



SEMPITERNA HONESTUS

Objectives of society

The aim of the society is to foster the friendly playing of the game of golf, bringing together members in and around the village of Wootton, Bedfordshire, to participate in golfing activities and events.

To play golf with friends on occasion and have a good time whilst observing the etiquette.

To organise regular weekend society outings with prizes and a social drink afterwards.

To organise full day golf meetings, competitions and outings to good clubs, at society rates.

To play friendly competitions against other societies and clubs.

Constitution and rules

1. The Golf Society shall be known as "THE WOOTTON GOLF SOCIETY" (WGS), for the purpose of this document it should be known as The Society.
2. The Society will be linked to the village of Wootton in Bedfordshire, where it was formed in July 2009. The address of the society will be the home address of the Chairman at the time.
3. The Society shall consist of members who pay an annual membership fee of **£20** and the fee for each month's organised event. The membership and financial year for the society will run from January to January. The fee each month covers the cost of the golf, part of the trophy and engraving fees as well as food before.
4. Membership for the society shall be open to all but will be restricted to 48, this may be increased at the discretion of the committee. At the beginning of the year all members will complete the Wootton Golf Society Application Form and once signed confirms that they adhere to these rules.
5. The annual membership fee is to be paid by the first event in January and is to be paid promptly by cash. All other fees for each event are to be paid on request, normally on the day of the event.
6. A member who terminates their membership or has their membership terminated is not entitled to the return of their annual membership.
7. Honorary Members, at present there are no plans for voting in any such members, this is to be reviewed on an annual basis.





8. Society funds are held in a Bank Account. All cheques are to be made payable to Mr Brian Ward. The accounts are open to scrutiny by any member of the society however a full breakdown will be supplied at the AGM.
9. The Society shall consist of such subscription-paying members plus any guests (up to three guest appearances per person). Members have sole responsibility of their guests during events.
10. The Society shall be administered by an elected committee, consisting of: Captain / Chairman, Treasurer / Secretary, Handicap Secretary and committee members.
11. An Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall take place once every year. The chairman will normally not vote but will have the casting vote in case of a tie. The Quorum for an AGM shall be two committee members and a quarter of the membership.
12. All members of the Committee shall stand down at each AGM but may offer themselves for re-election. Election for any of the committee posts must be in given in writing to the Chairman 2 weeks before the AGM. Although the AGM will be in the summer, all posts will be voted on and will be affective on the 1st January next year.
13. There will be committee meetings every quarter or as necessary. The chairman is to chair all meetings.
14. Notice of the AGM will be posted at least 1 month prior on the Society website. Any issues that a member wishes to raise at the AGM should be made in writing to the Chairman at least two weeks before. Voting shall be by a show of hands. All motions shall require a majority vote of the members present at the meeting.
15. An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) can be called in exceptional circumstances. Notice of such an event must be posted at least 2 weeks prior to the event. If any member wishes to raise any important discussion points needs to bring it to the attention of the committee who will deal with the matter, if it cannot be dealt with by the committee and requires a vote then an EGM will be called.
16. All events are organised annually and are published on our web sites, all members will have access to the web site where they can sign up for each event; there is also capability to register that you cannot attend events. The login and password will be issued to members only.
17. Once a member has indicated his intention to attend the tournament, it will be expected that said member will turn up for the tournament. All members wishing to take part in an event must have their names down at least one week before the event so that numbers, tee times and food can be confirmed.
18. If any member wishes to cancel their attendance at an event, they must contact a Committee member prior to the day of the tournament. Failure to do so will incur a **fine of £10**; an extra fee may also be requested if the society still have to pay for any food or tee's that have been charged for.
The venue is expecting the advertised number of players to turn up and have reserved the tee times and thus refused other players the ability to play. Should less than the expected number of players turn up, the club therefore may lose money. They may require an initial, non-refundable, deposit from the Society when accepting the booking. They may charge the agreed green fees for the advertised number of players. They may also refuse to accept any further bookings from the society. All the above possibilities are undesirable insofar as WGS is concerned. We will take exceptional circumstances into account.
19. Any person may apply to be a member of the Society. To become a full member of the Society, a person must play in three monthly competitions (during which time he/she will be classified as a "guest") to obtain an initial Society Handicap. Such a person will be ineligible to win any of those three competitions or other trophies. A guest may not attend more than three events in a calendar year, if they wish to attend more then they must apply for membership. It is also possible for a guest to join having played less then three guest appearances if they have played with a member of the society at other venues and can submit cards for handicap appraisal.





