

# SHROPSHIRE AND HEREFORDSHIRE UNION OF GOLF CLUBS

## COMPETITION RULES

EFFECTIVE FROM 1<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2011

### GENERAL RULES

The following rules are applicable to ALL County Individual, Pairs, and Team Competitions :-

1. All Clubs who are full members of the Shropshire and Herefordshire Union of Golf Clubs and whose subscription has been paid up-to-date are eligible to enter County competitions.
2. A Player in order to be eligible to compete in any County competition and to represent a Club, must be :-
  - a) of amateur status as defined by the Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews.
  - b) a 7 day playing member of an affiliated Club in the County Union and have an active CONGU handicap.  
(This is to be taken to include Juniors having full playing facilities and an active CONGU handicap).NOTE: Exception – 5 day members will be eligible to enter the Senior Championship and to play in the Ken Smith Trophy.
3. A player may only represent that Club which he has declared to be his 'Home' club (i.e. the club which administers the player's handicap). A player cannot play for more than one club in a competition for the duration of that competition.
4. Entry fees will be reviewed regularly by the Competition Committee and may be varied at any time subject to the approval of the Administrative Committee. Fees for each competition will be as stated on the current year's entry form.
5. All players must observe the Rules of the Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews and such Local Rules (including Winter Rules) of the host Club as are in force at the time of the competition.
6. Players must not ride on any form of transportation during a stipulated round unless authorised by the Competition Committee prior to the event or match (For authorisation see Guidance for Players Applying for Buggy Use Based on Disability at rear of this document).  
Disabled players authorised to use a buggy car may not allow a non-disabled marker or partner to share or have any of their equipment carried on such a buggy. A breach of this requirement will lead to disqualification in individual strokeplay and loss of game in matchplay.  
Players must comply with home club rules regarding buggies and trolleys.
7. The Administrator of each competition, in consultation with the Competition Chairman, will appoint a Rules Official for selected events and matchplay finals. Any Rules Official so appointed must not be a competitor and, for matchplay finals, should be independent of the clubs involved.
8. A player may obtain distance information by using a device which measures distance only. This applies for all County events even when held at a Club that has not approved such a device for members use.  
If, during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance measuring device (DMD) that is designed to measure other conditions that might affect his play (e.g. gradient, wind speed, temperature etc.), the player is in breach of Rule of Golf 14-3, for which the penalty is disqualification, regardless of whether any such additional function is actually used.
9. Competition Rules may be amended by the Competition Committee subject to the approval of the Administrative Committee.

**NOTE** – Additional Rules specific to Individual and Pairs Competitions will be included on the Entry Form. These competitions are the Amateur Championship, the Spring Trials, the Open Championship, the Matchplay Championship, the Senior Championship, and the Jeffrey Clee Salver.

## TEAM COMPETITION RULES

The following rules are applicable to the Hargrove Trophy (including the Hargrove Presidents' Plate), the Interclub Handicap League, the Scratch League (Divisions 1 & 2) and the Ken Smith Trophy :-

