

# COMPETITION CONDITIONS

## 1. CHIGWELL BOWL

Open Competition

36-hole Scratch Stroke Play.

Individual Handicap Limit - 8.

Handicap Prizes will be awarded.

Open to players under 25 years of age at 00.00 hours on 1<sup>st</sup> January in the year of the event.

## 2. COLTS CHAMPIONSHIP

36-holes Scratch Stroke Play.

Played in conjunction with the Chigwell Bowl.

Open to players under 21 years of age at 00.00 hours on 1<sup>st</sup> January in the year of the event and who fulfil the eligibility requirements of Regulation 2 and 2.1.

The winner may also receive the Chigwell Bowl.

## 3. CLIFFORDS TROPHY (Formerly the Courage Trophy)

36-hole Scratch Stroke Play.

Individual Handicap Limit - 6.

Handicap Prizes will be awarded.

## 4. ESSEX AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP

A Championship meeting shall be held each year to decide the Essex Amateur Championship, the Esplen Trophy and the Jubilee Trophy.

The Amateur Championship of the County shall be open to any amateur who qualifies under paragraph 2 and 2.1 of the County Regulations.

Two or better handicap players will receive direct entry into the competition and there will be a ballot to determine the remaining places.

The Amateur Championship shall be decided by a 72-hole Stroke Play Competition.

The top 42 players and ties on the first day will qualify for the final 36 holes.

The competitor returning the lowest gross aggregate shall be the winner.

## 5. JUBILEE TROPHY

Played for in conjunction with the Essex Amateur Championship and awarded to the leading player who is under 21 years of age at 00.00 hours on 1<sup>st</sup> January in the year of the event.

The winner of the County Championship may also hold the Jubilee Trophy.

## 6. ESSEX SENIORS CHAMPIONSHIP (The Chelmsford Challenge Trophy)

Handicap Limit - 12.

36-holes Scratch Stroke Play Competition played over two days.

Open to players aged 50 or over on the day of the event.

The competitor returning the lowest Gross Aggregate Score to be the winner of the Championship.

Handicap prizes will be awarded in the following categories; over 50, over 55, over 60 and over 65.

- 7. KEATING TROPHY**  
36-holes Scratch Stroke Play.  
The leading 16 players qualify for the Match Play section at a later date.  
The draw for the match play section will be seeded in accordance with the Stroke Play finishing order.
- 8. ROMFORD TROPHY**  
36-hole Scratch Stroke Play.  
Open to Essex Category One players.
- 9. UPMINSTER BOWL**  
36-hole Scratch Stroke Play.  
Individual Handicap Limit – 5.  
Handicap Prizes will be awarded.  
Open to players under 25 years of age at 00.00 hours on 1<sup>st</sup> January in the year of the event.
- 10. UPMINSTER TROPHY (OVER 25)**  
36-hole Scratch Stroke Play.  
Individual Handicap Limit – 5.  
Handicap Prizes will be awarded.  
Open to players over 25 years of age at 00.00 hours on 1<sup>st</sup> January in the year of the event.
- 11. VETERANS TROPHIES**  
18-hole Stableford Competition off full Handicap.  
Individual Handicap Limit - 18.  
Clubs may enter a maximum of two players.  
Plus past winners of the County Veterans Trophies.  
Open to players 55 years or over on the day of the event.  
The use of buggies is permitted.
- 12. COUNTY CARD MEMBERS MEETING**  
18 hole Stableford Four-Ball Better Ball.  
Handicap Allowance  $\frac{3}{4}$ .  
Open to all Lady and Male County Card members of Clubs affiliated to the Essex Golf Union and the Essex Ladies County Golf Association, who are over 18 years of age.
- 13. CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP (THE ESPLIN TROPHY)**  
Played in conjunction with the Essex Amateur Championship and open to all affiliated Clubs.  
Stroke Play Competition decided over 36 holes played on the first day of the Championship. The winning Club being that which has the lowest gross aggregate of their best two players, in both the first and second 18 holes. In the event of a tie the result will be decided on the scores over the last 18, 9, 6, 3, or 18th hole on the card.
- 14. ESSEX FOURSOMES CHAMPIONSHIP**  
36-hole Scratch Stroke Play Foursomes.  
Each Club shall be entitled to enter two pairs.

