

BELLINGHAM GOLF CLUB

Constitution

General

1. The name of the Club shall be Bellingham Golf Club.
2. The Club is an unincorporated association without limited liability.
3. The objects of the Club are:-
 - 3.1 To provide facilities for the playing of golf
 - 3.2 To provide facilities for such other amenities as the Board of Management shall from time to time consider desirable.
 - 3.3 The Club is a non-profit making organisation. All profit and surpluses will be used to maintain or improve the Club's facilities or to defray outstanding liabilities.

Affiliation Clauses

4. The Club acknowledges the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews ("the R & A") as the ruling authority in golf and will ensure that golf competitions held at Bellingham Golf Club are run in conformity with the Rules of Golf and the Rules on amateur status as set out by the R & A.
5. The Club recognises the English Golf Union (EGU) as the ruling authority for men's amateur golf in England and the English Women's Golf Association (EWGA) as the ruling authority for ladies amateur golf in England and agrees to abide by the Rules of the EGU and EWGA and the rules of the Northumberland Union of Golf Clubs (NUGC) and Northumberland Ladies County Golf Association (NCLGA) to which the Club is affiliated. The Club undertakes to pay all per capita fees in respect of all categories of adult playing members when levied by the EGU, NUGC, EWGA or NCLGA, and to allow the NUGC and NCLGA the use of the facilities of the golf course and the clubhouse at reasonable intervals upon request, for playing of competitions or matches.
6. The Club will comply in all respects with the rules and regulations contained in the Unified Handicapping System 2008-2011 laid down by the Council of National Golf Unions and as subsequently revised and amended and will observe any conditions imposed under the scheme by the EGU and EWGA.

President and Vice Presidents

7. At the Annual General Meeting the members shall elect a President and such Vice Presidents as shall be determined from time to time, to hold office for the ensuing year.

Financial and Operational Management – Bellingham Golf Club Partners and the Board of Management

8. Bellingham Golf Club Partners is a partnership of a number of Bellingham Golf Club Members formed for the sole purpose of providing finance facilities to Bellingham Golf Club.
9. The financial and operational management of the Club, including its funds, shall be vested in the Board of Management which will consist of three members of Bellingham Golf Club and the Club Manager.
10. The members of the Board of Management will be elected annually by the members of Bellingham Golf Club.
11. Two elected members of the Board of Management will constitute a quorum at meetings of the Board of Management.
12. The Board of Management will elect a Chairman at their first meeting following the Annual General Meeting each year of Bellingham Golf Club. .
13. Minutes of Meetings of the Board of Management will be taken and retained by the Club Manager and distributed to members of the General Committee within seven days of the meeting.
14. The Board of Management will publish a monthly key facts bulletin on the Club Notice Board for members' information.

Golf, Social and Other Activities Management – General Committee

15. The golf, social and other activities of the Club will be managed by a General Committee which will firstly consist of the Officers of the Club, being the Captain, Vice Captain, Ladies Captain and Vice Captain, Secretary and Competition Secretary. These Officers will be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting.
16. Secondly, the General Committee will include up to six elected full members, at least two of whom will retire each year and be eligible for re-election at the Annual General Meeting.
17. No General Committee Member shall serve more than three years after which time they shall retire from the General Committee and be eligible for re-election.

18. Nominations, duly proposed and seconded, for officers and vacant General Committee positions must be in the hands of the Secretary 28 days before the Annual General Meeting.
19. The General Committee has the power to co-opt to fill a vacancy on the General Committee. Any person so co-opted shall retire at the next Annual General Meeting but shall be eligible for re-election.
20. At all meetings of the General Committee six shall form a quorum; for sub-committees one half of their number. In the absence of the Captain, the Vice Captain shall be chairman for the meeting or, in the absence of both, such a member as may be elected by a majority of those present. The Chairman shall have a separate vote as well as the casting vote.
21. The Club Manager will attend all meetings of the General Committee. Members of the Board of Management may attend if they choose so to do. They are entitled to speak and vote.

Accounts and the Independent Examiner

22. Through the offices of the Club Manager, the Chairman of the Board of Management shall receive and pay all monies due on account of the Club. The annual accounts of Bellingham Golf Club made up to 31 October each year, after being reviewed and reported on by the Independent Examiner, will be sent to all members (except Juniors, Intermediates and non playing members) not less than 14 days before the Annual General Meeting.
23. The Independent Examiner shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting to serve until the next Annual General Meeting.

