



MOUNT PLEASANT GOLF CLUB

Handbook 2023 - 2024

Station Road, Lower Stondon, Beds, SG16 6JL
www.mountpleasantgolfclub.co.uk

01462 850999 events@mountpleasantgolfclub.co.uk



Welcome to Mount Pleasant Golf Club

The Management and Committees extend a warm welcome to all members. We hope you enjoy your golf throughout the year and look forward to seeing you soon.

Along with this handbook, we also regularly email news and events and updates are posted to social media.

Club Structure

Management/Proprietors - David, Ruth, Gavin & Tara Simkins

Course Director - Gavin Simkins, General Manager - Tara Simkins

Captains

Club Captain – Jonathan Brilus

Ladies Captain - Karen Clark

Seniors Captain – Andrew Walker

Vice Captains

Club Vice Captain -

Ladies Vice Captain - Chris Kermath

Seniors Vice Captain – Seniors Committee

Club Committee

Elected

Brian Sapsed (Chairperson)

John Bennett (Competition Secretary & Treasurer)

Di Little (Handicap Organiser)

Ex-Officio

Jonathan Brilus

Karen Clark

Andrew Walker

Gavin Simkins

Laurie Rosewell



Message from the Captains 2023

“After the taxing times of the previous years, 2022 saw the club return to near normal.

As always, we appreciate the time and effort the staff, management, committees, and members of the club have put into providing the best organisation, entertainment, catering and course conditions that they can, continuing to enhance the club's reputation. A big thank-you to the retiring Captains for guiding the Club over the past year.

The new holes continue to improve and the addition of signage, tee bins, extra tee markers, have all helped to add to the look and feel of the course. All these improvements added despite the news we received at the beginning of the year, that the owners had sold the course.

So, with the support of our three sections, let's make this a great year for the club and especially, you, the members.

We wish you all the very best for the forthcoming year.”

Matches 2023

Throughout the year all sections of the club participate in inter club friendly matches with local clubs, both home and away for the latest fixtures for each section please see the diary on the website or via this link - <https://teamup.com/ksmo781q8f43co956v>



Message from the Greenkeeping Team

Last year proved to be very challenging for the team with the weather causing many issues across the course. From slow growth in the spring to a long heatwave in the summer and snow in December. Throughout the year the Team worked extremely hard to keep the course in as good condition as possible.

This commitment will continue in 2023 and even though the course is closing at the end of February 2024, we will endeavor to present the course as good as we can. We would like to ask all the Members to help where they can by putting used tees in the boxes, replacing divots and repairing all the pitch marks they can see on the greens. This will really help keep the surfaces in good condition for play.

We hope you all enjoy your golf in 2023 and look forward to seeing you out on the course as much as you can.

Harry, Sam, Steve and Gavin

Handicaps

Handicap Committee

The club is affiliated with England Golf and therefore uses the World Handicap System (WHS)

Generally, adjustments of player's handicap index are made by the England Golf WHS platform. The Handicap Committee meets, as and when required, during the year to discuss issues relating to members' handicaps.

The handicap committee can make adjustments to a player's handicap index as detailed in Rule 7 of the Rules of Handicapping, in the following ways: -

- Conducting handicap reviews and adjusting handicap indices as a result of these reviews
- Including annual reviews of all handicaps or a review at a player's request
- Significant changes go to County for review
- Applying penalty scores – if a player fails to submit a score without a valid reason
- Withdraw handicap Index – if a player deliberately or repeatedly flouts the responsibilities of a player under the Rules of Handicapping
- Reinstate a handicap index

A player will be informed if their handicap index is to be changed as a result of a review by the committee and has the right to respond to the committee's decision.

Handicap Index

For Male & Female Golfers Plus to 54.0

WHS Handicap Index are recognised externally and enable players to enter both internal and external competitions (e.g. opens and county events) subject to specific handicap limits.

Players with WHS Handicap Index >36.0 for Men & >40.0 for Ladies are allowed to enter some but not all club competitions. Check entry conditions when signing up for all competitions.

A player's Handicap Index, under WHS, is based upon scorecards from up to 20 previous qualifying scores.