1. Entries for team competitions must be made to the County Treasurer on the appropriate entry form with such fees and information as individual rules require. For the Hargrove Trophy, the Ken Smith Trophy, and the Interclub League, entries must be made by 31<sup>st</sup> May and the draw will be made by Committee members prior to the July Executive meeting and issued at that meeting. For the Scratch League, entries must be made by 15th October and the draw will be made by Committee members prior to the November Executive meeting and issued at that meeting. Failure to enter by the due date will exclude clubs from competitions.
2. Each Club shall appoint a Captain in charge of each team entered. Each Team Captain shall prepare a list of his team in match order to exchange with his opposite number before the time agreed for the commencement of the match. Once the lists have been exchanged no substitutions will be allowed.
3. Matches shall commence at the time set for play in accordance with the rules or, if no time is set, in accordance with the time agreed between the Clubs concerned. If any player fails to be available at the time set for play or within ten minutes of the last game teeing off the first tee, then that player shall lose his game by the maximum margin.
4. The home Team Captain shall provide sufficient score cards for each member of the visiting team. He shall advise the away Team Captain in writing before the commencement of play the details of any additional local rules not on the score card.
5. Each Team Captain shall be responsible for the settlement of any dispute which may arise with any match.
6. The result of each match shall be forwarded separately by **both** Team Captains to the Competition Administrator within three days of the event on the appropriate results sheet, otherwise the score of the defaulting side may be forfeited.
7. All players are expected to comply with the dress rules of the Home Club both on the course and in the clubhouse and to participate in any catering arrangements which have been made. Away team captains should endeavour to establish, in advance, the dress rules of the Home Club.
8. Disputes shall be settled by the Administrator whose decision shall be final. If he is unable to decide, because his Club may be involved or interested in the result of a match, the matter will be referred to the Competition Chairman or the Administrative Committee.
9. The finals of Interclub Handicap League and the Scratch Leagues Division 1 and Division 2 will be played on the same day unless otherwise agreed by the Administrator.

## SPECIFIC COMPETITION RULES

### **HARGROVE TROPHY (Incorporating the HARGROVE PRESIDENTS PLATE) ADMINISTRATOR (2008/2009) – J. CLAYTON, 14 SYCAMORE CLOSE, SHIFNAL, SHROPSHIRE TF11 8HB. TEL: 01952 416745**

1. The Hargrove Trophy is a scratch foursomes matchplay competition between club teams of 3 pairs each. Each round shall be on a home and away basis. Teams losing in the first round will automatically be entered into the Hargrove Presidents' Plate to which these rules also apply. **Any team failing to play their first round matches will be debarred from proceeding into the Presidents' Plate.**
2. Each Club may enter a maximum of two teams. Clubs entering more than one team shall, with their entry, nominate the players they have selected for the A team, also noting their current handicap. The A team should be the strongest team based on aggregated handicaps. Players nominated on the entry form may be changed by written notification to the Administrator by 31<sup>st</sup> August.
3. No A team nominated player can play in a B team and no player may play for more than one team in any single round. This rule is applicable to the rounds of the Trophy and the Plate due to be played on the same dates.
4. All Clubs shall complete their matches within the time limits allotted to each round and any Club failing to do so shall be liable to disqualification. If a Club concedes a match, that Club runs the risk of being de-barred from the following year's competition.
5. All games will be played to a conclusion over 18 holes to decide holes up in each game. The team who wins shall be the team who has the higher aggregate of games won over the two legs, with one point being awarded for a win and a half point for a halved match. If the teams finish level on points, the number of holes up at the conclusion of both legs shall determine the winners. If both teams are still level then the last pair in the second leg will continue from the first tee to play sudden-death until a decision is reached by one side winning a hole.
6. Matches will normally be played on a Sunday and the host club may select the time at which the match shall tee off between 10am and 12.30pm (1pm when daylight permits). If mutually agreed between the clubs concerned, matches may also be played on a Saturday.
7. The host club shall be entitled to require the match to be played over their course using such tees and pin placements as they shall decide. Every effort should be made to play off proper tees and proper greens at least equivalent to those normally in play by members of the host club.
8. In the event of adverse weather conditions interfering with play the host club shall advise the visiting club by 12 noon on the day prior to that fixed for the match if conditions make play impossible. If ground conditions due to snow or rain, or weather conditions due to fog, are found to have deteriorated on the day of play then both captains must agree for the match to proceed or, if started, for the match to continue. If weather conditions prevent play at the host club the legs of each round may be reversed by mutual consent. The Administrator must be advised immediately of any decision under this rule.