The Club Manager

24. The Club Manager will be an employee of the Club appointed by the Board of Management to carry out such duties as are deemed necessary for the Club's financial stability and operational efficiency. The Club Manager is responsible to the Chairman of the Board of Management. The Club Manager will also provide the main liaison between the Board of Management and the General Committee.

Secretary

25. The Secretary shall record the minutes of all General and Sub Committee meetings in books kept for the purpose, and shall give fourteen days notice of all General Meetings and three days notice of all General Committee meetings.

Election of Members

26. New members shall be proposed and seconded by two members of the Club to whom they shall be known. Applications for membership shall be posted in the clubhouse for fourteen days after which they will be considered by the General Committee at their next meeting. Election will be by ballot, and the proposed member must obtain a majority of those present. On election, he or she shall be notified in writing by the Secretary, and sent a copy of the Club Rules. A period of forty eight hours must elapse before the new member can enjoy the privileges of membership.
27. The number of non-playing members shall not at any time exceed 200.
28. All members (regardless of residence) who nominate Bellingham Golf Club as their "Home Club" shall pay full annual subscription rates and be entitled to all voting and election rights and shall be known as full members.
29. "Country member": Golfers who can nominate a different Golf Club as their Home Club may join Bellingham at a reduced annual fee and have full playing rights but no vote. Country membership fees shall be decided each year by the Annual General Meeting.
30. Non playing members are not entitled to voting or election rights and shall consist of:
 - a) Social members who pay an annual fee and whose number shall not exceed 200 in total.
 - b) Spouses of all current playing members.
31. Senior playing members will be eligible for a discounted subscription for the subscription year beginning on 1st November following their sixty fifth birthday and each year thereafter. The discount percentage is 50% for the year commencing 1st November 2009. This discount will be reduced by 10% each year from 1 November 2010.
32. The financial year shall be from 1st November to 31 October. Annual subscriptions become due on 1st November and shall be paid in full or by any other directives authorised by the Board of Management. If the subscription of any member remains unpaid after 28 February, the General Committee shall have the power to remove his/her name from the membership list whence that person shall cease to enjoy any of the privileges of the Club, and will not claim upon its property without prejudice to the rights of the Club to recover all monies in this way owing to the Club. Members will not be eligible to play in Club competitions if their subscription for the current year is unpaid.

Resignations

33. Any member wishing to terminate his/her membership of the Club shall give notice in writing to the Secretary on or before 31 October otherwise he/she will be liable for the succeeding year's subscription.

Conduct of Members

34. If the conduct of any member, either in the clubhouse or upon the course, be such as appears to the General Committee to be unworthy of a member of the Club, it shall be in the power of the General Committee to (a) suspend the member for the stated fixed period (b) to suspend the member's handicap for a stated fixed period or (c) request the member to resign from the Club. Should such a member not resign within seven days, his/her name shall forthwith be removed from the list of members.

Right of Appeal

35. Any person who has been (a) refused membership, or (b) having been disciplined by the General Committee according to Rule 34 has the right to appeal against such a decision. This appeal must be posted with the Secretary within seven days of receiving the decision. This appeal and all ensuing evidence shall be heard within 14 days of the Secretary receiving such appeal by a Special Appeals Committee under the chairmanship of the President (or failing, the President's chosen representative). The Special Appeals Committee will consist of five full paid up members, none of whom are General Committee members or officers of the Club and who will be chosen by the President. Having considered the evidence for the appeal the Special Appeals Committee will make the decision which shall be final.

Visitors

36. Visitors are admitted to use the course and clubhouse on payment of Green fees in force at the time, being not less than £2 per day.

Guests

37. A member may introduce not more than twelve guests on any single occasion. The name and address of each guest and the signature of the member introducing such guest shall be inserted in the visitors' book which is to be available for inspection by police at any reasonable time upon application to the Secretary of the Club.
38. No guest may be introduced after 10.30pm except on occasions of special functions.

39. No person whose permanent residence is within a radius of 10 miles of the Club may be introduced as a guest to the clubhouse more than four times a year. This rule shall not apply to any person playing in an Open Competition or Meeting or Competition of any Golf Society which is holding such a meeting at the Club or attending special occasions.