## 15. HERBERT BISHOP VASE

18-holes Stableford Four-Ball Better Ball.

Handicap Allowance  $\frac{3}{4}$ .

Open to the Captain and Secretary of each club affiliated to the Essex Golf Union or either of these with a nominated member.

The use of buggies is permitted.

## 16. MULLIS TROPHY

36-hole Bogey Foursomes.

Full Handicap Allowance.  $\frac{1}{2}$  combined handicap (individual limit 18).

Open to those who have not represented their Club in the current year's competition for the Thornton Cup, the Leslie F. Wood, or the Foursomes Championships.

Clubs may enter one pair only.

## 17. ESSEX MATCH PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP (The Allan Lockwood Trophy)

1. The competition is open to male golfers in all Handicap Categories who are members of clubs affiliated to the Essex Golf Union and are aged 18 or over at 00.00 hours on 1<sup>st</sup> January in the year of the event.
2. Matches will be played off current playing handicap with a maximum of 28. Full handicap allowance is to be taken. A current Handicap Certificate must be submitted with each entry form and both players' current exact handicaps must be entered on the result card.
3. The draw for each round will decide which player is at Home and the match will be played on his HOME course unless agreed otherwise with his opponent.
4. If the home player's club states that a Green Fee must be paid in respect of the away player then the fee should be shared by both players. (Note: the Green Fee should be that applying to a Member's Guest) Clubs will have been asked not to charge a Green Fee if possible.
5. Both players will be advised by a Draw Card of their draw for a round but it is the Home player's duty to contact his opponent without delay to arrange the match. He must offer three dates of which one must be at a weekend.
6. If the Away player has not been contacted within 7 days of receiving the draw it becomes his Home match and he must now contact his opponent to make arrangements and offer him 3 dates, of which one must be at a week-end.
7. The Home player must ensure that the course is open and available on the date arranged or he must forfeit his home advantage and play the match away or, if this is not possible, on a neutral course.
8. The winner must return the Draw Card immediately by first class post showing the result, the score, both current exact handicaps and the signature of both players.
9. No extensions of time can be given and if a result has not been received by the date shown on the Draw Card BOTH players will be disqualified.  
Please note that where possible the semi-finals and the final will be played on a neutral course.
10. All disputes will be decided by the Competition Committee whose decisions shall be final.

## 18. ESSEX SENIORS TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP (The Shepherd Neame Trophy)

1. The competition is to be played annually by Match Play between Clubs affiliated to the Essex Golf Union. No Green Fees are to be payable in respect of the competition but, if this is unavoidable, the home club shall bear the cost.
2. The draw for each round will be made on the Monday following the completion of each round. The clubs first drawn in each match shall have the choice of course. The Committee has the right to declare any venue unsuitable for play in the competition.
3. Each round shall be played on a weekday during a specified week and only under extreme circumstances can any extension be granted. Non-appearance of a team by the agreed start time on the agreed day rules the team out of the competition unless the Committee decides otherwise on appeal.
4. Each Club to be represented by eleven players who must be members of the Club and who are 55 years or over at 00.00 hours on the 1<sup>st</sup> January of the year of the competition. In addition, the Club must be the Home Club for handicap purposes of each player.
5. Captains must exchange their playing order at least 15 minutes before the starting time of each round. The order should contain the player nominated to contest the play-off, if it is required. However, if any player shall become unable to play by reason of illness or injury or other emergency before the start of the match, his place in the order of play may be taken by an additional player qualified as above. Only one reserve per team to be allowed.

