



The Sand Moor Golf Club

New Members Information Booklet

SMGC is a private members club which seeks to combine traditional values and a modern outlook in its aim to provide members, their guests and visitors with excellent golf and associated social facilities and services based on sound finances and effective management at a subscription level compatible with achieving these objectives.

Introduction

This booklet is an introductory, guide to the Club. It has been prepared to explain to new members some of the main aspects of the Club's affairs and activities, and to help them feel 'at home' as quickly as possible.

The Club's Rules are defined in a separate booklet available to all members.

The "Members Handbook and Fixtures" booklet is published and circulated to members in February each year. The Handbook lists the current Club's Officers and Committee, serves to summarise competition rules, refers briefly to the Club's dress regulations and course etiquette and outlines the Green Fees payable for the current year. Its main purpose however, is to provide a diary of Club competitions and events to be held at the Club during the forthcoming year.

Another major source of information is the Club's website, www.sandmoorgolf.co.uk

Note: This booklet, the Club Rules and the Members' Handbook are always liable to change. Members are asked to keep up to date by regular inspection of the notice boards in the foyer, corridors and locker rooms.

Sand Moor welcomes you and hopes that you enjoy your golf membership, in all its aspects, for many years to come.

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History

Sand Moor Golf Club is a beautiful inland course situated next to Eccup reservoir on the north side of Leeds with magnificent views of the surrounding countryside. The course with its sandy soil drains exceptionally well.

“Although the club officially opened in 1926, it was five years earlier that Henry Barran began to lay out a course, originally of six holes, four to the south of Alwoodley Lane, on land owned by the Barran Trust.... The major influence in the creation of the course was Yorkshire born Dr. Alister Mackenzie, who also designed the other three major golf courses in the area..... Dr. Alister was a member of the first Green Committee and was nominated as a Vice President from 1926 to 1930.”

(Extract from “The Sand Moor Golf Club 1926-2001”, Sydney Richardson MA. This booklet commemorates the Club’s 75th Anniversary and a copy can be obtained from the Secretary.)

Initially the course was split by Alwoodley Lane with the Clubhouse and the first two and last two holes on one side, and the remaining fourteen holes on the other. Access to the Clubhouse was from Harrogate Road.

Sand Moor has an impressive reputation for the standard of the golfers at the Club. These have included Amateur Champions Alex Kyle (1939) and Iain Pyman (1993), and English Champion Stuart Cage (1992). All represented Great Britain and Ireland in the Walker Cup, and members Simon Dyson and Ben Mason, both of whom are now professionals, were included in the squad from which the 1999 Walker Cup Team was chosen with Simon Dyson going on to play in the Walker Cup team.

Sand Moor Golf Club also has an outstanding record as Yorkshire Club Champions in 1992 through to 2000 and English Club Champions in 1994 and 1995. More recently, the Club has won the UK Mackenzie Medallion in 1999, 2001 and 2003, the Hudson Trophy in 2001, the Colt Cup in 2002 and the Yorkshire Ladies ‘A’ Division championship in 2006 and 2009.

Overview of the management of the Club

Sand Moor Golf Club is a company limited by guarantee. Members of the General Committee (the Board) are members of the Club who are elected by the membership at the AGM to serve on the Committee for a period of up to three years in any one period and for not more than two consecutive periods. Once elected, they become Directors of the Company and, regulated from a legal point of view by the Companies Act.

From an 'operational' point of view the General Committee, is the Club's ultimate authority and is responsible for developing the Club's policy.

The Club's operations and the implementation of the Board's policies are delegated to the Club's Secretary and staff and to various Sub-Committees, each chaired by a member of the General Committee.

The current membership of the General Committee is in the Handbook and displayed on the Notice Board. A summary of the overall objectives of the Sub-Committees is given below.

Committees

General Committee

- Elected by the members at the AGM, this Committee is the governing body and the ultimate authority of the Club
- Charged with the establishment of policy and the continued development of Sand Moor Golf Club in line with the Mission Statement and Strategic Plan.