**INTERCLUB HANDICAP LEAGUE**  
**ADMINISTRATOR – G. HOPKINS, 8 CHURCH STREET, BRIDGNORTH, WV16 4EQ.**  
**TEL: 01746 765561**

- 1 The Interclub Handicap League is a four ball better ball matchplay competition played off current handicap between club teams of 6 pairs each.
- 2 Each Club shall be entitled to enter one team. The Clubs will be divided geographically into zones, the number of which may only be varied by agreement of the Executive Committee.
- 3 Each Club shall play the other Clubs in the same zone on a home and away basis. All matches must be completed by the closing date specified in the County Fixtures Card for the current year. The result of any match played after the closing date will be disregarded. Should a club withdraw from a zone then the results of any matches involving that club, completed prior to withdrawal, will be disregarded.
- 4 Clubs must agree between them the dates and times when the matches are to be played (Clubs are requested to look carefully at the time of the year and the geographical locations if it is envisaged that there will be a mid-week match).
- 5 Of the 12 players representing each club six players will have a handicap of 12 or less, one of whom will appear in each pair, and the other player will have a handicap of 13 or over but not exceeding 24. A player of over 24 handicap may play off 24 handicap. Similarly, if a Club cannot raise six players of 12 handicap or less, then a player with a handicap of higher than 12 may play as one of those players but he shall play off 12 handicap. The stroke allowance will be three quarters the difference, taken from the lowest handicapped player and strokes will be taken according to the stroke index on the card of the course being played.
- 6 Each game shall be deemed concluded when one pair is more holes up than there are holes left to play. The result will be recorded as holes up to the leading pair at that point.
- 7 Where a match is not completed due to bad weather and it cannot be re-arranged, the result will be determined as follows – for those games which have completed 9 holes the result will be based on the position at stoppage time; for those games which have not completed 9 holes the result of each will be declared a half.
- 8 The zone winners shall be decided by the overall result of all matches, with two points being awarded for a win and one point for a halved match. If, on completion of all zone matches, more than one Club shall be level on points, the winners will be decided on the total number of games won. When clubs are tied on points and games, the club with the best record between the clubs involved on points, then games, and then holes will be the higher placed. If these individual results are identical then the club with higher holes up over the whole league will be the higher placed.
- 9 Matches or games (within matches) not played cannot be agreed as halves.
- 10 The winners of each zone will progress to the quarter-finals the draw for which will be on a geographical basis. The winners of the quarter-finals will progress to the semi-finals the draw for which will be non-geographical. All matches will be played on a home and away basis by the closing dates specified in the County Fixtures Card. The first named club will be at home in the first leg unless agreed otherwise between the clubs and the Administrator.
- 11 The final shall be played on a neutral course, and will be determined over one series of 18 hole games. Each game will be played over the full 18 holes with the result being determined on the hole position at that point.
- 12 In the quarter-finals, semi-finals, and the final, ties on games and holes will be resolved by the last pair continuing from the first tee to play sudden-death until a decision is reached by one side winning a hole.

## SCRATCH LEAGUE

ADMINISTRATOR – G. HOPKINS, 8 CHURCH STREET, BRIDGNORTH, WV16 4EQ.