*Note: In matches up to and including the Quarter Finals reserves are permitted to play at the tail of the order but their scores do not count.*

*Reserves are not permitted to play in the Semi-Finals or Final.*

6. All matches are singles Match Play from the Home Club's normal medal tees. Full Handicap allowance is to be taken (any player above 18 handicap must play off a maximum of 18 handicap). Any match finishing all square at the conclusion of the 18<sup>th</sup> hole shall be declared a halved match. In the event of the overall match ending in a tie of 5½ matches per side, the player nominated by each team shall compete in a sudden death play-off in hole order, from the first tee, with handicap stroke allowance being taken accordingly, in accordance with the rule of the competition.

*Note: Play must be in 2 Balls. If a club drawn at home is unable to fulfil this requirement the match must be played on the opponents' course.*

7. No Professional golfer shall act as Team Captain or be allowed to caddie.
8. If for any reason the course is not playable, or there are conditions which render the proper playing of the match impossible, the two Captains, or authorised officials of the Host Club, may order a temporary suspension of play. If, because of such conditions or circumstances, the round cannot be concluded on the appointed day, the following decisions apply:
  - i) If play is unable to start because of adverse weather conditions such as thunder and lightning, the round should be played as soon as possible on another day by mutual agreement.
  - ii) If play is suspended before completion of the match, the match should be cancelled and replayed as soon as possible by mutual agreement, with each team free to alter its original team and playing order.
  - iii) If it proves impossible to fix a date to complete the match the results of the completed games stand and the incomplete games will be treated as halved – in the event of no result the Committee will make the final decision.

- iv) The Committee reserves the right to alter the format during the competition to achieve an equitable result.
9. Each home Club will be expected to extend courtesy to a maximum of twelve team members of the away club for the purpose of practice from the competition tees, arrangements to be made through the Club Secretary.
  10. Each Home Club is expected to be responsible for arranging catering, the cost of which will be shared by both clubs, with the Away Club responsible for communicating their numbers in reasonable time.
  11. The winning Club is responsible for advising the County Office of the result of each match. The result sheet must be faxed on 01376 500842 or sent by other means, to arrive at the County Office no later than 10 a.m. on the day immediately following the match. Failure to comply with this regulation may result in the Club being disqualified.
  12. The Semi-Finals and Final will be played on neutral courses selected by the Committee and County Officials will attend these matches.
  13. The winning Club will hold the Trophy for 12 months. All players in the Final plus two reserves will receive a medal. *Note: additional medals for players missing the Final may be purchased from the County Office.*
  14. It is a condition of entry into the Essex Seniors Team Championship that clubs make their courses available for matches from the Semi-Final stages onwards and will host matches between any two teams as required.  
Note: Any Club who refuse to host one of the other matches, will have to play their match on their opponent's course.