Finance & Planning Committee

- To co-ordinate the financial activities of other committees, and produce and maintain a 5 year rolling strategic plan
- To assist other sub committees in setting budget and target objectives and present to General Committee a consolidated annual report.
- To monitor monthly management information and highlight and explain for the benefit of General Committee members, variations against last year, budget and target objectives.

Marketing Committee

- To market and promote Sand Moor Golf Club both internally and externally
- To encourage new members to join the Club
- To promote the Club to current and potential visitors and visiting parties
- To assist the Club sections to maximise revenue from Open Days
- To attract external funding, sponsorships and other revenue
- To inform and involve current members.

Green Committee

- To maintain, and further develop, a healthy, high quality golf course and environment
- To be benchmarked as one of the best courses in the North of England
- To provide excellent, well defined playing surfaces
- To exercise environmentally aware estate management
- To deploy staff and equipment effectively
- To make appropriate use of cost effective pest and disease control agents.

House Committee

- To monitor the performance of, and provide policy and overall support for, those charged with the management and development of the clubhouse and its facilities
- To provide quality, hygienic, cost effective, profitable, helpful and friendly catering services to members, visitors and guests, which includes the provision of variable menus and good food at attractive prices
- To present a responsive, welcoming, profitable bar service to meet the needs of members, visitors and guests through effective manpower, stock and cellar management and control and the provision of a wide range of wines, beers and spirits for consumption on and off the premises at reasonable prices
- To develop and cost effectively maintain the club's property and facilities, including changing rooms, bars, restaurants and meeting rooms, equipment and furnishings, ensuring the provision of safe, hygienic, practical and welcoming accommodation for members and visitors.

Handicap & Competitions Committee

- To conduct, maintain and develop competitions
- To ensure handicap procedures are in accordance with CONGU requirements

Admissions Committee

- To interview prospective members for submission to the General Committee for approval.

Social Committee

- To identify, promote and organise a variety of affordable and acceptable leisure activities within the clubhouse to engender and meet the social needs and aspirations of members
- To help profitable utilisation of the Club's bar and catering facilities.

Project Committee

From time to time there is an extra committee devoted to managing a major project, eg the refurbishment of the clubhouse:

- To ensure that the project in hand is set up and implemented in a cost-effective manner, to the required standards and within the required timescales.

Communication to members

Important information is communicated to members in a variety of ways:

- Minutes of meetings are available for members to read
- Appropriate items are posted on the notice boards
- Similarly items are published in the periodic Captain's Newsletter both in hard copy, by email and on the Club's website
- Captain's Open evenings are held from time to time, when key issues are presented and members' questions answered
- The Club's Annual General Meeting is held in March
- For key decisions on specific issues an Extraordinary General Meeting may also be held.

Strategic plan

The club operates on a five year rolling programme for its strategic planning, first introduced In 2002. The current five year plan is available to members.

So far we have:

- improved the profitability and financial strength of the Club
- generated and invested in significant improvements to the course, facilities and greenkeeping equipment
- improved the position of Sand Moor Golf Club in the golfing world—in the eyes of both members and other golfers in our local area and in the North of England.

To date, considerable improvements have been achieved in many aspects of the course. We have:

- improved the irrigation infra-structure
- “gravel banded” all the par 3 and six other greens
- made substantial inroads into the bunker improvement plan
- purchased the practice ground and added a teaching studio and covered bays.
- created new pitching and bunker facilities on the practice ground.
- Appointed Andy Watson as Course Architect to update the course.

To assist this process we have invested extensively in new course maintenance machinery and equipment every year such that our greenkeepers have the very best equipment available to them.

In the Clubhouse and buildings we have completed:

- a new greenkeepers' building in 2003
- full refurbishment of the Men's locker room, toilets and showers in 2006/07
- full refurbishment of the Ladies facilities in 2009
- complete refurbishment of the lounge and bar area, snooker room and a new card room in 2010
- refurbishment of the buttry area, refurbishment and extension of the balcony and installation of a new patio in 2011.
- refurbishing the dining room in 2012/13
- refurbishment of the committee rooms in 2014.
- installation of new IT equipment and refurbishment of the snooker room in 2015.

