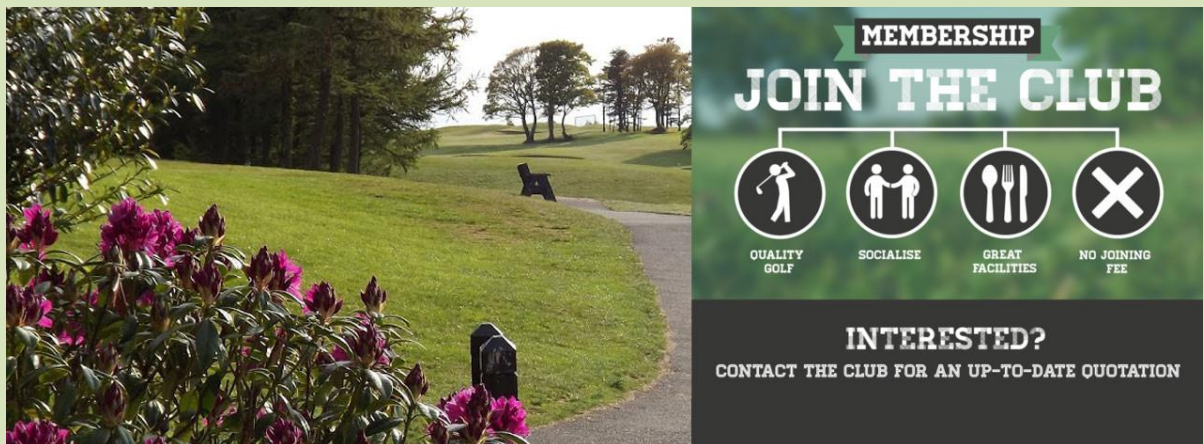




43 Saul Road, Downpatrick, Co. Down, Northern Ireland, BT30 6PA

WELCOME AND INFORMATION BOOKLET

FOR NEW MEMBERS AND PLAYERS



This booklet has been prepared to help you get the most out of your club membership. It provides useful information about how the club is managed and what your obligations are as a member. We trust you will find the content helpful. www.stpatricksgolfclub.com

Join us also on:





CONTENT

OFFICE HOLDERS	3
CONTACT DETAILS	3
WHO'S WHO	4
GOLF CLUB FACILITIES	5
CLUB RULES AND PROCEDURES	5
<i>Etiquette</i>	5
<i>Dress Code</i>	6
<i>Handicaps</i>	6
<i>Getting a Handicap</i>	6
<i>Entering a Competition</i>	7
<i>How to Register for Online Booking</i>	7
<i>Competitions</i>	7
<i>GUI Swipe Card</i>	8
<i>Competition Entry Fee</i>	8
<i>Fines (Men's Section Only)</i>	8
<i>Returning a Score Card</i>	9
<i>Presentation Nights</i>	9
<i>Teams</i>	9
ANNUAL FEES	10



OFFICE HOLDERS

Captain: Mr Gerry Reilly
President: Mr Michael Bohill
Lady Captain: Mrs Twyla Gibson
Honorary Secretary: Mr Rory Scullion
Honorary Treasurer: Mr Paul Kelly

CONTACT DETAILS

Office Manager: Elaine Carson
Telephone: 028 4461 5947(Extension 6)
Email: office@stpatrick'sgolfclub.com
Web address: www.stpatricksgolfclub.com

Bar: Telephone 028 4461 5947 (Extension 2)
Restaurant: Telephone 028 4461 5947 (Extension 3)
Competitions Office: Telephone 028 4461 5947 (Extension 5)

PGA Professional: Robbie Hutton
Telephone 028 4461 5167or 028 4461 5947(Extension 1)
Email:thehut77@hotmail.co.uk



WHO'S WHO?

