

Stockwood Vale Golf Club

Constitution

1. Name of the Golf Club and Objectives of the Committee

The name of the Club is STOCKWOOD VALE GOLF CLUB, henceforth referred to as 'the Club' and the objectives of the Committee shall be as follows:

- a) to promote the game of golf.
- b) to initiate and organise social activities on behalf of the club.
- c) to take opportunities to publicise the club's activities and forward the interests and reputation of the club.
- d) to determine the handicaps of all playing members
- e) to uphold the rules of the club and to bring them to the attention of members and visitors who breach such rules.
- f) to actively uphold golfing etiquette.
- g) to deal with the complaints of members and to bring them to the attention of the club management if necessary
- h) to arrange the programme of golfing events and competitions.
- i) to administer such funds, to include competition entry fees, charitable donations and other income, as the committee may raise to the benefit of members.
- j) to arbitrate in disputes between members.

2. Membership

- * The categories of membership are as follows:
- * **Gold membership** involves the highest membership subscription and confers the greatest numbers benefits. It is the only subscription category where green fees are not payable.
- * **Silver Membership** involves the next highest membership subscription and among other benefits, green fees are not payable on weekdays, and reduced green fees are payable at all other times.
- * **Green Membership** involves a significantly lesser membership subscription and the benefits include reduced green fees at all times.
- * **Blue Membership** involves a nominal membership fee and is the lowest playing membership category. Full green fees are payable at all times, but Blue members have the significant benefit of being able to obtain an official handicap recognised by the E.G.U or L.G.U and play in Club competitions on payment of Golf Union subscriptions
- * **Social membership** will be open to anyone (subject to Rule 16). This category does not confer any rights to use the Golf course, but will allow members to take part in all the social events of the Club.

All members of the Club shall be eligible for membership to the Committee, may submit motions to, attend or speak at (by invitation of the Chairman) Committee meetings.

The very nature of the Club (Pay and Play) means that a significant proportion of the players on the course will be Casual Players (i.e. non-members). The following rules and Bye-Laws apply also to these Casual Players but are not enforceable by the Committee (with the single exception of Bye-Law (a)4). The members expect therefore that the Management will take active steps to enforce these Rules and Bye-Laws (which must therefore be prominently displayed in the Clubhouse) in order to avoid the application of double standards.

An individual wishing to become a member of the Club should be given a copy of a summary of these Rules and Bye-Laws and asked to sign a form confirming that he/she is willing to abide by the Rules and Bye-Laws before being accepted as a member.

3. Definitions: Constitution, Rules and Bye Laws

- a) *Constitution* deals with the relationship between the Members, the Committee, the Club's Management and the ruling bodies of the game. The Club's constitution may only be changed with the approval of the members at a General meeting. Any motion proposing a change shall be dealt with in the same way as other motions under Rule 11. but shall require a majority of at least two thirds of these voting on the motion.
- b) *Rules* these are individual subject headings of the Constitution, i.e. Rule 2 relates to member categories and rights in relation to the Committee.
- c) *Bye-Laws* the Committee shall have the authority to make and publish such Bye- Laws as may be desirable to cover matters that do not merit, or are not suitable for, treatment by Rule e.g. standards of dress, permissible playing combinations, etc.
- d) *Interpretation* Any question about the construction and meaning of the Rules and Bye-Laws shall be referred to the Committee whose interpretation shall be final.

4. Officers of the Committee

Officers Captain, Vice-Captain (Captain Elect), Ladies Captain, Seniors Captain, Committee/Handicap Secretary and Competition Secretary and Treasurer (see rule 7(e)), Management Representative
Additional Elected members 3

* No individual may hold more than two (2) posts on the Committee (subject to Rule 7(e)). In the event that the AGM is unable to fill all the elected posts on the Committee, the task of filling such posts is delegated to the Committee.

* All Committee Officers must be members of the Club (Gold, Silver, Green, Blue or Social).

The Officers shall be Appointed as follows:

a) **Chairman**

By the election of one of the eight (8) Committee Officers at the first formal meeting of the Committee following the Annual General Meeting. He/she shall serve for one year and be eligible for re-election so long as he/she remains a Committee member.

b) **Captain**

By the elevation of the current Vice-Captain. He/she shall serve for one year commencing at the Annual General Meeting.

c) **Vice-Captain and Competition Secretary**

By decision of the incoming Club Captain and past Club Captains (who are still Club members) at a special meeting with advice from the Club Manager, and subject to the approval of the committee. The club membership is asked to support the choice at the Annual General Meeting. If the choice is not supported at the AGM then responsibility for making the choice returns to the full committee. He/she shall take office when his/her predecessor succeeds to the Captaincy

d) **Committee/Handicap Secretary**

His/her appointment shall be by election at the Annual General Meeting. He/she shall serve for one year and be eligible for re-election after such time.

e) **Treasurer**

His/her appointment shall be by election at the Annual General Meeting. He/she shall serve for one year and be eligible for re-election after such time.

