



**REDBOURN**  
GOLF CLUB  
MEN'S SECTION

# MEMBER'S HANDBOOK 2024-25

This handbook should help you gain a better understanding of the Men's Section. The main thing to know is that there is always someone around who will be able to help you if you have any questions.

Whether you are a competitive golfer, like to play for your own pleasure, a high or low handicapper, experienced player or novice, there are opportunities for you to get involved throughout the year. We run competitions throughout the year, Club competitions and Inter-club competitions. Please read this booklet in conjunction with the Rules of Etiquette available at the end.

## 1. THE MEN'S COMMITTEE

The Men's section is managed by a committee currently comprising of 10 members.

- Last year's Captain - Chair
- The Men's Captain
- The Men's Vice Captain
- Treasurer
- Representative from the Friars
- Fixture secretary
- Management Representative
- Up to three more co-opted Committee Members

The term of office for Committee Members is usually 3 years.

The duty of the committee is to further the interest of golf within the section and to maintain and regulate all Men's handicaps, competitions and matches.

A Committee Member is nominated as being responsible for introducing and supporting New Members into the Men's Section.

There is also an Events, Social and Communication committee which comprises of a mixture of men and women drawn from the other committees and some co-opted members. The committee is

responsible for organising mixed events, social events and charity fund raising. This committee is also responsible for communicating the upcoming club events, competitions and other social activities to the members through email bulletins, noticeboard information and clubhouse promotional material.

## **A BRIEF GUIDE TO HANDICAPS**

To compete in competitions and medals in the Men's Section, you will need to gain an official handicap. The handicap system allows golfers of differing degrees of skill to compete against each other. In 2020, The World Handicap System was introduced to welcome more players, make golf easier to understand and to give all golfers a handicap which is portable around the globe.

- **Handicap Index**

Handicap Index is a measure of a player's demonstrated ability calculated against the Slope Rating of a standard course. This represents your potential scoring ability and is the baseline used to determine your actual course handicap and playing handicap at a particular course or competition, based on the difficulty of that course.

- **Course Handicap**

Every course has a Slope Rating, which is a measurement of difficulty of a golf course for an average amateur golfer. It also allows golfers to go to different golf courses and adjust their handicap index up or down depending on how difficult each course plays. The Slope Rating is applied to your handicap index to determine your Course Handicap. The standard Slope Rating against which the Handicap Index is quoted is 113. The Slope Rating for the red tees at Redbourn is 117. The Slope Rating for the yellow tees at Redbourn is 123. The Slope Rating for the white tees at Redbourn is 125.

The Playing Handicap is calculated by applying the appropriate handicap allowance to your Course Handicap. For example, for competition formats where handicap allowance of 100% is adopted, your Playing Handicap will be same as your Course Handicap. In some competitions, your handicap allowance is reduced, for example, in a Stableford competition, your Playing Handicap is 95% of your Course handicap.

- **Obtaining your handicap**

Handicaps are required to be eligible to play in all competitions and inter-club matches. In order to obtain a handicap, you will need to register three scorecards amounting to 54 holes. Your score card must be marked by a member with a handicap. You then submit your scorecards to the club administration office. You can submit them individually, but it is probably best to submit all three together.

From those scorecards an initial Handicap Index will be provided. You will be registered onto the club's computer software, HowDidIDo (HDID) which is an App that can be downloaded onto a smartphone that provides golf clubs an online home for competition results and handicap lists. On HDID you can find details of your previous qualifying rounds, your handicap and lots of other useful information. Some parts of HDID can also be accessed via the Player Score Input (PSI) facility, which is a screen situated on the left in the corridor that leads to the Men's locker room.

When 20 cards have been submitted you will have your fully developed Handicap Index whereby your index is calculated as an average of the best 8 scores from your last 20 submitted score cards. However, whilst you are working up to 20 cards, a sliding scale of your best cards are used i.e. the average of 2 best scores from only 6 cards entered, the average of 4 best cards from only 14 cards entered etc.

Once registered on HDID you can enter as many scorecards as you like. However, **you must pre-register on** HDID if you want to submit a social score that is to count towards your Handicap Index. If you do pre-register on HDID, then you **MUST** submit a score, otherwise England Golf will penalise you. If there are difficulties, then the Club officers can help you.

