

# MEET THE STAFF



Fraser Hall was appointed club professional at Helensburgh golf club in May 2005. However, he is not a stranger to HGC, as he started his training in 1993 at this prestigious west of Scotland complex. And when the club required a new full time professional he was more than delighted to return after an eight-year absence.

Fraser is a class AA(t) PGA professional with over 13 years of experience and has coached all comers to the game, from beginner to scratch player.

In his last year as a trainee (and subsequently his last year, for the first time at least, at HGC) he was honored to receive the accolade of being named Scottish 'Trainee of the Year' by the Professional Golfers Association. An award he truly believes was due to the experience and kindness he received from the membership while conducting his training and initial professional development at Helensburgh Golf Club.

After qualifying he was appointed Senior Assistant to Albert Mackenzie at the prestigious 36-hole layout at Saunton Golf Club in Devon. It was here that Fraser concentrated on furthering his teaching expertise and became involved in using Computer software as an aid to tuition (an area that is already proving extremely popular with the membership at the club.)

Having worked at private members clubs for a considerable period of time, an opportunity arose back up in Scotland for a Head Professionals position at the £15 million Macdonald Hotel group owned, Cardrona Golf and Country Club just outside of Peebles in the Scottish Borders. This was new territory for Fraser as he was responsible for all aspects of Golf Operations within the complex.

Not only was his lesson book still full, but he was heavily involved in raising the profile of the facility. He achieved this by landing many large Corporate accounts and along with Mr. Robert Hogarth (Course Manager and senior BIGGA member) they attracted several prestigious tournaments to the resort. They were instrumental in devising the "Cardrona Classic" a PGA Europro Tour event, televised by Sky Sports. Fraser was also the main figure behind the introduction of the Bunkered magazine Match play Challenge, an amateur and professional event. Each team was captained by well-known figures in golf. For the amateur side, Barclay Howard - a silver medalist in the Open Championship. And, for the professional squad, ex-Ryder Cup Captain, Bernard Gallagher.

As always, Fraser would like to welcome all members and Visitors to his shop. The door is always open - so feel free to drop in and ask any questions you might have.

Fraser is assisted by James Covell. Jim (as he is known!) has worked for Fraser for four years. He was Fraser's 3<sup>rd</sup> assistant at the Cardrona Golf and Country Club and was delighted to be given the honour of being appointed as Professional's Assistant at Helensburgh Golf Club.

Jim is a qualified PGA Level 1 Golf Coach and is currently studying for his level 2 qualification. He will also be undertaking the industry standard courses and examinations for club fitting and club repair later in the year. This will enable him to advise fully on the science and technology for anyone's game.

The Professional Shop can be contacted on 01436 675505