

WEST CORNWALL GOLF CLUB



West Cornwall Juniors 2013

JUNIOR SECTION HANDBOOK

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to West Cornwall Golf Club

This links course overlooks St Ives Bay and is in the village of Lelant between St Ives and Hayle. The course has been on this site since 1889 and is the oldest course in Cornwall.

The Club has a long and proud history. Some of our members have become famous in the golfing world, including Jim Barnes who won the very first US PGA Championship in 1916, as well as the Open in 1925. He was born and started playing golf here in Lelant. More recently Philip Rowe, another past junior member of the Club who represented both England & Great Britain on a number of occasions, is now a professional and coaches at Stanford University in California, USA (the *alma mater* of Tiger Woods & Michelle Wie). We have a number of current junior members who represent both Cornwall and the South West Counties on a regular basis. Most recently, 2013 Junior Captain, Harry Hall has represented England at under-16 level.

This Handbook is designed to give you information that will help you enjoy your golf and we hope it will be useful for you to refer to. You'll find details of coaching times & costs, diary dates for junior competitions, the juniors' code of conduct, rules & etiquette and a list of contact numbers for the people involved in the Junior Section organisation. If you have any questions please do ask any of them; they will all do their best to help.

Mission Statement

The aim of the Junior Section is to provide juniors with a safe, stimulating, welcoming and happy environment in which to experience golf, whilst giving them opportunities to progress by encouraging goal-setting & self-assessment, thereby developing interpersonal and golfing skills that can be enjoyed for the rest of their lives.

Equity

The Club respects the rights, dignity and worth of each & every person and will treat everyone equally within the concept of their sport regardless of age, ability, disability, gender, race, ethnicity, religious belief, sexuality, nationality or social/economic status.

Etiquette

All junior members should respect the traditions & etiquette involved in being a member of West Cornwall Golf Club:

- Abide by any dress rules both on & off the course.
- Always replace divots and repair pitch marks (see below).

- Always avoid slow play by keeping up with the group in front.
- Shout “Fore” if you believe a ball may hit another golfer or walker.
- Club throwing and swearing is unacceptable behaviour.

Code of Conduct

Every parent/junior must sign the Club’s Code of Conduct and each junior is expected to:

- Help create and maintain an environment free of fear and harassment.
- Demonstrate fair play and apply golf’s standard both on & off the course.
- Understand that you have a right to be treated as an individual.
- Treat others as you would wish to be treated.
- Respect any advice you may be given.
- Challenge or report if you observe any form of discrimination or prejudice.
- Respect any physical, cultural and racial differences.
- Speak out if you feel you or others have been poorly treated.
- Be organised and on time.
- Tell someone in authority if you are leaving a venue or competition.
- Treat organisers, volunteers and coaches with respect.
- Observe instructions, or restrictions that maybe imposed by appropriate members of staff.
- Accept that these guidelines are in place for the well-being of all concerned.

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR PARENTS

You have a crucial role to play in your child's enjoyment of, and participation in, the game of golf. The following points will hopefully ensure both you and your child enjoy the experience:

- Do take an interest in your child's activity and progress.
- Introduce yourself to the adults involved in the supervision of your child, such as the Junior Organiser, Club Professional, coaches, volunteers and the Golf Welfare Officer. The names and contact numbers of these people are found on the last page of this handbook.
- Please ensure that your child has read through and understood the Junior Code of Conduct.
- It is important to be punctual when dropping off and collecting your child(ren) from golfing sessions & competitions. If you are running late, please contact the Pro Shop as soon as possible.
- When leaving your child at the Club, please ensure that they have suitable protective clothing for the weather conditions. Rain features often in golf competitions!
- Ensure the Club has **up-to-date contact numbers** for you when leaving your child at the Club. Please make sure that **your mobile phone is switched on** in case you need to be contacted in an emergency.
- On occasions, your child may be selected to represent the Club in junior team matches. Your assistance in transporting your child to the venue would be preferable.
- Please advise the Junior Organiser if your child has any particular needs, e.g. allergies, asthma or disabilities.
- If you have any concerns regarding the organisation of activities or the behaviour of adults towards your child, please do discuss them with the Golf Welfare Officer.

