

MEARNS CASTLE GOLF CLUB



New Members Guide

Firstly, a very warm welcome to Mearns Castle Golf Club.

It is our aim to provide you with golfing facilities that allow you to learn, practice and play to the best of your ability this year. We also hope you will make new friends and most importantly, enjoy your golf here!

The New Members Guide provides you with helpful information on:-

1. **Your Membership Card.**
2. **BRS Tee Time Booking.**
3. **Handicapping (including entering Digital Scores),**
4. **Competitions.**
5. **World Handicap System Guide (Mearns Castle) – for those that really want to know!**

We appreciate the 'New Members Guide' is very comprehensive and you may wish to dip in and out of this, as required. We will also run information sessions for new members. Meantime, if you need any further information, please do contact Reception.

1. Your Membership Card:

Your silver Membership Card is everything you need to make use of the driving range, book tee times and access all of the features of your membership.

The card will get you ½ price balls for the driving range, at the ball dispenser. Members are required to top the card up with £25 at Reception.

On the driving range we have a launch monitor and gaming system called Toptracer Range. This is a computerised system that will allow you to get details on your ball stats when you practice, as well as allow you to play games and challenges against your friends and fellow range customers. We would recommend you download the app 'Toptracer Range' onto your phone to fully engage in this technology.

Once downloaded, when you get to the bay, simply open the app, select 'Play Now' and scan the QR code on the screen. This will sync your phone to the bay and allow for all your shots to be sent to your phone at the end of the session. There is also a leaderboard for each game on the app, for which we run regular competitions throughout the year.

Please feel free to ask a member of staff to give you a full demonstration on how this works on your first visit.

2. BRS Tee Time Booking:



To book tee times:

Download the '**BRS Golf App**' on your phone, and select Mearns Castle Golf Club as your **HOME** course. When prompted, your username is the 5 digit number on the back of your membership card and on your first time logging in, your default password is '**MearnsGolf**' (when prompted create a new password).

Tee time bookings via the app have the following rules to ensure every member has a fair and equal access to tee times, especially at busy periods.

- Members can book 7 days in advance.
- Tee sheet goes live at 7.00am the week before.
- Please add all golfers that are playing to the Tee sheet when you book.
- Please add any guest in to your tee time when you book and all members have UNLIMITED guests (£10 for 9 holes & £15 for 18 holes).
- Tee times can be edited/updated at your leisure but please ensure the sheet is up to date when you check in at Reception on the day.
- You may only book 1 tee time per day.
- Members may add themselves to other golfers tee times if there is space - if you are playing as a single, you may join up with a 2-ball. This is something we encourage and promote to allow people to meet new playing partners, and also free up additional Tee times in the summer. At busy times, single players will not be able to book individual Tee times.
- Golfers must check in a Reception at least 10 minute before their tee time
- In the event of a '**No Show**' you will be issued with an initial warning, and on the second occasion you will lose your online booking privilege for 2 weeks.

3. Handicapping (including entering Digital Scores):

If you already have a handicap from a previous golf club, we can transfer this over to our Competition software with immediate effect. To do this all we require is your CDH number, which you should give to the Reception team to update.

For those new to golf, or looking to attain their first handicap, this can be done simply by handing in 54 holes of golf (6 x 9 holes or 3 x 18 holes) scorecards to Reception. These cards **MUST** be signed and witnessed by a fellow golfer, and handed on that day that you play.

Once you have a handicap on our system, you will then be issued with your CDH number which will allow you to access your handicap record, competitions results, and enter DIGITAL scorecard via our Master scoreboard section on the BRS App, and the Scottish Golf App.

BRS Golf (Master Scoreboard) – Digital scoring for Club Competitions

To access this follow the instructions below:

- On the BRS home page, click on Master Scoreboard located at the bottom right hand side
- Find your name in the Username
- On your first time logging in, your default password is '**Mearnsgolf**'
- When prompted create a new password

Scottish Golf App – Digital Scoring for General Play

It is important that all members download the new Scottish Golf App, as this will provide you with the list of your 20 last scores towards your handicap index, as well as allow you to submit your '**General Play**' scores digitally. When you download the app, follow the instructions to register, and when prompted, you will be required to enter your CDH Number.

