



# Members Handbook



The 'Constitution' and the 'Byelaws' of the Club can be found on the Club website [www.milnathortgolfclub.co.uk](http://www.milnathortgolfclub.co.uk).

## **New Member Essential Information**

### **Website**

The Society use BRS Golf software. Members have access to an App called BRS GOLF which gives ease of access to all relevant information without a need to login to the club website.

### **New Members**

Once admitted, new members will be issued with a Membership Card and account, that you can add credit to and can be used for clubhouse purchases and from which competition entry fees are taken. This in-house debit card for transactions at the bar and dining room, receives a 10% Member's discount.

### **Guests**

Members may invite guests to join them in play on payment of the appropriate fee to the bar or online via Paypal. On any one day the maximum number of Guests a member may introduce without advanced notice is three. For more than three and up to seven guests, a Member must contact the Club Office for approval. No individual may be the guest of a Member more than once in any four week period.

### **Dress Code**

Clean golf shoes (no metal studs) may be worn in the Clubhouse. Smart casual and golf wear may be worn throughout most of the Clubhouse and on the course. Dress code is best described as smart/casual or golf attire.

### **Key Contact Number & Email Addresses**

Club Office	01577 840469	<a href="mailto:office@milnathortgolfclub.co.uk">office@milnathortgolfclub.co.uk</a>
Competitions		<a href="mailto:competitions@milnathortgolfclub.co.uk">competitions@milnathortgolfclub.co.uk</a>

### **PGA Professional Services**



Gregor Wright provides PGA Professional Services including coaching and sales. Please contact him directly on [gwgolf@hotmail.com](mailto:gwgolf@hotmail.com)

### **Mobile Phones and Wifi Access**

Wifi facilities are available within the premises. To avoid disturbing others, mobile devices should be used within the clubhouse for data purposes only. All calls should be taken outside the lounge.

### **Club Facebook and Twitter**

F: @Milnathort Golf Club

T: @MilnathortGC

## **General Information**

### **Visitors**

The Club welcomes visitors to play the course on payment of the appropriate green fee. On the day they play they become de facto members, having full access to the clubhouse and facilities, albeit they must adhere to the rules of the Club including dress code. Outings are welcome on application to the club office, although there are some time restrictions preserving popular Members times.

### **Reciprocal Golf**

The clubs that we enjoy reciprocity with are on the Club Website. To book a reciprocal course send an e-mail to the Club Administrator to organise with details of your playing partners, if any.

The Scottish clubs each currently charge 50% green fee. Non-member guests are charged the price stated by the host club. There are no restrictions on how often reciprocity can be used in Scotland owing to the charge, though the away club may take note if used regularly by individuals.

### **Juniors**

The Club has a thriving junior section from the age of 12 - 18. Junior medals are shown in the fixture list. The Club runs a Junior team which competes in the Perth & Kinross Summer League and other county



events. For children between the ages of 7 - 11 there is a Mini Junior section. Application forms for Mini Juniors are available from the club office.

## **The Course**

### **When can I play?**

The course is playable during daylight hours. The Green staff have priority until 9am daily to prepare the course for that day's play. For competitions the start time is normally 8am.

### **Protocols for starting a game**

All members and guests must book a tee time using the BRS booking system. Players must start from the 1<sup>st</sup> tee and determine in advance if playing 9 or 18 holes.

Being a 9 hole course, where members play 18 holes, the second 9 is booked 1 hour and 40 minutes after the front 9. Whilst it is acceptable to start the back 9 earlier if the 1<sup>st</sup> tee is free, golfers must adhere to the times allocated. If longer than 1 hour and 40 minutes then the back 9 cannot be started until the next available free tee time.

### **Tee positions**

The various match play competitions are usually played from the medal White tees. General play should be from the position of the tee box on each day, usually adjacent to the Yellow tee but play from other tees is permissible. The Red tees are for play by Ladies.

## **Other Course Information**

### **Course playability**

The Head Greenkeeper has ultimate responsibility for the course. The course will stay open on whatever greens deemed best for the weather conditions, as often as possible. If extreme or dangerous conditions require it, he will declare the course unplayable for competition golf. Restrictions such as requiring the use of temporary greens, prohibiting the use of motorised buggies or trolleys, specifying the tees to be used or designating areas of the course as GUR are also within the remit.



There will be other times when the course is restricted for general play, e.g. Club competitions, Club matches, reservations and special events. These are usually diarised well in advance, albeit the website should be used as the most up-to-date reference. The Head Greenkeeper reviews the course on a daily basis and an update can be accessed on the Club's website and Facebook page.