20. All players, members and guests, will pay the Society green fees each month, unless exempt. Guests are not required to pay the annual membership fee until their fourth tournament, from which time forward they will be regarded as members.
21. WGS handicaps will be awarded initially after 3 guest appearances, and subsequently amended by the handicap secretary, broadly following the CONGU system.
22. The Society will publish and forward to all members their Handicap Certificate after each event or on request.
23. Society events will normally be off full handicap or as dictated by the committee.
24. The handicap secretary has the right to adjust any member handicap if it is deemed that the handicap is unfair; this has to be consulted with the rest of the committee.
25. Any committee member can ask for their handicap to be reviewed at the end of the year (after the last event in December). This request must be in writing to the handicap secretary. The maximum strokes allocated back is 2.
26. The committee will publish all results on the society websites within a week of the event.
27. We also play singles and doubles tournaments each year. The formats for these two tournaments are based on match play again as indicated by the committee.
28. The committee may vary any format for any particular competition; these variations will be indicated on the society web site and newsletters. The draws for the singles and doubles are made in January and further draws throughout the calendar on completion. These matches are to be played outside of our normal society events. To ensure that handicaps are fair, a member cannot play further than the semi-final of these events unless they have completed three society events in the last 12 months.
29. The Wootton Cup is our annual trip away organised by the committee; a non refundable deposit is normally required to secure a place on the trip which can be up to 4 nights away. The full balance is paid on the first full day of the event or as required.
30. There is an annual prize for player of the year; this is based on the best 6 scores of all the events held throughout the year. This is calculated on our web site. If at the end of the year there is a tie for player of the year then there will be a form of countback, the best 3 events are taken into account, then the best 2 or 1 to decide the winner.
31. Any objections or complaints about an event in which you partake should be raised with the individual concerned in the first instance, then with a member of the committee on the day of the event. The committee will then investigate and collectively decide on what action, if any, needs to be taken.
32. Any golf played by The Wootton Golf Society will be governed by the "Rules of Golf" as laid down by the Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Recommendations & Guidelines as laid down by the Confederation Of Golf Unions (CONGU) and any Local Rules of the course being played.
33. Marking of Cards; it is extremely important that you fill out score cards correctly by you and your marker. Ensure that you swap cards with your marker and that you are happy that the marker is sure where to score the card. During the course of the round it is your responsibility to enter the number of shots on each hole in the correct columns for you and the person whose card you are marking; if in doubt ask. Any corrections should be initialled by yourself and made known to the other player.
34. At the end of the round you will be asked to sign the card to verify it is correct. This is your chance to check the card to ensure it is correct. Once signed, the card is to be taken as read. If then found to be incorrect, the player may be disqualified. In a stableford competition you may enter the stableford score if you wish, although not necessary.
35. The handicap secretary will use Handicap master to enter scores and handicap master will compliment both our websites at all times.
36. All golf courses that are played by the Society require the normal golf club standards to be adhered to by any society. See Dress code, Etiquette and Care of the course below.





Handicaps

1. The maximum handicap allocated will be 28.
2. Handicaps will be adjusted by the society handicap system based on the CONGU Stableford handicapping rules.
3. The handicap secretary will amend handicaps using handicap master as necessary after each event, the winner of any event will be cut 2 full shots. CONGU Stableford handicap rules will be used as follows:

Handicap Category	Handicap	Buffer Zone	Reduction per stroke over 36 points	Increase per round
1	0 – 5	+1	- 0.1	+ 0.1
2	6 – 12	+2	- 0.2	+0.1
3	13 – 20	+3	- 0.3	+0.1
4	21 – 28	+4	- 0.4	+0.1
5	Not Used	+5	- 0.5	+0.1

4. **Members play off their WGS handicap when playing during Society events.** For players who have official handicap this may differ.
5. **Countback.** In the event of an event being tied, a countback will be carried on handicap master, the best score on the last 9 holes, 6 holes, 3 holes and finally the last hole.
6. **Handicap Complaints.** If any member has any complaint about a handicap, they are to arrange a meeting with the handicap secretary to attempt to resolve the issue. Full and final decision will be made by the committee.
7. We are reviewing the handicap regime for WGS and a meeting will be called if there are to be any significant changes.