There are lots of great features on the App, including the facility to enter Open events, as well as all of the latest news from Scottish Golf. However the key feature is '**General Play**'.

General Play (Scottish Golf App) – This enables you to submit a score for your handicap **ANYTIME** you play golf, at any golf course. This is an informal way to keep your handicap up to date without the need to play in competitions, while still maintaining a valid and accurate handicap.

To enter a general play score:

- Open the Scottish Golf App
- Click on the General Play button at the top left of the screen
- Hit Gen Play Score top right of screen
- Select the Golf Course you are playing and tees that you are playing from – there are 18 or 9 holes options for most golf courses.
- Hit Confirm
- Fill in your digital scorecard as you go around the course
- Digitally sign the card and hit submit

Please be aware this app works on GPS, so you can only enter scores when you are in the vicinity of the golf course, and you can also only submit scores 1 hour after starting the round.

4. Competitions:

9 hole Tuesday Challenge:

Every Tuesday from April –September we run a 9hole day score competition called the Tuesday Challenge. This is a STABLEFORD competition, and golfers can play anytime during the day – from 6am to 9pm.

As part of the Tuesday Challenge, we also run a league table throughout the year, which is based on your BEST 10 scores within the April-September period.

Members simply book a tee time as normal on the tee sheet (we do have reserved tee times from 5.30pm-7pm as well). On arrival at reception you **MUST** sign in to the competition by letting the staff know you will be submitting a score. You also have the option of entering the SWEEP & 2's at this point.

Scores can be entered in two ways – digital via the BRS app (preferable), or the good old fashioned scorecard, which should be completed, signed and handed into the Competitions Post-box located outside the front door. Please ensure if you are doing a paper scorecard that your name, competition and date **CLEARLY** written on the card.

How to submit digital competition scoring - BRS Golf App

- On the BRS home page, click on Master Scoreboard located at the bottom right hand side
- Find your name in the Username and enter password
- Select '**score entry**' bottom right
- Select Enter a Score
- Select Tuesday Challenge
- Select the name of your marker (must be another member)
- Select the tees you are playing from
- Complete digital scorecard as you play
- At the end of the round check your scores are correct, and hit **SUBMIT**

18 hole Medals: Take place on Saturday morning, playing from alternative tees on the 9 hole course. Due to the restriction on tee times available, the following **BALLOT** arrangement are in place to ensure fairness in the availability of tee times.

- Reserved Tees for Saturday Medals from 7.00am to 8.44am (1st Ballot), then continuing from 10.44am to 12.28pm (2nd Ballot) and 14.28 to 15.00pm (3rd ballot) – on a demand basis. Timings for ballots are to be kept under review. Members **MAY** book a tee time outwith the ballot times and enter the medal as well if times are available.
- Members wishing to compete in Saturday Medals, must enter their name on the 1st or 2nd Ballot Sheets (restricted to 42 or 12 members respectively), on a 'first come/first served basis' – by close of play on the Tuesday, prior to Saturday Medals.
- MCGC Management Team to complete the draw on the Wednesday, and allocate tee times to BRS prior to Saturday Medals and post a Time Sheet on the Notice Board and Website (Master Scoreboard), showing the order of play.

- Members must inform Reception if they are unable to accept their allocated time, no later than 5.00pm on the Friday prior to Saturday Medals.
- Failure of members to attend the Saturday Medal for the time allocated, or failure to register at Reception, before their allocated time will result in the member being banned for the next Saturday Medal and any further breaches may lead to a ban for all future Saturday Medals.
- To avoid unnecessary delays in Saturday Medals, members must also be at the 1st Tee, at least 5 minutes before their Tee-off time.
- Members without a Tee-off time may also attend speculatively on a Saturday Medal, to register at Reception for a cancelled time. Cancelled times will be offered by Reception, taking account of members placing on the Waiting List and their availability.
- MCGC Management Team to provide a Starter for each Saturday Medal from 7.00am to 10.00am
- These arrangements will be reviewed continuously and feedback from members is welcomed – to Reception or Committee members directly.

