



# Marple Golf Club – Information pack

## 1 ABOUT THE CLUB

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IN AUGUST 1892, A GROUP OF MEN MET AT HAWK GREEN IN MARPLE, AND RESOLVED "THAT A GOLF CLUB FOR MARPLE BE FOUNDED" AND "THAT THE ENTRANCE FEE BE ONE GUINEA AND THE SUBSCRIPTION TO BE FIXED AT ONE GUINEA PER ANNUM". ALSO "THAT THE COLOURS OF MARPLE GOLF CLUB BE RED AND GREEN". A MONTH LATER THE FIRST COMMITTEE MET AND AGREED "THAT LADY MEMBERS BE ADMITTED TO THE CLUB AT AN ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION OF 5 SHILLINGS EACH AND NO ENTRANCE FEE".

FOR THE NEXT 93 YEARS, MARPLE HAD A 9 HOLE GOLF COURSE. IN 1976 A PROJECT STARTED TO EXTEND THE COURSE, AND THIS RESULTED IN THE OPENING IN 1985 OF THE 18 HOLE COURSE. IN 1992 WE CELEBRATED OUR CENTENARY.

MANY CHANGES IN COURSE LAYOUT HAVE BEEN MADE - TOO MANY TO DETAIL HERE. IN 2004 THE COURSE LAYOUT AS WE HAVE TODAY WAS FINALISED

## 2. HOW THE CLUB IS MANAGED

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The management of the business and control of Marple Golf Club is vested in a **board of directors**. The board comprises a minimum of 5 directors, which includes

The Chairman	Honorary Secretary
Finance Director	House Director
Greens Director	Membership and Marketing Director
Company Secretary	

The **golf committee** manages all golfing and social activities of Marple Golf Club. This committee has the following members.

Club Captain	Club President
Captain Elect	Lady Captain

A nominated Handicap / Competition committee member, and 4 other members appointed by ballot. Officers are elected at the Annual General Meeting of the club.

There are various sub-committees such as the **Greens Committee** and **Social Committee** that focus on specific areas.

The Directors and Officers of the Club are detailed in the club diary, and on the club website.

[www.marple-goldclub.co.uk](http://www.marple-goldclub.co.uk)



### 3. CLUB ETIQUETTE

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Marple is keen to promote a progressive, modern approach to enjoying golf. As a club approaching its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary we still value certain traditions and wish to preserve them. One of these is recognition of the position held by the elected officers of the club. The **Captain and President** should be addressed as Mr Captain or Mr President, similarly the **Lady Captain and President** as Lady Captain or Lady President. Their photographs are displayed in the club foyer.

We have a fairly relaxed dress code, particularly in the clubhouse, but expect the “normally accepted standards” of dress on the golf course.

**This is the dress code:**

*Denim wear, tracksuits, football and similar type sports shirts, T-Shirts, collarless or sleeveless shirts are unacceptable on the course.*

*Tailored shorts no lower than the knee (not cargo type or beach style) are permitted. They must be worn with sports socks which can be any length (preferably white).*

*Golfing caps must be worn with the peak at the front. On and off the course shirts must be tucked into trousers.*

*Ladies may play in appropriate sleeveless shirts.*

*In the clubhouse: Casual clothes are acceptable, providing commonsense is applied. Wet weather gear and soiled clothing is not allowed. Hats are not permitted in the clubhouse.*

Obviously the usual **etiquette on the golf course** is expected. Some of these “rules” are detailed in the club diary. Key ones are:

*Turn up at the correct tee time, and check in at the pro shop.*

*Avoid slow play, keep up with the group in front.*

*Let others through if you are looking for a lost ball.*

*3 or 4 balls should always let a 2 ball through.*

*People playing in club knockout competitions should be allowed to play through.*

*Be aware of and courteous to others on the course.*

**Take care of the course**, not repairing pitchmarks, leaving bunkers unraked, not replacing divots etc. It is usually visitors and other members that cause these problems isn't it? Make sure you are not one of them.

**Staff at the club** are the responsibility of various members of the board. If you have any issues with any member of staff you should address the issue via a member of the board. Of course, this includes letting them know of when staff members provide outstanding service.



## 4. COURSE ACCESS

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Marple has a tee reservation system, often referred to as the **BRS system**. This enables members and visitors to book tee times. The best way to do this is online via the club website:

[www.marplegolfclub.co.uk](http://www.marplegolfclub.co.uk)

You can book times using the terminal in the club lounge, or via the professional shop.

To register for this service you will need your USER Number. This should have been provided when you joined, or you can find it by contacting the club secretary.

By using the system you can book tee times and you find out when tee times are not available because of competitions.

### **As a guide tee times are reserved in advance for the following competitions /events**

<b>Monday</b>	During the season ladies matches – 1 <sup>st</sup> tee reserved for 1 hour from 10.30 Not every week.
<b>Tuesday</b>	Seniors Competition – 1 <sup>st</sup> tee reserved – 09.30 – 12.00
<b>Wednesday</b>	Midweek competitions – no start sheet – roll up and play, but a good idea to book a tee time in advance
<b>Thursday</b>	Ladies Competition – 1 <sup>st</sup> tee reserved 1100. –13.30
<b>Friday</b>	No competitions but societies often play, and have tee reservations.
<b>Saturday</b>	Gents competition – start sheet, in the professional shop, but there are some times available for on line booking
<b>Sunday</b>	There are a number of competitions, not every week. Tee times are available for online bookings.

