



WHITBURN GOLF CLUB COMPETITION GUIDELINES

2026

The following document has been put together as a result of the new WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM and as an outline and guide for incoming Captains for explanation to members on the rules and format for all future competitions at Whitburn Golf Club.

This is in order to avoid any confusion to members or complaints from members over formats and to standardise year upon year rules for ALL competitions.

DATE	REVISION	CHANGES
2018	R0	Document created.
05 July 2020	R1	Blakey Bowl Draw sequence changed. Ted Nicholson Trophy Added.
27 October 2022	R2	Document re-organised for WHS Compliance. Dobson Trophies added. Order of competitions changed. Comp. details added.
04 November 2024	R3	Changes to prizes for Club Championship and addition of George Hills Trophy and Sunday Stableford's to schedule. Adjustment to order of Sunday Competitions to reflect current schedule. Matchplay competition guidelines added. Change to Charles Smith qualifying categories
13 November 2025	R4	Change to Charles Smith qualifying categories and change to Midweek Stablefords division criteria

Handicap Limits

Following the changes and ongoing guidance from England Golf (EG), the R&A and in the interest of fairness equality and inclusivity across the competitions **Strokeplay and Stableford Singles Competitions going forward should be Max Handicap 28**. Please note that **EG have stipulated a 95% allowance to calculate the Playing Handicaps of all players** which is set on Club V1 and cannot be adjusted.

Sunday Board Competitions will have 2 Divisions (0-13) and (14-28). Prize money to be divided equally between both divisions paying 4 places in each division unless otherwise stated. £3.00 entry unless otherwise stated. In named board Competitions in the Club House a maximum handicap allowance of 18 is the limit to win a Trophy (name on board), except for the Dobson Trophies and the Charles Smith Trophy where the maximum handicap allowance is 28 (subject to the maximum 18 shots allowance in the match play rounds). Tie resolution – Back 9, 6, 3, 1.

Midweek Stablefords will have 1 Division (0-28) paying 4 places, if less than 90 entrants. If there are more than 90 entrants then there will be 2 divisions (0-13, 14-28). It is £3.00 entry fee. Tie resolution – Back 9, 6, 3, 1.

Club Matchplay Competitions Qualifying competitions will be maximum 28 Handicap for prize money purposes but qualifying players who progress to the next rounds proper will be limited to a maximum 18 handicap allowance, except for the Charles Smith Trophy where the maximum handicap allowance is 28 (subject to a maximum 18 shots allowance in the match play rounds). (MATCHPLAY).

Individual Competition Format

All main Sunday Competitions to begin on 12th April in the following order. (Subject to weather conditions, cancellation or postponements).

SUNDAY COMPETITIONS

() Name on Board Competitions.**

<u>**George Hills Trophy</u>	2 Divs	White Tees	95%	Max 28 Stableford
<u>Sunday Post Putter</u>	2 Divs	White Tees	95%	Max 28 Strokeplay
<u>Daily Mail Foursomes Qualifier (Pairs)</u>	No Divs	White Tees	85%	Max 24 (Foursomes)

Following rounds will be Foursomes Pairs Matchplay. No under 18s allowed in Qualifier. As per Daily Mail Rules.

<u>**Hudson Cup Qualifier</u>	2 Divs	White Tees	95%	Max 28 Strokeplay
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This qualifier to be played Max 28 but Knockout stages are Matchplay with Max 18 handicap allowance. The top 16 Nett Scores qualify for the knockout stages with the Matchplay draw being straight “out of the hat” for order purposes.

<u>**Joseph Landau Trophy</u>	2 Divs	White Tees	95%	Max 28 Strokeplay
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<u>Charles Smith Qualifier</u>	2 Divs	White Tees	95%	Max 28 Strokeplay
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The winner from each category of entry (1,2,3,4) to qualify for semi-final Matchplay Stages where full 28 handicap allowance is given, subject to an 18 shot maximum allowance; i.e. if a 3 handicap player plays a 28 handicap player the difference is 25 shots, but the maximum a player can receive in the match is 18, so only 18 shots will be given, not 25. Semi Final Draw: **CAT 1 winner v Cat 4 winner** and **Cat 2 winner v Cat 3 winner**.

Strokeplay (4 Categories 0-9, 10-13, 14-17, 18-28).

<u>**Captains Cup</u>	2 Divs	White Tees	95%	Max 28 Strokeplay
<u>**Neptune Trophy</u>	2 Divs	White Tees	95%	Max 28 Strokeplay
<u>**TH Douglas Trophy</u>	2 Divs	White Tees	95%	Max 28 Strokeplay
<u>**Stan Nicholson Trophy (2 Days)</u>	2 Divs	White Tees	95%	Max 28 Strokeplay

Round 1 Played on Saturday, Round 2 played on Sunday. **Competitors must play both days.**

£5.00 entry fee. Tie resolution -- Back 9, 6, 3, 1, Last Card

Top Stan Nicholson 16 Best Gross scores qualify for Blakey Bowl entry.

<u>Stan Nicholson Stableford (Sunday only)</u>	No Div	White Tees	95%	Max 28 Stableford
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This competition is only for those not entered in the Stan Nicholson Trophy. If you are entered in the Stan Nicholson Trophy, then you cannot enter the stableford competition as well.

<u>**Marsden Cup/Gordon Adcock</u>	2 Divs	White Tees	95%	Max 28 Strokeplay
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Marsden Cup Competition has Two Categories as normal for prize money purposes. Gordon Adcock trophy awarded to the Lowest Nett score in the 21 to 28 Handicap entrants.

