



Introductory Pack for New Members

*- Welcome to Loughrea
Golf Club*

Parent Club
Men's Club
Ladies Club

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Welcome to Loughrea Golf Club, we are delighted that you chose to join us, and we hope that you become an active member of the Club both on and off the course. Once your membership application has been ratified you will receive a Membership Sticker & Bag Tag. Please display these on your golf bag at all times. A copy of the **Club Constitution** is available from the office or can be viewed online @ www.loughreagolf.com From time to time Local Rules will be posted on Notice Boards in Locker Rooms for members attention, compliance with these rules is a necessity so please watch out for them and other notices as they may contain important information about golf matters and upcoming events in the Club etc.

Loughrea Golf Club is owned by the Members with the ownership of the Club's property vested in the Trustees (Ted McDonnell, Noel Kelly, Brendan Blake, and Terry Doyle) who act on behalf of the members.

Our key Club staff is as follows;

- Secretary/Administrator is Danny Hynes
- Bar Manager & in charge of catering is Siobhan Geraghty
- Course Manager is Colm Muldoon

Benefits of Membership

What are the benefits of being a member of Loughrea Golf Club?

- Membership allows unlimited golf for less than €10 per week.
- Get and keep fit and active while enjoying the game of golf.
- Loughrea is one of the driest courses in the West of Ireland.
- Members can obtain and maintain a handicap. Members with an official handicap may play in Club Competitions and in Open competitions at other courses.
- Meet other members and play social games of golf
- Members may introduce guests at a reduced green fee rate.
- Members will have full use of all the golf facilities in the Clubhouse
- Play on club teams at Inter-club matches.

Loughrea Golf Club

Loughrea Golf Club consists of 3 Clubs who hold individual monthly committee meetings

The Mens Club, who are responsible for the running of Men's golf and are governed by the Captain & his committee who in turn are elected by the members on a yearly basis at AGM. The Officers of the Mens Club are: Captain, Vice Captain, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, and Hon. Handicap Secretary

The Ladies Club, who are responsible for the running of Ladies golf and are governed by the Lady Captain & her committee who in turn are elected by the members on a yearly basis at AGM. The Officers of the Mens Club are: Lady Captain, Vice Captain, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, and Hon. Handicap Secretary

The Parent Club, which is made up of all members of the Men's & Ladies clubs. The Parent Club has an elected committee who are responsible for collecting Membership Fees, the day to day running and the business affairs of the club. The Parent Committee is made up of: President, Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Mens & Ladies Captains & Vice Captains, Junior Convenor plus 3 other members

Further details of the committees and those elected can be found on our website. If there is some query you have regarding a golf matter you should address your query in writing to the Hon. Secretary of the relevant club (Men's or Ladies) and it will be dealt with at their monthly meeting.

The national governing body for Men is the Golfing Union of Ireland (GUI) and for ladies is the Irish Ladies Golfing Union (ILGU)

The Rules of golf are laid down by the Royal & Ancient and this rule book is available free of charge when available. You can also browse the rule book on the GUI/ILGU websites.

Fixtures Diary

A fixtures Diary is printed at the beginning of the year and contains a list of all competitions and sponsors for the Ladies & Mens Clubs. This fixtures Diary is available free of charge around the clubhouse or on the website

Matchplay Competitions

The Mens & Ladies Clubs both run matchplays during the course of the year. This encourages members to play with other members that they may not normally play with. Notices of starting times of these matchplays will be posted on notice boards.

Loughrea Golf Club: Tel 091 841049. email: loughreagolfclub@eircom.net website: loughreagolfclub.com

Matchplays are played on a knock out basis, once you lose a match you are out of the competition. You will play a fellow member(s) of the club either in a singles competition or as part of a paring (i.e. you are partnered with another member playing opposite 2 others). You pay a small fee to enter these matchplays, a draw sheet is posted in locker rooms showing who you are playing against and what date the match is due to be played by and the rest is left to you.

Mens Competitions

MATCHPLAY COMPETITION	FORMAT	DETAILS & SPONSOR
Bishops Cup	Singles Matchplay	Originally donated by a previous Bishop of Clonfert many years ago. It continues to be played for in honour of the current incumbent .
Dyar Salver	Fourball Matchplay	Played in honour of a former Trustee & local doctor, Martin J Dyar (deceased) who, in his day, was a very active member of the club.
Musgrave Foursomes	Foursome Matchplay	Sponsored by Musgraves Retail Partners
Mixed Foursomes	Mixed Foursomes	A great social event with mixed partners
Winter League		This is a team event run over the Winter months with scores of all the team members after each weekend competition added to give a cumulative total to decide the outright winning team.
Golfer of the Year	Singles	12 GOY competitions are held during the year. A player's best 8 cards will constitute his total GOY score for the year. The winner is determined by the lowest net-gross score from his best 8 cards from the 12 events.

Ladies Competitions

MATCHPLAY COMPETITION	FORMAT	DETAILS & SPONSOR
Murphy/Stanley Trophy	Singles Matchplay	Sponsored by Emily Stanley and donated to the club by 2 Past Lady Captains, Emily Stanley & Phyllis Murphy (deceased)
Ring Competition		This competition adds extra interest to a round. You pay a once off entry fee at the beginning of the year and all you have to do is draw a circle (thus the name ring!) on your score card around a good score (in your opinion) that you have at that hole. Scores are totalled at end of the year to decide winner.
Winter League		This is a team event run over the Winter months and again it gives added interest to members to play at this time of year. It Is similar to the Mens Winter league but with different rules

How to Get a Handicap

If you were a member during the previous calendar year at another affiliated club, you can transfer your handicap to Loughrea Golf Club on production of a Handicap Certificate. If you never had a handicap, or your handicap has lapsed, you will need to get a new handicap. In order to obtain a handicap you must submit 3 x 18 Hole Cards which have been signed by a valid marker.