The Committee may make the following additional appointments from within the ranks of the Committee (normally form amongst the elected members) at its first meeting after the AGM.

a) **Trophy Secretary**

In addition, the committee may co-opt any member of the club on to the committee who it feels may bring additional expertise or to gain experience, for example the current Ladies and Seniors Vice Captains. The committee may co-opt up to a maximum of 3 members per year.

5. Nomination and Election of Officers

The election of officers, in accordance with Rule 4, shall take place each year at the Annual General Meeting.

Nomination papers shall be posted on the main notice board in the clubhouse at least four (4) full weeks prior to the date of the AGM and no nomination shall be brought before the AGM unless entered on the nomination paper by a date that is seven (7) days prior to the AGM.

Each candidate shall be proposed and seconded by two members and the election shall be by ballot. In every case, a nomination must be validated by the consent of the member nominated.

If the ballot does not produce a clear cut result because two or more of the candidates have polled an equal number of votes, those who have tied shall be subjected to a second ballot. If there is still a tie then lots shall be drawn to select the successful candidate.

6. Resignation of Officers

In the event of the resignation of the Captain before the completion of his/her term of office, the Captain Elect becomes Captain and continues to hold that office until the second AGM following the date of resignation of the Captain.

In the event of the resignation of the Captain Elect, the Captain shall appoint a replacement for the remainder of the year subject only to the agreement of the Committee.

In the event of the resignation of both the Captain and the Captain Elect, the Committee shall appoint a new Captain and Vice Captain to hold office until the second AGM following the resignation of the two officers.

In the event of the resignation of a Committee member (who's post is normally subject to election at a General Meeting), more than four (4) months prior to the next AGM, nomination forms shall be made available to the membership by display on the main notice board. All nominations received will be subject to a vote by the members of the Committee. The nominee receiving the most votes will be requested to join the committee for the remainder of the club year.

Any Officer or Committee member who is absent without notification or apology from three (3) consecutive meetings shall be deemed to have resigned.

7. Duties and Responsibilities of Officers

a) Chairman

To conduct the affairs of the Committee and preside over the approved minutes of their meetings. Where there is a tie between the votes cast for and against a motion before the Committee, he/she shall have the right to a casting vote. In his/her absence from any meeting, the Committee shall elect one of their number to take the chair for that meeting.

b) Honorary Treasurer

To supervise the financial transactions of Competitions, Social events, and any other income and expenditure of the Committee and advise on it's financial affairs, and to prepare before each AGM a statement of accounts. Each annual statement of accounts must be audited by a third party

c) Committee/Handicap Secretary

To conduct correspondence with respect to matters concerning the Committee; to keep proper minutes of all General Meetings; in consultation with the Chairman to arrange the agenda for and convene all meetings of the Committee; to keep such books, documents and records as the Committee may require, to give all notices required by the Committees Rules/Regulations and to Chair the Competition and Handicapping Sub-Committee during items of business concerning handicaps.

d) Captain

The captains duties are wide-ranging and traditional, but he/she is especially concerned with the welfare and conduct of the members; with the management of competitions; with the condition of the course; and with promoting the good standard of the club. He/she is the "first citizen" of the Club, and is normally expected to preside at all ceremonial occasions. He/she selects the Captains of the Club's league team/s and the Junior Section, and in conjunction with past Captains (see Rule 4c) nominates the Vice Captain (subject to ratification by the Committee).

e) Vice Captain

The Vice Captain is the Captain elect, and in that capacity he/she is expected to assist and support the Captain in his/her duties. The Captain elect will always undertake the duties of Competition Secretary..

f) Competition Secretary

The competition secretary is responsible for organising the annual programme of Club competitions and matches, and chairs the Competition and Handicapping Sub-Committee for all business with the exception of handicap matters. The Competition and Handicapping Sub-Committee will have a maximum of 5 members including the Captain, Committee/Handicap Secretary, Social Secretary and Management Representative. The quorum for this sub-committee is two (2) members.

g) Trophy Secretary

The Trophy Secretary is responsible for the purchase and maintenance of Club trophies throughout the year and prior to presentation at either an AGM or Presentation event

At the first Committee meeting after the AGM, the Committee shall appoint a Competition and Handicapping Sub-Committee (the majority of which shall be elected members) which shall have complete control over handicapping matters in the club (see Rule 7f). S.G.U. Rule 3b(vi).