## 2. **COMPLETING SCORECARDS**

When starting a round of golf, you will fill in the top section of a scorecard and the following details are essential:

- Name of Competition
- Date
- Players Name (in Player A box)
- Handicap Index, Course Handicap and Playing Handicap. These are shown on HDID when you sign in.

You then swap cards with one of your playing partners and they will 'mark' your scorecard and you will 'mark' their scorecard. It is advisable to keep a record of your own score – use the 'Marker's Score' column.

## 3. **CLUB DIARY**

Club Diaries are produced annually and are readily available at the shop counter. They include details of all competitions throughout the year, together with contact details of the various Captains, including the Lady Captain. The Diary is also available in the Members section of the Redbourn Golf website - <https://www.redbournclub.co.uk/members-mens-section/> and through the Elite App on the Noticeboard.

If you cannot log into the Members section, please contact the Club office for your log in details.

## 4. **ACHIEVED YOUR HANDICAP – YOU CAN START TO PLAY IN COMPETITIONS**

The Men's Section play medal competitions on a Saturday, Sunday and a Tuesday. Men's matches are played on a Saturday and mixed matches can be midweek or at the weekend.

There is a separate section for Senior Men, and this is called the Friars. Men over 55 years are eligible to join. The Friars have reserved tee times on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. As a member of the Friars, you have the opportunity to play in competitions throughout the year.

### **PLAYING WITH THE MEN'S SECTION**

- **Entry Fees**

To cover prize monies, engraving of trophies etc. there is a modest fee each time you play in the medal or competitions in Men's Section. Current fee in most cases is £2.00.

You will need to set up a competition account. To do this please make a BACs payment to:

Competitions Committee R.G.C.

Sort Code: 09 01 28

Account: 77779167

Reference your **surname, initial and membership number**

Please also send an email to the Men's Section Treasurer at [handicap.competitionstrgc@gmail.com](mailto:handicap.competitionstrgc@gmail.com) letting him know you have made the payment. He will then update your Competition account on HDID. You can see the balance on your Competition account if you swipe your Redbourn membership

card into the PSI machine (opposite the Club office). If the card does not work, then contact either the Treasurer or the Club office.

- Arriving at the club to play in a medal or competition.

Sign into the Competition for the day, either via the PSI System or the HDID App on your phone. At this point the competition fee will be deducted from your account.

## 5. WINNING TROPHIES WITHIN THE MEN'S SECTION

Men are eligible to win trophies within the Men's Section. If it is a scratch competition anyone who has entered can win the trophy/competition. If it is a stableford or strokeplay competition, then the member can only win a trophy/competition once 8 qualifying rounds have been played. If you have had a handicap for more than a year, then you will also need to have completed at least 8 qualifying matches in the last rolling 12 months. A qualifying match can be done either within the Men's section, or by playing in a Casual Round (found under Today's Golf in the HDID app, or on the PSI machine) and selecting qualifying round. Any qualifying round will count towards your handicap.

## 6. VARIOUS FORMATS OF COMPETITIONS

**STROKE PLAY:** Add up your total score for each hole played and then at the end of the game your handicap is deducted giving a Nett Score.

**STABLEFORD:** This is a point scoring system based on your handicap. Rather than counting the total number of strokes taken, as in stroke play, it involves scoring points based on the number of strokes taken at each hole. Unlike traditional scoring methods, where the aim is to have the lowest score, under Stableford rules, the objective is to score the highest points! The number of strokes you are allowed to complete the hole is determined by your playing handicap. For example: - if your playing handicap allows you 2 shots on a par 4, you must complete the hole within 6 shots to get 2 points. If you complete the hole in less shots i.e., 5 shots you get 3 points, if you complete the hole in 7 shots you get 1 point and so on.

**GREENSOMES:** Played with a partner, both players Tee off, select the best ball and continue to play alternate shots with that ball for the rest of the hole.

**FOURSOMES:** Also played with a partner, one player drives on the even numbered holes and the other drives on the odd numbered holes, alternate shots thereafter.

**MATCH PLAY:** When a player(s) plays against another player(s) (rather than against the field) over each hole over a round of golf.

**FOUR BALL BETTER BALL:** Played with a partner, the better score of each player being recorded for each hole. This can be either Matchplay or Stableford.