**19. THE LESLIE F. WOOD TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP**  
(See *Thornton Challenge Cup*)

## 20. THE NORMAN PLUM TROPHY

1. Inter-Club Team Knock-out Competition. Open to Category 3 & 4 players only, who are over 18 on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January in the year of the competition, and must be members (see competition regulation 2)
2. Each team to consist of twelve players, with a minimum of two players from each category. 6 playing at home and 6 playing away on the same day.
3. The competition is to be played annually between Clubs affiliated to the Essex Golf Union. No Green Fees are to be payable in respect of the competition but, if this is unavoidable, the home club shall bear the cost.
4. Each round shall be played on a mutually agreed day, during a specified week and only under extreme circumstances can any extension be granted. If teams are unable to agree a date and time, matches will commence at 12 pm on the Sunday of the week specified by the committee. Non-appearance of a team by the agreed start time on the agreed day rules the team out of the competition unless the Committee decides otherwise on appeal.
5. 18 hole Four-Ball Better Ball Stableford. Handicap Allowance  $\frac{3}{4}$  (open to 28 handicap and below with a maximum stroke allowance of 18), pairs can be of any handicap combination.
6. The Team with the highest combined Stableford points goes forward to the next round.
7. In the event of a tie, the team with the highest combined away Stableford points are the winners. If this fails to produce a winner the match will be decided by count back by the away player's scores in the 3<sup>rd</sup> match, then the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 1<sup>st</sup>.
8. The winning team is responsible for informing the County Office of the result no later than the Monday of the week following the match.
9. The draw for each round will be made on the Monday following the completion of each round.
10. There will be no compulsory courtesy rounds in this Competition.
11. The Final will be played at a neutral venue.
12. If for any reason the course is not playable, or there are conditions which render the proper playing of the match impossible, the two Captains, or authorised officials of the Host Club, may order a temporary suspension of play. If, because of such conditions or circumstances, the round cannot be concluded on the appointed day, the following decisions apply:
  - i) If play is unable to start (in both the home and away matches) because of adverse weather conditions such as thunder and lightning, the round should be played as soon as possible on another day by mutual agreement. However if only one part (i.e. the home or away portion of the match) is unable to start due to adverse weather, only this portion may be re-arranged. The result of the played portion will stand.
  - ii) If play is suspended before completion of both the home and away portion, the match should be cancelled and replayed as soon as possible by mutual agreement, with each team free to alter its original team and playing order. However if only one part (i.e. the home or away portion of the match) is suspended before the completion, only the suspended part shall be rearranged.
  - iii) If it proves impossible to fix a date to complete the match the results of the completed games stand and the incomplete games will be treated as halved. In the event of no result the Committee will make the final decision.
    - iii) The Committee reserves the right to alter the format during the competition to achieve an equitable result.
    - iv)

## **21. THE THORNTON CHALLENGE CUP & LESLIE F. WOOD TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP**

1. The regulations for these two competitions are identical, except that:
  - a) In addition to Golf Clubs affiliated to the Essex Golf Union, Golf Clubs in Middlesex and Hertfordshire originally served by the Great Eastern section of the former London and North Eastern Railway are eligible for the Thornton Cup.
  - b) In the Leslie F. Wood Championship a player shall be eligible whose handicap is 7.5 or more at the date of the preliminary or any subsequent round.
  - c) A Club that wishes to increase a player's handicap above 7.4 in their annual handicap review (see clause 23 of the CONGU Unified Handicapping System) must first obtain permission from the Essex Golf Union. The Committee reserves the right to carry out inspections of the Handicap records of any competing club at any time and to penalise any club by disqualification if there is clear evidence of 'building' of handicaps, whether or not this is intentional.
2. Match Play Competition played annually between Clubs affiliated to the Essex Golf Union and those Clubs named in (a) above.
3. It is a condition of entry into the Thornton Challenge Cup, Leslie F. Wood Trophy that clubs make their courses available for matches from the Quarter Final stages onwards and will host matches between any two teams as required.  
Note: Any Club reaching the quarter-finals or semi-finals that refuse to host one of the matches, will have to play their match on their opponent's course.
4. The draw for each round will be made on the Monday following the completion of each round, the Clubs first announced in the draw shall have the choice of course. The Executive Committee has the right to declare any venue unsuitable for play in the Competition.
5. Each Club to be represented by ten players, who must be Members (see competition regulation 2) on 1<sup>st</sup> January of the year in which the event takes place.
6. All matches to be played off scratch.
7. Each home Club will be expected to extend courtesy to a maximum of twelve team members of the away club for the purpose of practice from the competition tees, arrangements to be made through the Club Secretary.
8. Each home Club should ensure at least a 30-minute buffer zone before both morning and afternoon matches, if this is not available home advantage should be forfeited.
9. No green-fees shall be payable in respect of the competition but, if this unavoidable, the home Club should bear the cost.
10. Match Format: Morning - Five Foursomes, Afternoon - Ten Singles.  
All foursomes or individual matches to be played over 18 holes or any lesser number to achieve a result. Any match all square at the conclusion of the 18<sup>th</sup> hole shall be declared a halved match. In the event of the overall match ending in a tie of 7½ matches per side, a player nominated by each team shall compete in a sudden death play-off over designated holes agreed by the two Captains, or by a County official from the semi-final stages.
11. Captains must exchange their playing order at least 15 minutes before the starting time of each round. The afternoon order should indicate the player nominated to contest the play-off, if it is required. Once the playing order has been exchanged, no alterations will be permitted. However, if any player shall become unable to play by reason of illness or injury or other emergency before the start of any 18 holes, his place in the order of play may be taken by an additional player qualified as above. Only one substitute per team to be allowed.

