



JUNIOR MEMBERS HANDBOOK

**MAIDENHEAD GOLF CLUB
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Organisation

Maidenhead Golf Club is a Private Members Club and consists of:

The President: who is elected to serve a five year term of office and commences his/her term at the Annual General Meeting.

The Club Captain: who is elected to serve for a single year, commencing his term at the Annual General Meeting.

The Ladies Captain: Who is elected to serve for a single year, commencing her term at the Ladies Annual General Meeting.

A photograph and name of each of these “Officers of the Club” can be found on the wall on the right hand side of the main entrance hall. Junior members should acquaint themselves with the names of these three Officers. In addition, the Junior Club Captains’ photograph is displayed alongside these Officers.

The Board of Directors: consisting of 10 members who have volunteered and been elected to their respective positions by the members at the Annual General Meeting.

eg. Chairman of the Board of Directors

Chairman of Green

Chairman of Golf and Handicap

Junior Section

Why does Maidenhead Golf Club think that having a Junior section is so important?

Because it benefits Junior members by:

- Promoting the game in accordance with the rules and regulations as approved by the R&A Rules Limited (formally the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews)
- Encouraging junior members to learn how to play golf, through active involvement with other sections of the club.
- Encouraging junior members to play in inter-club matches and competitions
- Assisting junior members to practice at being adults, by adopting a mature approach to life and by developing self-confidence.
- Promoting those who demonstrate the appropriate attitudes, behaviour and abilities to the various regional and national bodies that are involved in junior golf development.

Junior Development

As the purpose of the Club is to promote golf, the Junior Section is there to undertake this function too! This means that juniors are encouraged to receive coaching from the professionals, practice on the designated practice areas, (including the putting green), practise by playing on the course, usually with other juniors and by entering competitions.

Some juniors will also be chosen to represent the Club in matches against Junior sections of other clubs and may also be selected to represent the Adult section of the Club in matches.

In recognition of its commitment to promoting golf for young people, maidenhead Golf Club was awarded the Junior Golfmark by the England Golf Union in 2009.

Handicaps

Uniquely golf enjoys a handicap system that means that the novice golfer can compete on equal terms with the most experienced competitor. It is therefore important that new junior members get a handicap as quickly as possible.

To do this is simple, inform the professional before playing that you are marking a card for handicap purposes, play 3 rounds of golf and get your playing partner to mark your card and hand them, signed, to the professional. If you are unsure how your card should be marked, please speak to the Professional or Junior Organiser. Once you have a handicap, then each time you play in a competition your card will be checked by the professional and your handicap adjusted accordingly.

Competitions and Matches

Details of all Competitions and Club matches are displayed on the Junior notice board located at the stairs to the General Managers office. Members wishing to take part in competitions should enter their names on the competition sheet displayed on the notice board.

Names of those competitors selected for matches will be posted on the Junior notice board at least 1 week before the match and you are required to tick your name to confirm your availability. NO JUNIOR is allowed to change any notice posted on the notice board.

Men's & Ladies Competitions

Except where specifically excluded, Junior members with a handicap of 18 or below may enter adult competitions, **BUT THEY MUST PLAY WITH TWO FULL ADULT MEMBERS.**

Junior girls are entitled to play in ladies competitions, although these mainly take place on Tuesdays.

Rules of Golf

Very few players know all the rules of golf, but you should ensure that you understand the basic ones, especially if you want to play in competitions. Rule books are available from the General Manager, Professional or Junior Organiser.

Golf Clubs are subject to 3 sets of rules, which overlap.

There are the **Club Rules and Bye Laws**, which specify how the Club, as an organisation, is run and how local competitions are organised.

Then there are the rules of **R&A Rules Limited**, the playing BIBLE for all golfers, world-wide. These lay out precisely how the game should be played.

The third set of rules are the “**UNWRITTEN RULES**” of the Club. These are passed down, usually when someone breaks one and govern the way people are expected to behave:

eg. Staying around for a prize-giving rather than leaving the club after the game.