## **COMPETITIONS FIVE DAY MEMBERS CAN TAKE PART IN AT WEEKENDS**

Currently, members of the Men's Section who are five-day members can also take part in the following competitions at a weekend without paying any extra green fees:

- MEN'S CAPTAIN'S DRIVE-IN
- CLUB CAPTAIN'S DAY
- ERIC RUSSELL TROPHY
- CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS
- INVITATION DAY

## **MEN'S SECTION TEAMS MATCHES AGAINST OTHER CLUBS**

### **• MEN'S MATCHES**

These are matches played on a Saturday and are an excellent opportunity for members of the Men's Section to experience match-play against teams from other Clubs. Priority for the team will be given to 7-day members but 5-day members can sign up and might be asked to play when necessary. Details of matches, together with sign-up sheets and contact details are located on a notice board opposite the PSI machine by the main office.

### **• MIXED MATCHES AGAINST OTHER CLUBS**

These are matches arranged throughout the golfing season (generally March – October) and sign-up sheets are posted on the Notice Board some weeks in advance of the match. These are matches generally arranged during for the week, at weekends or Bank Holiday Mondays. 7-day members are eligible to play in the weekend matches and all members of the Men's Section are eligible to play in the Midweek and Bank Holiday Monday matches. The sign-up sheets for these are posted on the noticeboard some weeks in advance.

## **UNDERSTANDING THE LOCAL RULES AND THE RULES OF GOLF**

Most golf clubs will have local rules and they usually can be found on the scorecard. Redbourn GC local rules can be on the website and found by following the link below.

<https://redbourngolfclub.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Local-Rules-Only-A4.pdf>

To understand the rules of golf better please refer to the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews website <https://www.randa.org/en/rog/the-rules-of-golf>

## **PENALTY AREAS EXPLAINED**

<https://www.golfmonthly.com/features/golf-rules/red-stakes-in-golf-everything-you-need-to-know-220804>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-l-GZN8IC\\_A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-l-GZN8IC_A)

## **REPAIRING PITCH MARKS**

[The Best Way To Repair A Pitch Mark - YouTube](#)

# RULES OF ETIQUETTE

## 1. PLAYER CONDUCT AND SPIRIT OF THE GAME

It is one of the central principles of the game of golf that players play by the Rules of Golf, and the Local Club Rules (most of which are printed at the end on the back of each scorecard). All players are expected to play in the spirit of the game by acting with integrity – for example, by following the Rules, applying all penalties, and being honest in all aspects of play.

## 2. SHOWING CONSIDERATION FOR OTHERS

### • Arrive in good time before you are due to play

You should arrive at the Club and carry out any necessary sign-in/registration procedures at least 30 minutes before your tee time. You should be at the first tee 10 minutes before you are due to tee-off.

### • Pace of play

Over the past few years (and particularly from 2019) changes have been made to R&A Rules regarding Etiquette on the Golf Course. The 2019 changes have been made with the intent on reducing slow play on the course. These include:

- Playing Ready Golf
- Putting with the Flagstick in the hole
- Time allowed searching for lost ball reduced from 5 to 3 minutes.

You should always play at a good pace. Your group is responsible for keeping up with the group in front. If you are a full hole behind the group in front and delay the group behind, you should invite the group behind to play through, irrespective of the number of players in that group. Where a group has not lost a clear hole, but it is apparent that the group behind can play faster, they should also invite the faster moving group to overtake them.

### • Be ready to play

‘Ready Golf’ is a term now used which indicates that players should play when they are ready to do so, rather than adhering strictly to the ‘farthest from the hole plays first’ principle. You should be ready to play as soon as you can.

‘Ready Golf’ is not appropriate in match play due to the strategy involved between opponents and the need to have a set method for determining which player plays first. In these cases, the person who won the last hole tees off first, thereafter the player furthest from the pin plays first. As a courtesy one player may invite a player not on the green but nearer the pin to come onto the green, but that player may decline in favour of the person further from the pin.

When on or near the putting green, leave your bags or trolleys just off the green on the way to the next tee. When the play of a hole has been completed, leave the putting green quickly and donot mark your scorecard on or near the putting green.