Obtaining a Handicap Index

Anyone wishing to obtain a Handicap Index must submit scorecards in any combination of 18-hole or 9-hole cards, so long as the total number of holes played is 54. To obtain a Handicap Index a member should comply with the following:

1. Advise the pro shop, before playing each round to confirm that the course set-up and condition is acceptable for handicapping purposes.
2. Play with a marker who must have a handicap index ≤ 36.0
3. Print Players & Markers name and the date on the card
4. Mark which handicap card (#1, 2 or 3 etc.) and indicate if a junior
5. Men play from the yellow tees, ladies (and juniors) play from the red tee
6. Ensure that both the marker and player sign the card.
7. Leave the completed card in the pro shop or in the box outside, on the same day

Handicap Software Provider

The Club's handicap software provider is Handicap Master, which enables members to access Master Scoreboard that displays member's Handicap Index, club competition results, scorecard entry and future events etc. The website can be accessed via a mobile phone, personnel computer or tablet etc.

To access Master Scoreboard, follow this link:

<https://www.masterscoreboard.co.uk/mobile/ClubIndex.php?CWID=2113>

England Golf & MyEG app

In addition, members can now access the WHS My England Golf platform. When first visiting the platform, you will need to ensure your email address is registered with your golf club and you know your EG Membership Number. A confirmation code and instructions will then be sent to your email address, just follow these instructions to activate your profile.

If you wish to create an account, then just click on this link and follow the instructions:

<https://members.whsplatform.englandgolf.org/signup>

Once registered the MyEG app can be downloaded, for free in Apple and Google Play stores. The app provides members with the ability to access their Handicap Index on the go, as well as to easily keep track of their overall playing record on a regular basis. The Course Handicap calculator is a unique feature of the app, enabling members to cross-reference their Handicap Index with whichever set of tees they will be playing from on a particular day, for any course in the country.

General Play Scores

Players with a WHS Handicap Index may submit an unlimited number of General Play scorecards per year with no restrictions on the number of cards that can be submitted per week. Players may submit 9-hole or 18-hole general play cards at any course in GB & NI which has a current course rating and slope rating.

To submit a General Play scorecard at Mount Pleasant a player must:

1. Pre-register on the touch screen system in the pro shop or Clubhouse lobby, or by using Master Scoreboard, before playing each round
2. Print name & markers name (who must have a WHS Handicap Index) & date on the card
3. Men may play from the white, yellow or red tees, Women (and juniors) play from the yellow or red tees.
4. Ensure that marker and player sign the card
5. Enter scores on the touch screen computer in the pro shop or the Clubhouse lobby, or by using Master Scoreboard after completion of round.
6. Leave the completed card in the pro shop or in the box outside, on the same day

9-Hole general play scores may be over the front or back 9-holes of the course.

You may submit general play cards from other courses. You must pre-register the card at that course before you go out to play. The method of pre-registration may vary from club to club.

You may be able to return your card to the club where you played and they will enter the score. If this is not possible, please return your card to Mount Pleasant Golf Club, your card must clearly indicate which set of tees you played from. You can also pre-register and enter your general play scores at an away course using the MyEG App.

Junior Handicaps

Juniors with a Handicap Index are welcome to play in all club competitions, except Seniors competitions, subject to the handicap limit in the entry conditions for each competition. Junior boys with a Handicap Index of >28.0, or do not yet have a Handicap Index, should play from the red tees at all times unless advised otherwise. Junior boys with a handicap of ≤28.0 should play from the yellow tees for general play and from the white tees in competitions. Junior girls play from the red tees at all times. The club operates an equity, equality and equal opportunities policy with regards to male and female juniors competing together in Junior competitions. Mount Pleasant uses software from Handicap Master, which is approved by WHS England Golf, for the allocation and maintenance of Juniors handicaps.

Competitions

Competition Details

Regular competitions are held throughout the year. The formats of these vary from monthly medals/stablefords to pairs competitions, texas scrambles, all day medals, winter and summer knockouts and major events (competitions with cups/shields and honour boards).

For each competition, there is an entry fee, which you are required to pay before you play. These entry fees are used to fund the purchase of trophies and vouchers for most competitions.