Green fees and guests

Members are encouraged to bring their friends and guests. Reduced green fees are charged when accompanied by a member.

You may introduce up to three guests at any one time but no visitor may have more than six visits at concessionary rates in any calendar year.

Visitors must tee-off from the Yellow Tees unless accompanied by a member.

NOTE: Members are responsible for their guests both in the clubhouse and on the course and are requested to ensure that the Club's rules are adhered to.

Course health & safety

Attention is drawn to the public footpaths which cross the 8th, 16th, and 18th fairways. Please give way to pedestrians using these footpaths.

Golf shoes with studs appropriate for the prevailing weather and ground conditions should be used. Particular care is urged on grassy slopes. Designated paths and steps should be used where available.

Warning bells are located after the 3rd green, along the 4th and 12th fairways and after the 18th green. Please use them to inform those behind that 'all is clear'. Please use the steps at the 1st tee to ensure the fairway is clear before teeing off.

Members should always ensure that when playing a shot, those in front are out of range and the traditional cry of "Fore" should be made immediately in cases where deviant shots may endanger other golfers on other parts of the course.

Under no circumstances should practice or chipping shots on the Practice Ground be played in the direction of the houses fronting Alwoodley Lane.

Care of the course

Please help to keep your course in good condition and tidy at all times.

Please repair pitch marks, replace divots and ensure trolleys are kept off tees, greens and aprons.

Online tee booking system

The Club operates a computer based booking system. This allows members to book a tee time over the Internet and get instant on-screen and email confirmation of their booking.

This booking service is an integral part of the club's live computerised booking system, hence tee time availability is accurate and up to date to the second from anywhere in the world.

To use this service you will need to register on the Club's website – you will be sent a username and password.

Mobile telephones

Mobile telephones may only be used in the car park or by the entrance door. They must not be used on the course or other areas within the clubhouse. Doctors "on call" may seek dispensation from the Secretary's office.

Smart phones and tablets must be on silent when used in the clubhouse (do not use for phone calls).

Social events

Sand Moor is fortunate in having a very active social calendar, well supported by members and their partners who find themselves quickly absorbed into the social circle. Events are held fairly frequently and are modestly priced. They include dinners, dances, special themes, fancy dress, music evenings, quiz nights, carol singing at Christmas etc. All new ideas are welcomed!

An initial list of events is given in the Members Handbook. However for the latest information, it is important to keep an eye open for details and new announcements on the notice boards. In addition to events run by the Social Committee, there are also those organised by the Rabbits Section and the Ladies Section. Members are encouraged to bring guests to most events.

Swipe card

The pre payment Swipe Card:

- minimises cash
- incentive for all to spend in the club house
- allows the club to operate dual pricing
- allows access to the booking systems.

Members' Swipe Card Rules are available from the Secretary.

Dress regulations for Men

Smart casual clothing and appropriate footwear are expected on the course and in the Clubhouse at all times.

The following items of dress are always **unacceptable on the course**:

- Untailored or sports shorts
- Blue Denim jeans
- Tee Shirts
- Football/Rugby type shirts
- Tracksuits
- The wearing of trousers tucked into socks is not considered appropriate.
- Outdoor clothing in the clubhouse

The Secretary, any Director, the Professional or any of the staff on duty have authority to bring to the attention of any member or visitor any infringement of the above "Dress Code."

Dress regulations for Ladies

Ladies dress Code is determined by the Ladies Committee and is posted on the notice board in the Ladies locker room. . If in doubt ask the Lady Captain or any member of the Ladies Committee.

Men's Section

Competitions and matches are listed in the Handbook, including matches for the Monday Night League (Sand Moor's Scratch Team), the Monday Night Nett League, the Tigers League the Captain's Social Team Matches, the Rabbits' Section and the Juniors. In addition, there are a number of 'golf outings', which are shown in the main body of the Fixture List.

The Captain's "Pilgrims Outing" and the Captain's Social Matches are open to gentlemen, irrespective of handicap, and a list is posted on the Notice Board for those who wish to be considered. Similarly, an invitation to put your name forward for the Rabbits' Social Matches is posted on the Notice Board (Rabbits' are a section of members with a handicap of 16 and higher).