Prizes

Subscriptions and fees are collected primarily to pay for golf, tournament prizes and the trophies that are presented at the presentation evening.

1. We give a winners trophy to the winner.
2. Trophies are given for the longest drive and a nearest the pin which can be on a par 3 or par 4.
3. Other prizes may be awarded on the day of the tournament dependant on available funds.
4. A presentation evening is held at the end of the year where the winner of each competition is presented with the perennial trophy, to keep until the AGM the following year. Winners and runners up receive keep sake trophies.
5. Sandy Bottoms. At most events a member may enter Sandy Bottoms by paying £1, this money may add up over the year. How to win Sandy Bottoms? If any member (who has paid £1) gets a hole in one or a gross eagle 2 on a par 4, or 3 on a par 5 to score at least a single stableford point will get $\frac{3}{4}$ of the stake, the remaining monies will go into the Society for the presentation dinner. If any member (who has paid £1) manages to chip directly into the hole from a bunker to score at least a single stableford point will get $\frac{1}{2}$ of the stake, the remaining monies will go into the Society for the presentation dinner. In the event that two members get any of the above at an event then it will be split equally pro rata.





Dress code, Etiquette and Care of the course

Dress Code: The following is the acceptable dress code on a golf course :

- Shirt:** Must have a collar (roll-necks are permissible in colder weather)
NO T-shirts. All shirts are to be tucked in during the golf round and in the clubhouse afterwards.
- Trousers:** Tailored trousers are required. No jog or sweat pants. Jeans are not permitted. Tracksuit trousers are not permitted.
- Shorts:** If shorts are worn they must be tailored shorts (i.e. with a fly) Beach or swimming shorts are not permitted.
- Socks:** Socks must always be worn. If wearing shorts, the socks generally have to be predominantly white in colour and shin length (although some courses will permit ankle socks: please check with the venue).
- Shoes:** Proper golf shoes are the general requirement at golf courses. Some courses require the use of "soft spikes" rather than steel ones. No training shoes or sandals are permitted in any club house. It is also not permitted to use the club house in socks. Try to avoid getting changed in the car park and use the course changing facilities.
- We are guests at Golf Courses and therefore must dress appropriately on the golf course as well as in the clubhouse. Remember you are representing your golf society and we may wish to return to the club.**

Etiquette: The following are a few 'do's' and 'don'ts' at golf courses :

- Mobile phones:** NOT allowed in most clubhouses or on ANY course. The only exception to this is dire emergencies only. If you need to take a mobile phone on the course please inform the committee why and ensure it is on silent during the match. We believe that for 4 – 5 hours a month you can do without your mobile phone.
- Hats:** Must be removed on entering the club house.
- Golf shoes:** Not allowed in club houses unless in "spike bars"
- GPS Systems:** These are generally allowed on most courses, please check before assuming you can use. It is also etiquette to confirm with your group / opponents if they are happy for you to use the system.
- Bad language:** Usually frowned upon in the clubhouse and on the course, if excessive you may be subject to a fine.
- Excessive noise:** As above. Also, players should refrain from shouting or making other loud noises on the course. Other people are out there too and trying to concentrate.
- Buggies:** Observe any local rules about use. Do not drive on teeing areas or greens. Keep to the rough or second cut as much as possible and cross fairways (if buggies are permitted on the course itself) at right angles.
- Trolleys:** Do not take onto tees or greens. Do not take between greenside bunkers and the green itself.
- Stand Bags:** Do not take onto tees or greens. Try to avoid walking across a green carrying a bag.
- Equipment:** It is not permissible to share clubs/bag. Each player must have a set for their own use. Each player can take onto the course a MAXIMUM of 14 clubs, any member found with more can be subject to the relevant sanctions.