In competitions without trophies, prizes will be in the form of vouchers (amateurs may not win cash prizes), which can be redeemed for goods from the pro shop and food & drink in the clubhouse. With a few exceptions, all competitions are open to Men, Ladies and Juniors. Please check entry details on entry sheets.

How to Enter a Competition

Entry sheets for all competitions are placed on the noticeboard in the clubhouse, 3 weeks prior to the competition date. Entry books for matchplay knockout competitions are located in the pro shop, 4 weeks before the start date of the first round.

It is a requirement that all rounds for handicapping purposes (other than those used for the Initial Handicap Award) must be pre-registered either through the computer software or manually. Entering a competition or being named in a draw or a booking system is not in itself pre-registration. Registration must be confirmed on the day itself in the manner prescribed by the Competition Committee.

Club run competitions, unless otherwise stated in the conditions of competition, are not open to members without a handicap index.

18-Hole Summer Competitions (Handicap Index Men ≤ 36.0 & Ladies ≤ 40.0)

These take place generally on the third Sunday of each month (March to October). Tee-times are drawn from an entry sheet that is placed on the notice board three weeks in advance.

The pro shop handles the booking-in for these competitions and players must have checked in 15 minutes before their tee time to avoid a penalty.

All Day Medals/Stablefords (Handicap Index Men & Ladies ≤54.0)

These generally take place over two days on the second Saturday and Sunday of each month and played either as a medal or stableford format. Members may enter a card on one or both of the two days of an All-Day competition.

There are no set tee-times for these competitions and members play throughout the day booking their own tee-times through the pro shop. Entry fees are paid in the pro shop and players must enter their details in the competition entry book prior to play.

Preferably, entrants should play their round with at least one other member who is playing in the competition. However, they may play their round with another player, or players, not playing in the competition providing the player has a WHS Handicap Index.

Major Competitions (Handicaps Index Men ≤36.0 & Ladies ≤40.0)

The major competitions are:

Club Championships, Club Handicap Championships, Club 9-hole Tom James Championship, Pairs Handicap Championship, Senior Ladies Championships.

To be eligible to enter any Men's, Ladies and Seniors Major Trophy Competitions a member must have a WHS Handicap Index and have submitted two 18-Hole that are acceptable for handicapping at Mount Pleasant since 1st March in the year of the competition.

Matchplay Competitions (Handicaps Index Men ≤36.0 & Ladies ≤40.0)

All matchplay competitions require that entrants must hold a WHS Handicap Index at time of entry and have submitted two cards at Mount Pleasant, acceptable for handicapping purposes, since 1st July 2022

Other rules of entry will be specific to a particular competition so please read the entry sheets carefully. When entering a matchplay competition you are agreeing to abide by any rules stated in the competition rules posted on the notice board.

Ladies-only Competitions (April to October) -

- Ladies-only 18-hole Stableford competitions are held on the first Thursday of the month, with an alternate day on the first Sunday of the month. Ladies may enter either but not both of these competitions. Results from the 2 days are combined to determine prize winners.
- Ladies only 9-hole Stableford competitions are held on the third Thursday of the month
- Ladies-only 18-hole miscellaneous competitions are held on the fourth Thursday of the month, with an alternate day on the first Saturday in the month. Ladies may enter either but not both of these competitions. Results from the 2 days are combined to determine prize winners. The format of these competitions will be determined at the beginning of each month
- All these ladies-only competitions are open to all lady members with a handicap index
- Ladies must sign-up in advance for the allocated tee-times for the Thursday competitions
- Ladies are responsible for booking their own tee-times for the weekend alternate day competitions

The Ladies Matchplay Competition (Purlys) is open to all Lady Members with a Handicap Index ≤ 40.0 .

The Senior Ladies Championships is a maximum score competition open to lady members aged 50 and over with a handicap index ≤ 40.0 who have played in at least 2 x 18-hole singles strokeplay competitions at Mount Pleasant since 1st March 2023

Seniors Men's Competitions (Handicap Index ≤ 36.0)

These are played either in medal or stableford format and where possible, in the first and last week of the months March to October. The results from these go towards the Seniors Summer League (stableford) and the Seniors Summer Eclectic (medal). Similar Winter Stableford competitions are played once a month November to February. Tee-times for all these are drawn from entry sheets posted on the notice board three weeks in advance. The pro shop handles the booking-in and players must have checked in 15 minutes before their tee time to avoid a penalty.

