



Pictured: Young leaders who helped with the project



## Discovery Golf Project, Suffolk

### Feel Inspired Disability Project

The Suffolk “Discovery” project was formed in 2010 to offer inclusive sporting delivery and opportunities across all mainstream, special schools and FE colleges across the county. In 2013 Danny Thorrington (Inclusive School Games Organiser) led a ‘Discovery’ golf project.” It was jointly funded by the Golf Foundation, Suffolk’s golf and sports’ partnerships and offered *youngsters with disabilities a positive and fun experience of golf.*

The project began in September 2013 with a pilot golf celebration day at Rushmere GC for 100 young people with special educational needs. It was overseen by the club’s PGA Professional Kelvin Vince, Alastair Spink (Suffolk Golf Partnership County Development Officer) and the Golf Foundation’s East Regional Development Officer, Katie Moggan. Sports leaders from Copleston High School and Suffolk One Sixth Form College planned and devised activities for the competitors who completed 8 Tri-golf stations and a minimum of 8 holes of golf. Enthusiastic young leaders delivered the games, assisted participants around the course and later ran follow on Tri-Golf sessions at the players’ schools. Four local PGA Professionals’ supported the programme by offering a free club coaching session at their golf club, and around 30 children took up this opportunity.

Such was the success of the project it continued into 2014. Alastair Spink ran a Golf Leaders course at Rushmere GC for 14 young people from Copleston and Northgate High Schools. The youngsters then organised Tri-golf stations and an 11 hole course for 39 participants from mainstream, special schools and FE ‘Discovery’ clubs. The stations were adapted so that all participants could achieve, yet at the same time were sufficiently challenging for the more able. According to Danny, the leaders “*demonstrated such empathy, passion and enthusiasm to make the (participants) feel really special.*” One young leader from Copleston High School was invited to join the county’s youth panel, in recognition of his contribution.

All parties are committed to ensuring inclusive golfing opportunities continue across Suffolk. An additional Tri-Golf competition will be added to the 2015 Suffolk Summer School Games Final event and funding from the Golf Foundation will allow 3 of the schools to receive a five week block of coaching at both Fynn Valley and Rushmere golf clubs.

#### Main achievements:

- 100 young people with special educational needs attended the celebration day in 2013.
- Approximately 30 children attended a club session following the Tri-Golf in school.
- 22 young leaders were trained to assist with delivery of the project.

#### Quote:

*“I would like to thank Katie, Alastair and Kelvin for demonstrating such commitment to our ‘Discoverers’ and leaders and look forward to further developing inclusive golf opportunities across Suffolk in the future.”*

*Danny Thorrington, Inclusive School Game Organiser*

