

SLEAFORD SENIORS GOLF TEAM MATCHES

Welcome to the Sleaford Seniors Golf Team. This information is provided for those participating in team matches, playing against other clubs. It is primarily for those new to the team, but we also hope it is helpful to existing players.

At Sleaford Golf Club full playing members, country members or off-peak playing members over the age of 55 are classified as a Senior and therefore eligible to represent the Club in its team matches. Each year, we play between 25 and 30 matches, home and away. The whole ethos of Seniors Golf is friendly yet competitive golf, with an enjoyable social emphasis, playing different courses, and making new friends.

HANDICAPS

It does not matter what your handicap is. Whether you are a low or high handicap you are welcome to play in Seniors team matches. There is no capping of handicaps on higher handicap players.

WHO WE PLAY

Most of the other clubs we play against are within Lincolnshire but there are a few in the neighbouring areas of Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire & Rutland. The playing schedule (home & away) currently includes:

- Belton Park
- Blankney
- Boston
- Kenwick Park (Louth)
- Lincoln (Torksey)
- Melton Mowbray
- Newark
- Peterborough Milton
- Rufford Park
- Seacroft
- Spalding
- Stoke Rochford
- Toft

The range of clubs we visit give you the great opportunity to play some really nice courses on a reciprocal basis, so no green fees are payable.

Matches are mainly played on Mondays, Wednesdays or Thursdays, between Mid-April & the first week of October.

JOINING THE TEAM AND MATCH SELECTION

To join the Seniors Team Squad, open the Club V1 App, click on Club Teams and register on Seniors Team Matches 2025. Once accepted, you will be able to see the Fixtures list with dates and you can then indicate your availability for each match you would like to be considered for. During the season, reminders will be sent on a regular basis about forthcoming fixtures to confirm availability, inclusion in the team and organising reserves in case members have to withdraw for whatever reason.

Each match normally has a team of 16 players, making up 8 pairs for the matches. The Seniors Captain is responsible for team selection and organising the pairings and checking players handicaps.

It is important to always keep the Seniors Captain up to date with your playing availability, as we are sure you will appreciate withdrawing late and not turning up at a match does create many difficulties.

MATCHES

Most fixtures are played as 4 Ball Better Ball Matchplay, with winning, losing or halving each hole. With the result being decided on holes won, and remaining holes to play. Then the team result being decided on matches won out of the 8 matches played. This season sees the start of a new Trophy Competition that will be played for between Sleaford, Spalding, Belton Park and Lincoln Golf Clubs to add something extra into the fixtures. The club with most points at the end of the season will win the Trophy.

Occasionally, match formats change, and may be played on a points basis e.g. 2 points for winning a hole, 1 point for a half, then the total points for the 8 matches being added up to determine the winning club.

Match Handicaps are worked out on 90% of Course Handicap, with players receiving their number of strokes against the lowest handicap player.

Some matches will just be a one tee start, so match 8 will normally start about one hour after the first match. Some clubs we play offer a 2 tee start (half the matches starting on hole 1, the other half starting on hole 10) thus reducing the waiting to start time to around 30 minutes. For our home matches, we start matches 1 to 5 on the first tee, with matches 6 to 8 starting on the 17th tee, so by the time those 3 matches have played holes 17 and 18, they can then just slot on to the other matches to reduce waiting time at the 1st tee. Those matches of course finish at hole 16 and walk in from there. We have found this reduces the total match time by approx 30 minutes.

Some matches include a halfway house for refreshments, usually provided free of charge by the home team. Occasionally, due to arrangements at away clubs you may have to pay for refreshments at half way, or the home team may pay for the refreshments for you.

PRE MATCH

Before each match, teams usually arrive in advance for coffee/tea. Just before the start of the match, the Home Captain welcomes the visiting club, outlines the details for the match, halfway house (where applicable) and post match meal arrangements & cost. Then the 2 captains announce the match pairings.

POST MATCH AND MEAL

Most matches are a morning start, first tee usually around 9:00am (but may be slightly earlier or later). One or two matches may start with a pre-match breakfast, followed by the match. The majority though, after the match, we enjoy a social occasion with our opponents over a drink and usually a 2 course meal. The cost of the meal is usually in the range of £12 to £18, depending on the club.

Towards the end of the meal the Captains usually give short speeches to thank all for playing, comment on the course, thank you to the greens & catering staff and announce the match result, and any other prizes that may be played for on the day, like nearest the pin on a nominated hole.

There is usually a collection for gratuities (voluntary to contribute) for the staff who have looked after the teams. Then it is safe trip home and hope you have had an enjoyable day.