Similarly, course **ETIQUETTE** is of paramount importance. This covers behaviour on the course and includes not talking when others are playing their shots, not walking on others “lines of putt”, etc. As you progress as a Junior member you will learn these rules.

Information About the Clubhouse

- The Clubhouse is normally open during the hours of daylight, but please check the notice board before starting a round, just to confirm when it will be closing, as it sometimes closes early during winter months.
- Drinks (non-alcoholic), snacks and more substantial meals can be purchased through the bar during normal opening hours, but you must check the kitchen opening times if you intend to purchase food items. There is also a drinks/snacks dispenser located in the Starters Hut adjacent to the 1st tee.
- Mobile phones are to be switched off in the Clubhouse and on the course. Mobiles may be carried onto the course, but must remain switched OFF, except for use in emergencies.
- Junior members are not allowed to purchase any alcoholic drinks.

The Club General Manager

Currently Mr James Pugh, who is responsible for the day to day operation of the club, maintaining all club records and ensuring the club operates in an efficient and responsible manner.

His deputy, currently Mrs Carolynn Callan, Assistant Manager and they can both be found on the first floor of the club via the door on the left hand side of the entrance hall.

The Professionals

Responsibility for teaching and coaching rests with the Club's professional Mr Steve Geary and his assistant Ms Vicki Harris. The professional also operates the shop which sell's, clubs, clothes, trolleys, gloves and shoes.

The professional is also responsible for the collection of “Green Fees” paid by all visitors wishing to play on the course.

The Assistant Professional carries out most of the junior tuition during school holidays and at weekends.

Junior Organiser

The Junior Organiser, Jake Peberdy, oversees the running of the Junior Section of the club and works closely with the Junior Golf Development Officer, Alan Sweet to ensure the smooth running of the Junior section and team at the club.

The contact number for the Junior Organiser is on the Junior notice board.

Club Welfare Officer

The General Manager, Mr James Pugh 01628-624693, is the clubs nominated Welfare Officer and is the first point of contact regarding any welfare issues.

A Word About Dress

Whilst the club is somewhat relaxed about its dress code, it does retain some traditions to which ALL members must conform.

- Smart jeans are allowed in the clubhouse, but not on the golf course.
- Trainers are allowed in the clubhouse, but not on the golf course.
- Golf shoes are allowed in the clubhouse and bar, but not in the lounge or dining room.
- Shirts must be worn tucked into trousers at ALL times.
- Hats should not be worn in the clubhouse, other than the changing rooms.
- Normal golf attire is allowed in the bar, provided it is clean, dry and tidy.
- On the course, boys must wear polo-necked tops or tops with collars and sleeves; girls may wear sleeveless tops, but must have collars.
- Shorts may be worn by boys and girls provided they are tailored(not football shorts) with white sport socks or for boys, knee length socks.
- Any changes to the dress code will be notified to all members via the notice boards.

A Word About Safety

Whilst Maidenhead Golf Club is a safe environment, there are areas of public access and from time to time “strangers”, who may take advantage of vulnerable young people, may use these areas. The Club is naturally concerned that all its members, especially the young, are offered as much protection as possible. The club has therefore adopted a “Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy”!

Here are a few cautionary suggestions:

- Do not play on your own, always play with another person. (Under 14's are not allowed on their own at all).
- Do not assume one of your parents will be picking you up unless you have arranged it beforehand. Be sure when and where you will meet.
- Get your parents to check their household insurance to ensure that you are covered for public liability should you cause another person to have an accident or damage their property. (There are special Golf Insurance policies, details of which are available from the General Manager).
- If you have a mobile phone, take it with you in your golf bag, SWITCHED OFF! This can be used in an emergency.
- For away matches the Junior Organiser will usually organise transport. It is however, you and your parents' responsibility for ensuring that you arrive on time. There are occasions when parents may be asked to assist with transport.

