

Tour star is made to feel like royalty on Kingsfield courses

EUROPEAN Tour star Stephen Gallacher has showered praise on the owners of a Lothians golf facility after watching them open a new nine-hole course as part of a £2 million investment programme, writes **MARTIN DEMPSTER**.

Gallacher, who lives nearby, has been using the driving range at Kingsfield, on the outskirts of Linlithgow, since it opened in 1995 and believes the new course, which has been built to USGA specification, will prove a popular addition to the existing facilities.

He also claims that Kingsfield, where his eight-year-old son, Jack, has cut his golfing teeth, is the type of facility that can help shape a new future for Scottish golf. "What they're doing at Kingsfield is crucial - it's one of the first companies I've come across with a determination to secure the future of the Scottish game by forging linkages between experienced golfers and total beginners," said the former Dunhill Links champion.

"We need to nurture young talent in Scotland to ensure we have professionals coming up and we can only do this by breaking down barriers which exist in golf."

Callum Macaulay, who helped Scotland win the Eisenhower Trophy last year and has got off to a promising start in his rookie season as a pro, also uses the practice facilities at Kingsfield, as does Ladies European Tour player Lynn Kenny. It is also proving popular with some of Scotland's top coaches, the likes of Adam Hunter, Jane Connachan and Kevin Craggs all using the excellent tuition facilities.

"What we've done here is create a welcoming environment which we hope will attract new golfers, of all ages, and continue to grow the game in Scotland," said Robert Arkley, the Kingsfield founder and managing director. "We have a facility for all levels of golfer and the nine-hole course is perfect for those wishing to try out golf for the first time."



HANDY DRIVER: Stephen Gallacher tees off at the new nine-hole course at Kingsfield