



JOIN US TO CELEBRATE

Tickets are on sale now for the England Golf Awards – and we'd love you to join us and celebrate all that's great about our game.

The glittering, black-tie event will take place at Lord's Cricket Ground in London on Thursday 16 March. It's attracting influential names from the golf and sporting world and will recognise outstanding achievement in the professional, amateur and grass roots game.

It's a must attend event for everyone who plays or cares about the game. Your ticket will include a reception with unlimited drinks, a three-course dinner with half a bottle of wine per person, and the awards ceremony with a celebrity host.

It's just £75 per person and if you book a table of 10 you'll get one place FREE.

[CLICK HERE >](#) TO BOOK YOUR TICKET NOW AND BE SURE OF YOUR PLACE AT THE ENGLAND GOLF AWARDS.



NEW! BAGSOLO OFFER TO MEMBERS

England Golf has partnered with BagSOLO to offer members a convenient, alternative way to transport golf clubs and avoid airline excess baggage charges.

BagSOLO takes care of customers' personal sporting belongings from a pickup address to a chosen destination, creating a VIP travel experience. They can even be delivered to travel destinations before arrival. **To see the simple process, [VIEW THIS SHORT VIDEO >](#)**

BagSOLO will give a 10% discount on its service to golfers who belong to the England Golf Member Benefits Programme (MBP). This means a round trip to Scotland will cost £51 and to Spain or Portugal it will be £70.

England Golf Chief Executive NICK PINK said: ***"We are delighted to welcome BagSOLO and to add more value to our golfers' membership of England Golf. Many of our members enjoy travelling to play different courses and I am sure they will appreciate this offer."***

Shipping sporting items and luggage with BagSOLO allows travellers to save time and money at the airport by avoiding the long check in queues, crowded baggage terminals and ever increasing baggage fees, as well as savings on car rental at the destination.

BagSOLO's prices to mainland Europe are on a par with the budget airlines, but have the added advantage of convenience and a generous weight allowance of 28kg for golf bags. That's 5kg more than British Airways and 8kg more than budget airlines.

CEO MIKE COYNE comments: ***"The England Golf Member Benefits Programme will allow more golfers to use their own equipment anywhere in the world as opposed to hiring at the destination, or paying airline excess baggage fees which are on the increase globally."***

[CLICK HERE >](#) to find out more



CHAMPIONSHIP ENTRIES ARE OPEN

Entries have opened for England Golf's championships and handicap tournaments – SO DON'T DELAY, BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW

Events for club golfers include the **NEW SENIOR SERIES**, which is open to men and women. There will be six **18-HOLE STABLEFORD TOURNAMENTS**, played off full handicap, and the leading players will qualify for the final at England Golf Week at Woodhall Spa. We'll also run an **ORDER OF MERIT** and the leading players on this will qualify for the final.

GOLF WEEK is a fantastic event where the players are celebrated and enjoy the full England Golf championship experience. Other competitions with finals in Golf Week include the **CLUB TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP**. It's open to teams of two men and two women from the same club, with a combined handicap between 24 and 96.

Key dates for our leading amateurs include the **ENGLISH WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP** at Lindrick in July, and the increasingly international **ENGLISH WOMEN'S OPEN STROKE PLAY** at Woodhall Spa in August.

There will be lots to celebrate in senior golf. Two of the host clubs are marking their 125th anniversaries in 2017: South Staffs, which will host the **ENGLISH SENIOR WOMEN'S AMATEUR** in May, and Harrogate, which will hold the senior women's **BRENDA KING FOURSOMES** in October.

Players aged 50 and over can enter women's senior championships if they have a handicap of 15 or better; the limit for the Brenda King foursomes is 24.

[CLICK HERE >](#) for full details of all England Golf championships

Anna Collis

PROFESSIONAL CHALLENGE for England's promising girl golfers

England's up-and-coming girl golfers will have the chance to test their skills against the professionals on the WPGA's 2017 One Day Series.

Players from the England Golf U16 and U18 regional girls' squads have again been invited to play in the series of seven events which starts at Little Aston in May. Ten invitations are available at each tournament.

In recent years three squad players have won events on the series: BECCA EARL (Bishops Stortford) won twice, following in the footsteps of MEGAN CLARKE (Cleckheaton & District) and CHARLOTTE WEST (Harewood Downs). Last season, English U16 champion LILY MAY HUMPHREYS (Channels), ANNA COLLIS (Letchworth) and THALIA KIRBY (Stoke Park) all claimed fourth place finishes.

