

## RULES OF THE RAILWAY HOTEL GOLF SOCIETY

These rules were formulated a number of years ago and have been amended to reflect the changing nature of the Society. Any errors, omission or contradictions will be interpreted by the Committee.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

- a. The Railway Hotel Golf Society was formed in 1982 and has grown ever since. As at 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016, we had over 60 Members.
- b. This set of rules attempts to provide an all-embracing framework for the Society.

### 2. NAME

- a. The name of the Society is the Railway Hotel Golf Society (RHGS), in these rules referred to as the "Society".

### 3. OBJECTIVES

- a. The objectives of the Society are:
  - i. to arrange for Members and their guests to meet to play golf at such times and at such venues as the Committee may determine; and
  - ii. to arrange social activities for Members, their partners and guests.

### 4. MEMBERSHIP

- a. Any person who is recommended by a Member or in the opinion of the Committee is a customer of the Railway Hotel, Station Way, Cheam, Surrey may apply to become a Member of the Society.
- b. An application for membership shall be in writing and shall be made to the Committee who, subject to rule 4.c, may accept or reject it as they think fit.
- c. Applications will also be considered for Social Members, i.e. non-playing Members.

### 5. PRESIDENT

- a. The Committee will nominate a President of the Society. The office of President will be offered to a Society Member for a period of up to three years. The office of President is purely honorary and confers no rights or liabilities except the right to participate in the sporting or social activities of the Society without payment of an annual subscription charge.
- b. The President's role is to provide continuity and guidance to the Committee during their tenure. However, as the role is advisory, the President will not have voting rights on the Committee.

### 6. OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

- a. There shall be the following officers of the Society:
- b. President; Captain; Vice-Captain; Treasurer; Society Secretary; Social Secretary; Event Secretary; Trophy Master and Past Captain.
- c. President: Provides longer-term continuity and guidance to the incoming committee.
- d. Captain: Has overall responsibility for the running of the Society
- e. Vice-Captain: Aids the Captain and selects the sporting venues for the following year.
- f. Treasurer: Responsible for the collection, recording and disbursement of the Society's funds and production of accounts.

- g. Society Secretary: Responsible for the dissemination of information to the Society Members, the arrangement of Committee Meetings and recording of minutes.
- h. Social Secretary: Arrangement of social events and the running of event raffles.
- i. Event Secretary: Recording of scores, calculation of handicaps and assists with the running of the golfing days.
- j. Trophy Master: Responsible for ensuring all trophies are updated with the results of the golfing events.
- k. Past Captain: Provides general assistance to the Committee and arranges the Past Captain's Day.
- l. Subject to rule 6.m, the officers shall be elected by the Members present and voting at the annual general meeting of the Society and shall hold office until the close of the following annual general meeting.
- m. The Vice-Captain in any year shall be the Captain for the following year unless he declines or is unable to act, in which case the Captain for the next year shall be elected in accordance with rule 6.l.
- n. If there are an insufficient number of candidates standing for the elected offices then, with the agreement of the Committee, a Committee Member can take on more than one role e.g. Society Secretary and Social Secretary or Vice-Captain and Treasurer.

## 7. THE COMMITTEE

- a. The officers mentioned in rule 6 shall form the Committee for the Society (in these rules referred to as the "Committee"). The Committee may co-opt not more than 4 other Members of the Society to be additional Members of the Committee.
- b. Except for those matters required by these rules to be undertaken by the Members of the Society in a general meeting, the Committee shall have full power to manage the affairs of the Society and to do all things necessary in its opinion for the attainment or furtherance of the objects of the Society.
- c. A minimum of four Members of the Committee constitutes a quorum that can bind the committee.
- d. The Committee shall agree all business on a majority vote, the casting vote being held by the Captain or his representative at all meetings.

## 8. GENERAL MEETINGS

- a. An Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held not later than the month of February each year on such day, at such time and at such place as the Committee may determine.
- b. No less than 14 days written notice of the date, time and place of the meeting shall be given to each Member.
- c. The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be;
  - i. to receive reports of the previous year's activities from the officers;
  - ii. to receive and, if thought fit, adopt the accounts for the previous year;
  - iii. to elect the officers mentioned in rule 6.a; and
  - iv. to transact such other business (if any) of which 14 days' notice will have been given.
  - v. to agree the subscription for the following year.
- d. A special general meeting may be called either by resolution of the Committee or by requisition to the Society Secretary made in writing by not less than 10 Members of the Society. Not less than 14 days written notice of any special general meeting shall be given to each Member specifying date, time place of the meeting and of the business to be discussed.
- e. The Captain or, if unavailable, the Vice-Captain shall preside as the Chairman at any general meeting of the Society. In the absence of both the Captain and Vice-Captain the Members present at the time appointed for the commencement of the meeting shall elect one of their numbers to preside.

- f. The Chairman will have the casting vote.

## 9. FINANCE

- a. Every Member (other than the current President or Past Presidents) shall pay an annual subscription of such amounts as may be determined by the annual general meeting.
- b. The Committee shall determine the charges to be made to the Members participating in the sporting and social activities arranged by the Society.
- c. The Society shall maintain a current bank account. Two Members of the Committee shall sign all cheques and other instruments relating to the account.
- d. The financial year of the Society shall be the calendar year. The Treasurer shall keep proper books of account showing the income and expenditure of each event and shall prepare a statement of income and expenditure and a balance sheet for presentation to the next annual general meeting. Before that presentation is made the accounts shall be audited by some fit and proper person, not being a Member of the Committee, but elected at the AGM.