Competition conditions are outlined in the diary

Booking procedures for Gentlemen

Mondays to Fridays and Sundays: Online tee booking for Mondays to Fridays and Sundays is available from 8.00 am one week in advance and is subject to Ladies' Section priority times on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and to visiting party bookings on any day. Members may also book through the Professional's Shop by telephone or in person.

Saturdays: Booking commences at 6.15pm in the Clubhouse, on the Friday of the previous week. Numbered discs are dispensed at 6.00 pm at random to determine the order of booking. Only those members who are present may book and only for one tee-time which must include their own name.

Scorecards

Scorecards are obtained in the Professional's shop before entering the competition of the day and your entry registered in the competition book as well as into the computer via a 'touch screen' in the Professional's shop .

On completion of your round you **MUST** enter the result into the computer in the lounge AND post your card into the adjacent box even if it is deemed to be a "Nil Return". Please note that failure to do EITHER creates a considerable amount of unnecessary work for the Competitions Committee. PLEASE follow the procedure.

Cancellation of a booking

If you are unable to play a booked tee time, you must cancel your booking online or telephone the Professional's Shop as soon as you realise that you are unable to play.

Slow Play

As a guide you should be:

- On the 6th tee within one hour of starting your round
- On the 10th tee no later than 1 ¾ hours
- Completing your round in 3 hrs 50 mins.

Halfway House

On those occasions when the Halfway House is serving refreshments you must avoid causing a delay to those behind you and be ready to play on as soon as the 10th tee is free.

Ladies Section

Sand Moor has a very vibrant Ladies Section and welcomes experienced golfers, those wishing to improve and those who are taking up golf for the first time.

Ladies Committee

Our Committee is elected by the Lady Members at their AGM in December, and is responsible for the smooth running of the Ladies Section including Competitions, Open Days and social functions.

The committee is headed by the Lady Captain and 13 other members including Lady Vice-Captain, Lady Secretary, Lady Treasurer, Handicap Secretary, Competition Secretary, Immediate Past Captain and seven other elected ladies.

Membership categories & booking procedure

Ladies may be 5-Day, 6-Day or 7-Day members with exactly the same playing and voting rights as equivalent gentlemen, except that the Ladies Section has been granted 'priority' tee-times:

Tuesdays	9.30 am -10.30 am
Thursdays	8.30 am -11.52 am

The above times are bookable by Ladies one week in advance from 8.00 am either online or through the Professional's Shop or by telephone or in person. The priority tee times are held for 24 hours, following which Men may book.

Competition procedure

To enter a competition you should pay your entrance fee and sign the appropriate page in the Competitions book in the Professional's shop. You should then register by entering your personal number on the computer. All this must be done **before** going out to play.

Handicaps

Ladies who do not have a handicap are required to submit three stroke-play cards. Anyone with a current handicap from SMGC can mark those cards but they can only be marked in a two or three balls. They should be marked "For Handicap" and put in the card box in the Ladies Locker room.

Once you have been given a handicap certificate you will be eligible to play in most of the competitions. See notices and Rules book for restrictions in Major Competitions.

If you experience any difficulty understanding the handicapping system or our competition rules, our Handicap and Competition Secretaries will be only too happy to help.

Lady Rabbits

Sand Moor has a Lady Rabbits' Section (Handicap level 29-36) to help integrate beginners and those with high handicaps. We recommend that new members who fall within this handicap range join the Rabbits section. The Rabbit Ladies are very friendly and will only be too happy to arrange golf matches and introduce you to other members.

Working ladies

If you are a working lady less likely to be able to play during the week and need any assistance with partners to mark cards etc, please contact the Lady Captain or the Ladies Secretary for help.

Men's Rabbits Section

The Rabbits section within the club is open to all male members with a playing handicap of 16 or over. The section is the largest single section within the club and has its own Captain, Vice-Captain, Officials and Committee who meet regularly to manage the section and its activities.

