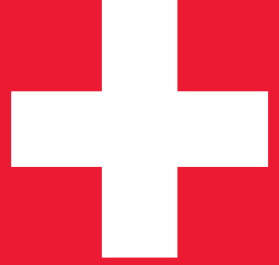


new look coming soon
Hello

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HELLO SWITZERLAND



Picture by *Hello Switzerland* reader Andre Duvenhage

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sport

Golf4Fun

The Golf Community for expats in Switzerland is not only for those already addicted to the sport.

Golf4Fun has special offers for beginners too. A typical example is Charlotte Hille, a 35-year-old architect from Sydney, Australia.

How long have you been playing golf?

I got involved through a friend just under two years ago, but I haven't been on a real golf course yet. So far I've only been to Driving Ranges and Par 3 courses.

Why golf – just because a friend dragged you into it?

I'd been wanting to try it out for a while. I think the first opportunity came when we attended an open day with Nora [Nora O'Sullivan, Founder of Golf4Fun]. It was a special day where you keep on hitting balls from the Driving Range. They demonstrated the irons and how to swing – and I liked it. Maybe because I used to play baseball – I've been told it's a similar swing.



How come you joined Golf4Fun?

I think I tend to search out English speakers, because I come from Australia. And when you're starting something new, you don't want a high [language] barrier. It's great to meet other English speakers – different people from all over the world. It's really interesting to hear about what they've done in their lives.

Do you find it easier to make friends in this community?

Yes. Besides golf, there are also events that Nora organizes, like going to McGees, the Irish pub. You get to know the people there, and you know you'll see them again next time. Everyone's so easy-going, and I really got on with them right from the start.

What makes Golf4Fun especially attractive to you as a beginner?

There have been a couple of times at the Par 3 rounds where we had flights with a beginner and a player with a lower handicap. It's so easy to learn how to play, because the experienced player tells you how. They take care of the scoring and say things like: "You can swing here." You immediately feel

integrated as a beginner. You don't feel as if everything you're doing is wrong. Instead, it's more like: "Yeah, let's see what happens." That's what makes it fun.

Our trainer, PGA Golf Pro Brian Murphy, speaks English. Is this an advantage?

As far as I'm concerned, it doesn't really matter. If we didn't speak the same language, he could also explain a lot of things with hand gestures. In general, I find his tips really easy to follow. You can see the results immediately. To start off with, there's a lot to keep in your head, but you don't feel pressurised. It's not like you have to hit the ball perfectly every time. He'll give you a tip, and if you perform it well enough, he'll go on to the next one. He compares it to something I already understand, something not related to golf. I like the way he teaches.

So there you have it: Golf through the eyes of a beginner and her experience with Golf4Fun. For more information about the group, check out their dedicated community Home Page: www.golf4fun.ch

