Working for Golf Initiatives
November 2013
Enabled directly by the ongoing commercial success of The Open Championship, The R&A delivers a “Working for Golf” programme which invests surplus funds in a variety of global projects aimed at encouraging more people to play more golf in more places more often. Total annual spend is in the region of £10 million, channelled through a network of affiliated organisations in 135 countries.

Under the “Working for Golf” banner, The R&A invests in key areas affecting the playing and development of golf worldwide. These include:

- Rules governance and education
- Equipment testing and research
- Coaching
- Special needs golf
- Provision of playing equipment
- Provision of greenkeeping machinery
- Grassroots initiatives
- Support for public facilities
- Professional golf
- Amateur events
- Student golf
- Heritage
- Advocacy for sustainability
- Education and scholarships
The R&A jointly administers the Rules of Golf worldwide. Rules Schools are conducted by The R&A throughout its global jurisdiction, with recent venues being Argentina, Brazil, Laos and Singapore. An online ‘Rules Academy’ has recently gone live at www.randa.org/rulesacademy.

Coaching
The R&A supports coaching initiatives all over the world and has this year sent professionals to several countries including Estonia, Hungary, Iran, Jordan and Lithuania. The picture shows David Howell, recent winner of the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship in St Andrews, coaching in Abu Dhabi. David won the Boys’ Championship in 1993 and played in the winning 1995 Great Britain & Ireland Walker Cup team.

Special needs golf
Like other governing bodies, The R&A recognises the importance of inclusion and supports many competitions for golfers with impairments.

Equipment testing and research
The R&A’s role as a governing body for the Rules of Golf also extends to cover Equipment Standards. Every year thousands of items of equipment are tested for conformity against agreed regulations.
Provision of greenkeeping machinery

Since 2001 The R&A has provided greenkeeping machinery to courses in need around the world. Over £3 million has been spent supporting facilities in over 40 different countries including Fiji, Kenya and Romania.

Provision of playing equipment

Each year The R&A sends up to 1,000 sets of clubs all over the world and is assisted in this exercise by major manufacturers.

Grassroots initiatives

The R&A has a long history of supporting grassroots activity and this is showcased annually at The Open Championship in our Swingzone.

Support for public facilities

This is a key part of The R&A’s work and last year we opened a new public facility in Lisbon, Portugal and have since contributed towards similar projects in Colombia and Uruguay.
Professional golf

Although synonymous with the amateur game, The R&A supports several professional tours including the Ladies European Tour and the European Challenge Tour.

Amateur events

The 2013 South American Amateur Championship played in Bogota, Colombia received R&A support. The men’s winner Callum Shinkwin pictured here, also won the English Amateur Championship at Frilford Heath and played in the Walker Cup at the National Golf Links of America.

Student golf

The annual Palmer Cup match contested by male students representing Europe and the USA receives R&A support. Three players from this year’s match made the cut at the US Open at Merion having played in the Palmer Cup the previous week. The R&A Foundation supports university and student golf through grants and individual scholarships.

Heritage

As an organisation with over 250 years of continuous history, The R&A is committed to safeguarding and preserving golf’s heritage. The British Golf Museum opened in St Andrews in 1990 and continues to attract visitors from all over the world.
Advocacy for sustainability

The R&A is committed to raising awareness of the economic, environmental and social contributions which well managed golf courses can deliver. A global information resource is provided at www.randa.org/golfcoursemanagement.

Education and scholarships

Recognising the importance of the next generation of greenkeeping professionals, The R&A operates a dedicated scholarship scheme which includes a study visit to Askernish Golf Club in the Outer Hebrides.

To help The R&A promote its activities, we have enlisted the help of three tour professionals as Working for Golf ambassadors:

**PADRAIG HARRINGTON, IRELAND**
Double Open Champion in 2007 and 2008, Harrington also won the US PGA Championship in 2008. The three time Walker Cup and six time Ryder Cup player assumed his R&A role in 2011.

**SUZANN PETERSEN, NORWAY**
The seven time Solheim Cup player won her second major this year at the Evian Championship in France. The 1999 Girls’ British Open Amateur Champion started working with The R&A at The 2011 Open Championship.

**LIANG WEN-CHONG, CHINA**
Currently the highest ranked Chinese male professional golfer. In 2008 he became the first player from his country to compete in The Open Championship. He started assisting The R&A in July of this year.