9-Hole Summer League (Handicap Index Men & Ladies <=54.0)

On the first Wednesday of each month (April to September) there is an organised 9-hole competition on the following dates, to compete for the 9-Hole Summer League:

April 5th May 3rd Jun 7th July 5th Aug 2nd Sep 6th

To enter, members must add their name to an entry sheet, posted on the notice board, three weeks in advance. League points are awarded to the top 20 players on the evening and the league winner will be the player with the highest points scored from 4 of the 6 competitions.

The scores from these competitions will be recorded as qualifying scores in the players handicap records, in Stableford format, and be used for handicap purposes.

Winter Competitions

League & Knockout Matchplay (Handicap Index Men <=36.0 & Ladies <=40.0)

Entry books for these competitions are located in the pro shop, 4 weeks before the start date of the first round. Matches must be played by the dates shown and in accordance with the rules displayed on the club noticeboards.

Winter League (Stableford) (Handicap Index Men <=36.0 & Ladies <=40.0)

These competitions are as shown for the monthly medals, except that they are Stableford competitions. Points are awarded to all players and the league winner will be the player with the lowest number of points from 3 of the 4 competitions.

The Club Committee Responsibilities

The Club Committee is responsible for ensuring that all scorecards are entered correctly into the Handicap Master software on the club computer.

The software adds the gross scores entered, applies the correct playing handicap for the competition format, and generates the appropriate competition scores. The Club Committee is responsible for verifying and posting the competition results.

For competitions that are acceptable for handicapping, the scores are automatically downloaded by the software to the WHS platform overnight and handicap indices are updated the next day.

Tees

In all competitions, players should play from the tees designated on the competition entry sheet.

Notification of Results

Competition results can be viewed on Master Scoreboard. Changes to a Player's handicap index after a competition may be viewed on Master Scoreboard or the MyEG golf App, the day after the competition. Hard copies of results will be posted on the noticeboard in the week following the competition, and in addition, competition results are emailed out to members at the end of each month.

Players Responsibilities

Scorecards must be marked by a member, with a WHS Handicap Index, and if possible, scores should be entered on the touch screen computers in the pro shop or the Clubhouse lobby, immediately after completion of a round. All completed scorecards should be left in the pro shop, or deposited in the box outside, on the day of the competition.

Players are responsible for making sure that their card has recorded on it:

1. Members & Markers full name
2. Title i.e. competition name or general play
3. Date played
4. Correct gross score for each hole (including penalty shots)
5. Players current Course Handicap for the tee being played
6. Player's signature
7. Marker's signature

Failure to comply with 1, 4, 6, or 7 could result in disqualification from the competition.

In addition, scores can be submitted through a smartphone via Master Scoreboard.

All cards submitted are subject to verification before acceptance.

Rules

All competitions are run under rules as administered by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club and members should endeavour to carry an up-to-date rulebook or download the R&A Rules of Golf App to their smartphone. Additional rules, that are necessary from time to time, are posted on the noticeboard and displayed in the pro shop. It is the duty of each individual member to be acquainted with these rules prior to play.

Slow Play

Whilst we do not wish to spoil your game of golf, you should aim to complete your round in no more than 2 hours for 9 holes and 4 hours for 18 holes. If for any reason you are holding up people behind, you should let them play through. Remember that the position of a group on the course is immediately behind the group in front and not immediately in front of the group behind. Under the Rules of Golf, the Club Committee can penalise you for slow play, if playing in a club competition as follows: First offence: 1 shot penalty - Second offence: 2 shot penalty. Subsequent offences: Disqualification.

Etiquette

Always - rake bunkers after use, always - look for and repair any pitch marks on the green and always - replace divots on the fairway. Trolleys and buggies must NOT be taken between any greenside bunkers and the greens. Be courteous to others on the course and ensure compliance with the Rules of Golf.

