

Competitions Newsletter – March 2018

Those of you who read the AGM noticeboard or attended the AGM will know that Dave Reach has stood down from Chairman of the Competitions Committee. As his successor, I would like to thank Dave for his tremendous work over the past 8 years. Next time you see Dave, please pass on your appreciation too. (I'm sure a pint of lager wouldn't go amiss either!)

I have been working with the competitions team of Dave, Dennis Silk and John Himsworth for the past 18 months and until then I did not appreciate how much work goes into the organisation and administration of our competitions – and of course all on a voluntary basis. Many man-hours are expended every week, so thanks to the team and thankfully they are all going to continue with the good work with me as chair.

We meet at least once each week throughout the year, so if you have any concerns, comments or queries regarding competitions, rules or handicaps, feel free to forward them to us either in person or via the club e-mail address.

Some of you may have heard about proposed changes to the R&A Rules of Golf – at this stage that is what they are, proposals. The intention is that they are finalised and communicated during 2018, and implemented in 2019. So watch this space later in the year. In the meantime if you want to have an insight to the proposals, go to the R&A website at <https://www.rules.golf/#resourcesarea> and click on 'Draft New Rules of Golf for 2019'. Happy reading!

With the winter golf coming to an end, the real golfing season is not far away. The first competition is the Livingston Cup Qualifier 1 on Saturday 14th April, closely followed by the Eagle Trophy Round 1 on Thursday 19th April. For those who haven't been to the club much over the winter, don't forget to look out for the competition notices on the notice board and get your entries in, in good time. Also, please remember to top up your competition purse – this electronic payment system make things so much easier for the competitions team.

The November 2017 newsletter had an attachment titled 'Ready Golf', with a proposal that we adopt the guidance through the winter, to help speed up play. Everyone I have spoken to about this says it is helping the game flow better and is really just common sense. Therefore the competitions committee request that members continue to apply the Ready

Golf guidance on an ongoing basis. Please encourage and educate fellow members and guests to do the same. As a reminder, the guidance has been appended to this newsletter.

Finally, can I please remind you of the requirement to fill in score cards correctly. The full detail is covered under Rule 6-6, but in summary for a card to be valid, it needs to have as a minimum, the player's name, the competition name, the player's handicap, the gross score at each hole in the correct column, and the marker's and player's signatures. Unfortunately, there have been a few instances over the winter where we have had to disqualify players due to scorecard errors. Here are a couple of real examples:

- 1) Scorecard all filled in correctly except the players signature is missing.
Disqualification under Rule 6-6b.
- 2) 4BBB - Gross score 5 recorded in player 'A' column along with net score 4. But player 'A' did not have a shot on this hole. When queried by the committee, the player confirmed he actually scored 6 without a shot, but his partner (player 'B') scored a gross 5 with a shot. So although the overall net total would have been correct, the gross score was recorded in the wrong column. Disqualification under Rule 6-6d.

Remember that it is the player's responsibility to return a correct card, not the marker's.

Thank you and Happy Golfing.

Paul Fletcher (Chairman of Competitions Committee)

READY GOLF (i.e. Play when ready) - Guidance

(Note: Some guidance may not be suitable for Match Play)

General

IF YOU ARE READY TO PLAY AND IT IS SAFE, THEN PLAY!

'Play When Ready' DOES NOT mean RUSHING. If you prepare in advance, you can take your time AND play READY GOLF.

No "Honour" (except in Match Play) - the first player ready plays.

Players should play their own ball before helping to look for a lost ball.

When not playing your shot you should be preparing to play your shot.

Always keep up with the game in front.

Let a group through immediately you realise that you are more than a hole behind the group in front.

Players searching for a ball should allow the following group through as soon as it becomes apparent that the ball will not be easily found. Do not search for five minutes without doing so!

At the tee

Tee off on time, especially if you are the first game off on an early morning.

Mark scores upon immediate arrival at the next tee, except that the first player to tee off marks their card immediately after teeing off.

Hit a tee shot if ready! Don't wait for the player with the "honour".

Shorter hitters can play first from the tee or the fairway if the longer hitters have to wait.

On the fairway

Walk to your ball as soon as possible, so that you can choose a club and think about your shot in ADVANCE, do not wait until it is your turn to begin the process.

If you aren't ready when it is your turn, encourage someone else to play.

Hit a shot before you help someone to look for a lost ball.

Hit a shot if a person who has played from a bunker is still furthest away and is still raking the sand.

At the Green

When a player's ball has gone through the back of the green, any player closer to the hole chipping from the front of the green should play. Don't wait for the long walk to the back of the green.

Line up your putt BEFORE it is your turn to play and putt out short putts immediately without marking if you are not on someone's line.