AIMS OF THE JUNIOR SECTION

The West Cornwall Golf Club Junior Section will:

- Promote the game of golf in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews.
- Encourage junior members to learn how to play golf, through active involvement with the other sections of the Golf Club.
- Encourage junior members to play in inter-club matches and competitions.
- Help junior members to achieve their full potential, by encouraging goal-setting, self-assessment of results, and developing self-confidence.
- Promote West Cornwall Juniors who show the right attitude, behaviour and ability, to the various national bodies that are trying to encourage junior golf development.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Age Limits

There is no longer any age restriction for juniors but admission to the junior section will be based on ability. Due to time available, numbers in the junior section may be limited.

Clubhouse

When the Clubhouse is open, junior members can buy drinks & snacks at the bar (obviously no alcohol until the age of 18 years!). There is also a dining room where juniors may purchase proper meals. Food, with the exception of crisps and peanuts, should be eaten in the dining area and certainly not at the bar.

Junior Room

A special room for the exclusive use of juniors is located within the Ladies Pavilion. Please ensure that this room is kept neat and tidy.

Junior Club Day

The juniors meet on Saturday mornings throughout the year when the first tee is reserved for juniors from 8.30 till 10.30. There are competitions throughout the year for all levels of player.

For beginners, the Professional organises a coaching session each Saturday. Adult volunteers will then encourage these beginners by allowing them to play on the course under supervision.

There are several different groups on a Saturday morning being: -

The Starter Group

This is a group that have a lesson between 9-10a.m. but are not yet ready to go on the course. These starters do not need to be a member of the Club and pay a weekly fee to take part in the lesson.

The 3/5-hole Group

This group has a lesson from 8.30-9a.m. and then proceed to play 3 or 5 holes, time permitting. They usually play 16, 17 & 18 and then continue to play the 1st and 2nd when possible. These juniors do need to be members of the Club and also pay a weekly fee for the lesson element of the morning.

The 9-hole Group

This group is the more able juniors who are ready to have a handicap (54) and they play 9-holes and have their handicap adjusted based on their performance. They will generally tee off after the 18-hole group at around 9a.m. but do start at 8.30a.m. to be arranged into their groups. There is a weekly fee, which goes to the junior section and is used as part of the prize fund.

The 18-hole Group

These are the more accomplished players with official handicaps i.e. 28 (36 for females) or below. They play 18 holes on a Saturday teeing off from 8.30a.m. This group also pays a weekly fee that goes to the junior section forming part of the prize fund.

Rules of Golf

The Rules of Golf are very precise! Few players know all of the rules, but copies of the R&A Rulebook are available from the Clubhouse. It is a good idea to carry one in your golf bag, and you should make an effort to learn the basic rules - this is important if you want to play competitive golf.

Handicaps

Playing the course and completing scorecards will give junior golfers a playing handicap. The handicap will be re-assessed every time a junior player completes a scorecard. The aim is for a junior's golf to develop and improve so that their handicap continues to reduce.

JUNIOR PLAYING TIMES

The official & only organised time for junior golf is on a Saturday morning when coaching is provided by the PGA professional staff, with organised helpers. The first tee is reserved from 8-30 to 10-30.

There are additional considerations that must apply as to when juniors are allowed on the course itself. These are based firstly on the child's ability and secondly their age, for their own safety on the course. The highest official handicap in golf under the regulations that are used by the Club is 28, or 36 for females. As such the following rules apply for the juniors: -

Handicap 28 or less (girls 36) AND aged 14 years and over

- May only play on a Saturday afternoon providing they have first played in the morning session.
- May play the course at any other time.
- May play in all Club competitions (if eligible to do so due to handicap limits) and by invitation/agreement for Captains Day.
- Must play in junior competition in preference to a Club competition that may take place on the same day, unless by prior agreement with the Junior Organiser.

Handicap 28 or less (girls 36) AND aged under 14 years

- As for those over 14, but with the additional provision that they *must* be accompanied on the course by an adult or junior aged 14 or more *and* with handicap 28 or less (girls 36). The adult does not have to be playing.

Juniors under 14 years considered to be adequately competent by the Junior Organiser may be offered the opportunity to play on the course without an adult, subject to written consent from parent/guardian.

Handicap 29 – 54 (girls 37 – 54)

- May only play on a Saturday afternoon providing they have first played in the morning session.
- May not play the course on Wednesday.
- Except on Saturday mornings when playing within the junior tee time, *must* play in the company of an adult, with a minimum ratio of one adult to two juniors.
- Beginner and starter group juniors (as per Saturday mornings) *must* play with an adult, with a minimum ratio of one adult to two juniors *and* with the permission of the Professional.