Rules of Competition Entry

A member who knowingly writes their name on a Competition Entry sheet must email proshop@mountpleasantgolfclub.co.uk 24 HOURS BEFORE THE COMPETITION START TIME to advise that they are unable to play.

Non-notification or a late notification will result in a fine of the entry fee and a ban from entering club competitions for 28 days.

An unacceptable no show on the day of any medal or stableford competition will result in the enforcement of a fine of the entry fee and may occur a ban from one or more future competitions, in accordance with the rules of competition entry. Members are also responsible for their names being on a competition entry sheet and that not knowing is not an acceptable excuse.

Complaints Procedure

If you have a complaint, you should in the first instance, email or send it in writing to the Chairman of Club Committee, who will then pass it on to the County Committee if necessary.

Disputes or Questions

During a stroke play round of golf, you may come across situations where you are unsure of the rules. In this case, you should complete the hole in accordance with rule 3.3a - you may play a second ball without penalty, however, you must inform your marker that you intend to invoke this rule. Prior to returning your scorecard, you should discuss the situation with a member of the Club Committee or the Club Professional.

All other disputes/questions regarding club competitions should be communicated via the Club Committee. No other persons have the authority to make rulings.

Competition Dress Code

Players are requested to wear appropriate golf attire, such as collared or roll neck shirt/blouse, tailored trousers or tailored shorts.

Specific Winter Rules

During the winter months, the main greens generally remain in play during frosty or poor weather conditions and scores in singles 18-hole competitions are still accepted for handicapping purposes. However, if the condition of the course is considered not good enough to warrant scores being used for handicapping, then before the commencement of a competition, the course condition will be declared unacceptable (despite it being playing to its full-length course, with main greens & tees etc.). The scores returned will then not count towards a player's handicap.

In addition, the option to submit general play cards may be suspended due to poor course conditions or closures of main greens/tees or bunkers.

The decision that declares the scores not acceptable for handicapping will be made jointly by a representative of the Club Committee, pro shop personnel and greenkeeping staff.

Members are reminded that if temporary greens are in use, then play is not permitted from the main greens, relief must be taken in accordance with Rule 25.3. Similarly, during play on normal greens relief must be taken from temporary greens in accordance with rule 25.

Members Tee Times

It is advisable for members to use their booking rights to guarantee tee times. Members are now able to book tee times online 15 days in advance via the BRS Golf app, any new members or those members that have not registered on the platform will need to obtain their log in details from the pro shop. Alternatively, members can still book tee times in person at the pro shop or by calling the pro shop on 01462 850999. Non-members may book 8 days in advance, so any members turning up to play without a booking may not be able to play, if the course is busy, until the next available tee time.

Members Account Cards

Below are some of the main points to remember when using your card:

- This is a member benefit and your card is not transferable to others i.e. you should be present for all transactions
- You can use your card in the pro shop and may pay green fees and purchase pro shop goods using your card. Please note no discount is applicable
- The 10% discount applies to food and bar purchases only
- Your card can be topped up, minimum £5.00, at the bar and the pro shop using cash or credit/debit card
- To qualify for the discount your account must be in credit and the whole transaction must be paid for via your account card. Part payment of card and cash is not accepted, you can, however, top up your card mid transaction
- There is no manual override on the till so please remember your card
- No discount offered on events, such as Mother's Day and Christmas dinners
- Should you resign your membership from the club monies on your card are forfeited

It is hoped that you continue to enjoy the benefits but would like to point out that the club reserves the right to amend these criteria at any time, without any prior notification and reserve the right to withdraw the card from any members who do not comply with the terms & conditions.



SmartGolfer

Available only to Adult Gold & Silver Memberships

The SmartGolfer Network offers members access to other golf courses inclusive within its own membership charges. The access of network club's members to each other's courses is not open ended. Each club in the network makes available 2 tee times per day, Monday to Friday, as being available to other SmartGolfer network club members.

Once those times are taken, it is at the discretion of the host club as to whether they will allow further tee times on that day. Access can be gained at the weekends but at the discretion of the host club. On days where the host club is busy with golf societies, club competitions etc, the host club has the option to not offer any tee times on that day.

Full terms and conditions are available from the pro shop. There are currently over 30 clubs in the network which members can play 2 rounds a year.