Ready Golf has been incorporated into the R&A Rules book and can take many forms including:

- Hitting a shot when safe to do so if a player farther away faces a challenging shot and is taking time to assess their options;
- Shorter hitters playing first from the tee or fairway if longer hitters have to wait;

- Hitting a tee shot if the person with the honour is delayed in being ready to play;
- Hitting a shot before helping someone to look for a lost ball;
- Hitting a shot if a person who has just played from a greenside bunker is still farthest from the hole but is delayed due to raking the bunker;
- When a player's ball has gone over the back of a green, any player closer to the hole but chipping or putting from the front of green should play while the other player is having to walk to their ball and assess their shot;
- Leave your bag where you intend to leave the green rather than where you get on to it. You may need to mark your ball to allow others to play whilst you do this.
- Study your next shot while others are preparing for theirs, both on and off the green;
- Consider putting out a short putt even if it means standing close to someone else's line;
- If you can't score, quit putting and pick up;
- Marking scores upon immediate arrival at the next tee, except that the first player to tee off marks their card immediately after teeing off.

- **Lost Ball or Out of Bounds**

If you think your ball may be lost outside a penalty area or is out of bounds, to save time, play a provisional ball. This reduces the time it would take to walk back to the tee, play another ball and then walk on to catch up with your playing partner(s).

Players searching for a ball should signal to the players in the group behind them, if they are waiting, to play through as soon as it becomes apparent that the ball will not easily be found. They shouldn't search for three minutes before doing so. Having allowed the group behind to play through, they shouldn't continue play until the group coming through has passed and is out of range.

- **No Disturbance or Distraction**

You should always show consideration for other players on the course and take care not to disturb their play by moving, talking or making unnecessary noise.

You should also ensure that any electronic devices taken onto the course don't distract other players.

Only tee your ball up when it's your turn to play and remember not to stand close to the ball of other players, either directly behind it, or directly behind the hole, when a player is about to swing.

- **On the Putting Green**

On the putting green, you should be careful not to stand on another player's line of putt or, when they are putting, cast a shadow over their line.

You should remain on or close to the putting green until all other players in the group have holed out.

- **Scoring**

In stroke play, if you're acting as a marker, on the way to the next tee you should check the score with the player you are marking and record it.

- **Safety**

Ensure that no one is standing close by or in a position to be hit by the club, the ball or any stones, pebbles, twigs or the like when they make a stroke or practice swing.

Wait until the players in front are out of range before taking your shot. Players should always alert green staff nearby or ahead when they are about to make a stroke that might endanger them.

If your ball's heading in a direction where there is a danger of it hitting someone, shout a warning immediately. The traditional word of warning is **“fore”**.

### 3. **TAKING GOOD CARE OF THE COURSE**

- **Bunkers**

Before leaving a bunker, players should carefully fill up and smooth over all holes and footprints made by them and any nearby made by others. If a rake is within reasonable proximity of the bunker, the rake should be used for this purpose. The rake shall be left in the bunker, with the head facing towards the pin.

- **Repair of Divots, Ball-Marks and Damage by Shoes**

Players should carefully repair any divot holes made by them and any damage to the putting green made by the impact of a ball (whether or not made by the players themselves). On completion of the hole by all players in the group, damage to the putting green caused by golf shoes should be repaired.

- **Preventing Unnecessary Damage**

Players should avoid causing damage to the course by removing divots when taking practice swings or by hitting the head of a club into the ground, whether in anger or for any other reason.

Players should ensure that no damage is done to the putting green when putting down clubs or the flagstick.

In order to avoid damaging the hole, players (and caddies if used) should not stand too close to the hole and should take care during the handling of the flagstick and the removal of a ball from the hole. The head of a club should not be used to remove a ball from the hole.

Players should not lean on their clubs when on the putting green, particularly when removing the ball from the hole.

The flagstick should be properly replaced in the hole before the players leave the putting green.

Local notices regulating the movement of golf trolleys and buggies should be strictly observed.

- **Litter**

Litter bins are present on the course. Please use them or take your litter home.

### 4. **DRESS CODE (18-hole Ver course)**

Players must be appropriately dressed on the golf course. For Men typical golf attire includes tailored shorts or chino style trousers. Denim jeans and cargo style shorts are not permitted. Golf shirts should have some form of collar or be clothing that has been designed to be worn on the golf course. T-shirts are not permitted. Golf shoes should be worn as they are designed to provide traction and good grip.