection. They are also the place to come for advice and support in starting a junior's golfing journey.

The committee meets monthly, is bound by terms of reference, and all meetings are minuted. Those minutes are always available to parents, and the committee welcomes points for discussion, questions and suggestions.



RUSS MARLING

07554798149

russmarling@gmail.com



SUE BROTHERS

07765579294

suebrothers2904@gmail.com



GARY LUTKIN

07799504843

garylutkin@icloud.com



ANDREW STEBBINGS

07734031272

astebbings@yahoo.co.uk



CHRIS BALL

07775500736

cab170754@gmail.com



DAVID LONSDALE

07815935574

djlonsdale@hotmail.com

Communicating with Juniors and Parents

Communication is a key activity for all of us in the Junior Club. We use **Spond** as our app to pass out information, send reminders and ask for opinions from parents and juniors. Parents can see all the exchanges if they download and register on the app and it's a quick and easy way to keep up to date with what's going on.

How Did I Do is used by Barnham Broom to communicate with all members and manage competitions and tee times. You can download the app or use the website if you prefer but both will enable you to book a tee time or join a competition. It also provides competition results, course information and news.

Juniors and their parents both need **Spond** and **How Did I Do** is for all Barnham Broom members. If you need advice or help downloading, you can ask in the shop or contact a Junior Committee member, but both apps are easy to understand and make a real difference when you need to keep up to date



Why Barnham Broom for your Junior?

The juniors at Barnham Broom are a relatively small group of young people and it's easy to get to know everyone quite quickly. This is a real advantage if your junior finds it challenging to be part of a larger group and wants the benefit of learning the ropes in a less busy environment. It also means that we can offer a more individual learning environment than at some other clubs and that help and support is always available. But as a smaller junior club, we have had considerable success in developing the skills of individual juniors and our results in County competitions have been outstanding.

County Success

2024 KK Smith Trophy Winners

A prestigious win against the best juniors in Norfolk.

2025 Bass Trophy Winners

A celebration of our developing, higher-handicap team



What about this year? We hope for more success but most of all, we want our teams to enjoy the experience, know that they have done their best and show other clubs, what a great team spirit we have at Barnham Broom.

Practice and Coaching

Practice makes perfect, so they say ...

But practice needs to be purposeful and fun and that's what we aim to provide with our social play opportunities and fun competitions.

We give juniors the chance to play with other juniors of their own age and skill level, plus an opportunity to play alongside their parents or siblings.

Fun competitions are literally that and we often use the Academy 5 hole course for younger juniors or for practising particular skills. It gives every junior the chance to shine at something and who doesn't want to be crowned the best putter of the day?

Next comes coaching! We offer subsidised group coaching to all of our junior members, and we use Tony Varney, our senior PGA professional to deliver this for us. Tony has a long history of providing fun coaching and lessons that hit the spot, and just importantly, he is really invested in encouraging and supporting juniors to develop their skills.

Tony is also available to give one to one coaching that concentrates on particular aspects of the game or works on a specific skill that needs more input.



Gaining an Initial Handicap Index

The next stage is casual and fun play on the two courses at Barnham Broom, usually with the aim of the junior gaining their first handicap index. Once they have a handicap index, they can begin to play in competition and measure their ability against other players. Golf is unique in having a handicapping system that is worldwide and allows for any player to compete against an opponent and have an equal chance of winning. It means that a beginner can play against a seasoned player and if they play well to their level, they can often win. So even casual play can have a competitive element and many juniors find that this adds to the fun.

Our Junior club can guide our juniors through the process of earning an Initial Handicap Index by organising suitable partners and ensuring that juniors understand the rules that they must adhere to. After that relatively short process, juniors can play in competitions and start the job, exercising their skills and reducing their handicap.

Junior Competition Opportunities

Competition play is the next step for those juniors ready to move their golf on to the courses at Barnham Broom. The Junior club organises a range of competitions suitable for all levels of skill and experience and this allows juniors to develop their game whilst playing with other juniors who are at a similar level or in the same age group.

The juniors here play in stableford, medal, betterball and scramble formats – so sometimes as individuals and at other times as part of a pair or a team. This means that they learn the skills associated with different formats and also ensures that there is both a competitive element and an opportunity to have fun alongside their friends.

We introduce juniors to playing as part of a team with supportive adults and encourage them to start to understand the requirements of matchplay.

Within their first season of on-course play, we would expect them to have learnt the basics of all the formats, be able to manage their own tactical decisions, have a really good understanding of the basic rules and to be able to sustain their focus over 18 holes on the course.



Representing Barnham Broom at Golf

Next comes the opportunity to represent Barnham Broom in external competitions organised by the County Golf Union or in friendly competitions against other Norfolk clubs.

Not all juniors wish to take this step but many do and we can support their efforts to get involved. We always have an organiser from the Junior club accompanying teams to other courses, providing support and encouragement and ensuring that all our juniors feel comfortable and confident in a different golfing environment.

Many juniors absolutely thrive on the competitive opportunities that this type of inter-club play brings and it is very rewarding to see the increasing levels of confidence that results from being part of this type of experience.

Norfolk County Opportunities

As experience grows and skills develop, it is possible for some juniors to become part of the Norfolk County development set-up. This offers specialised coaching and competitive opportunities and even the chance to represent the County. Our Junior club organisers can help with advice on taking this step and introduce juniors to the County Junior team organisers

Ready to Play with Adults?

For those who really take to golf and continue to play through their teenage years, the next step is to take part in adult competitions and play. Our adult clubs at Barnham Broom welcome juniors who are ready to play in terms of their ability and who are also mature enough to feel comfortable and confident in the adult golf environment.

We have a documented process to facilitate that move that is designed to safeguard the junior player and ensure that the move is an enjoyable experience.

When a junior expresses an interest in adult play, the Junior organisers make an assessment of readiness, and if that is positive, the details are passed to the Men's or Ladies' club Captains for consideration.

Initial play is completed alongside a specially selected adult player ... usually the captain or a committee member, and only when we are sure that the junior is happy and confident do we permit open entry into competitions.

Several of our juniors have now made this journey and only report a positive and an inclusive experience.



Safeguarding our Juniors

Safeguarding our Juniors is at the forefront of all our activities designed for juniors.

We understand our responsibilities in this regard and offer a firm commitment to parents that we recognise the need to consider safeguarding in every decision that we make.

Our reference point is the Barnham Broom safeguarding policy, and all our organisers and administrators meet the requirements of that policy.

The safeguarding lead for Barnham Broom Golf is Matt Towler, who is the Director of Golf at Barnham Broom, and Matt works with the Junior club and us to ensure that our juniors are safe and happy in their golf.