

Impact Report



2021 - 2022

ON COURSE
FOUNDATION

Table of Contents

- 1 Message from the Managing Director
- 2 Our year in numbers
- 3 Where have we been?
- 4 Testimonials
- 5 Case study - meet Laura
- 6 Employment snapshot
- 7 Acknowledgements



Message from the Managing Director

Following the issues caused by the pandemic during 2020, I am delighted to be able to report that we have been able to deliver a full schedule of charitable activities over the past twelve months with a golf event programme that allowed more beneficiaries to attend and benefit from the opportunities provided for them than ever before.

After a period in which many of our vulnerable beneficiaries had suffered from the isolation imposed from continued lockdown, the ability to fully participate once more in activities and enjoy the camaraderie of others had a marked effect on improving their mental well-being and support their return to a more normal way of life.

Between April 2021 and March 2022 we were able to stage 47 events with an overall attendance of over 600. These took place all around the country and included 16 of our flagship residential Golf Skills and Employment Courses which provide participants with intensive coaching, employment support and personal attention to any areas of individual concern that they might have. An area of focus for us has been to increase our level of activities in Scotland and we managed to stage 11 events there during the year which included two of the Golf Skills and Employment Courses together with a mix of Introductory and Golf Skills Days.

One of the ongoing effects of Covid-19 has been that it has taken longer to reinstate the number of activities that we undertake with the Personnel Recovery Centres. These events have traditionally been a major source of new beneficiaries with the advantages and benefits that the charity can provide from its activities being showcased to their participants for the first time. Despite this reduced exposure, we have still been able to recruit 51 new beneficiaries to the Foundation over the period.

We have seen a major increase in the level of employment interest towards roles in golf club management with our first beneficiary securing the position of Golf Club Secretary during the year. A second was offered a similar role but decided to remain in the senior management position that he held with the club where he was currently employed.

Whilst our small and dedicated team have continued to support our beneficiaries to ensure that their ongoing recovery has not been compromised by the uncertainties of the past two years, we are now looking forward with optimism and planning an even larger programme of activities for the year ahead.

Alistair McKay Forbes
Managing Director

Our year in numbers

47

events
delivered

Overall
attendance

601

261

different
attendees

90

attendees at our
Introductory Golf
Events

113

beneficiaries
attended 2 or
more events

75%

stated improved
mental well-
being as a result
of attending our
programme

51

new beneficiaries recruited

151

joined their regional
OCF 'hub'

Where have we been?



Scotland

- Trump Turnberry Hotel
- Gailes Leisure
- Murrayshall Country Estate
- Kingsfield Golf and Leisure
- Wells Green Golf Range
- Leven Links Golf Course
- Irvine Bogside Golf Club
- Elmwood Golf

North East

- George Washington Hotel, Golf & Spa
- Linden Hall Golf & Country Club

Yorkshire

- Leeds Golf Centre
- Romanby Golf and Country Club
- Hunley Hall Hotel

North West

- Hurlston Hall
- Carden Park Golf Resort
- Cavendish Golf Club
- MacDonald Portal
- High Legh Park Golf Club

East Midlands

- The Nottinghamshire Golf & Country Club
- Breadshall Priory Hotel & Country Club
- Greetham Valley

Wales

- St Pierre Hotel & Country Club

West Midlands

- The Warwickshire
- Shropshire Golf Centre
- Forest of Arden

East

- Five Lakes Resort
- Barnham Broom

South West

- China Fleet Country Club
- Cumberwell Park
- Boringdon Park Golf Club
- High Post Golf Club

South East

- Drayton Park Golf Club
- Hamptworth Golf
- Sandford Springs
- The Springs Golf Club
- Walton Heath Golf Club



Testimonials

"Literally saved my life, gave me a sense of belonging again after meeting up with like-minded people. The confidence to keep going regardless and has helped me improve my golf from a complete beginner."

"My physical and mental health have both improved. I now feel part of something really special and have made valuable and lasting friendships."

"Introduced me to more golfing veterans in my local area that has led to permanent friendships and playing golf together."

"OCF has helped me through some difficult times as I came to the end of my military career and my transition into civilian life. Being part of an organisation such as OCF is important, especially after you have been part of the military for over 38 years."

"It has saved my life. I struggled to leave the house with my PTSD and my anxiety was through the roof but OCF events have helped me get back into society through golf and it's the only thing I really enjoy in life."

"OCF has improved my mental health a lot. Since joining OCF I have felt a lot more like leaving the house, whereas before I would spend a lot of time indoors. I cannot stress enough the importance of these events. It is definitely a lifeline for us veterans."

