# LYDD LINKS GOLF CLUB COMPETITION RULES

This document sets out the procedures and rules for **ALL Committee-run** competitions held at Lydd Links Golf Club under the guidance of the Rules of Golf.

The Rules of Golf define a committee as "the Committee in charge of the competition" and Rule 33-1 states that "the Committee must establish the conditions under which a competition is to be played". However, first and foremost, a committee must be appointed that will oversee all aspects of running the competition. In addition, members of the Committee must be clear as regards their authority to give decisions on matters such as Rules disputes, suspensions of play, local rulings, etc.

Members should be aware that tee times are a guide. Competitions may run early or late. Please arrive in plenty of time for your allotted tee time. It is recommended that members should be available to play 10 minutes before their allotted tee time.

## 1. ELIGIBILITY:

Every competition must be pre-registered using the designated club system.

1.1 To be eligible for entry to a competition a member must hold a current WHS Handicap index or must have submitted a minimum of 3 qualifying rounds of golf – see Rule 12.1. For all Board Competitions a member should have completed a minimum of 3 qualifying Sunday competition rounds in the past 12 months. Should a member have completed less than 3 qualifying Sunday competition rounds, they may still enter the competition but would NOT receive full board honours. This honour would be awarded to the next highest qualifying member. However, they would be eligible to receive any winnings from the prize fund.

## 2. CANCELLATIONS:

All cancellations to notify the Pro-Shop or Competition Secretary ASAP using the following methods:
Phone: 01797 320808
Option 1- Pro Shop or Option 2 – Bar
Email: committeelyddgc@gmail.com

Failure to do so or a 'no-show' will result in a written warning. Repeat offences will incur a penalty as follows:

- 1st offence - written warning.
- 2nd offence - banned from one competition.
- 3rd offence - banned from two competitions.
- 4th offence - banned from all competitions for a 12-month period.

## 3. MEDAL COMPETITIONS:

3.1 Monthly Medal competition is planned to be played on the first Sunday of the month. Playing handicaps will be at 95% or in line with current R&A Rules of Golf

3.2 Men and Ladies to compete in individual Medal competitions unless less than 5 ladies are entered. In this case those entries will then be entered into the Men's competition as previously set out by the club committee.

3.3 Men's competition to be divided into 3 divisions calculated as follows using players WHS index:

Division 1 – 10.4 and below
Division 2 – 10.5 – 17.4
Division 3 – 17.5 and above

3.4 A player wishing to enter a card for handicapping purposes will NOT be eligible to enter a Medal Competition.

3.5 Winners of a monthly Medal will automatically be entered into the Medal Winners Final at a date agreed at the end of the summer season.

3.6 Monthly Medal winners from each division will gain entry to the Medal Winners Final.

3.7 ONLY Medal winners are eligible to be entered into the Medal Winners Final, i.e. if a player wins more than one monthly Medal that player gains 1 entry, a player finishing second to a medal winner will NOT gain entry to the Medal Winners Final UNLESS they finish 2nd to a Second Club Member.

3.8 Second Club members can enter and win Monthly Medals however they cannot gain entry into the Medal Winners Final.

3.9 Medal Tee Markers:

- 1st October – 31st March – Middle Tees/Plates
- 1st April – 30th September – Back Tees
- 12 months – Ladies - Front Tees

## 4. STABLEFORD COMPETITIONS:

4.1 Monthly Stableford competition is planned to be played on the last Sunday of the month. Playing handicaps will be at 95% or in line with current R&A Rules of Golf.

4.2 Men and Ladies to compete in individual Stableford competitions unless less than 5 ladies are entered. In this case those entries will then be entered into the Men's competition as previously set out by the club committee.

4.3 Men's competition to be divided into 3 divisions calculated as follows using players WHS index:

Division 1 – 10.4 and below
Division 2 – 10.5 – 17.4
Division 3 – 17.5 and above

4.4 A player wishing to enter a card for handicapping purposes WILL be eligible to enter a Stableford Competition.

4.5 Stableford Tee Markers:

- 12 months – Middle Tees
- 12 months – Ladies - Front Tees

4.6 In a Mixed Stableford/Strokeplay Competition the ladies will use the Front Tee Indexes for scoring purposes.

**5. <u>WINTER LEAGUE – (PICK PARTNER/DRAWN PARTNERS)</u>:**

5.1 6 rounds of Better Ball Stableford format. Handicap to be at 85% or in line with current R&A Rules of Golf.

5.2 4 best scores to count.

5.3 If a playing partner fails to register for the event, the remaining player may choose to play his/her own ball only.

5.4 In the event of a tie after 6 rounds a countback will be used to determine the winner, the countback will be used as follows:

- Best 3 rounds, then best 2 rounds, then best round. If the teams are still tied, an 18-hole Better Ball, Stableford playoff will be required. The team with the best Stableford score after 18 holes will be deemed the winner.

