



News

Thursday 20 November 2008

Exeter golf club snares England manager

Exeter Golf and Country Club has achieved an impressive hole-in-one, as it appoints to its ranks, sporting ace and England Rugby Sevens Manager, Craig Townsend.

Craig, 37, who was also a professional rugby player with Exeter Chiefs from 1999-2001, has been appointed as Golf Manager to the club's 14-strong team, starting work this week.

The move is predicted to thrust Exeter Golf and Country Club into the national spotlight, as Craig's experience in managing top English athletes heralds a new golfing era.

Craig has had a string of prestigious golfing triumphs, including British Universities Strokeplay Champion in 2002 and Devon County Champion in 2003. He said: "Although I have focused on rugby so far in my professional life, golf has always been a huge passion. When I saw the job advertised, I knew straightaway I wanted that post!"

"Growing up near Edinburgh, we played rugby in the winter and golf in the summer."

Exeter Golf and Country Club's General Manager, Martin Halse, said: "Having Craig on our team is a real coup for us. His experience will bring a completely fresh perspective and will position us as a major UK player. We are quite simply delighted to have him on board!"

Working closely with the club's golfing professionals, Gary Milne and Chris Gill, Craig will manage and lead the club's golf section. He underlines his priorities as:

- Mentoring and preparing junior teams so that they can fulfil their potential

- using various sports training techniques to help teams focus, including mental preparation, nutrition and fitness
- boosting corporate golf events, visiting golfers and the club's profile

Craig, who was a former Golf Captain of Exeter University, added: "The club's facilities are fantastic, particularly the short-game practice facility, which I believe is one of the best in the south-west. Using all the club has to offer will be a vital part of training our players to be the best.

"I am really looking forward to using my leadership skills to support and motivate the club's excellent teams to fulfil their potential."

- Ends -

Note to news editors

Craig holds a handicap of one and is a member of Exeter Golf and Country Club.

Golfing achievements:

- Scottish Universities Team 1990-1992
- British Universities Strokeplay Champion 2002
- Captain, University of Exeter Golf Club 2000-2002
- English Universities Captain 2002, Home Internationals
- Devon County Team member 2002-2006
- Devon County Champion 2003 and semi-finalist 2002 and 2006
- Member of Devon Team, English County Champions 2003
- Scottish Amateur fourth round 1996, 2003 and 2004
- English Mid-Amateur Championship Runner-up 2006

Rugby achievements

- South of England/Scottish Borders Reivers 1996-1999.
- Winner of the Scottish Cup and Melrose International Sevens 1999 with Gala.

Qualifications and skills include:

- MSc Coaching Science - University of Wales Institute, Cardiff 2003-present
- BSc (Hons) Exercise and Sports Science (2:1) - University of Exeter, 1999-2002
- BSc Quantity Surveying - Napier University, Edinburgh 1988-1992