TEL: 01746 765561

- 1 The Scratch League is a scratch singles matchplay competition between club teams of 4 players each.
- 2 The League will consist of two divisions, designated One and Two. Division 1 will consist of a maximum of 16 teams, divided into four geographical zones. Depending on the numbers, Division 2 will consist of as many geographical zones as are required. The winner of each zone in Division 2 will be promoted to Division 1 and the team finishing bottom of each zone in Division 1 will be relegated to Division 2 for the following season.
- 3 In the event of any team eligible to play in Division 1 failing to enter, for whatever reason, then Division 1 will be made up to 16 teams by selecting an additional team (or teams) from Division 2 based on the merit of performance in the immediate prior year. The Competitions Committee will make the selection and the Committee's decision will be final.
- 4 Each Club may enter a maximum of two teams. Nominations for A teams, from Clubs entering two teams, are to be submitted to the Administrator no later than 31st March. No A team nominated player can play in a B team. In the event of a Club failing to nominate its A team, the A team which participates in the first match of that competition year will become the nominated team. No B team will be drawn in the same zone as its A team. The A team should be the strongest team based on aggregated handicaps. Clubs should complete their programme of matches with the best team available and any Club failing to play in the spirit of the competition runs the risk of being debarred from the following year's competition.
- 5 Each Club shall play the other Clubs in the same zone on a home and away basis. All matches must be completed by the closing date specified in the county fixture card for the current year. The result of any match played after the closing date will be disregarded. Should a club withdraw from a zone then the results of any matches involving that club, completed prior to withdrawal, will be disregarded.
- 6 Clubs must agree between them the dates and times when the matches are to be played (Clubs are requested to look carefully at the time of the year and the geographical locations if it is envisaged that there will be a mid-week match).
- 7 Each game shall be deemed concluded when one player is more holes up than there are holes left to play. The result will be recorded as holes up to the leading player at that point.
- 8 If a club calls off a match on the day that the match was agreed to be played then that club will lose the match **4 – 0 and 4 holes down** (This will not preclude clubs re-arranging the match if time is available).
- 9 Where a match is not completed due to bad weather and it cannot be re-arranged, the result will be determined as follows – for those games which have completed 9 holes the result will be based on the position at stoppage time; for those games which have not completed 9 holes the result of each will be declared a half.
- 10 The zone winners shall be decided by the overall result of all matches, with two points being awarded for a win and one point for a halved match. If, on completion of all zone matches, more than one Club shall be level on points, the winners will be decided on the total number of games won. When clubs are tied on points and games, the club with the best record between the clubs involved on points, then games, and then holes will be the higher placed. If these individual results are identical then the club with higher holes up over the whole league will be the higher placed.
- 11** Matches or games (within matches) not played cannot be agreed as halves.
- 12 The winners of each zone will progress to the semi-finals, which will be played on a home and away basis in accordance with the draw and by the closing date specified in the County Fixture Card. The first named club will be at home in the first leg unless agreed otherwise between the clubs and the Administrator.
- 13 The final shall be played on a neutral course, and will be determined over two series of 18 hole matches. Clubs will be permitted to switch the order of their players, or to introduce new players, for the second 18 hole match.
- 14 In semi-finals and the final, ties on games, and holes will be resolved by the last pair continuing from the first tee to play sudden-death until a decision is reached by one side winning a hole.

## **CHRONICLE CUP**

**(Also incorporating the Club Team Handicap Trophy)**

**ADMINISTRATOR – J. CRESSWELL, 5 SCHOOLFIELDS, HINSTOCK, SHROPSHIRE, TF9 2RQ.**

**TEL: 01952 550058**

1. The Chronicle Cup is an individual 18 hole medal competition played off current handicap. Incorporated is the Club Team Handicap Trophy.
2. Each Club may enter four players based on the results of a qualifying round (18 holes) played at the Club on any day selected by the Club before 30th June each year.  
NOTE:- Each Club is urged to hold a specific qualifying competition for the Chronicle Cup. If this is not possible it should be twinned with another properly organised competition with all persons of the appropriate handicap entering the Chronicle Cup.
3. Players to be eligible must have a handicap of not less than ten or more than 24 at the time of entry for the qualifying round (current handicap for each round).
4. The entry fee will be £1.00 per player, to be paid on entering the qualifying round. All entry money goes to the County Union.
5. Each Club must submit an entry form to the Administrator giving the names of the Club's four leading qualifiers immediately after the qualifying round has been played and, in any case, not later than 7th July. In the event of substitutions, they must have played in the qualifying round and must be taken in strict qualifying order. Clubs must also include a cheque for all entry money received and the stated charge for 4 meals.
6. All prizes will be presented on the evening of the Final day. The winner will get a replica of the Cup. The Club Team Handicap Trophy will be awarded to the Club with the lowest nett aggregate score from **three** of their four returns. In the event of ties in the final, the individual and team prize winners shall be decided on the best last 9 holes or last six, three or one hole if still tying.