There are a relatively small number of occasions when an event or competition means the course is effectively closed to anyone not taking part in the competition. By using the tee booking system you will be identify these days in advance.



## 5. HANDICAPS

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Gents and Ladies handicaps are managed respectively by the Men's Handicap Secretary and his team, and the Ladies Handicap Secretary and her team.

As with most golf clubs Marple operates the CONGU\* unified handicapping system.  
(\* The Council of National Golf Unions)

New members joining Marple Golf Club from another golf club should bring a current handicap certificate, and/or let us know their CDH number. They should also inform their previous club that they have moved to Marple this makes the transfer of handicap management much simpler.

A new member without a handicap has to submit **3 CARDS of 18 holes, or 6 cards of nine holes, or any combination of 18 or 9 holes that add up to 54 holes** within a period of **3 MONTHS**.  
The cards should preferably be marked by a) a current Marple member with a handicap, or b) a member of another club who has an official handicap.

Cards should identify that they are for handicap purposes and should identify that they are the 1st/ 2<sup>nd</sup>/ 3<sup>rd</sup> etc card for this purpose, and be dated, and signed.  
There are 2 boxes in the lounge where these cards can be left.  
When enough cards have been completed the handicap secretary will assess them and allocate an initial handicap.

To maintain a handicap you must take part in a minimum of 3 "qualifying" competitions in a calendar year. There are alternatives such as supplementary scores, but you should discuss these with the handicap secretary if you wish to maintain your handicap without entering qualifying competitions.

Marple has an official 9 hole course and course card that can be used to maintain your handicap if time or physical capability is an issue.

Handicaps are adjusted up or down in line with CONGU rules as you play in qualifying competitions during the year. There is also an annual review, held in January or February each year where overall performance is assessed and handicaps adjusted in accordance with CONGU guidelines.

If you need any assistance in obtaining or maintaining a handicap then let the handicap secretary know.



## 6. COMPETITIONS

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There are lots of opportunities to play in competitions at Marple.

Remember that the handicapping system is designed to enable players of all abilities to compete.

All qualifying competitions are played under R&A Rule 33.1, and are subject to the Rules of Golf.

Entry procedures for competitions run by different sections of the club vary slightly, but there are a few basic steps that are common:

1. *Put your name down in advance on the appropriate signup sheet.*
2. *Check your start time and who you are playing with.*
3. *On the day of the competition and before you go out to play, sign the competition entry book and pay any entry fee.*
4. *During the competition your card must be marked by one of the other players in your group.*
5. *Your card must have your name, handicap, accurately reflect your gross score at each hole and be signed by the marker and yourself.*
6. *Input your card in the required way after the game. This is usually via a PC in the lounge.*
7. *Have a drink / snack with you playing partners.*

That is it, just wait for the result.

There are a few points of etiquette (or even common courtesy) of course.

1. *If you cannot play at the last minute you should ring the pro shop and let them know.*
2. *You should also let your playing partners know you cannot play.*
3. *Please write legibly in the competition book and on the card you mark.*
4. *If you do not complete the round or think it was rubbish, still hand the card in. It is one of the rules, and it also helps the handicap secretary who can waste time looking for "lost" cards.*

**HowDidIDo** is a very useful service for club members <http://www.howdidido.co.uk/>

You can register on this website and the results of any competitions you enter at Marple, or any changes to your handicap are automatically emailed to you as soon as they are published.



## 7. LADIES SECTION

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The Ladies Section is run by its own committee, Chaired by the Lady Captain.

The Ladies meet primarily on a Thursday, when the main ladies competitions are held.

Around 30 to 40 ladies play each week.

There is plenty of golf arranged for the competitive and the not so competitive golfer. Including lots of fun competitions especially during the winter.

During the Summer there are Monthly Medals, regular qualifying Stableford competitions and a number of major competitions.

However alternative competitions are always arranged for those who are unable to enter the main competitions.

New members frequently comment on how helpful and welcoming the members are.

Business Ladies are not forgotten and there are special time slots available for them.

Of course we are not restricted to playing only on Thursdays - the course is available to lady 7 day members every day of the week - the only restriction being during a Men's competition.

Not unexpectedly the ladies very much enjoy playing mixed golf, and there are plenty of opportunities for them to do this, as mixed golf is now featuring more and more.

The Lady Captains Away Weekend is always popular. This is usually two nights away with three rounds of golf at a venue within a couple of hours drive from Marple.

Our Lady Captain and Lady President have their special days. These are always well supported. The lady members enjoying both the competition and the evening meal and prize giving.

The Ladies Section arrange away days and also enjoy exchange days with other clubs in the area.

Marple ladies compete in team competitions against other clubs both in the daytime and in the case of Business Ladies during the evening. The full range of handicaps are catered for.

Each year Lady Captain chooses a charity which she would like to support. Money is raised throughout her year of office by way of coffee mornings, festive sales, fashion shows, sponsored competitions and the like.

So there are plenty of things to get involved with should you choose to but mostly of course it is about the golf!



## 8. SENIOR'S SECTION

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The Senior's Section play golf on Tuesdays with tee times reserved from 09:30 to 12:00.

It is open to men aged 55 and over. There are regularly 40 to 50 members playing each Tuesday.

New members are always made welcome, and playing on Tuesdays is a great way to get to know other members.

There are competitions organised each week, including a number of qualifying events to enable members to retain their handicaps, team competitions and an annual singles knockout tournament.

We play 8 other clubs on a home and away basis, in both league and social matches. We also have an away day in September.