Score can again be submitted either digitally via BRS golf, or paper scorecard.

Ladies – Monday Challenge

Every Monday from April – Sept, we have a ladies 9 hole Stableford day score. Tee times are reserved every Monday from 1pm-1.30pm and 5.30pm-6.30pm, but again you may play anytime of the day if you wish. This competition runs in the exact same way as the Tuesday Challenge (please see above for details)

A full Competition schedule can be found on our club website:

<https://www.mcgolfacademy.co.uk/membership/fixtures-list/>

5. World Handicap System Guide (Mearns Castle Golf Club):

Following the transition from the former CONGU Handicap System, to the new World Handicap System (WHS), we have put together this simple guide to how the WHS works and how to access and use all of the new App technology. For those not technically minded – the old fashioned paper scorecard will still suffice going forward.

Please note that there is no requirement for you to understand or remember all of this information. The simplest way to enjoy your golf is to mark your scorecard and hand it into reception and let us do the calculations. But for those that are keen to understand more.... this document is for you.

There are 4 elements to the World Handicap System ... Handicap Index, Slope Rating, Course Rating and Course Handicap.

Handicap Index – this replaces your former Handicap and is worked out by using your last 20 rounds of golf, taking your best 8 scores and averaging them to give you your HANDICAP INDEX. If you do not have 20 qualifying rounds, this will be based on your average scored from the available data.

Slope Rating – this replaces the old Standard Scratch of the golf course. Every golf course has been awarded a Slope Rating, which is in effect the difficulty of the golf course, against a means average 113 (don't ask where this number came from!). Mearns Castle Golf Club has been awarded the following slope rating for each tee: (please note this is the same for 18 and 9 holes):

Red Tees 108

Yellow Tees 104

White Tees 105

This means that Mearns Castle is an easier course to play than say Royal Troon which has a slope rating of 134.

Course Rating – this replaces the former Competition Standard Scratch and represents how easy or hard the course is compared to the par of the course for a scratch golfer. Mearns Castle has been rated as follows:

18 holes Par 66

9 holes Par 33

Red Tees – 67.2

Red Tees – 33.6

Yellow Tees – 63.6

Yellow Tees -31.8

White Tees – 64.6

Course Handicap – this is where it starts to get fun. Each Golf Course will have a Course handicap chart which allow golfers to use their Handicap Index as the reference point to work out their Course Handicap. Our chart is located at the front door. Your Course Handicap will be different at every course you play, based on the difficulty of the course. All golf courses will have these readily available for golfers to be able to easily find and work out their Course Handicap – there is no need for you to work this out manually.

However, for those that are willing to try get their head around the calculation of this new system, here is the formula:

18 hole Course Handicap = ***Handicap Index x (slope rating/113)***

So, if your Handicap Index is 18.0, playing 18 holes from the Yellow Tees at Mearns Castle:

=18 x (104/113)

=16.56

Which rounds [up] down to give a Course Handicap of 17.

For 9 holes and playing off Yellow Tees we simply (I am being sarcastic!) use the following formula:

9 hole Course Handicap = ***(Handicap Index ÷ 2) x (9-hole Slope Rating ÷ 113) + (9-hole Course Rating – 9-hole Par)***

= (18/2) x (104/113)+(31.8-33)

=9 x 0.92+ (-1.2)

=7.08

Which rounds down to a 9 hole Course Handicap of 7.

Again, the easiest way to work out your course handicap is simply to look up the Course Handicap chart at the front door.

This course handicap is relevant for sumitting 'General Play' scores, or playing bounce games with friends.

General Play Score- this replaces your former Supplementary Score. Golfers are now encouraged to submit a General Play Score every time they play golf, in order to keep their handicap relevant to their current level of ability. The big change, is that this can be done at ANY golf course you play, not just your HOME course. These can be submitted digitally via the Scottish Golf App, or manually at reception as per normal. – more detail on this later! There is no longer the requirement to play competition golf in order to retain or hold a handicap.

Playing Handicap – just to keep you on your toes, if you decide to enter a competition eg Tuesday Challenge, 18 hole Medal - your playing handicap is 95% of your Course Handicap. – again don't ask me why... it just is! This is relevant to the result of the competitions, but NOT your ongoing Handicap Index. Below is the playing handicap chart for all forms of competitions golf.

