



### **Somerset Junior Pilot Conference – Tuesday 26 March 2019 at Isle of Wedmore GC**

The Somerset Junior Pilot Project was set up just over two years ago and a steering group, made up of EG, SGU and SLCGA representatives, started work on trying to develop ideas to increase the number of Junior golfers in Somerset. After working with focus groups, talking to clubs and running surveys, the results were combined and put together in a document entitled “Growing the Game for the Future of Somerset” which sets out guidelines and ideas as to how to encourage more Juniors to play more golf. The key areas identified for development were:

- Policy
- Perception
- People
- Programmes
- Performance and
- Communication

A conference was held at the Isle of Wedmore Golf Club on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March to share these ideas and to launch the Somerset Junior Charter. All Somerset clubs were invited and 14 clubs attended: Burnham & Berrow, Enmore Park, Isle of Wedmore, Long Sutton, Taunton & Pickering, Farrington Park, Weston super Mare, Mendip, Salford, Bath, Stockwood Vale, Tickenham, Worlebury and Cricket St Thomas.

The conference was opened by E G Vice President, Graham Yates, and included presentations by Golf Foundation (Tom Sparks), Golf Access (Simon Wood), Dave Phillips (J.O at Salford) and Nicola Stroud (Head Teaching Professional Burnham & Berrow). Ben Martin and Martin Higgs from England Golf facilitated the day.

The conference set out details of the Somerset Junior Charter where clubs were asked to sign to indicate their commitment to developing and encouraging Junior golf in their clubs within the next year. This would be supported by the County, the County Support Officer (Martin Higgs) and the Golf Foundation (Tom Sparks)

There was some healthy interaction and discussion and, at the end of the day, those attending were asked to sign their clubs up to work towards achieving the Somerset Junior Charter.

As soon as digital copies of the various documents have been received, they will be made available on the [somerse juniors golf.co.uk](http://somerse juniors golf.co.uk) website together with the contact details of the England Golf Support Officers.