The section has a very full calendar of both "friendly" matches against other local Rabbits' teams and a substantial programme of social events including golfing outings to other courses, dinners, dances and other social gatherings during the year. There is also a comprehensive programme of internal club competitions with prizes being presented annually at the Rabbits Dinner in February.

The Sand Moor Rabbits enjoy their golfing programme, especially as the matches are always light-hearted and played with a special camaraderie that is the hallmark of Rabbits' golf. The section always offers a warm welcome to new members with the appropriate handicap and joining the section is an excellent introduction to the club and other members both on and off the course.

Mixed Golf

Sand Moor boasts an excellent Mixed Golf Calendar with a competition every month, usually on a Sunday. The Club organises its 'Mixed Outing' over an August weekend.

Details and dates for the Mixed Competitions are given in the Members Handbook.

If you wish to play mixed golf, it is suggested you watch the 'Mixed Section' notice board for further information.

If you need a partner don't hesitate to enter your name on the appropriate list on the 'Mixed' notice board.

Men's Golf Competitions

Saturday Monthly Medals: Usually played on the first Saturday of the month, May – October inclusive. Three divisions, winners qualify for annual medal.

Sunday Monthly Medals: One division, winner qualifies for annual medal

Midweek Medals: One division, best three qualify for the annual midweek medal

Relays Trophy: Presented by the Leeds Hospitals Relays Association. Played annually as a four-ball qualifier in April with the top 16 pairs going through to a knockout stage

Calcutta Cup: Top 32 qualify in a medal played on a Saturday and Sunday in mid-May. Winner decided by matchplay knockout competition, with the final contested over 36 holes, usually by mid-September

Dunlop Salver: Foursomes knockout. Top 16 pairs qualify from preliminary competition played in mid-May

Sand Moor Vase and Denham Cup: Medal qualifier in late May. Top four in two handicap divisions compete in knockout stages

Alex T Kyle Trophy: Three division winners from the June medal plus the next lowest nett qualify for knockout stage

Captain's Day: Played in early June, single division medal. Winner is the player with the lowest nett score.

Henry Barran Trophy and Smithson Cup: Played over two consecutive Saturdays in July. Medal format with top 16 qualifying in two divisions for round two. Lowest aggregate score for 36 holes provides the winners.

Club Championship: Played in mid-July. 36 hole scratch medal. Members with handicaps of up to 10.4 are eligible to play.

President's Day: Played in late July. Single division, can be medal or stableford format. Winner is the player with the lowest nett score or highest stableford points

Charity Trophy: Played in late July/early August. Single division medal

Jubilee Trophy: Played in mid-September. Single division medal

Men's Invitation Days: Usually two events, one in early June, the second in early September. Members invite guests to play. Various formats – valuable prizes

Winter Turkey Trots: Saturday 'fun' competitions from early November to Christmas. Winners receive turkey vouchers, whisky and wine to runners up

Men's Rabbits' Golf Competitions

Richardson Trophy: Full handicap Stableford, held early April

Rabbits Mid Week Trophy: Full handicap medal, held early May

Siddall Trophy: Full handicap medal, held in June

Rabbits Putter: Full handicap Stableford, held in July

Rabbits Trophy: Full handicap Stableford, held in August

Rabbits Veterans Trophy: Aged 60+, full handicap medal, mid-week in June

Townend Trophy: Full handicap bogey, mid-week in July

Rabbits Greensomes: Knock out competition, fourball pairs. Stroke allowance 3/8 of combined handicap

Rabbits Eclectic: Five cards to be marked at any time from April to end September. Handicap allowance ¾ of current at time of play. Best score taken from the five cards for each hole. Winner is lowest score for 18 holes

Siddall Tankard: Awarded to member scoring highest number of points in three selected competitions (modified scoring system)

Sowden Trophy / Dredge Trophy (Tigers): Played for on the Rabbits Captain's Outing

Notes:

1. Competitors must be members of Rabbits Section to enter
2. All Rabbits competitions are played from yellow tees

Ladies Golf Competitions

These notes are only a brief outline of the competitions that the ladies play. They do not constitute the rules for those competitions, which are displayed in the ladies locker room.