## **SHROPSHIRE STAR TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP**

**ADMINISTRATOR - J.R.DAVIES, 23 POPLAR CRESCENT, BAYSTON HILL, SHREWSBURY SY3 0QB**

**Tel: 01743 872655**

1. The Championship is an 18 hole stableford competition from a shotgun start played off current handicap between club teams of 4 players each.
2. Entry is by invitation from the Shropshire Star, addressed to the Captain of each club.
3. Clubs may nominate a team of 4 players made up with one player from each of the handicap ranges 0-6, 7-12, 13-18, 19-24. If a club is unable to fulfil this requirement a player with a higher handicap may be included, provided he plays off a handicap within a lower range. No player may compete off a handicap which is higher than his official club handicap.
4. The handicap allowance will be three-quarters of the player's handicap.
5. The best three scores from four will count on each hole. The team with the highest number of points will be awarded the hand-crafted crystal Shropshire Star Trophy which they will retain for one year. The sponsors will also provide prizes for the first three teams and a prize for the best individual score.
6. In the event of a tie, the Trophy, team prizes, and individual prizes will be decided on the best last 9, 6, 3, or 1 hole as necessary.
7. Clubs are expected to pay for their team's lunch.

## **KEN SMITH TROPHY**

**ADMINISTRATOR – TERRY HOROBIN, WELLFIELD, ULLINGSWICK, HEREFORD, HR1 3JG**

**TEL: 01432 820491.**

- 1 The Ken Smith Trophy is a scratch fourball betterball matchplay competition for Seniors between club teams of 3 pairs each.
- 2 The Competition will run from mid-September to the end of March with a break in December and January.
- 3 Each Club may enter a maximum of two teams. No club B team will be drawn in the same zone as the A team. There will be a straight non-geographical draw from the clubs who have entered.
- 4 Clubs entering more than one team shall nominate the players they have selected for the A team. The A team should be the strongest team based on aggregated handicaps. Such nominations (including handicaps) are to be submitted to the Administrator no later than 31st August. In the event of a Club failing to nominate its A team, the A team which participates in the first match of that competition year will become the nominated team. No A team nominated player can play in a B team. Clubs should complete their programme of matches with the best team available and any Club failing to play in the spirit of the competition runs the risk of being debarred from the following year's competition.
- 5 In addition to the eligibility requirements of General Rule 2, players must be aged 55 or over.
- 6 Each Club shall play the other Clubs in the same zone on a home and away basis. All matches must be completed by the closing date specified on the draw sheet. The result of any match played after the closing date will be disregarded. Should a club withdraw from a zone then the results of any matches involving that club, completed prior to withdrawal, will be disregarded. If a club concedes a match, that club runs the risk of being de-barred from the following year's competition.
- 7 Matches will normally be played on a weekday on the host club's seniors day and the host club may select the time at which the match shall tee off between 10am and 12.30pm (1pm when daylight permits). Clubs must agree between them the dates when the matches are to be played.
- 8 Each game shall be deemed concluded when one pair is more holes up than there are holes left to play. The result will be recorded as holes up to the leading pair at that point.
- 9 The zone winners shall be decided by the overall result of all matches, with two points being awarded for a win and one point for a halved match. If, on completion of all zone matches, more than one Club shall be level on points, the winners will be decided on the total number of games won. When clubs are tied on points and games, the club with the best record between the clubs involved on points, then games, and then holes will be the higher placed. If these individual results are identical then the club with higher holes up over the whole league will be the higher placed.
- 10 Matches or games (within matches) not played cannot be agreed as halves.
- 11 The winners of each zone will progress to the semi-final zones the draw for which will be non-geographical. The semi-final zone matches will be played on the same basis as the qualifying zones and by the specified closing date. Each zone winner will be decided as per Rule 9.  
The final will be played on a home and away basis in accordance with the draw and by the closing dates specified on the draw sheet. The first named club will be at home in the first leg unless agreed otherwise by both clubs and the Administrator.
- 12 In the semi-finals and the final, ties on games and holes will be resolved by the last pair continuing from the first tee to play sudden-death until a decision is reached by one side winning a hole.
- 13 The host club shall be entitled to require the match to be played over their course using such tees and pin placements as they shall decide. Every effort should be made to play off proper tees and proper greens at least equivalent to those normally in play by members of the host club.
- 14 In the event of adverse weather conditions interfering with play the host club shall advise the visiting club by 12 noon on the day prior to that fixed for the match if conditions make play impossible. If weather conditions prevent play at the host club the legs of each round may be reversed by mutual consent. On the day of play, if ground conditions due to snow or rain, or weather conditions due to fog, are found to have deteriorated then