69%

stated that camaraderie was the most important factor to have improved their mental well-being

60%

play golf at least once a week to aid their recovery

100%

would recommend OCF to a fellow veteran

Meet Laura

Name: Laura O'Neill

Rank: CPOAET (M)

Regiment: Royal Navy

Date joined: August 1992

Length of Service: 26 years

How has your life been since leaving the military?:

Changeable but it has been a much more difficult transition than I thought it would be.



Do/did you lead an active lifestyle? What are your hobbies?: Before illness I was very active. I played volleyball for the Royal Navy and was a high achiever.

When and how did you hear about On Course Foundation?: On Facebook earlier this year.

Did you have any initial concerns about attending your first event?: I was nervous to meet new people and learn something completely new.

Have the On Course Foundation events had a positive impact on your mental well-being and general day-to-day life. If so, in what way?: I have met lots of new people who have become friends and learned enough about golf to be able to hold my own on the golf course. I have found that my own experiences have also helped me to reassure others. I have also found some self-confidence to get out and try doing some new things too. It really has been life-changing for me in the very short-time that I have been with OCF.

Have you continued to play golf since your first event? If so, how often and if applicable, are you a member of a golf club?: I try to play at least once a week and I have joined a local nine hole course to get more practice in. I have also encouraged my daughter to play and we now play together on a regular basis.

“ I have met lots of new people who have become friends and learned enough about golf to be able to hold my own on the golf course. I have found that my own experiences have also helped me to reassure others. I have also found some self-confidence to get out and try doing some new things too. It really has been life-changing for me in the very short-time that I have been with OCF. ”



8

Employment
Insight Workshop
attendees

8

voluntary
positions filled

3

industry based
qualifications
completed

2

beneficiaries
placed in part-
time employment

5

beneficiaries
placed in full-
time positions

Employment snapshot

- **Dave Hughes** is now in the position of Head Mechanic in the greenkeeping team at Wentworth Golf Club.
- Gurkha veteran **Raju Midhun** has joined Dave at Wentworth, working as a Trainee Greenkeeper.
- **Del Sullivan** completed his GCMA Principles of Golf Club Management.
- After completing his ASQ Level 5 Diploma in Golf Club Management, **Craig Hume** is working at Worlebury Golf Club as Golf Club Manager.
- Three more Trainee Greenkeeper started their respective roles; **Michael 'Mini' Leather** at Worsley Park Golf Club, **Matt Neve** at Gower Golf Club and **Mason Wakeman** at Gaudet Luce Golf Club.
- Having completed a work experienced placement at North Hants Golf Club, **Billy Webb** has been placed in a full time position at Bearwood Lakes Golf Club - heading up irrigation in the greenkeeping team.
- **Eight beneficiaries** attended a two day Employment Insight Workshop at the Forest of Arden with various speakers providing information on the role of a greenkeeper, the career pathway, education and training required for the role.
- **Nine beneficiaries** were placed in voluntary roles within the Marshal Control team at the 149th Open Championship at Royal St George's Golf Club.
- **Paul Bonny** took part in a week-long Caddie School in St Andrews and has now started working at Royal Portrush Golf Club.

Supported by





Some of the Marshal Control Team at the Open Championship.



Paul Bonny (right) at the Caddie School in St Andrews.



Dave Hughes first week at Wentworth coincided with the BMW PGA Championship.



Raju Midhun is working alongside Dave as a Trainee Greenkeeper.



Beneficiaries being introduced to the greenkeepers shed and various bits of machinery at the Employment Insight Workshop at the Forest of Arden.

Acknowledgements

- Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust
- Veterans' Foundation
- Charles Skey Charitable Trust
- Edith Murphy Foundation
- Joseph and Lillian Sully Foundation
- The National Lottery Community Fund
- Team Army General Purpose Fund
- The Hobson Charity
- People's Postcode Trust
- ABF Soldiers' Charity

- Armed Forces Resilience Fund
- Alan Boswell Group Charitable Trust
- Royal Airforce Bevevolent Fund
- The National Golf Club Challenge
- Duncan and Corrine Sinclair
- David and Diane Rasche
- Rest and Recover
- The Royal and Ancient Golf Club

Thank you for your continued support to our wounded veterans.

On Course Foundation
28 Falstaff House, Bardolph
Road, Richmond, Surrey, TW9
2LH

P:0208 334 2010

E: info@oncoursefoundation.com

W: www.oncoursefoundation.com