KEY CONTACTS FOR 2025

Seniors Captain - Tony Cook. Email: tandscook2011@gmail.com Tel: 07889 931302

Seniors Vice-Captain - Gerald Pearce. Email: glpearce@sky.com Tel: 07799 694473

SLEAFORD SENIORS COMPETITIONS

Sleaford Seniors is the largest individual section of Sleaford Golf Club, with around 270 eligible members. It is very much a thriving section with a good range of competitions which run throughout the whole year, and are normally played on a Thursday. Typically, around 40 to 50 members usually take part in each competition.

There is a mixture of Individual Stableford and Medal, Fourball Better Ball Stableford, Texas Scramble, Florida Scramble, Greensomes, and some joint competitions with the Ladies Section. There are also Knockout Competitions for Singles, Pairs and Golden Oldies (over 80s). The Seniors Section also holds its own Seniors Championship, as well as an Annual Open Competition where visiting Seniors can also play.

For 2025, including the knockouts, a total of 35 competitions are scheduled.

TYPES OF COMPETITION

From the range of competitions mentioned above, 16 are Trophy Competitions, 8 of which are Board Competitions with the winner(s) receiving a Trophy and their name(s) added to the Honours Boards in the Clubhouse. These include:

- Malcolm Summers Trophies
- Greylees Trophy Bowl
- Spring Bowl
- Leasingham Cup
- Captains Shield
- 50/50 Trophy
- George Collier Trophy
- Ron Body (Air Ambulance) Trophy
- Autumn Trophy
- Goosen Ball
- Bert Gillett Trophy
- Terry O'Toole Trophy (Mixed with Ladies)
- Poppy Day Trophy
- Evelyn Bird Trophy (Mixed with Ladies)
- Texas Scramble
- Seniors Championship

There is also the Annual Captain's "Choice of Format" competition, and the "Captain v Vice Captain" Match.

The remaining competitions are ordinary competitions with prizes awarded accordingly.

COMPETITION ORGANISATION

Seniors Competitions are organised and run by the Seniors Section and are normally arranged by the Competition Secretaries. Details are at the bottom of this information sheet.

There are three options to enter the seniors competitions:

1. To enter a random draw please reply to the email, requesting entries, stating your preferred tee time, early (before 09:00) or late. If a time is not selected, you will be allocated a tee time. Payment and entry to the competition will be done for you by the Competition Secretary. You will be notified of the draw in time to book your tee time when the booking system opens. The draw gives you the chance to meet and play with other Senior members.
2. Book your own tee time, before or on the day of the competition, with your own selected group. Payment and entry to the competition, via the Club PSI machine, on the day of the competition.

3. Book your own tee time, before or on the day of the competition with your own selected group. Payment & entry to the competition, via ClubV1 App (Today's Golf) or Howdidido (Today's Golf), on the day of the competition.

Whatever competition entry method is used your score should be entered as soon as your round is finished, via the PSI or HDID (before you leave the club). All scorecards (signed and verified) to be posted in the letterbox below the PSI. The scorecards will be collected the day after the competition.

The above competitions have an entry fee, normally £3 (occasionally £4 where it is for a named charity), and the Competition Secretary will take the entry fee from your bar account, usually the day before the competition. If you enter on the day in the Clubhouse, this will automatically notify the Competition Secretary you have played and your entry fee will be collected accordingly.

Knockout Competitions are by entry to the Competition Secretaries who will undertake the first round draw(s), notify the players, who then arrange matches with their opponents, with each round being completed by certain dates. Entry fee for Knockout Competitions is £4 per person, per competition, again debited from your bar account.

All Seniors Competition prizes are credited to your bar account.

A Presentation Afternoon of Trophies is usually held November/December.

HANDICAPS

The majority of Seniors Competitions are played as Qualifying Competitions from the Yellow Tees, and through the winter the Winter Yellow Course. Some Competitions, including the Seniors Championship, Spring and Autumn Trophies are played from the White Tees. Therefore, playing in these competitions will contribute to your handicap.

For all competitions, the WHS handicap system will apply. You should check your handicap against the displayed charts before commencing your round. Remember, it is your responsibility to ensure you are playing off of the correct handicap.

In addition to playing in Seniors Competitions, there are also various "Spin Ups" which take place on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday's mornings which you are welcome to join, again providing the opportunity to play with different people.

We hope you enjoy playing in as many competitions as you want to and look forward to seeing you on the course.

KEY CONTACTS FOR 2025

Competitions Secretary - Terry Smith. Email: tepssmith@btinternet.com Tel: 07909 496843

Competitions Secretary – Martin Elms. Email: martinelms54@gmail.com Tel: 07838 196394

Seniors Captain - Tony Cook. Email: tandscook2011@gmail.com Tel: 07889 931302

Seniors Vice-Captain - Gerald Pearce. Email: glpearce@sky.com. Tel: 07799 694473