both captains must agree for the match to proceed or, if started, for the match to continue. The Administrator must be advised immediately of any decision under this rule.

### **COGNAC TROPHY**

**ADMINISTRATOR - G.R.WICTOME, STONELEIGH, THE MERE, WOONTON, ALMELEY,  
HEREFORD HR3 6QS TEL: 01544 340270**

1. The Cognac Trophy is an 18 hole stableford competition from a shotgun start between Club teams of 4 *male* players, each playing off current handicap. In addition, the Administration Committee may enter up to three teams, competing on the same basis as the club teams.
2. Entry is by invitation from the Administrator, addressed to the *Secretary* of each club. Entry forms with such fees and information required must be returned by the stated closing date. Failure to enter by the due date will exclude clubs from the competition.
3. Each club may nominate a team of 4 *male* players consisting of three adults and one junior. The Administration Committee teams will include the President, The President-Elect, the Administrator, Committee members by rotation and juniors normally nominated by the Chairman of Junior Golf.
4. Notwithstanding General Competition Rule 6 (Registered Disabled Players), for the Cognac Trophy only, players with certificated medical authority to use a buggy, may do so with the **prior** permission of the Administrator.
5. The handicap limit for each player will be 24. Players with a handicap of more than 24 may play, but must play off 24 on the day. No player may compete off a handicap which is higher than his official club handicap.
6. The handicap allowance will be three-quarters of the player's handicap.
7. In order to accommodate the number of participating teams the field will be divided into two flights. Both flights will start by shotgun from each team's nominated tee, the second flight starting after the first flight has completed 9 holes.
8. The best two stableford scores from four will count on each hole. The team with the highest number of aggregated points over 18 holes will be awarded the Cognac Trophy which they will retain for one year. The sponsors will also provide prizes for the first four teams, best first 9 hole team score, best second 9 hole team score and nearest-the-pin prizes for individuals.
9. In the event of a tie, the Trophy and team prizes will be decided on the best last 9, 6, 3, or 1 hole as necessary.
10. For junior prize winners vouchers will be provided instead of Cognac prizes.
11. Clubs are expected to pay for their team's light refreshments and evening meal.

### **Guidance for Players Applying for Buggy Use Based on Disability**

- Authorisation for use of a buggy will only be given to players with long term disability as defined in the Disability Discrimination Act 2005.
- The disability must be the inability to walk the stipulated course.
- Requests for buggy use must be submitted in writing by the individual club member concerned to the Competition Chairman.
- Such requests must be validated by a certificate signed by a registered medical practitioner specifically stating that the disability is an inability to walk the full course, that it *is permanent*, or is likely to *continue* for at least 12 months, and that it falls within the above Act.
- Applicants must also send with the application a copy of a valid certificate of insurance, *which the player must ensure is still valid for any competition which he enters.*
- *Authorisation will be confirmed in writing and will normally be effective 10 days after receipt of a valid application.*
- Authorisation will *normally be given for 12 months only, except where the disability is certified as permanent in which case the authorisation will not be time limited.*