8. Committee Meetings

The Committee shall meet at least 9 times a year. The Secretary shall give a minimum of 5 days written notice of such a meeting to every member of the Committee, and the notice shall state the nature of the business or quote precisely the motion to be discussed.

Each of the members of the Committee shall have the right to a vote at Committee meetings and, in the event of a tied vote, the Chairman shall have the right to a casting vote.

At all Committee meetings, at least 66% of the total number of Committee members shall constitute a quorum.

9. Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the club shall be held as near as possible to 31st October, but not later than 30th November, the date being decided by the Committee.

Notice of the AGM, and details of any special business to be discussed (full details to be published on the Club notice board), shall be sent to each member at his/her last known e-mail address at least twenty-one (21) days before the date of the meeting. Any motion for discussion at the AGM shall constitute special business and shall therefore be notified to the Secretary in writing at least four (4) weeks before the AGM for inclusion of details in the pre-AGM notice to members.

The Chairman shall normally take the Chair at General Meetings, at which he/she shall have the right to a casting vote (in addition to his/her vote as an ordinary member).

10. Extraordinary General Meetings

The Committee, may when they deem it necessary, convene an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM). The Committee shall also convene such a meeting within twenty-eight (28) days of receipt by the Secretary of a request signed by no fewer than twenty (20) members of the Club.

The request shall contain details of the motion to be proposed by the members requesting the meeting. The notice convening an EGM shall be sent to each member at his/her last known address at least fourteen (14) days before the date of the meeting and it shall contain details of the motion to be discussed. No other business shall be raised at the meeting, but the amendments to the motion may be discussed if there is a proposer and seconder.

11. General Meeting Procedure

Members may wish to discuss and debate a motion put to a General Meeting before voting on its acceptance.

An amendment to the wording of the original motion may arise out of this debate.

A member wishing to propose such an amendment must specifically state, "I propose an amendment to the motion" and then proceed to carefully state the additional or revised form of words.

The meeting must then vote on the acceptance or not of the amendment to the wording of the motion.

The meeting must now vote again- this time to either accept the motion (with the freshly agreed form of words) or reject it.

If the amendment is accepted but the motion then rejected, it is not permissible to re-visit the original motion and vote on it. Once an amendment is accepted, the original motion no longer exists as far as the General Meeting is concerned.

12. Club Captain's Blazer

The committee will arrange for the purchase of a Blazer for each incoming Club Captain. The blazer will be paid for from committee funds, shall be wine (red) in colour and have the club badge and the year of captaincy embroidered on the breast pocket. The blazer is presented to the incoming Captain when he/she takes office at the AGM.

13. Quorum At General Meetings

At all General Meetings of the Club, thirty (30) members shall constitute a quorum.

14. Ladies' Section

The Ladies section shall elect their own Ladies Committee, Captain, Vice-Captain, and other officers to deal with the affairs of the section. The Lady Captain is automatically a member of the Committee. They shall make their own rules for the conduct of Ladies' competitions, and in respect of other matters not covered by the Club Rules And Regulations. All rules so made and/or amended shall require the Committee's approval.

15. Seniors Section

The Seniors section shall elect their own Seniors Committee, Vice-Captain, and other officers to deal with the affairs of the section. The Seniors Captain is automatically a member of the Committee. They shall make their own rules for the conduct of Seniors' competitions, and in respect of other matters not covered by the Club Rules And Regulations. All rules so made and/or amended shall require the Committee's approval. A member shall qualify as a Senior on reaching the age of 55 and shall qualify for entry to Seniors Club competitions if the day of the competition is on or after the individual reaches the age of 55.

16. Juniors

. A member shall qualify as a Junior and be eligible to pay the Junior Subscription rate if he/she is under 18 on 1st May (the start of the clubs subscription year.)

17. Discipline

The Club shall duly exercise the disciplinary powers delegated to them under the English Golf Union Constitution (S.G.U Rule 3b(v)) which includes;

Power to expel any member who has wilfully acted contrary to any of the Rules or Bye-Laws of the Club, or who, by offensive or disagreeable conduct shall have become unacceptable or obnoxious to other members of the Club.

The Committee may, at their discretion, send to such an offender a private notice giving him/her the opportunity to resign from the Club to avoid the ignominy of expulsion.

Any member having been expelled or having resigned to avoid being expelled shall have his/her name entered in the Club's records as 'persona non grata' and shall not be entitled to recover any moneys paid by him/her to the Club.

No person who is 'persona non grata' shall be readmitted into membership without the unanimous approval of the Committee.

The Committee has the power to suspend or fine members or take any other that it feels appropriate.

The Committee is accountable to the members for any disciplinary action taken and must submit a report at the AGM detailing all disciplinary action taken.