A marker is one who is appointed by the Committee to record a competitor's score in stroke play. He may be a fellow-competitor. He is not a referee. A valid marker for marking a card in this instance is another member that has a valid handicap.

IMPORTANT: Wait until you have completed the 3 cards, clip them together and put them in an envelope and mark it 'For Handicap'. If you have your GUI/ILGU number then write it on the card also. The cards should then be either handed to the relevant Handicap Secretary or placed in the competition box in the relevant locker room. **You cannot play in competitions until you have attained a club handicap**

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Swipe Cards

On joining the club each member is registered with 'golfnet' and is issued with a Swipe Card, regardless of whether they have attained a handicap or not. This card contains a unique 8 digit number (your GUI/ILGU number) which identifies you.

This card has a number of uses as follows:

The card holds your details including your handicap. When you are playing in competitions, whether in Loughrea or away you must swipe this card in the card reader to enter the competition. Further details on the procedure for entering competitions are posted on notice board in locker rooms.

Your Swipe Card also contains 3 accounts as follows;

Bar Account	This can be used to purchase food at the Bar. It may have credit from the catering levy when you paid your annual fees or it can be topped up at the bar or office. If you have credit as part of the catering levy it must be used by the end of the clubs financial year
Competition Account	The Men's Club use the swipe card for payment of competition fees. You must credit your Competition Account at the bar or office and this is automatically deducted from your account as you enter the home competition.
Savings Account	This account can be used to save for your annual subscription. You can put in as little or as much as you want over the year. Again, this can be done at the bar or in the office

Remember; when you are topping up your account state which accounts you want the funds to go into.

Competitions and Timesheets

Competitions in Loughrea are run every weekend and Bank Holidays by the Mens & Ladies Clubs **and every Wednesday throughout the year the Parent Club run an Open Singles Competition.** There are also two Open Weeks run during the summer.

Open competitions mean that the competition is open to members and visitors from other clubs. All other competitions are for members of Loughrea Golf Club only.

In order to play in a competition you must have a club handicap and you must have another player playing with you who will mark (verify) your score. Some competitions are played in 3's and some are played in 4's. **Members usually organise there playing group and book on the time sheet. If you need assistance in forming a playing group contact your club Captain, they will be more than happy to assist you and introduce you to other members.**

Timesheets are used when there is a competition taking place as it allows competitors to book a time slot which is suitable for them to play golf. Once their names are on that slot no other group of people may tee off from the 1st Tee at this time, unless of course you are late in which case you forfeit the slot. It also ensures that a proper interval of time is maintained between groups of people teeing off. The Timesheet is always available, at least 1 week before a competition in the bar, or you may secure a slot by ringing the clubhouse @ 091 841049.

If you do not have a playing partner you are welcome to put your name on the sheet with others **where there is a space.**

The Men's and Ladies Committees encourage all members to play in the competitions organised and support the club. However, if you wish to play golf on a competition day but not to play in a competition you are entitled to put your name on the timesheet. It would be appreciated not to tee off at peak times such as Sunday mornings.

It is extremely important that players unable to make their tee time notify the clubhouse in sufficient time out of respect for the Golf Club and their playing partners.

Etiquette

Every individual in the club should at all times, show respect and understanding for the rights, safety and welfare of all.

On the Course: Please avoid slow play at all times. If you are not able to keep up with the people ahead of you, and you are delaying the people behind you, you must give way. Please dress appropriately at all times. Please repair pitch marks on the greens and rake bunkers before moving on to the next hole. Your behaviour on the course should never cause interference to other players at any time.

In the Bar: Golf shoes worn on the course should never be worn in the bar. Please dress appropriately at all times. Language which is offensive to others and bar staff should not be used.

Golf Lessons

Unfortunately we do not have a golf PRO employed at the club but if you require lessons you may contact the local based PGA professionals Ray Ryan who operates the Loughrea Golf Driving Range or Declan Cunningham who operates from Athenry g.c. and arrange lessons with them.

Seniors

We have a very active group of Seniors who run a competition among themselves on Friday mornings throughout the year. Ladies 50 yrs & over and Men 55 yrs & over are welcome to join the group and play in this competition.

Inter-club Competitions

The Club is constantly on the lookout for players who are interested in playing inter-club competitions. Team captains are appointed by the Captain's and these are posted on the notice boards and on the GUI/ILGU web sites. There is a Teams Notice board in the Men's locker room and information details are posted in the spring/early summer upon the formation of teams.

The Mens Primary Inter-club competitions are;

- Senior Cup & Barton Shield, handicaps usually below 4
- Junior Cup, Handicap 5 to 8,
- Jimmy Bruen, Handicap 6 to 12
- Pierce Purcell, Handicap 12 to 18
- Connacht Shield, Mixed Foursomes and Jack O'Sullivan, broader handicap range.

Qualifying handicap is usually determined by the previous year's lowest and the player must have returned a minimum number of cards.

The Ladies Primary Inter-club Competitions are;

- Burren Trophy
- Senior Foursomes, handicap - minimum combined
- Junior Foursomes, handicap 15 to 30 minimum combined 35
- Junior Cup (singles), handicap 8 to 15
- Intermediate Cup (singles), handicap 16 to 22
- Minor Cup (singles), handicap 23 to 29
- Challenge Cup (singles) handicap 30 to 36

The Junior Section

A Junior Section currently operates in the club. The Junior Convenor, Uinsinn Finn organises junior competition during the summer and school holidays, usually on a Thursday morning. There is also junior practice days organised. See the junior notice board for further details or the Junior section of the web site.

Loughrea Juniors also partake in GUI/ILGU events.