Any member of the junior organisation team that is involved with junior golf at times other than Club day must ensure that the codes of conduct, standards and guidelines are followed. All adults accompanying juniors (except in Club competitions) must hold an up to date CRB certificate (or equivalent) unless either related to the junior or with the permission of the junior's parents. This should be on a maximum basis of one adult to two juniors.

Don't forget that the course is closed for major open competitions and the tee is reserved at other times. Please check the notice boards both in the Junior Room and opposite the Professional's shop for these reservations, as well as on the Club's website and online tee-booking system.

Lessons

Juniors are encouraged to take individual lessons with the professional or his assistant professional, in addition to any group sessions periodically arranged.

Lockers

If any juniors would like the use of a locker in the Junior Room for storage of clubs etc., please contact the Junior Organiser.

JUNIOR COMPETITIONS

One of the best ways to improve at golf is to play in competitions, and there is a range of competitions that juniors will be able to enter, apart from weekly Stableford and medal competitions that are played on Saturday mornings. These include knock-out cups, inter-club fixtures, Junior Opens at other clubs and county-level competitions. The junior notice board is in the Junior Room; please check it regularly to find out what competitions are taking place and when, and to put your name on the lists.

Some of the Junior Section trophy competitions available to enter are:

Knock Out Competitions

The Section has two knockout competitions; players enter individually for each competition and a draw is done. They begin each Spring and end on the Club's Finals Day, usually held in the middle of September. The two competitions where the winners will receive trophies are:

- Timothy Curnow Memorial Tankards (pairs, 4-ball better ball, drawn partners, matchplay)
- Thomas Match-Play Trophy (singles knockout, matchplay)

Club Major Competitions

The Section also holds the following competitions throughout the year:

- **Roach Cup:** 18-hole Stableford
- **Smith Cup:** 18-hole Medal
- **Artisan's Putter:** 18-hole Medal
- **Raymond Scott-Brown Memorial Trophy:** 18-hole Medal
- **Harry Champion Flukin' Iron Cup:** The late Harry Champion was one of the characters of Cornish golf, having first won the Cornwall County Championship over 60 years ago. As an outstanding player, he was often asked what club he played for a particular shot, with the answer always "Just a flukin' iron". The Club set up a special competition in memory of Harry Champion's contribution to Cornish golf; it is played as a 4-ball better ball with a full member partner. Partners are drawn.
- **Hugh Harvey Memorial Trophy:** Hugh Harvey was both a past Captain and a past President of West Cornwall Golf Club and, in memory of his many contributions to the Club over the years, Mrs. Marjorie Harvey presented a special trophy. The Hugh Harvey Memorial Trophy is a unique competition, played as a 3-ball Stableford competition (junior, lady and gentleman member) with two scores to count on every hole.
- **Winter Cup:** Presented to winner of the winter league. The league is played once a month over the winter between October and March.
- **West Cornwall Junior Open:** Open to all junior members of golf clubs. Most clubs in the County organize and run their own Junior Opens. We encourage our members to enter in these events, which are normally held during the school summer holidays.

The Section also enters teams in many County events, organised by the CGU (Cornwall Golf Union) as detailed below:

- ***Bolitho Shield:*** This is an inter-club competition and a Club's team of 6 plays against other sides throughout the summer on a home & away league basis, the format being singles matchplay off handicap. The teams with the highest points totals go through to the quarter-finals played on a neutral course, with the semi-finals and final played on the same day in the Autumn.
- ***Gripe Cup:*** This is an inter-club competition played on a knockout basis with a team of five players.
- ***Junior Maxam Cup:*** This competition is held during the October half-term and 3 pairs from each Club play a foursomes medal at a venue chose by the CGU. The main trophy is a scratch competition, but there are also handicap prizes.
- ***Spring and Autumn Meetings:*** The CGU Golf Union organise junior meetings at half term in both the Spring and Autumn. These are held at

selected venues throughout the county. Any juniors hoping to play for Cornwall are expected to play in these competitions.