18. Resignation

Any member wishing to resign membership of the Club shall notify his/her intention to do so to the Club Secretary on or before the effective date of resignation.

19. Rules Of The Game

The Club agrees to recognise the Royal & Ancient Golf Club Os St Andrews (R&A) as the ruling body of Amateur Golf and shall abide by the rules of Golf and Amateur status as laid down from time to time by the R&A. (S.G.U. Rule 3b(i))

The Club agrees to comply with the Council Of National Golf Unions' Regulations and Rules of the Standard Scratch Score & Handicapping Scheme (and any conditions imposed within the scheme by the English Golf Union). (S.G.U. Rule 3b(ii))

The Club agrees to comply with the constitution and Rules of the English Golf Union, the Ladies Golf Union and the Somerset Golf Union as laid down from time to time. (S.G.U. Rule 3b(iii)). The Club shall pay all subscriptions due to the Somerset Golf Union and to the English Golf Union in respect of every male playing member of whatever category. (S.G.U. Rule 3b(iv)). The Club shall also pay all subscriptions due to the Ladies Golf Union. The Committee shall appoint three delegates to the Council of the Somerset Golf Union at its first meeting after the AGM and they shall take office at the next AGM of the Somerset Golf Union and hold office until the next such AGM. The names of these delegates are to be submitted to the Somerset Golf Union as soon as possible.

The Committee shall have the power to make 'Local Rules' from time to time to meet the individual requirements of the Club, but only within the limits allowed in the R&A Rules.

20. Handicaps

The Club agrees to comply with the Council Of National Golf Unions' Regulations and Rules of the Standard Scratch Score & Handicapping Scheme (and any conditions imposed within the scheme by the English Golf Union). The rights and obligations of players, with which all members should make themselves conversant, are described in Clause 13 of the scheme, which stipulates inter alia, that a player shall have one handicap only which shall be allotted by his *Home Club*. That handicap shall apply elsewhere including other clubs of which the player is a member. Any player who is a member of more than one affiliated club must select one as his *Home Club* and notify that club and the others of his/her choice.

21. Dogs

No member or visitor (with the exception of a blind person) shall under any circumstances bring a dog into the clubhouse or allow a dog to accompany him/her during a game of golf.

22. Buying Of Golf Balls

No member or visitor shall buy golf balls at the Club anywhere but in the Professional Shop.

23. Complaints And Suggestions

Complaints and suggestions are welcomed by the Committee. Such comments shall be made in writing to the Committee Secretary and signed, with the name also printed legibly.

24. Dress

Minimum standards of dress shall be laid down in the Bye-Laws authorised by the Committee and prominently displayed on the main notice board. Any member or guest of a member who fails to conform to those standards shall be required to leave the course or Clubhouse. Any member who persists in ignoring the dress regulations shall be dealt with under Rule 16.

25. Litter

Any member who wilfully deposits litter (packages, paper, drink cans etc.) on the course or in the clubhouse, other than in waste bins shall be liable to one month's suspension on the first offence. A repetition of the offence shall be dealt with under Rule 16. Members may also tactfully request non-members not to deposit litter on the course.

26. Golfing Guests And Visitors

Members may introduce golfing guests on payment of the appropriate green fee provided there is no club competition in progress, and provided the guest is not for any reason barred. Members are reminded that they are responsible for the standard of behaviour and etiquette of their guest/s while they are on the course or in the clubhouse.

Stockwood Vale Golf Club Bye-Laws

a) Conditions Of Play

1. Pace of Play and Priority on the Course

Under the R&A Rules of Golf if a group is delaying others, it should invite the group behind to play through, irrespective of the number of players in that group. Priority on the course is determined only by a groups pace of play. A group consists of 1-4 players

2. Playing Equipment

Players may not share the same set of clubs during play except where this is permissible within official Club competitions under the R&A Rules of Golf.

3. Sequence Of Play

Once started, all the games or matches should play holes in their proper sequence. Players who fail to do so have no standing on the course for the remainder of their round of golf.

4. Breaches Of Etiquette And Slow Play

Breaches of etiquette and slow play are to be discouraged and serious instances of either should immediately be reported to the Club Manager (or to another senior member of staff in his absence)

b) General

1. Dress

A clean and tidy standard of dress is required at all times in accordance with the Club's current policy. Jeans in a tidy condition are permitted on the Driving Range in the Clubhouse and on the Practice areas.

2. Clubhouse

a) Toilets: shoes, equipment, balls etc. must not be washed in the hand basins.

b) Furniture And Fittings: members causing damage to furniture and fittings will be expected to pay for the required repairs or restoration. Such individuals may be called to account for their actions in front of the Committee (Rule 16).

c) Television: the television is intended for occasional use only and the volume must be kept to a reasonable level at all times.