**6. <u>SINGLE & PAIRS MATCHPLAY</u>:**

6.1 Players can choose to pick their own partner or be entered into a draw for a partner.

6.2 Draw to commence in March to be finalised by Competition Secretary and Club Management.

6.3 The club system will create the draw. The top named player should then present the opponent(s) with 3 suggested dates to play the match; this should include at least 1 weekend date. If a date cannot be agreed the match may take place on the last Sunday of the month in place of the monthly Stableford, if required. If an extension is required under extreme and/or unavoidable circumstances the relevant parties should notify the Competitions Secretary for approval. If the match cannot be completed, the top named player will be deemed the winner and advance to the next round.

6.4 If for any reason a team member or individual does not attend, the match will automatically be awarded to the opponents, UNLESS the opponents agree to reschedule the match.

6.5 In a team competition an individual may elect to play on without his/her partner, should they wish to do so.

6.6 Prize Fund payouts – see Rule 8.8.

6.7 In the event of a tied match after 18 holes players will play a sudden death playoff commencing down the 1st hole and then continue as normal. The first player(s) to win a hole will be deemed the winner. Original stroke allowance will continue.

6.8 In a Mixed Matchplay Competition the ladies will use the men's Blue Indexes for scoring purposes.

6.9 In Pairs Matchplay the shot allowance will be calculated using the following method. All players handicaps are calculated at 90% of their playing hcp (rounded up or down) or in line with current R&A Rules of Golf. For example:

*Team A player 1 playing hcp 6 x 90% = 5.4 = playing hcp 5, player 2 hcp 18 x 90% =16.2 = playing hcp 16 – Team B player 3 hcp 10 x 90% = 9 = playing hcp 9, player 4 hcp 20 x 90% = 18 = playing hcp 18. Team A player 1 has the lowest hcp and receives no shots – thereby playing off scratch. Team A player 2 will receive 11 shots (16-5) Team B player 3 will receive 4 shots (9-5) Team B player 4 will receive 13 shots (18-5).*

6.10 If a pair/individual decide not to complete the round leaving one pair/player without a marker, it was agreed the following steps should be implemented:

- The pair/player ask to join the group behind – the Pro Shop will give permission to play as a 6 ball if required.
- If the group behind do not agree, then the pair/player are allowed to mark their own card.
- If both pairs decide not to complete the round, there is no penalty, but if one pair walk in, they will be penalised on the same basis as cancellation in Sunday competitions.

6.11 If one of a pair is unable to play a future round, then a substitute may be made as long as the substitute player has not previously played in that competition.

## 7. BOARD COMPETITIONS:

7.1 All Board Competitions are considered 'mixed competitions' unless a Ladies trophy is awarded for that individual competition. However, for ALL Board Competitions if less than 5 ladies' entries are received the competition will be considered a mixed competition *(in line with rule 3.2 & 4.2*) in regard to entry fees paid and finishing position. Any winnings will be distributed under Rule 8.6. Under such circumstance the leading lady will still receive full board honours if an individual Ladies Trophy is awarded.

All Board Competition Tees:

- Men – Back Tees
- Ladies – Front Tees

7.2 Prize Money - see Rule 8.6.

7.3 3 Divisions as per Medal & Stableford formats.

7.4 The rules for the Amber Uttley Competition are not controlled by the Club Committee and are managed by the Organiser and Club Management. The rules of play and any prize-winning payouts will be included in the competition draw.

7.5 2 Board Competitions will run in conjunction with the Ash Rabson Competition. The Ash Rabson shall be open for all members with playing handicaps of 19 and above and will remain a standalone Stableford competition with full Board Honours. The remaining members can enter the Saunders Salver Nett & Saunders Salver Gross. This will be a Medal Competition with full Board Honours given to the lowest gross score AND lowest nett score.

7.5.1 Play to commence in handicap order from highest first.

7.6 Prize Money for Saunders Salver Nett & Saunders Salver Gross see Rule 8.9.

7.7 The Memorial Trophy will be an individual competition with a combined Hidden Pairs competition. The overall individual winner will receive full Board Honours. For entry fee and prize fund payouts see Rule 8.10. This is a mixed competition. There will NOT be a 2's competition.

7.8 The Peter Wood Memorial Trophy and The Presidents Cup will be open to all members. 5-day members will NOT be required to pay an additional Green Fee.

## 8. ENTRY FEE, PRIZE FUND & PAYOUTS:

8.1 1 x entry fee to be paid per player. Entry fees must be paid in full prior to a player teeing off. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.

8.1.1 All entry fees & prize fund distributions will be at the Treasurer's discretion, any changes to current entry fee levels to be voted and passed by the club committee.