12. Each round must be played on the date specified and time agreed by both Clubs. (the note to Rule 6-3 in the Rules of Golf will apply) Only under extreme circumstances can the Committee grant any extensions.
13. The Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals and Finals will be played on neutral Courses selected by the Committee. Tee off times for the morning Foursomes will commence at 8.00am and tee off times for the afternoon Singles will commence at 1.30 pm.  
Note: In addition to the County Official the Host Club must have available throughout the day, a responsible Club Member to assist the Official. The name of this person must be made know to the County Office prior to the event. Failure to do so will result in the Club playing their quarter final on their opponent's course.
14. No Professional golfer shall act as Team Captain or be allowed to caddie. A parent or other adult is allowed to caddie for players under 18 years of age in these events.
15. If for any reason the course is not in a playable condition or there are circumstances which render the proper playing of the game impossible, the Committee or its authorised representatives may order a temporary suspension of play as prescribed in the Rules of Golf, Rule 33-2d. If because of such conditions or circumstance the round cannot be concluded on the appointed day, the following decisions will apply: -
  - 15.1 If play is unable to start because of adverse weather conditions such as thunder and lightning, the round should be played as soon as possible on another day by mutual agreement.
  - 15.2 If play is suspended before the completion of the morning foursomes and cannot be resumed on the day, the round shall be cancelled and played as soon as possible on another day by mutual agreement, with each Club free to alter its original team and playing order.
  - 15.3 If play is suspended after the completion of the morning foursomes, the result of the foursomes will stand and the singles should be played at a later date with each Club free to alter its original team and playing order.
  - 15.4 If it proves impossible to fix a date to complete the match, the results of completed matches stand and incomplete matches will be treated as halved.
  - 15.5 The Committee reserves the right to alter the format during the competition so as to achieve an equitable result.
17. The winning club is responsible for advising the County Office of the result of each match. The result sheet must be faxed on 01376 500842 or sent by other means, to arrive at the County Office no later than 10 a.m. on the day immediately following the match. Failure to comply with this regulation may result in the Club being disqualified.
18. Each Club is responsible for their own catering cost and away clubs must communicate their numbers in reasonable time before the day of the event.
19. The winning Club will hold the Trophy for 12 months. All players in the Final plus two reserves will receive a medal. (*Additional medals may be purchased from the County Office*)

**22. BOYS CHAMPIONSHIP**

Maximum Entry - 72, with a handicap of 12 or below at the date of entry.

36-hole scratch Stroke Play.

Open to players under 18 years of age at 00.00 hours on 1<sup>st</sup> January in the year of the event and who fulfil the eligibility requirements of regulation 2.2.

**23. BOY'S FOURSOMES CHAMPIONSHIP**

36-hole Scratch Stableford Foursomes Competition.

Individual Handicap Limit -18.

Handicap Prizes will be awarded.

Clubs shall be entitled to enter a maximum of two pairs only who must be under 18 years of age at 00.00 hours on 1<sup>st</sup> January in the year of the event

Ties will be decided by the points scored over the last 9, 6, 3, or 18th hole on the card.

All caddies must be under 18 years of age as defined above.

**24. BOYS TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP**

Played concurrently with the Boys Championship. Open to all affiliated Clubs, who shall be represented by a team of two or three players nominated before commencing play on the day of the Competition.

The Championship shall be decided by Stroke Play over 36 holes, the winning club being that which has the lowest gross aggregate of the best two out of three scores in both the first and second 18 holes.

In the event of a tie the result will be decided on the scores over the last 18, 9, 6, 3, or 18th hole on the card.