- **The Honorary Secretary** is responsible for the day to day running of the golf club. If you have any general queries then this person is always a good starting point.
- **The Honorary Treasurer** is responsible for the financial management of the golf club.
- **The Captain** is the recognised head of the club. The Captain serves for one year. The Captain chairs meetings of the Council.
- **The President** is an honorary position and the person is usually appointed for a two year term of office. The President attends Council meetings in an advisory capacity but has no vote.
- **The Lady Captain** is the head of the Ladies Section of the Club. The Lady Captain serve for one year. The Lady Captain attends Council meetings in an advisory capacity but has no vote.
- **The Lady Secretary** The Lady Secretary is responsible for the affairs of the Ladies Section within the club. The Lady Secretary attends Council meetings in an advisory capacity but has no vote.
- **The Men's Competition Convenor** The Men's Competition Convenor together with their committee is responsible for the running of the Men's competitions, Handicaps and Inter Club matches.
- **The PGA Professional** runs the golf shop and delivers coaching. He may also offer golfing advice to members on rules and competitions. This is the person you need to contact for course information, Tee reservations, society bookings and buggy hire.
- **The Council** comprises a group of members who help oversee the management of the club. Council members serve for three years and between them look after different areas of club life, such as membership and competitions.
- **The Juvenile Committee** coordinates and arranges coaching and competitive activities for juvenile members. The Monday and Tuesday of each week during the summer holidays has been allocated to juveniles for coaching and other golfing activities.



GOLF CLUB FACILITIES

The following facilities are available at St Patrick's Golf Club:

- Golf Course- an 18 hole Par 69 course
- Clubhouse- comprising changing rooms, golf shop, office, bar and restaurant
- Putting/chipping green and practice nets available for practice
- Lockers – found in the changing rooms (Limited availability)
- Trolleys and buggies are available for hire weather permitting
- The Golf Hut – sells golfing equipment, clothing, drinks and snacks

CLUB RULES AND PROCEDURES

Like all other clubs St Patrick's Golf Club has a set of rules to ensure the smooth running of the club. It is important that you abide by the rules. They are there to make the game more enjoyable for everyone.

Etiquette

In golf the way you behave on and off the course is called etiquette. Following course etiquette will keep you safe, help you look after the course and encourage you to give consideration to your fellow players. Please read the section on etiquette in the R&A Rules of Golf booklet which was given to you at your induction. Further details are available from www.randa.org Please follow these basic good conduct rules:

- Respect your fellow golfers
- Be courteous at all times
- Play fair and honest
- Listen, learn and try to improve
- Replace all divots and pitch marks
- Look smart and be polite
- Treat others as you expect to be treated yourself
- Be a role model to juniors

Please remember that the Captain and President have privilege on the first tee and in the bar.



Dress Code

Players must at all times be appropriately dressed on the golf course and in the clubhouse.

All players must wear collared or round neck sports shirts (including with appropriate brand logos) but excluding football and rugby shirts of any kind or t-shirts bearing names or logos of football, rugby or sports other than golf. Shorts must be tailored.

The following are not permitted: Denims, tracksuits, sleeveless shirts, beach or football shorts and trousers tucked into socks.

Handicaps

The purpose of the Council of National Golf Union (CONGU) Unified Handicapping System is to enable all golfers to be able to compete on a fair and equitable level, regardless of skill. Affiliated golf club members can obtain an official CONGU handicap, which allows entry into club competitions and access onto other courses. Depending on the handicap allocated golfers are divided into one of five categories as follows:

Category 1 – handicaps of 5 or less

Category 2 – handicaps of 6 to 12

Category 3 – handicaps of 13 to 20

Category 4 – handicaps of 21 to 28

Category 5 – handicaps of 29 to 36 (ladies Only)

Getting a Handicap

All new members **MUST** complete our ***“How to Obtain a Handicap”*** form which is available for download from the Membership Section of our web site or from the Office Manager.

Please read this carefully and return to the Handicap Secretary together with all relevant information.

Further information on handicaps can be found at www.congu.com



Entering a Competition

A Fixture List (both Gents and ladies) is available in the club house.

For the majority of club competitions Tee booking should be done online through the clubs website or through the Pro Shop.

The time sheet for weekend competitions is generally available to members for online booking from 8.00pm on the Thursday 10 days before the competition date. Booking is only available through the Pro Shop the following day.

Once entered, you may amend or remove your booking in one of two ways:

- Online, up until midnight on the day before the competition
- Through the Pro Shop or Office (during Opening Hours) no later than the day before the competition

If your name is on the timesheet on the day of the competition you are **“Committed to Play”**.

Members who do not pre book have the option of simply turning up on the day of a competition and playing should there be a tee time available.