8.2 Prize fund distributed as follows:

- 30% Members' Fund; 10% 2's competition pot; 60% main prize fund

8.2.1 In a mixed competition Ladies Members' fund contributions will be allocated to Ladies' Members Fund.

8.3 Both Medal & Stableford prize funds to be split as follows:

- Each division receives an equal split of the total prize fund, distributed as follows:
  - 1st – 60%
  - 2nd – 40%

With the exception of all board competitions and the Medal Winners Final – see rule 8.14

8.4 A 2's competition will be applicable for both competition formats AND all board competitions. Prize money from that week's 2's prize pot to be distributed evenly among any player(s) scoring a 2 during that competition. If a player scores more than one '2' they shall receive winnings on a pro-rata basis. If a 2 is not recorded during any given qualifying round, the entire prize fund available for that 2's competition will "rollover" to the next qualifying 2's competition.

8.5 A team competition will not be eligible for a 2's competition.

8.6 Overall winner(s) of a 'Board' Competition will be awarded an additional sum, agreed upon by the committee, on top of the standard payout structure, (see Rule 8.2 & Rule 8.3).

8.6.1 For all board competitions the prize fund will pay places 1st to 4th.
30 % Members fund – (20 % goes to trophy/board fund)
- (10 % goes into main fund)
10% - 2's competition
60% - Prize Fund (1st *40%* 2nd *30%* 3rd *20%* 4th *10%*)

8.7 Winter League entry fees are to be paid per player, per round.

8.7.1 Winter League entry fee distribution; 20% to fund final winners' pot; 20% members' fund; 60% prize fund per round.

8.7.2 Winnings per round distributed as follows: 1st 50%; 2nd 30%; 3rd 20% - split 50/50.

8.7.3 Final Winners Pot distributed as follows: 1st 60%; 2nd 40% - split 50/50.

8.8 Single & Pairs Knockout Matchplay – one off entry fee distributed 20% members' fund: 80% prize fund. Prize fund distributed 1st 50%; 2nd 30%; 3rd 20%. Pairs winning split 50/50.

8.9 Saunders Salver Nett & Saunders Salver Gross - 1st Nett 30%; 2nd Nett 20%; 1st Gross 30%; 2nd Gross 20%.

8.10 Entry fee for the Memorial Trophy will be defined by the Club Committee. The Prize Fund will be distributed as follows: 20% Members' Fund; 80% Hidden Pairs Prize Fund. The top 3 pairs prize split 50%, 30%, 20% - 50/50. There will NOT be a 2's competition.

8.11 Entry for the Peter Wood Trophy will be defined by the Club Committee; all proceeds will be donated to the British Heart Foundation. An additional sweep may be organised. In such a situation the Competition Secretary will communicate any additional entry fee and prize fund allocations.

8.12 Entry for the Captain's Trophy will be defined by the Club Committee; all proceeds will be donated to the Club Captain's designated charity for that year. An additional sweep may be organised. In such a situation the Competition Secretary will communicate any additional entry fee and prize fund allocations.

8.13 Club Championship will require a one-off entry fee to cover both days. Prize fund contributions will be distributed as follows: 10% Members Fund; 10% 2's competition to cover both days. The remaining 80% to be distributed as winnings in the following manner:

- Winner Gross - 25%; Winner Nett - 25%.
- Second Gross 15%; Second Nett – 15%.
- Third Gross – 10%; Third Nett – 10%

8.13.1 While the Ladies Section will conduct their competition independently under Rule 7.1, an additional prize will be awarded to the overall MIXED Gross Winner and the overall MIXED Nett Winner. The winner(s) will receive a supplementary sum—determined by the committee—in addition to the standard payout structure.

8.14 Medal Winners Final Prize Fund Allocation:

The total prize fund for the Medal Winners Final shall be distributed as follows:

- First Place**:** 50% of the total prize fund
- Second Place**:** 30% of the total prize fund
- Third Place**:** 20% of the total prize fund

In addition to the above, a 2's competition will be held.

## 9 SCRAMBLE/TEAM COMPETITIONS/FOURSOMES, ETC:

9.1 The format for any non-qualifying 2, 3 or 4 person scrambles or any other team competitions not already accommodated within the rules, will be determined by the Competition Secretary. The prize fund distributions will be determined between the Competition Secretary and Treasurer and communicated to members prior to entry.

9.2 'Ghost' players in team Texas Scrambles – The 'Ghost' players handicap shall be the average of the combined playing handicaps of the remaining players (example: 3 ball team in a 4 ball Texas Scramble - Player A Hcp 12, Player B Hcp 22, Player C Hcp 17, total combined handicap 51, therefore the 'ghost' player's handicap is 17. The team handicap will be a % of the combined handicap and will be calculated in line with current R&A Rules of Golf. Each player will act as the 'ghost' player on every 3rd hole, thereby they play two balls. The 'ghost' player's ball will always be the last ball hit.