<u>**Alan Waugh Trophy</u>	2 Divs	White Tees	95%	Max 28 Strokeplay
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<u>**Fred Clarke Memorial Trophy</u>	2 Divs	White Tees	95%	Max 28 Strokeplay
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<u>**Dobson Trophies (Mixed)</u>	0 Divs		50%	Strokeplay
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Men White Tees Max H/Cap 28 (Odd holes) Ladies Red Tees Max H/Cap 36 (Even Holes)

<u>**Ernest Maw</u>	2 Divs	White Tees	95%	Max 28 Strokeplay
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<u>**Tom Gardner Memorial</u>	2 Divs	White Tees	95%	Max 28 Strokeplay
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<u>**Club Championship (2 days)</u>	2 Divs	White Tees	95%	Max 28 Strokeplay
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36 Hole Competition GROSS and 36 Hole Competition NETT. Round 1 Play on Saturday, Round 2 play on Sunday. **Competitors must play both days.** No Divisions. Prizes for best 3 gross and nett scores on Saturday and Sunday as well as overall. 2 Prize rule. Tie Resolution – Back 9, 6, 3, 1, Last Card. Entry fee £5.00

<u>Club Ch\ship Stableford (Sunday only)</u>	No Div	White Tees	95%	Max 28 Stableford
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This competition is only for those not entered in the Club Championship. If you are entered in the Club Championship, then you cannot enter the stableford competition as well.

<u>**Stern Cup/Spraggon Putter</u>	2 Divs	White Tees	95%	Max 28 Strokeplay
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Stern Cup Competition has Two Categories as normal for prize money purposes. Spraggon Putter awarded to the Lowest Nett score in the 19 to 28 Handicap entrants.

<u>**Gordon Storey Trophy</u>	2 Divs	White Tees	95%	Max 28 Strokeplay
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<u>**Presidents Putter</u>	2 Divs	White Tees	95%	Max 28 Strokeplay
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<u>Mens Invitation Day (G. Robson Shield)</u>	0 Divs	White Tees	85%	Max 24 4BBB Stableford
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<u>** Enterprise Trophy</u>	2 Divs	White Tees	95%	Max 28 Strokeplay
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<u>**Ted Nicholson Trophy</u>	2 Divs	White Tees	95%	Max 28 Stableford
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Steve Lamb Trophies (Pairs) (0 Divs) White Tees 85% Max 24 Combined (4BBBB)

Juniors Patrons Day (0 Divs) White Tees 95% Max 28 men, 36 ladies stableford

Captain v V/Captain Sunday "Format to be decided by Captain"

<u>Presidents Prizes (M,F,J)</u>	0 Divs	White Tees	95%	Max 28 Strokeplay
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Competition is open to Men, Ladies and Juniors (subject to Junior's meeting requirements for entry).

Midweek Stablefords 1 or 2 Divs White Tees 95% Max 28 STABLEFORD

OPENS & INVITATION DAYS

To be played 4BBB STABLEFORD Pairs Max 24.

MENS CLUB MATCHPLAY KNOCKOUTS / FINALS (Matchplay Finals to be played over 36 Holes.)

All club Singles Matchplay Knockouts to remain **MAX 18 Handicap Allowance** apart from Charles Smith Trophy which has always been Max 28 due to 4 Category winners progressing to semi-finals (see Competition details for maximum shot allowance). Pairs (Hector Imrie) has a **MAX 19 Shots Allowance**.

SINGLES (Hepplewhite & Shaw)	Max 18
PAIRS (Hector Imrie)	Max 19 (90% allowance)
HUDSON CUP	Max 18
CHARLES SMITH TROPHY	Max 28 (18 shot Allowance)
BLAKEY BOWL	SCRATCH Knockout (seeded)

Blakey Bowl Scratch Matchplay Qualifiers:

Top 16 GROSS scores from Stan Nicholson Trophy qualify for the knockout stage. Any ties result in the LOWER Handicap player to be put through. Seeded Matchplay Draw order as follows:

TOP HALF	BOTTOM HALF
1 v 16	2 v 15
8 v 9	7 v 10
5 v 12	6 v 11
4 v 13	3 v 14

DODDS TROPHY (Mixed Pairs) Max Men 28 (White Ts) / Women 36 (Red Ts)
50% Combined. White Tees For Stroke Index.

Matchplay Guidelines

1. The entry sheets for the Hector Imrie, Hepplewhite & Shaw and Dodds Trophies will be open for bookings in January 2026 and will be situated in the Professionals shop.

2. Entry into the above competitions will only be confirmed upon payment of the relevant entrance fee: Hepplewhite & Shaw £5, Hector Imrie and Dodds Trophies £10 per couple.
3. The Closing date for entry to the above competitions will be the first Sunday in May and the draw will be made on the following Monday. No entrants will be accepted once the draw has been made.
4. The draw will be posted on the Competition board downstairs soon after.
5. When the draw has been made all entrants contact details will be automatically added to the Draw Sheet. By entering these competitions, you are **consenting to Whitburn Golf Club adding your contact details to the Draw Sheet.**
6. It will be the top player in each match's responsibility to contact his opponent. Failure to do so without good reason and the captain's knowledge may lead to forfeiture of the tie.
7. All matches must be played by the date stated on the Draw Sheet unless prior approval for an extension has been sought and agreed with the captain. Failure to do so may lead to forfeiture of the tie.

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CLUB ORDER OF MERIT COMPETITIONS

Rothmans Cup Played over the course of the season with the best **13 NETT scores** being allocated points in each of the 14 strokeplay competitions played on a Sunday only, apart from the Charles Smith Qualifier.

The Geoff Wilkinson Trophy Played over the course of the season with the best **13 GROSS scores** being allocated points in each of the 14 strokeplay competitions played on a Sunday only, apart from the Charles Smith Qualifier.

Midweek Stableford OOM Played over the course of the season with the best 13 STABLEFORD results being allocated points for each stableford.