- Slow play:** **It's your responsibility to Keep up with the match in front of you.** Slow play detracts from the enjoyment of the game for many golfers, a few golfers are heard to complain about the play being too fast. DON'T just try to keep ahead of those behind, if you keep just behind the group in front you will not be accused of slow play. Avoid time wasting (e.g. wandering over to talk to another group of players or looking for other golf balls). Always be prepared to play your shot before you get to your ball. Try not to take too long taking practice swings, you can do this whilst your opponent is playing their shot. Mark your score card at the next tee, if you are first to tee off, then mark your card after your tee shot. Try and place your golf bag to the side of the green nearest to the next tee to save time. On the tee, get yourself ready for your shot by selecting your club and putting your glove on. Some Par 3's on courses have a play up rule, which means if there is a group on the tee and you are on the green, please mark your ball and stand to one side to allow them to play their shots.
- Off-line:** If your shot travels onto another, adjacent, fairway, be considerate of any players who might be over there. Shout "Fore". Do not just wander across and assume you have the right to play your shot. Most players will let you play and get out of their way (in their own interest). It is polite to wait at the edge of the other fairway until someone waves you over to play.
- Lost ball:** Assist a member of your group in finding his/her ball if required. Many eyes might save time. You have, under the rules, only **FIVE** minutes to look for a ball before you must declare it lost. If possible, good etiquette requires you to call the following group through whilst searching for a lost ball. If you think your shot may have gone out of bounds or into heavy rough, play a provisional ball which will avoid you having to walk back to the tee for a three of the tee shot.
- Calls of Nature:** Gentlemen are expected to be considerate of the fact that there may be ladies playing on the course. There are rarely "facilities" on a golf course for Lady players.
- Club Fines:** **We do not propose to issue any club fines to any member unless absolutely necessary, however the following may apply:**
Any player who throws a club may be liable to a £5 fine, if reported to the committee by any observer of the incident.
Any player using a mobile phone on the course or in the club house, without having cleared the use of the phone by a member of the committee will be subject to a fine of £5.
Any member that fails to attend any event without good reason, after they have signed up, may be liable to a fine of £10.00.
Any member that uses foul or abusive language that may be construed as offensive may also be liable to a fine of £1.
Any player who is late for any tee without good reason may be subject to a fine of £1.
Any fines collected will be held by the treasurer and will be used for elements of the presentation dinner.
- Care of the course:**
- Divots:** Replace all divots on the fairway. DO NOT replace on tees. If you take a divot on a teeing ground, and there is a container of soil/seed provided, fill in the mark with the mixture and stamp it down.
- Pitchmarks:** Repair pitchmarks on greens (some courses will demand to see you're pitchmark repair tool prior to letting you play)
- Bunkers:** After playing a bunker shot, use the rake to remove all traces of your presence.
- Remember:** Course officials may refuse to let you play, or ask you to leave the course





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mid- round, if they consider you are in breach of any of the rules (local or national). Remember these rules are to assist all members to get the most out of golf.

Discipline: Any member shall forfeit their membership of the society if they resort to violence or threat of violence to any fellow competitor / member in a disagreement of whatever nature; this includes on the golf course as well as at any function related to Wootton Golf Society. Any dispute and disagreements which are related to the society affairs the committee decision is full and final; the committee has to have a 2/3rd majority.

Insurance & Liability: Wootton Golf Society do not have Insurance for third party liability or theft, we therefore recommend that all members obtain their own Insurance if they wish to. Wootton Golf Society will not be liable for any Insurance issues such as **Theft** or any **Third Party Liability** on any event organised by WGS. This also appertains to any guests that attend any meetings organised by WGS.

Dissolution: **If the society is to dissolve by way of a general meeting and a majority vote, the committee will take immediate steps to discharge all debts and liabilities of the society. Any assets of the society will be disposed and added to the society funds. Any balance remaining will be distributed pro – rata between all the serving members of the society.**

REMEMBER GOLF IS GAME THAT SHOULD BE ENJOYED AND PLAYED COMPETATIVELY AMONGS FRIENDS AND PEERS. IT'S ONLY A GAME.

THEY CALL IT GOLF BECAUSE ALL THE OTHER FOUR LETTER WORDS WERE TAKEN.

By attending at any event organised by WOOTTON GOLF SOCIETY you agree to these rules and constitution.

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