## 10. CESSATION OF MEMBERSHIP

- a. A person shall cease to be a Member of the Society if:
  - i. they give written notice to the Society Secretary of their resignation; or
  - ii. their annual subscription remains unpaid at 31st March or any other monies due from them to the Society remain unpaid one month after the date which they are due to be paid; or
  - iii. the Member has conducted themselves in a way likely to bring the Society into disrepute.
- b. The Committee shall determine any question arising under rule 10.a. Before determining any such question, the Committee shall give not less than 7 days written notice to the Member concerned specifying the conduct complained of and the date on which and the time and place at which the Committee will meet to consider the matter. A Member to whom notice is given under this rule shall be entitled to appear before the Committee at that meeting, with or without representative, to answer the complaint.

## 11. GOLFING EVENTS

- a. President's Trophy. There are four main Golfing Days in the Society's calendar, The Spring Meeting, The Summer Meeting, the Autumn Meeting and Captain's Day collectively termed Qualifying Competitions.
- b. Each event has its own Trophy which can be won by a Society Member only (i.e. not a guest) and held by that Member until the AGM when it is returned to the display cabinet. The names of the winners will be added to each Trophy.
- c. On the Captain's Day, the Captain will provide a prize at his expense to the winner that the winner will retain.
- d. All four competitions are individual Stableford played to full handicap. The President's Trophy is awarded to the player who has the best three aggregate results over the year. In the event of the final scores being tied then the Trophy will be awarded on count back using the last qualifying whole round scores played by those tying for the Trophy.
- e. Guests are welcome at all meetings and will play for guest prizes.
- f. Knockout. A Knockout competition, open to all Members will be arranged at the beginning of each year. The Knockout is played throughout the year with the final being played prior to Captain's Day. This is played on an individual match play basis (i.e. The full difference of the two handicaps).
- g. The final will be played on an independent course or one acceptable to both parties.

- h. Trophies will be awarded to the winner and runner-up, but the event will not be a Qualifying Competition.
- i. Inter-society and other Competitions. From time to time the Society may enter Inter-Society and other competitions. These are arranged through the Captain and organised by the Society Secretary and Event Secretary. The format and venue of these matches varies. Typically, the Matches have included The Prince of Wales Golf Society and The Red Lion Golf Society.
- j. Past Captains' Match. The outgoing Captain is responsible for choosing a venue for the Past Captains' Match. Only Past Captains of the Society with current membership are eligible to win and hold the Past Captains' Trophy. At the discretion of the Outgoing Past Captain, this event can be by invitation to include all Society Members and their Guests.
- k. Memorial Trophy. An annual event will be held in memory of deceased members, but it will not be a Qualifying Competition
- l. Trier's Trophy. The Trier's' Trophy will be awarded to the player with the highest aggregate score over the Qualifying Competitions. Any player during the year who has won any of those events, or the President's trophy will be not be eligible. In the event of a tie the trophy will be awarded on count back using the last scores of the last competitions.

## 12. HANDICAPS

- a. Responsibility: It is the responsibility of each Member to ensure that they are playing from their correct Society handicap. The current handicaps are shown on the Handicap sheet on the RHGS web site. <http://www.rhgs.net/handicaps.html>
- b. Qualifying events: Handicaps are based on each player's results in Society Stableford events, these include the President's Trophy events (Spring, Summer, Captain's Day and Autumn) as well as the Away Days. The Memorial Trophy and the Past Captains' Match are not qualifying events.
- c. Club handicaps: The Event Secretary is responsible for the calculation of Members' Society handicaps. A Member's handicap can be the same or lower than his official club handicap; it can never be higher.
- d. When: Increases to handicaps, bringing them in line with a club handicap, can only be made following the Member playing in an RHGS qualifying competition. However, a reduction in a club handicap will be actioned immediately.
- e. Winning: A Member winning a qualifying Stableford competition will have his handicap reduced by 2 shots.
- f. More than 37: In addition, a Member's handicap will be reduced by 1 shot if he scores 37 or more Stableford points in a competition, irrespective of winning or not winning the competition.
- g. Maximum reduction: A Member's handicap cannot be lower than 5 shots from their current club handicap.
- h. Buffer zone: After each completed competition the RHGS handicap can only be increased by a maximum of 1 shot and no higher than the players' current club handicap only if the Member shot 30 Stableford points or lower. However, winning with 30 or less the Member will be cut 2 shots. Also, an N/R (non-return) will not affect a handicap.
- i. Year-end: At the end of the golfing year, the overall winner of the President's Trophy will have his handicap cut by 2 shots. The winner of the Knockout Competition will be cut by 2 shots and the Runner-Up of the Knockout Competition will be cut by 1 shot. The winner of the Trier's Trophy will have his handicap reduced by 1 shot.
- j. Re-joining: Any player leaving the society and then re-joining within 3 years will be allotted the handicap that they had on the date that they originally left the society or their current club handicap whichever is the lower. If the player re-joins

after a period of 3 years, then their society handicap will be their current club handicap.

- k. No club handicap: If a player does not have an official club handicap or an inactive handicap, then the Events Secretary will allocate a suitable handicap and assess the standard of play at RHGS events. This will be shown as his "Club Handicap" on the Handicap Sheet.
- l. Decisions: In the event of any dispute, interpretation or application of the RHGS handicap system the Events Secretary's decision will be final.

13. OPERATION, AMENDMENT AND REVOCATION

- a. These rules take effect on the day after the date of the general meeting at which they are adopted on which day all previous rules are revoked. These rules may be amended or revoked by Members of the Committee during a Committee meeting, by Members of the Society in annual or special general meetings by majority vote of the quorum.

10<sup>th</sup> February 2018