### **Bunker rakes**

Every bunker on the course has at least one rake which should be used to smooth over footprints and other indentations. In accordance with recommendations from the R&A, after use, the rake should be replaced part in the bunker and part out.

### **Winter golf**

The main golfing season ends in October, although golf is enjoyed all year round at Milnathort. The Club will often use the winter months to carry out major projects on the course.

In order to protect the condition of the course during the winter, playing restrictions are introduced when needed. Normally, winter teeing grounds will be prepared and play on the fairways is off a mat (these can be purchased from the bar).

### **Respect for the Course**

Members should consider how they wish to find the course. They should therefore ensure bunkers are raked after use, pitch marks are repaired on the greens and divots are replaced. Trolleys and buggies should be kept away from greens and aprons and should not be taken onto the teeing areas.

### **Slow play**

Players should keep up with the group ahead and if they find they have lost a hole and are holding up the game behind, they should invite that group to play through.



## **Practice and warm up facilities**

The Club is well equipped with practice facilities. Members can enjoy the practice net, putting green, pitching green and practice area adjacent to the 1<sup>st</sup> tee and fairway.

## **Greenkeepers**

Members are asked to be aware of greenkeepers working on the course and to respect their safety at all times. If the greens staff are cutting a green or fairway or rough you should wait until they have acknowledged your presence before hitting your shot.

## **Competitions**

### **Entry to competitions**

Entry to all formal Club competitions is open two weeks before the competition date. Individuals can enter for themselves and up to two other members, from whom they should have prior approval. Entries can be made online via the Members area of the Club website and the BRS Golf App.

Members are asked to avoid withdrawing from competitions at a late stage and if they must they should advise their playing partners and the Match & Handicap Team. It is essential every competitor has a playing partner to mark their card and late withdrawals can jeopardise this. Members are encouraged to use the BRS App to submit scores online, whilst depositing their hard copy scorecard in a box.

Following play, each member should check, agree and acknowledge the card of the member they played with and then enter their own scores into the App or post the scorecard through the scorecard return box.

### **Match Play Competitions**

Throughout the summer months the Club runs several hole and hole competition, open to all adult members. There is also a 4 ball better ball competition and in the winter there is a winter league and other winter events, also played off handicap. The Juniors have their own versions. A current competition handicap is required to qualify to participate.



The Club championships are played over a week in June. These are mostly played off scratch and there are categories for Gents, Ladies, Juniors, for those members with a handicap above 9, (the 'B' Championship).

## **The Clubhouse**

The Lounge is a communal lounge for Members, guests and visitors alike, which is open every day. An informal dress code operates here with access to the licensed bar which provides a range of drinks and limited snacks including filled rolls. The bar & catering has the core hours as follows:

- Monday 1000-1500
- *Tuesday Bar & Catering closed*
- Wednesday 1000-1500
- Thursday 1000-1500
- Friday 1000-1500
- Saturday 1000-1500
- *Sunday Bar only 1000-1500 (Limited snacks available)*

Please refer to the website or members board for seasonal closing times.

The Lounge is open throughout the day and has a TV that is used mainly for sports events. A coin operated machine is also available for tea and coffee in the Lounge.

## **Functions**

Members may also use the various clubhouse facilities to stage their own functions with special anniversaries and birthdays being the favourites.

We can also arrange wedding and funeral receptions. The Clubs' facilities are sometimes used by outside Societies and the Club Administrator is happy to receive any enquiries about events.



## **Players using the Clubhouse**

Golf bags for members' lockers are allowed into the locker room but otherwise they should be left outside under the canopy of the clubhouse.

## **How we manage ourselves**

### **Management Team**

Currently we have a Management Team of 5 chaired by the Club Captain. The Management Team work together to oversee the running of the Club.

Normally a committee member would serve 2 years, after which point they can demit office or stand again for election.

### **Meeting structures**

Traditionally the Club holds its Annual General Meeting in November each year. Amongst other things, the meeting receives the report of the Committee and the Annual Accounts for the Club's financial year to the previous end March. In addition it will elect the new Members of the Management Team as appropriate.

### **Employed Staff**

We currently have 9 staff including temporary staff brought in for special functions. We have a Club Administrator, a Bar & Catering operative assisted by part-time staff providing the multitude of services required to run and maintain the clubhouse. The Head Greenkeeper, his assistant, and occasional seasonal assistance manage the Golf Course.

### **Communications**

There is a minimum of one weekly newsletter issued by email to all members. If you don't receive the newsletters, please check with the Club Office to ensure that your contact preferences are correct.

### **Application for Membership**

All membership applications should be submitted to the Club Office.