General Meetings

40. The chair at General Meetings shall be taken by the President or, in his absence or with his agreement, by the Chairman of the Board of Management, or in the absence of both by such member as the meeting shall choose.
41. Twenty members present in person shall form a quorum at all General Meetings of the Club. In the event of a quorum not being present within half an hour of the appointed time of the meeting, it shall be adjourned to the same day the following week, and notice to this effect shall be posted in the clubhouse. At the adjourned meeting the members present shall form a quorum.
42. All discussions shall be conducted in such manner as the Chairman for the time being shall direct, and all questions brought before the meeting shall be decided by a majority on a show of hands of the members present who are entitled to vote. Election of Officers and General Committee Members may, if necessary be decided by a ballot to be taken at such time and in such manner as the Chairman directs, and the result of such ballot shall be deemed to be the resolution of the meeting.
43. All full members present with the exception of junior and non playing members, shall be entitled to vote at a General Meeting providing their current subscription has been paid.

General Committee

44. The General Committee shall from time to time appoint such sub-committees as may be necessary, and may delegate any of their powers to such sub-committees, who shall in the exercise of such powers conform to any regulations that may be imposed upon them by the General Committee; and the General Committee shall have power to associate with the sub-committees any member or members of the Club or, as experts, other persons of knowledge and practical experience in the matters submitted to the sub-committees, with the privilege to act and vote on such sub-committees.

45. In addition to the powers and authorities expressly conferred upon them by these rules, the General Committee may exercise all such powers and do all such acts and things as may be exercised or done by the Club, provided such powers and acts are not hereby or by statute expressly directed or required to be done by the Club in General Meeting, but subject nevertheless to any regulations from time to time made or imposed by the Club in General Meeting, save for the financial and operational management of the Club which is the sole remit of the Board of Management.

Course

46. Playing members shall have use of the course daily including Sundays (subject to Rule 47) below, but the General Committee or such persons who may be delegated by the General Committee may at any time declare the course or any part of it closed should weather conditions be such that it is considered that play would damage the course.
47. The General Committee shall be empowered to reserve the 1st tee for matches and competitions.
48. No dogs are allowed in the Clubhouse (other than guide dogs) but may be taken on the course if kept on a lead.

Clubhouse

49. The Clubhouse will normally be open from 8am until 11pm, but no member shall be permitted to enter the Clubhouse after 10.30pm, unless he/she has been playing on the course.

Supply of Intoxicating Liquor

50. The purchase for the Club and the supply by the Club of intoxicating liquor shall be controlled and managed by the Board of Management and no person shall receive at the expense of the Club any commission percentage or similar payment on or with reference to purchases of intoxicating liquor by the Club. Neither shall any person directly or indirectly derive any pecuniary benefit from the supply of intoxicating liquor or to persons admitted to the premises of the Club under Rules 36 and 37 hereof apart from any benefit accruing to the Club as a whole.
51. There shall be no arrangement restricting the Club's freedom of purchase of intoxicating liquor.

Liquor Licensing

52. The Club Manager shall comply with the requirements of the Licensing Act, 1964 or any statutory alteration thereof with regard to the giving of appropriate notices under the requirements of the Act in respect of alterations to these Rules, alterations of the Club premises and for all necessary licences for the sale of alcohol and any function on the Club premises.

Club Property

53. Challenge Trophies shall be held for one year, and will be distributed at an Annual Prize giving. The winners of trophies shall be responsible for their safe keeping.
54. No member shall on any pretence whatever take away from the Club any article the property thereof, or wilfully deface, damage or destroy any of the Club property. All breakages, damage or destruction of property, either of the Club or their landlord, or of the grazing tenant caused by a member must be paid for by him/her.
55. All complaints shall be made in writing to the Secretary for submission to the General Committee, and none shall be attended to unless this regulation is complied with.

Rules

56. These rules may only be altered by a resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of eligible votes cast at the Annual General Meeting or at an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Club, and provided due notice of the resolution has been given in the notice convening the meeting.
57. The interpretation of these rules shall rest with the Board of Management whose decision shall be final.
58. A copy of these rules is to be posted in the Clubhouse.
59. The income and property of the Club shall be applied solely towards the promotion of its objects as set fourth in these Club Rules and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred, directly or indirectly, by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise.
60. If upon the winding up or dissolution of the Club there remains, after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever the same shall be given to the English Golf Union being the governing body of our sport or its successor.