[CLICK HERE >](#) for more information

TOP AWARD FOR CHAMPIONSHIP GREENKEEPERS

A GREENKEEPING TEAM, WHICH TOOK ON THE WORST THE WEATHER COULD THROW AT THEM DURING AN ENGLAND GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP, HAS WON A TOP AWARD FROM THE BRITISH AND INTERNATIONAL GOLF GREENKEEPERS ASSOCIATION (BIGGA).

Burnham Beeches Golf Club's **LEE BISHOP** and his team won the Championship Greenkeeping Performance of the Year Award, sponsored by GBR Technology.

During the 2016 English senior women's open stroke play championship, they had to cope with weather which ranged from hot sunshine to thunder, lightning and torrential downpours which flooded the Buckinghamshire course.

BIGGA Chief Executive JIM CROXTON said: *"This is an unheralded venue, with a small team who overcame substantial weather problems.*

"Despite this, the golf course was in fantastic condition and England Golf, who hosted the event, said that if they could take that greenkeeping team around the country with them, they would do."

[CLICK HERE >](#) FOR DETAILS OF ALL THE AWARDS



Battling the downpours at Burnham Beeches last summer

NEW WORLD RANKING EVENTS IN ENGLAND

Women golfers playing in top English scratch events will have new opportunities to improve their world ranking in 2017.

EXISTING 36-HOLE SCRATCH EVENTS HAVE BEEN PAIRED UP TO CREATE FIVE 72-HOLE TOURNAMENTS AND COMPETITORS WILL RECEIVE WORLD AMATEUR GOLF RANKING (WAGR) POINTS.

The timings and dates of the existing 36-hole events will not change, but a leaderboard will be created to show overall results for the paired tournaments.

The five 72-hole events for 2017 are:

COMBOY LEVERET - Comboy Scratch at Delamere Forest, Cheshire, on 26 March; and The Leveret at Formby Ladies', Lancashire, on 1 April.

THE GOLD ROSE - Roehampton Gold Cup at Roehampton, Surrey, on 1 April; and the Hampshire Rose at North Hants, Hampshire, on 9 April.

CRITCHLEY ASTOR - the Critchley Salver at Sunningdale, Surrey, on 23 May; and the Astor Salver at The Berkshire on 7 June.

FRILFORD JACKSON - Frilford Heath Scratch, Frilford Heath, Oxfordshire on 2 June; and Bridget Jackson Bowl, Handsworth, Warwickshire on 4 July.

BIRKDALE PUTTER - Pleasington Putter, Pleasington, Lancashire on 12 July; and Royal Birkdale Scratch, Royal Birkdale, Lancashire, on 25 August.

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE RULES?

TEST YOURSELF WITH THIS MONTH'S QUESTIONS

Q1. During a stroke play competition, Jane's ball lies close to part of a boundary fence that is bowed onto the course so that it is inside the boundary line formed by the fence posts. She drops her ball at waist height within a club length of her nearest point of relief and plays the ball.

What is the ruling?

- A. Jane incurs no penalty as her ball was lying inside the boundary line.
- B. Jane incurs a penalty of one stroke for dropping the ball in an incorrect manner.
- C. Jane incurs a penalty of two strokes.

Q2. Jackie obtains relief from a pathway and drops her ball into a position where there is interference from a different obstruction. **What is the ruling?**

- A. Jackie must play the ball as it lies.
- B. Jackie must re-drop the ball.
- C. Jackie may take relief from the second obstruction.

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE RULES [CLICK HERE >](#) TO VISIT THE R&A WEBSITE

JUST ACE

The latest winner of our prize draw for a hole in one is **NINE-YEAR-OLD HARRY HOLLAND** who had his ace on the 92-yard 1st hole at Southport & Ainsdale Golf Club, Lancashire, where he used a nine iron.



Harry had only been a member of the club for a few weeks when he had his hole in one. He's known as Holland No 4 as he has three older brothers in the junior section, all with single figure handicaps, and another, younger brother soon to join. He wins a dozen TaylorMade golf balls.

[CLICK HERE > TO ENTER](#)

England Golf would like to thank its sponsors and partners:



We would love to hear from you, contact us at:

EMAIL: info@englandgolf.org

PHONE: 01526 354500

POST: The National Golf Centre, The Broadway, Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire, LN10 6PU

It's all on the England Golf website!

www.EnglandGolf.org



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