

## MARSDEN GOLF CLUB

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### NEW MEMBERS – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### **When can I start playing?**

As soon as you have paid any outstanding membership fees.

Are there any restrictions on when I can play?

Yes, but not too many. There are times when the course is reserved for competitions. During summer these are mainly on Saturdays all day up to 4.00pm and on Sundays afternoons when there is priority for Ladies competitions from 12.30 through to 3.00pm.

During winter the 'Winter League' matches are played starting 8.30 am on Sunday mornings.

At other times you may have to slot in with others sets of golfers including those playing matches against each other or against members from other clubs. People playing in competitions will usually be playing off white tees. They have priority over social golfers and visiting fee payers. Social golfers should always play off yellow tees. Ladies play off red tees. The member's handbook, which is published in April each year, contains information about club competitions, league matches, etc. with details of dates and times. Watch out for Seniors League matches on Friday alternate afternoons. These have priority over casual golf.

#### **What about 'winter mats'?**

We require all who play during winter months to use 'winter mats'. These can be bought in the clubhouse at cost price. We use the mats to protect our fairways from damage. Start and end dates for winter mats are not fixed. They vary a little according to the weather. Once started

**Do I need a handicap?**

No...not to play with family and friends or on your own but having a handicap opens the way to opportunities for playing social and competitive golf.

**How do I get a handicap?**

You need to have three scorecards marked and signed by a club member. These can be 9 hole cards or 18 hole cards. Hand your card in at the club bar (one at a time or all three together) and you will be given your handicap. This will be entered into the national handicap database via our club computer. You will then have a handicap that is automatically updated when you enter any competition scores.

**Can I get lessons?**

Yes...we have an experienced club professional, Dave Thompson, who can readily provide lessons and coaching for individuals, pairs and family groups. Fees are very competitive and Dave will be happy to provide a one-off lesson or a series of lessons – anything from the basics to coaching in a specific aspect of the game. He can support you all the way to achieving a golf handicap including on-course practice.

Contact email is [thompsondavid@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:thompsondavid@yahoo.co.uk) and phone number is 07708 894 329.

**When and where can I practice?**

You can practice iron play at any time on our practice fairway that is located alongside the 4th/13th fairway. We have a couple of nets for driving practice.

### **Can I come to the club and 'join in'?**

Yes please...this is the best way to get into golf. There are opportunities for friendly social competitive golf (put a £ or two in the prize 'kitty') throughout the year, weather permitting. Arrive soon after 10.00am for a coffee in the clubhouse ahead of our friendly Tuesday and Thursday mornings 'roll-up'. Teams of three or four are drawn out of a hat at 10.30am. Non-handicapped golfers are welcome as they can get a card marked by one of our established members and soon be given an official handicap.

Similarly, during the summer, there are evening weekly 'roll-up' competitions for friendly after-work golf. These are usually on Tuesdays and Fridays and can be limited to 9 holes but you will need to keep an eye on the club notice board for information about these.

### **Can I enter competitions?**

As soon as you have a handicap.

### **How do I enter competitions?**

Entry forms are pinned on the notice board in the porch usually a week in advance of the competition. Just put your name down in an empty space at a time that suits you. Don't worry about who you are playing with.

They will be happy to be in a full set of three players or have you as a partner if it is a 'pairs' event. There are plenty of regulars who put their name on the entry form and look forward to finding out who they are playing with on the day.

Having entered, turn up with time to spare for collecting your scorecard, paying the modest entry fee, meeting your playing partners and for getting ready go to the first tee at the correct time. You should come even earlier if you need a pint of strong ale to get you sufficiently relaxed for that all-important drive off the first tee.

**Am I insured?**

For most eventualities, 'yes'. We have comprehensive insurance cover for club members and visitors. This can be especially important in the event of an accident or being struck by a golf ball – or striking someone or something else with your ball

Are there any particular 'rules' that I should know about?

You should wear golf shoes when playing on the on the course. We have a relaxed 'smart casual' dress code in the club house. Jeans are allowed.

There are some other rules in the club handbook. Do have a look at these.

**How do I get my bar concession card'?**

Your bar concession card and your membership bag tag will be issued soon after your membership has been approved. It will be held behind the club bar and handed over to you on payment of any outstanding fees.