What's in the Bag

First, the essentials:

Ball Markers

Course Planner (Or an Accurate Yardage Chart)

Drink (Water or Sports Drink)

Gloves (Wet & Dry)

Golf Balls (Sufficient and the Right Type)

Hat

Marker Pen (Waterproof)

Pen or Pencil (Plus Spare)

Pitch Mark Repairer

Current Rule Book

Scorecard

Snacks (High Carbohydrate/ Low Fat)

Tees

Towel

Umbrella

Waterproofs

Watch or Timekeeping Device

And if you're really on the ball, you will also have:

Club Cleaner

Plastic Bags (To keep Gloves & Towel Dry)

Plasters

Spare Studs (Plus a Stud Wrench)

Sun Block

Spare Sweater

Sunglasses

And Finally:

Do not forget to put all your clubs in the bag.
(But Not More Than 14!)

Marking Your Card

The novice golfer is often puzzled in how to mark the score card, yet nothing could be simpler.

The following explains Jack's card for the monthly medal played as a stroke play competition off white tees on 8th June 2013. His playing partner was Jim, who marked Jack's card.

The type of competition, in this case "Monthly Medal" is entered against "Competition", the date 8.06.13 is entered and the name of the player "Jack Smith" and his handicap are also inserted at the top of the card and the "White Tees" is highlighted before cards are exchanged prior to the commencement of play.

On the first hole Jack is down in 4 whilst Jim has a 5. Jim therefore places Jack's score in column A and his own score in the "Markers" column, on the left of the card. On hole 2 Jack has 6 while Jim has a 7 and these scores are recorded in the same way, but against hole 2 and so on until the end of the first 9 holes. The total number of strokes are then added and placed in the box below the first nine holes. The same is undertaken for the second 9 holes and the total for the two 9 hole scores added together to give a Total score. He then deducts Jack's handicap from the total which gives him Jack's Nett score which he then records in the NETT box in column A.

Jack now checks that Jim has recorded his score correctly by comparing it with his score which he recorded in the "Markers" column of Jim's card. Once agreed they both sign the card.

Anything wrong with the card handed in attracts automatic disqualification. REMEMBER both Jack and Jim MUST sign the card.

Further Opportunities

Thames Valley Junior Golfer of the Year

Each club nominates 4 players to take part in this competition. There are 2 individual competitions within the tournament, a scratch and a handicap competition, all players being eligible for both. In addition there is a team competition with the best 3 NETT scores from each team to count.

Darvall Open Medals

This competition is open to all the Junior Members from the host club. In addition 2 members from all the other clubs in the league are eligible to play, but they must submit an entry form by the closing date. A list of all these Open competitions will be posted on the Junior Notice Board during March/April and the Junior Organiser will arrange to obtain entry forms for interested Juniors, if they inform him of their interest.

County Representation

As handicaps improve to single figures, there may be invitations and opportunities to play at County level, but this does demand a very high level of dedication and commitment.

And If You're A Winner!

If you are leading a team in a match against another club, then you may be expected to say a few words.

This can be a bit scary so it is best to be prepared. If you think you might be in the frame then think about what you are going to say. Make a few notes, if this helps. You can always tear them up if you're pipped at the post. Do not be embarrassed, even the Queen uses notes!

First of all, face the audience, wait for silence and then, keeping your head erect, to avoid mumbling, speak clearly in a loud voice (but not shouting).

Address the audience in order of their seniority (not age!). The President takes precedence over the Captain and you should find out who is in the audience. The order would be: Mr President, Captain, Ladies and Gentlemen. If other dignitaries are there then seek guidance on who comes first and in what order.

Tell them how pleased you are to have won such a magnificent prize (or have played in such a friendly match).

Thank the organisers (or your opponents) and the club for hosting the event. In addition, thank the green keeping and catering staff.

Make special mention of your playing partners (or opponents) for such an enjoyable game and end by saying that you look forward to "playing this excellent course again".