General Competitions

Throughout the year the ladies play Medal, Stableford and Par competitions, usually on a Thursday

Major Competitions

Ladies must have submitted at last four medal cards in the preceding 12 months in order to qualify to play in Major Competitions

The Margaret Hall Centenary Salver: Presented by Margaret Hall to celebrate her Centenary, this is an 18 hole strokeplay competition, played in divisions in May. The winner (from any division) holds the salver for one year and in addition is presented with a replica salver

The Sand Moor Trophy: This competition consists of two strokeplay rounds played in the same week. The trophy is awarded to the player with the best aggregate nett score over the two rounds. There is also a prize for the best nett score in each round

The Anniversary Trophy: This is a knock out competition played between April and the end of September each year for players with a handicap of 30 or less

The Barrington Trophy: An 18 hole Strokeplay competition to be played in June where ladies choose their own partners

The Coronation Trophy: The first round of this competition is strokeplay over 18 holes. In the second round the two best nett scores in the Silver and Bronze divisions play a match over 18 holes. The final round is a play off between the winners of the two divisions

Walker Trophy: This trophy is awarded to the player with the best gross score in any Club Medal Competition played over the Sand Moor course during the playing year

Sand Moor Plate: Players may enter 4 cards (best three to count) from 1st May to 30th September. The trophy is awarded to the player with the lowest nett total.

Lady Captain's Day: This competition may take the form of either a medal or stableford round and is the choice of the Lady Captain.

Non-Major Competitions

The Badge Competition: An 18 hole Strokeplay round competition where the winners are the best gross scores in the Silver and Bronze divisions. There is also a prize for the best nett score of the day.

The Eclectic Competition: A competition which runs throughout the winter months in which ladies have ten chances of improving their hole by hole score.

Edith Waite Five Club Competition: An 18 hole Stableford round using no more than five clubs including a putter.

Hilda Firth Salver: Presented by Hilda Firth's family in 2011. An 18 hole strokeplay competition where the winner of the salver is the lady with the best gross score and the runner up is the lady with the best nett score.

Lady Rabbits Golf Competitions – for players with a handicap of 29+

The Stephenson Trophy: Given by Mrs Stephenson in 1950, the foundation year of the rabbits' section. The competition which is played alongside the August Medal is for the best nett score in an 18 hole Strokeplay competition.

The Gibson Trophy: Donated by Mrs Muriel Gibson in 1950 and presented to the lady with the best gross score on Lady Rabbit's Day.

Mather Trophy: The player with the greatest handicap reduction during the year is presented with this trophy donated by Mrs Ethel Mather in 1952.

Mellor Trophy: Donated by Bernard Mellor in 1988 for the player with the best nett score on Lady Rabbit's Day.

Malhotra Trophy: Donated by Dr Leila Roots to the winner of a Stableford competition usually played in August.

Mixed Golf Competitions

Monthly competition held normally on the last Sunday of the month.

Major Competitions

Members Cup: Oldest trophy first played in 1928. Foursomes medal with men to go off 1st tee - 1/2 combined handicap

Bedding Trophy: Knock-out competition. Foursomes match play -3/8ths difference of combined handicaps

Millennium Salver: Greensomes Medal - handicap is the sum of 60% the lower handicap, 40% of the higher

Mixed Jubilee Trophy: Better ball off full handicap, limits of 24 (men) and 36 (ladies). Played on away weekend

Viking Trophy: Greensomes Stableford off 3/8ths combined handicap

Only members who are qualified to participate in their own section major competitions can win the trophies, although others are welcome to participate (though not in the Bedding) and share in the sweep if successful.

Useful Websites

Sand Moor Golf Club	http://www.sandmoorgolf.co.uk
England Golf	http://www.Englandgolf.org
EGU Golf Central	http://www.englishgolfunion.org/golfcentral
Ladies' Golf Union	http://www.lgu.org
Yorkshire Golf Union	http://www.yorkshireunionofgolf.co.uk
Leeds & District Union	http://www.ldugc.co.uk
The Royal & Ancient	http://www.randa.org
The PGA – European Tour	http://www.europeantour.com