

KENT COUNTY GOLF UNION

THE HINGE TROPHY

Competition Rules

1. Eligibility

1.1 Entry is limited to male members of clubs affiliated to the Kent County Golf Union who are in possession of a certified playing handicap meeting the following criteria on the closing date for entries as set out in the Entry Form: -

- Aged 21 and over.....5
- Aged between 17 and 21.....5
- Aged under 17.....6

1.2 The Committee reserve the right to permit other players to enter the qualifying rounds.

1.3 Entries may be limited in number and, if necessary, higher handicaps in each age group may be subject to ballot.

2. The Competition

2.1 The competition will consist of stroke play under the rules of the R&A in conjunction with the local rules of the host club. Disputes must be referred to the Committee immediately after the completion of the round. Their decision shall be final.

2.2 The competition is played in the winter months at Prince’s Golf Club, Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club, Littlestone Golf Club and Royal St. George's Golf Club.

2.3 There will be two qualifying rounds, a final qualifying round and a final round. All competitors must play in one of the two qualifying rounds. Competitors will be allocated by ballot to play at one of those rounds, with the 25 best gross scores at each venue (or such other number as the committee deems appropriate) qualifying to play in the final qualifying round. The players with the 40 best scores in the final qualifying round will qualify to play in the final round.

2.4 The Hinge Trophy will be held for one year by the player with the best 36 hole aggregate gross score from the final qualifying round and the final round. In the event of a tie, the Hinge Trophy will be determined by a sudden death play-off, under the rules governing stroke play, at the venue of the final round; or in the event that adverse weather conditions or bad light do not permit the completion of such a play-off, in such other manner as the Committee may determine.

2.5 Gross and handicap prizes will be awarded to the competitors in 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th places at each round and for the 36 hole aggregate scores for the final two rounds. No competitor may win both gross and handicap prizes at any one round. Ties will be resolved by count-back.

2.6 Prizes from Prince’s, Royal Cinque Ports and Littlestone will be presented at Littlestone. The Hinge Trophy and prizes from the final round will be presented at Royal St. George’s.

2.7 Rounds that are cancelled due to bad weather will not be rearranged.

2.8 In the event that one of the qualifying rounds is not played due to bad weather, the 25 best gross scores from the other qualifying round together with the 25 players, named on the starting sheet for the round that is not played, who are selected by ballot based on handicap and age will be eligible to play in the final qualifying round.

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THE HINGE TROPHY

Competition Rules (Cont'd)

- 2.9 In the event that the final qualifying round is not played, the field for the final round will be determined based on the gross scores at each of the qualifying rounds or in such other way as the Committee deems appropriate.
- 2.10 In the event that the final round is cancelled, the winner of the Hinge Trophy will be decided based on the gross scores at the final qualifying round. The winner will be determined by count-back if necessary. In the event that neither the final qualifying round nor the final round is played, the Hinge Trophy will not be awarded.
3. **Practice Rounds**
- 3.1 Competitors should make their own direct arrangements with the Secretary of the host club and will be expected to pay a green fee.
4. **Caddies**
- 4.1 Players are not allowed caddies or trolley pullers.
5. **Order of Play**
- 5.1 Starting times will be drawn for the qualifying rounds. Subject to Rule 6.1 below, the order of play at the final qualifying round and the final round will be determined based on the gross scores in the preceding round, with the players with the lowest gross scores going out first.
6. **Slow Play**
- 6.1 In accordance with the Rules of Golf, slow play will be penalised at the discretion of the Committee. The maximum penalty per player per round will be 2 strokes; the Committee may also exercise the right to delay the starting times of the player in subsequent rounds.
7. **Dress**
- 7.1 The County Union requires all players to comply with the dress rules set out in the Start Sheet and in accordance with the rules of the host club.
8. **Entrance Fees**
- 8.1 **The entry fee for each round**, including morning coffee and lunch, will be £30 (under 18 years on the day of play £23.00), **payable before play commences**.
9. **Distance Measuring Devices (DMDs)** are permitted but only those that calculate distance. Those providing other information such as wind speed, temperature and elevation, will not be allowed. Any player found using such a DMD will be in breach of Rule 14-3 for which the penalty is disqualification, regardless of whether any such additional function is actually used.
10. **Ride on Buggies**. Except in cases when Competitors claim exemption under the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Acts 1995 and 2005 upon the production of a Medical Certificate signed by a Registered Medical Practitioner, all other Competitors shall be prohibited from riding on motorised buggy carts, except with the explicit permission of the Championship Committee. Penalty for Breach of Condition is Disqualification. Medical Certificates must be provided to the Secretary no less than 5 clear days prior to the start of any competition administered by the Union. Competitors shall always be responsible for providing their buggy.

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