**25. BOYS UNDER 14 CHAMPIONSHIP**

Scratch Stroke Play over 18 holes.

Competitors must be under 14 years of age at 00.00 hours on 1<sup>st</sup> January in the year of the event

Ties will be decided by the gross score shown on the scorecards over the last 9, 6, 3, or 18th hole.

The winner of the Championship may not receive the Fred Stillwell Trophy.

All caddies must be under 14 years of age as defined above.

**26. BOYS UNDER 12 CHAMPIONSHIP**

Scratch Stroke Play over 18 holes.

Competitors must be under 12 years of age at 00.00 hours on 1<sup>st</sup> January in the year of the event

Ties will be decided by the gross score shown on the scorecards over the last 9, 6, 3, or 18th hole.

No caddies allowed.

**27. BRIAN FULLER TROPHY**

Played in conjunction with the Boys Under 12 Championship.

Competitors must be under 12 years of age at 00.00 hours on 1<sup>st</sup> January in the year of the event.

The Trophy winner will be decided by Handicap Stroke Play over 18 holes.

Ties will be decided by the gross score shown on the scorecards over the last 9, 6, 3, or 18th hole less the appropriate proportion of each player's handicap.

No caddies allowed.

## **28. FALDO WEDGE (in aid of the Golf Foundation)**

A team competition of three players, boys or girls under the age of 18 years of age at 00.00 hours on 1<sup>st</sup> January in the year of the event.

18-holes Stableford competition off full handicap, handicap limit 18, all three scores count.

Girls to play from the Ladies' Medal Tees using the Ladies' Card.

All caddies must be under 18 years of age as defined above.

Each team must be accompanied by an adult representative, who will be responsible for the supervision of their players.

## **29. FRED STILLWELL TROPHY**

Played in conjunction with the Under 14 Championship.

Competitors must be under 14 years of age at 00.00 hours on 1<sup>st</sup> January in the year of the event.

The Trophy winner will be decided by Handicap Stroke Play over 18 holes.

Ties will be decided by the gross score shown on the scorecards over the last 9, 6, 3, or 18th hole less the appropriate proportion of each player's handicap.

All caddies must be under 14 years of age as defined above.

## **30. INTER-CLUB YOUTH SHIELD**

1. A tournament for Club teams of five players with any combination of boys or girls under 18 years of age at 00.00 hours on 1<sup>st</sup> January in the year of the event.
2. The tournament commences with a round robin competition in zonal groups. The winners then compete in a Knock-out competition, with the quarter-finals, semi-finals and final being played on neutral courses.
3. All matches are five a side and played to a finish (i.e. no halves) off scratch, except that girls playing in the matches shall play from the Ladies Medal Tees and either receive, or give strokes (to be taken from the Ladies Card) equal to the difference between the SSS of the Ladies and Men's cards.
4. Matches must be played in Exact-Handicap order; a girl's place in the order shall depend on her handicap after any SSS adjustment.
5. All caddies must be under 18 years of age as defined above.
6. If for any reason the course is not playable, or there are conditions which render the proper playing of the match impossible, the two Captains, or authorised officials of the Host Club, may order a temporary suspension of play. If, because of such conditions or circumstances, the round cannot be concluded on the appointed day, the following decisions apply:
  - i) If play is unable to start because of adverse weather conditions such as thunder and lightning, the round should be played as soon as possible on another day by mutual agreement.
  - ii) If play is suspended before completion of the match, the match should be cancelled and replayed as soon as possible by mutual agreement, with each team free to alter its original team and playing order.
  - iii) If it proves impossible to fix a date to complete the match the results of the completed games stand and the incomplete games will be treated as halved – in the event of no result the Committee will make the final decision.
  - iv) The Committee reserves the right to alter the format during the competition to achieve an equitable result.

*Please note: It is a condition of entry into the Youth Shield that clubs make their courses available for matches from the Quarter-Final stages onwards and will host matches between any two teams as required. Any Club, who refuse to host one of the other matches, will have to play their match on their opponent's course.*