9.3 The Lydd Ryder Cup will be a pairs competition to run alongside the Medal Winners Final. Members can pick their own partner or receive a drawn partner. The competition will be Stableford and played as follows: Holes 1-6 as Foursomes (handicap average of combined handicap) Holes 7-12 as Stableford Betterball, Holes 13 – 18 Singles, combined Stableford.

## 10. SECOND CLUB MEMBERS:

10.1 Second Club Members are not entitled to enter ANY board competitions including Singles and Pairs Matchplay and the Winter League, as voted on by members at the August 2025 AGM.

## 11. CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS:

11.1 The Club Championships will be a 2-day, Stroke Play event. The Order of Play for Day 1 will be in handicap order with the lowest handicap teeing off first. Day 2's Order of Play will follow the reverse order of Day 1's results.

11.2 In the event of a tie, the "Nett" competition will be decided via the countback system – last 9 holes, last 6 holes, last 3 holes, last hole. The "Gross" competition will use a sudden death playoff starting down the 1st hole. No handicap allowances will be awarded.

11.3 For Club Championship Entry fee and Prize Fund Distributions see Rule 8.13.

## 12. QUALIFYING ROUNDS OF GOLF:

12.1 A qualifying round of golf is deemed to be **an 18-hole stroke play or Stableford round**. All play must follow the **Rules of Golf** as approved by the R&A, along with any Local Rules set by the competition committee and be verified by an accompanying member.

12.2 All cards MUST be signed by the player and the marker. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.

## 13. ELIGIBILITY TO USE GOLF BUGGIES IN COMPETITIONS:

### 13.1 Buggy Access Form Requirement

To be eligible to use a golf buggy during any club-sanctioned competition, members must complete and submit the official **Club Buggy Access Form** prior to the day of play.

### 13.2 Medical Justification

- The member can, but is not required to, include a brief medical justification or supporting evidence (e.g. GP letter or self-certification) indicating a genuine need for mobility assistance.

- All submitted forms will be assessed by the Club Committee or appointed Welfare Officer. Approval will be granted on a rolling annual basis unless the member's condition changes.

### 13.3 Submission Deadlines

- Forms must be submitted no later than **48 hours before** the scheduled start time of any competition.
- Late or incomplete forms may result in denial of buggy access for that event.

### 13.4 Approved Use

- Once approved, the member may use a buggy only under standard course regulations and competition guidelines.

- Buggy use must not interfere with the pace of play or other participants' experience.

### 13.5 Review & Revocation

- The club reserves the right to review eligibility annually and revoke access if a member is found to be in breach of regulations or providing false information.

## 14. Members Hole in One Club

Membership of the Hole in One Club is open to all Club members who play in any weekend competition organised by the Club Committee.

Present membership costs £3.00, which may be paid at any time through the Pro-Shop.

Any member of the Hole in One Club who scores a qualifying hole in one is entitled to use the fund to pay for or subsidise his/her bar bill for a round of drinks for those playing in the competition. Any cash left in the fund after the bar bill has been paid will remain in the fund.

A member who scores a hole in one while playing a round of the Summer Singles or Pairs Matchplay, on any date other than the scheduled first round of the competition, IS eligible to claim the fund provided the match occurred on a Sunday in lieu of the regular scheduled competition.

A member scoring a hole in one when playing in any representative or external competition, for example the East Kent League, East Kent Evening League, etc., will not be entitled to claim the fund.

Once a claim against the fund has been made, membership will re-commence and a new entry fee of £3.00 will be required.

## 15. Force Majeure – Cancellation, Suspension and Refunds

### 15.1 Cancellation Prior to Completion

If any scheduled competition is cancelled prior to completion due to circumstances beyond the control of the Club (including but not limited to severe weather, course closure, natural disaster, or any other force majeure event), entry fees paid by competitors shall be refunded in full or, at the discretion of the Committee, credited towards a future competition.

### 15.2 Competition Deemed Completed

If a competition is commenced and subsequently completed, no refunds of entry fees shall be made, regardless of individual player withdrawal or inability to complete their round.

### 15.3 Two-Day Club Championship

The Club Championship shall be played over 36 holes across two days (18 holes each day). If the first day's play is suspended or abandoned due to force majeure, the Committee may reschedule the completion of the first round to the following day, with play resuming from the point of suspension.

In such circumstances, players may be required to complete the remaining holes of Round 1 and then play all 18 holes of Round 2 on the same day. The total Championship result will be determined from the aggregate scores over 36 holes as originally intended.

If it is not possible to complete 36 holes within the available time, the Committee reserves the right to reduce the Championship to 18 holes and declare the result based on the completed round.

15.4 **Committee Discretion**

The Committee shall retain sole discretion to determine:

- whether a force majeure event has occurred;
- whether a competition is considered completed; and
- the method and timing of any refunds or credits issued**.**