How to register for Online Booking

To book online you must first register on the club website: www.stpatricksgolfclub.com

On the homepage select the Members Menu and click on **“Online Tee Times”**. A new window will open and you should then select **“Members Click Here”**. On the following page you will be invited to **“Click here to Register”**.

Complete the short Registration Form and submit. The Office Manager will contact you by email when your online account has been set up.

Competitions

During the year we run competitions on a number of days:

- Monday – Seniors Over 50's (no booking required)
- Wednesday – Sweep (no booking required)
- Thursday – Ladies competition day (see notice board for details of timings)
- Saturday – Competition (pre booking available)
- Sunday – Competition (pre booking available)



GUI Swipe Card

All members are provided with a Golfing Union of Ireland (GUI) swipe card. It is used for entering competitions and ensuring your scores are returned to the correct club/ player. It is essential that you have your swipe card with you at all times (playing at home or away) and provide it on request.

Competition Entry Fee

This varies from competition to competition and **MUST** be paid in advance of your participation.

Fines (Men's Section Only)

A fines process is necessary to:

- Encourage members to remove their name from the Tee booking sheet as soon as they know they will be unable to play. This will then free up time slots for other members
- Discourage members simply not turning up to play due to the weather

If you are "**Committed to Play**" you must do so at the time pre-booked. Failure to play as contracted result in a **£5.00 fine** being immediately incurred.

An incurred Fine may be waived by the Competition Committee if there is a justifiable reason for the Member's non appearance. Where possible, telephone the Pro Shop and advise them that you cannot play and the reason for this. Your appeal will then receive immediate attention.

No Fine may however be waived retrospectively. Unless waived, pay the fine before you next play. It will be refunded if the appeal is successful.

A MEMBER SHALL FORFEIT ANY PRIZE WON IN ALL SUBSEQUENT CLUB COMPETITIONS WHERE A FINE IS OUTSTANDING OR NOT WAIVED IN ADVANCE. NO EXCEPTIONS.

For 2014 the 3 strike rule will be applied for all fines incurred from the 1 May to the 28 September 2014 inclusive. For the third and each subsequent fine imposed thereafter, the Member will receive a 1 week suspension from playing in club competitions.



Returning a Score Card

A player has a responsibility to return all scores (Home and Away) to the Handicap Secretary for consideration. Failure to do so may result in your Handicap being suspended.

In St Patrick's Golf Club competitions please:

- Ensure the score card is fully completed and signed by Marker and Player
- Ensure Your Handicap is on the card and correct
- Post the score card in the Competition Box
- If the computer is on, swipe and enter your scores in the terminal

Presentation Nights

On Captains Day and Presidents Day prize winners **MUST** attend the presentation as failure to do shall result in the forfeit of any prize they may have otherwise won.

On Other designated Presentation Nights prize winners or their nominated representative **MUST** attend as failure to do shall result in the forfeit of any prize they may have otherwise won.

Presentations are normally held between 10.00 to 10.30pm.

Please note that while the Competition Committee will endeavour to contact you if you have won a prize, it is your responsibility to contact the club after 8.00 pm to find out if you have won a prize.

Teams

Each year the club will enter a number of Inter-Club competitions for all handicap categories. If you meet the criteria and wish to be considered, contact the Team Captain who shall be identified at the start of the year.

Reservations for visiting parties and societies

From time to time visiting parties and societies make a block booking of the course. Members cannot play during this reserved time but are free to do so outside of these times. Members need to be aware that visiting parties and societies are an important source of income for the club. They should be made welcome as they help subsidise the annual subscription of members.



ANNUAL FEES

St Patrick's Golf Club financial year runs from the 1 January and ends on the 31 December.

Annual membership fees are due on the **1 January**.

If payment is not received by the end of February all membership rights are withdrawn. If you do not wish to review your membership for the following year please speak to the Office Manager.

Your fees can be paid in a number of ways including by single payment or monthly by direct debit or through the Fairway Credit scheme. This scheme allows you to pay your annual subscription over ten months (Feb-Nov). You are not permitted to play golf unless your fees have been paid. For further information on paying your fees contact the office manager.

Finally, remember to keep your contact details up to date. We want to use email more in the future so please forward your email address to the office manager at office@stpatricksgolfclub.com

(Last Update 18/06/2014)