Formats of Play	Mandatory Handicap Allowance	Formats of Play	Mandatory Handicap Allowance
Individual stroke play	95%	Best 1 of 4 stroke play	75%
Individual stableford	95%	Best 2 of 4 stroke play	85%
Individual par / bogey	95%	Best 3 of 4 stroke play	100%
Individual Maximum Score	95%	All 4 of 4 stroke play	100%
Four-ball stroke play	85%	Scramble (4 players)	25%/20%/15%/10% from lowest to highest handicap
Four-ball stableford	85%	Scramble (2 players)	35% Low / 15% High
Four-ball par / bogey	90%	Total score of 2 match play	100%
Individual match play	100%	Best 1 of 4 par / bogey	75%
Four-ball match play	90%	Best 2 of 4 par / bogey	80%
Foursomes	50% of combined team handicap	Best 3 of 4 par / bogey	90%
Greensomes	60% Low handicap + 40% high handicap	4 of 4 par / bogey	100%
Pinehurst/Chapman	60% Low handicap + 40% high handicap		

So lets go back to the 18 handicapper, who is now playing an 18 hole medal.

We know their Handicap Index is 18

We then worked out their Course Handicap was 17

So their Playing Handicap for the medal is 95% of Course Handicap (17) = 16

They then scores a gross score of 86 in the medal

So their Competition result is

86-16 = NET 70

Still with me?

My advice before reading the next section, is to read over all the previous text again, and take a wee breath, because it is just about to get even more complicated.

Handicap Differential - This term relates to how well or badly you played compared to your Handicap Index, and it is this number that will be used to update your Handicap Index. You are given a Handicap Differential for every General Play Score and Competition Score.

There is still the double NET bogey rule, whereby, for handicap purposes the worse score you can record on a hole is a double NET bogey, so this gives you an **adjusted gross score** after every round.

For beginners learning, this entitles you to simply pick your ball up if you are having a bad hole, and continue your round as normal, and your score will still count towards your handicap index.

The handicap differential is worked out using the following formula for both 9 and 18 holes of golf:

$$\text{Handicap Differential} = (\text{Adjusted Gross Score} - \text{rating of the course}) \times 113 / \text{Course slope ratings}$$

So our 18 handicap who scored **86 GROSS** playing 18 hole in a Medal from the Yellow Tees:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Handicap Differential} &= (86 - 63.6) \times 113 / 104 \\ &= 22.4 \times 1.0865 \\ &= 24.3 \end{aligned}$$

So from this round of 86, we now know they have score a NET 70 (off a 16 playing handicap) in the competitions, and their handicap differential is 24.6 against a handicap index of 18.

Back to Handicap Index - So now the round is complete, how does this impact their handicap index? Well this new handicap differential of 24.6 becomes one of your 20 counting scores toward their handicap index, and the 20th oldest score now disappears for ever – regardless of how good or bad it was!

So here are their existing last 20 scores, with his 8 best in red averaged, giving him the handicap index of 18 that we used in the example.

Score Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	Average
Handicap Differential	14.1	20.4	29.5	18.5	19	22.1	23.4	30.1	20.9	22.8	17.7	22.3	34.4	18.3	21.2	22.4	21.1	17.3	18	22.9	18

So now they have completed an additional qualifying score, the 14.1 in score 1 disappears, and is replaced with the 24.6 in score 20, with all scores moving down to create a revised list of 20 scores. We then recalculate their 8 best scores, and again average them out to give you a revised Handicap Index ready for your next game of golf, which in this example is now 18.79

Score Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	Average
Handicap Differential	20.4	29.5	18.5	19	22.1	23.4	30.1	20.9	22.8	17.7	22.3	34.4	18.3	21.2	22.4	21.1	17.3	18	22.9	24.6	18.79

It really is that simple!

So there you have it, a comprehensive and simple guide to the new WHS and the App you need to get the full benefits from this. **As always when the season starts in April, we will be here to assist you with all of this, and if you have any questions, please just ask.**