JUNIOR COMPETITION POLICY

All junior competitions (including knock outs, non-qualifiers and social golf) will be displayed on the notice board in the junior room. All scorecards (unless otherwise instructed) are to be returned to the card box in the junior room. Please note the following points:

1. All competitions are played under the Rules of Golf, as detailed in the R&A Rulebook, and Cornwall Golf Union.
2. A junior member is any member of the Club who is under 18 years of age from January 1st of that year.
3. There are two divisions for junior golfers: **Division I** is any junior member with a handicap of 28 or less, and **Division II** is any junior with a handicap between 29 and 54.
4. Junior competitions are held each Saturday (and other times as arranged) with the first tee reserved for juniors from 8.30 – 10.30hrs. Division I golfers will have at least one medal and one Stableford competition each month played over 18 holes, while Division II competitions will be Stableford played over 9 holes.
5. Both boys and girls will have equal rights to enter junior competitions.
6. Juniors with a handicap that fulfils the competition criteria will be eligible to play in adult competitions, but juniors *must* play in their own competitions in preference to club competitions that may take place on the same day (unless they have the prior permission of the Junior Organiser).
7. Boys playing in Division I will play off the white tees during competition play. Boys in Division II will play off the red tees but the men's card. Girls in both Divisions will play off the red tees.
8. Caddies are not allowed in junior competitions unless permitted by the Junior Organiser.
9. Irrespective of handicap, any junior golfer younger than 14 years must be accompanied on the course by an adult (either playing or non-playing) or another junior over the age of 14 years; such adult/14+ junior may not caddie or advise during competition play.
10. Juniors must have an active handicap to play in a junior knock-out, cup or trophy competition. An active handicap is obtained by submitting 3 18-hole qualifying cards. They obtain a handicap by playing in the 9 hole Division II competitions.
11. All junior strokeplay competitions will be handicap qualifiers; Division I handicaps will be adjusted under the CONGU handicapping system as

operated by the Club, while Division II players will be reduced by 1 shot for every shot that is played under their handicap.

12. Juniors may not win alcohol as a prize and will be given an alternative to the same value.

SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS FOR PLAYERS

Hole 1: A public road that is out of bounds runs along the right hand side of the hole. When playing off the forward tee by the road, do not tee off until the road is clear.

Hole 2: Players on or near the 14th green are hidden from view on the 2nd tee. Do not tee off until you are sure there are no players hidden from view.

Hole 3: Do not tee off until the 9th green and its approaches are clear of other players.

Hole 4: The 4th & 8th fairways are shared, with a public footpath running across both that crosses about 30m in front of this tee. Do not tee off until you are sure your drive will not endanger members of the public using the footpath and any golfers playing the 8th hole. The churchyard to the right of the 4th fairway is out of bounds and **under no circumstances** may you retrieve your ball from the churchyard.

Hole 5: Do not tee off until (a) the road in front of the tee is clear; (b) there are no players on or approaching the 7th green, and (c) there are no players crossing in front of the 5th green. Do not approach the green until you are sure that all the players in front have driven off the 6th tee.

Hole 6: Do not tee off until you are sure the 5th green and its approaches are clear of players. Also, when playing your second shot, be aware that a sunken public road crosses immediately in front of the green.

Hole 7: Do not tee off until the road is clear.

Hole 8: The 4th & 8th fairways are shared. Before you drive, ensure there are no players playing the 4th hole within range. Also, when approaching the green, do not play until the 9th tee is clear.

Hole 9: A public footpath runs in front of the tee and then along the right-hand side of the hole. Only play your shot when there are no people within range.

Hole 10: The tee shot is blind over a hill with the 12th green, situated on the left hand side of the 10th fairway, within range of the tee. There is a public footpath running on the right-hand side of the 10th fairway. Therefore **do not** attempt to drive from the tee until you are sure that there are no people in range.

Hole 11: There is a deep dip in the fairway about 160m from the tee. Do not tee off until you are certain that all the players in front are visible and out of range.

Hole 12: Do not tee off until the 16th green and its approaches are clear. When you are approaching the 12th green, be aware of danger to you from wayward drives off the 10th & 13th tees.

Hole 13: Whilst waiting to drive, stay behind the net to avoid risk of being hit by balls from the 10th tee. Also be aware that players starting their rounds on the 10th tee will approach using the path to the left of the 13th fairway.

Hole 14: The drive is blind, so **do not** tee off until you are sure the players in front are clear. Whilst waiting to play your second shot, ensure at least one of your group remains in sight of the 14th tee. When everyone has played their shot, ring the warning bell.

Hole 15: Do not tee off until the 1st green and surrounds are clear.

Hole 16: Be aware that the practice area and a footpath lie along the left of the 16th fairway. Players completing their round on the 9th will walk back to the Clubhouse across the 16th fairway.

Hole 17: A public footpath runs across the front of the tee and along the right of the fairway. Do not tee off if members of the public are in range.