

# Golf

## Sport England's involvement

Sport England helps the national governing bodies of men's, women's and junior golf with Exchequer and Lottery funding. In the immediate future, Sport England will be working closely with the governing body to produce a business plan for the sport, which includes funding.

## Achievements

Over the last few years, the standard of men's golf has improved. At amateur level, Great Britain and Ireland has won the Walker Cup for the past three years while increasing numbers of young men are attempting to get into the professional circuit. Although women's golf has yet to reach the same level as men's, there are some dramatic improvements, largely due to the Sport England's World Class programmes.

## Sport England funded stars

Sport England's World Class programme has already supported some rising stars, including:

- Gary Wolstenholme

At 23, Gary may have been a late starter, but 20 years later he has become an outstanding amateur. A key member of the winning Walker Cup team for the past three years, now Gary has been invited to play in the US Masters in spring 2004.

- Mike Skelton

Mike has represented England since he was 15. Viewed by the experts as a budding Nick Faldo, at 19, he has just competed his first Walker Cup, winning every game.

## Key funding benefits

In men's golf, the English Golf Union (EGU) receives Sport England funding for its World Class Potential and Performance programmes. In women's golf, the English Ladies Golf Association (ELGA) receives Sport England funding to develop the girls' and women's game, with cash awarded through its World Class Start, Potential and Performance programmes for the last four years.

Sport England has also worked in partnership with others - including the Golf Foundation, the EGU, the ELGA and the Professional Golfers' Association (PGA) – to establish the England Junior Golf Partnership.

## Development programmes

Both the men's and women's governing bodies are committed to ensuring that clubs encourage juniors into the sport and have developed a club accreditation scheme, Junior GolfMark. Largely funded by Sport England, Ilfracombe Golf Club is one noteworthy example, helping young people from a disadvantaged area to gain the opportunity to play golf and develop their skills. Also backed by Sport England is the England Junior Golf Partnership, which is planning a school links programme that will boost golf playing in 200 schools over the next three years.

## Previous Funding

Year	National	Community
1995 – 1996	£25,000	£1,207,915
1996 – 1997	£30,000	£1,789,971
1997 – 1998	£32,500	£1,320,335
1998 – 1999	£238,874	£2,456,406
1999 – 2000	£308,321	£888,795
2000 – 2001	£649,068	£92,456
2001 – 2002	£814,357	£892,912
2002 – 2003	£852,560	£646,170
2003 – 2004	£1,055,000	£43,227

### Note:

National funding is a total of Exchequer funding and the World Class Programme. Community funding is a total of the following programmes: Community Capital, Safer Sports Grounds, Active Communities Development Fund, all Active Sports Programmes, Community Athletics Refurbishment Programme, Football Youth Development, School Sport Coordinators, Sport Action Zones and Awards for All. The summary is by the financial year, according to the date the award was made. The summary is by the financial year, according to the start date of the award period – an award may continue over a number of years.

