

GOLF4FUN

The platform for golf enthusiasts in Switzerland

BY ANDREA NEITZEL, MEMBER OF GOLF4FUN

"Worst words in golf: It's your turn again," the American PGA Pro Dave Marr once said. It seems the members of Golf4Fun, the golf community for expats based in Switzerland, don't agree. They played a LOT of golf last year and with all the golf and social events that Golf4Fun has to offer, will continue to do so in 2014.

Now in its second year, the non-profit group has 900 members from all over the world living in Switzerland. Beside various other events, founder Nora O'Sullivan organized seven HCP relevant tournaments. Nicole Gruenfelder-Fuchs (Switzerland) has joined almost every tournament as a passionate competitor in the sport and is the COO of Stamford Consultants, one of the main sponsors of Golf4Fun.

Why does Nicole support this rather small group? "My commitment as a company and in terms of personal time is to promote the social aspect of the sport," she says. "Moreover I am always interested in finding ways of bringing foreigners together with Swiss people."

Gruenfelder-Fuchs knows that a lot of expats tend to stick together with their own nationality. That's not always voluntarily – often enough people just don't have an opportunity to

integrate. "Unfortunately there are not too many platforms for integration in Switzerland," she says, "but Golf4Fun is one of them."

She believes that the sport offers a good chance for integration. For a pleasant round of golf – even with complete strangers – it's not essential to have strong language skills, which can be a barrier with other activities. Basic English is enough to play together and share a drink afterwards.



Golf4Fun offers help with the subtleties of Swiss golf rules to make it as easy as possible for the international community to start playing golf courses in and around Zürich. "We have the same philosophy in our company. We want to make settling into Switzerland easier," the Stamford COO underlines.

Nicole Gruenfelder-Fuchs thinks that the development of the Golf4Fun platform is a 'stroke of luck'. By now there are regulars, international and Swiss, who meet up often, either on the golf course or in the pub. The group is still growing, always willing to give newbies a warm and hearty welcome. "It's wonderful to watch how Golf4Fun helps people to feel more and more comfortable in their new surroundings," she says.

For 2014 Golf4Fun will continue offering many activities: a Stamford Tournament series, kicking off on 13 April in Steisslingen GC; tuition and games for beginners; "Afterwork-Golf" with Pro Brian Murphy; friendly rounds all over the country; Indoor Golf during the winter, as well as organized trips to Italy, Ireland and Turkey. ●

For more information about the community and upcoming events see http://about.me/golf_4fun or go straight to the official tournament site www.golf4fun.ch