Visit <https://www.smartgolfer.co.uk> for details of the reciprocal golf rules and to see the list of golf clubs in the SmartGolfer Network. SmartGolfer is only available to Gold and Silver members; however, Bronze members may play with Gold and Silver members but they are required to pay the SmartGolfer society green fee.



Prize Vouchers

Vouchers that are awarded to members for winning competitions can be used to purchase goods and green fees from the pro shop and food and drink in the clubhouse.

From 1st March 2022, we allowed these to be used as top up on members' cards. Should you wish your voucher to be allocated as top up you will need to submit this to the Pro Shop for administering. Please note these will be allocated on Fridays only and will be reduced in value by 10% to account for the member's discount. All other conditions remain the same and the management reserve the right to amend or remove this policy.

Not Valid For

- Event tickets, such as Club dinner, Committee events, Valentines & Mother's Day
- Club repairs, grips etc. and membership or affiliation fees

Voucher conditions of use

- Must be redeemed in full, no change given
- Cannot be reduced in value to account for members' discount
- Are non-transferable, must be used by the bearer only
- Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers
- Must be used within their expiry date, no extension permitted

General Information

Bedfordshire County Course Card

The Bedfordshire County Golf Union operates a county card scheme, which is available to all members. The aim of the scheme is to allow members to play at other golf clubs (up to twice a year), at a reduced green fee (normally members guest rate). This scheme extends to other counties.

The County Card is free to all members. Please ask at the pro shop for more information. It is a credit card style card valid for 1 year, from 1st April to be validated in future years by the application of a sticker, so should be retained for re-use.

Please check noticeboards for events run throughout the year such as quiz nights, murder mystery evenings, Christmas carols, 'Ascot' afternoon tea, race nights etc.

Societies

The club accepts societies at any time during the week and at quiet times during the weekend. Societies may book up to a year in advance. When booking, care is taken to avoid any regular bookings, however, this is not always possible and some regular times may need to be moved slightly to accommodate a group booking.

The club offers a wide variety of society packages from, 9-holes with bacon baguettes up to 27-holes with lunch and evening meal. Members wishing to bring their society or group of friends to play for the day can find more information from the pro shop or website or proshop@mountpleasantgolfclub.co.uk

Major Trophy Winners 2022

Club Champion	Andrew McNulty
Lady Champion	Alison Stroomer
Seniors Champion	Steve Moss
Senior Ladies Champion	Alison Stroomer
Veterans Cup	Donald Brace
Spavins Matchplay	Jonathan Brilus
ColourDecor Pairs	Nick Holmes & Nicholas Berry
Seniors Pairs Matchplay	Ruth Reynolds & Alison Day
Div I Scratch Matchplay	Kesir Sangha
Div II Scratch Matchplay	Jonathan Brilus
Ladies Matchplay (Purlys)	Susan Jenkins
Seniors Matchplay Champion	Roger Manning
Men's Handicap Champion	Raymond Cutts
Ladies Handicap Champion	Alison Stroomer
Seniors Handicap Champion	Donald Brace
Tom James Champion	Luke Fensome
Queen Mother Trophy	Luke Fensome
Pairs Champions (Diamond Bowl)	Brian Sapsed & Bryan Ellis
Pairs Winter Foursomes (2021)	David Chenery & John Clark
Pairs Winter League (2021)	Brian Sapsed & Roger Manning
Mens Player of the Year	TBA
Ladies Player of the Year	TBA
Seniors Player of the Year	Roger Manning

Contact Information

Club Captain – Jonathan Brilus	07376 099877	jonathan.brilus@gmail.com
Lady Captain - Karen Clark	07753 510484	kazdavclark@hotmail.com
Seniors Captain – Andrew Walker	07974 114419	andytheeagle@hoymail.com

Proudly supporting



Pro Shop Manager - Laurie Rosewell	proshop@mountpleasantgolfclub.co.uk
Operations Manager - Trace Buggins	events@mountpleasantgolfclub.co.uk
Office Manager - Natasha Tocha	events@mountpleasantgolfclub.co.uk

Pro Shop - 01462 850999
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