

Junior Coordinator report 2020

I am pleased to report that the Junior Development Program has made progress this year which comes as a surprise since a large focus of our lives has been around the disruptions from COVID.

The Junior Development Program was boosted by a \$5000 Active Club Program grant through the Office of Recreation and Sport in January. We also received a very generous donation from a member for \$5000. We have used some of the funding on:

- A replacement defibrillator (\$2,295) to put in the groundskeeper shed. Along with the public access defibrillator that was given to the club through an AHA/ St Johns/Clubs SA initiative, the club can provide quicker access to these life-saving units to all parts of the course.
- A MyGolf club kit which includes clubs with larger heads for beginners, left-handed clubs and smaller clubs for under 7's.
- A large cabinet to store our Junior supplies, including 4 x 6 piece kits and 4 x 7 piece kits and a quantity of loose clubs to make up full kits with our existing clubs. Altogether we now have 12 full kits which will be available to borrow during our coaching clinic. We also have two extra picker uppers.
- I completed training as a Child Safe Officer last month. It not only improves our chances of future grant funding, but I hope to put in place policies so that our future generations are supported and encouraged to play golf in keeping with the Club's Strategic Plan.

Last year's activities:

- Due to restrictions, we cancelled 7 months of clinic however the remainder have been consistently full. We reduced the number that could register last month but have put them up again to 18 per session which means 6 kids rotating through 3 stations with Mike, Jamie and myself. We are all COVID marshals. I thank them and the parents for their support.
- Wednesday after school sessions were held pre COVID and we had a regular group join in. These have resumed and I thank Jamie for running some sessions for me.
- Echunga hosted a try-out day with the year 6/7 class from Echunga Primary School on September 8th. Despite a postponement due to the course being waterlogged, the kids enjoyed the day and we had a few drop into the next coaching clinic. Thanks to Mike, Jamie and Allan Telford from GolfSA.
- This was the lead up to the Primary Schools Golf Event which was unfortunately rescheduled to North Adelaide due to very wet weather at Echunga during the school holidays on 7th October. 5 kids will go through to the final event in November including Lockie Moyse and Hudson Goldsmith, who also reached the finals last year.
- The Junior League started on 18th October. Max Lenger and Harrison Burt have joined with the Aston Hills Team who were short of players. They will play a few games of 2-man ambrose in a team of 6. Oakbank who we teamed up with last year did not have any players available this year.

Future plans include:

Encouraging our more advanced juniors to take on mentoring roles as part of their golf development; look at ways to get the teen/young adult groups playing together regularly; develop a system for hiring junior clubs so that the right sized clubs are used as kids grow; provide golf as an elective sport for one term next year for Echunga Primary school if they receive funding for it; and working with Echunga Primary school to set up an environmental project that fits into the Biodiversity plan.

Esther Burt