



MOTIVATION FOR LEIGH-JANE MIDDLETON PGA GROW GOLF AND PGA PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR 2020

**Could this be the year a woman wins !
In today's times we need to really fight for Diversity and recognizing
Women in our Industry is a fantastic way of attracting more young ladies to
take up golf as a career.**

I have worked in clubs for 29 years and could not think of a PGA Professional that deserves recognition for her efforts to Grow Golf more than Leigh-Jane Middleton. Her passion and commitment to the game is inspiring.

After 5 years as Golf Director at Bryanston Country Club Leigh decided she wanted to concentrate on her passion ... coaching and getting more golfers playing better golf. She has now headed up our Teaching Academy for the past 8 years.

There have been several incredible programs that Leigh has developed at the club with significant success . The below are just some of the highlights :

Development Golf

For 5 years Leigh-Jane has nurtured 8 young girls from Walter Sisulu Primary in Olievenhoutsbosch Township. On a weekly basis the girls are brought to the club for an hours lesson. With the support of Progressive Women in Golf these young girls have had golf lessons as well as life skills training. It has been very humbling and rewarding to see these young girls grow in confidence and skills. Leigh does this at no cost.

The parents have been blown away by the growth of these young girls that they themselves are now wanting to learn how to play golf.

The girls have all been given Junior membership at BCC but Covid hampered their activities this year. It is truly amazing to see how much the girls idolize Leigh and her fellow coaches.

For more of the journey these girls have been on please see this video

<https://www.facebook.com/Bryanstoncc/videos/1055916314612237/>

GIGS -Get into Golf Girls

This program has now been running for 9 years and is a unique and incredibly successful program that introduces ladies (who have already had some lessons) to golf etiquette, rules and course management. Leigh uses experienced lady members to walk with GIGS and get them comfortable on the course. To date more than 550 ladies have been through the program with some still just enjoying the safety of GIGS and other progressing to regular ladies golf programs and even representing the club at league. This program is perfect for ladies who generally need that extra bit of nurturing. There are currently more than 60 active GIGS.

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Junior Golf – SNAG and LTAD

A really strong junior golf program at Bryanston includes :

Start New At Golf – as you should be aware this incredible program introduces young boys and girls to the game from as young as 4. The fun and structured lessons ensure the kids stay with the program and can't wait for next week's lesson. The program is run at the club as well as at some of the local schools fields. There have been over 100 juniors that have completed the program and over 20% have progressed to the LTAD program.

Long Term Athlete Development introduces real equipment and on course play where they build on the fun and passionate Foundation already developed. From about 10 years of age they then progress to the LTAD Advanced program.

St Stithians Junior Prep and College golf training programs are hosted by the academy which has assisted in growing the schools golfing success. The weekly programs are structured and get the scholars more committed to their golf. The club also host the schools league teams.

Each Sunday morning two hours of free coaching are offered to all juniors by the academy as part of the club's junior golf program. During Covid times we have now changed this to 24 twenty minute lessons every week.

Leigh has also put in a lot of time and effort to assist with the development of the club's junior golf program that has included the introduction of a tiered squad system .

Conclusion

Besides the activities listed above Leigh and her fellow coaches have done an incredible amount of work in getting our regular members – both male and female, young and old playing better golf. Playing better golf encourages golfers to play more often.

All her efforts including programs at several schools in the area do a lot to introduce people to golf that may never have had the opportunity.

Leigh has shared her success with other clubs including doing presentations at CMASA's Working For Golf conference and The Africa Golf Summit.

The brilliant work Leigh-Jane with her team at the academy is doing is certainly a significant part of our club's success. We have over 1700 golfing members at an 18 hole facility.

She is also a really inspirational mentor to the young apprentice professionals she nurtures.

Leigh-Jane would be an incredible ambassador for the PGA to showcase what is required to Grow Golf and be the PGA Professional of The Year. As previously mentioned, it is also time that the PGA pay more recognition to the women making a difference in the game of golf in South Africa.

Kind Regards.

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