## The Objective of the Society

The objective of the Isleworth Golf Society (IGS) is for friends to get together and have some fun whilst playing golf.

To this end the Secretary arranges events at courses throughout the area on a monthly basis from March to October. These events are arranged so that golfers of mixed abilities can enjoy the game at subsidised prices and at different, challenging venues.

Details of the courses will be provided in monthly letters to members and on the web site (www.isleworthgolfsociety.co.uk).

## Constitution

1. The society shall be called the "Isleworth Golf Society".

2. The objectives of the Society are to foster the interests of its members in golf by arranging a calendar of golf fixtures throughout the year open to all members.

3. Current members will be given priority over new members to rejoin the Society each year by a deadline specified by the committee. For a member to qualify for this privilege the following conditions shall apply:

1. The member must have attended at least three society days in that year (this does not include the away trip).
2. The member must pay their subscription fee by the deadline set by the committee.

After the deadline membership will be open to all on a first come first served basis up to a maximum of 32 members. A list will be held by the secretary of all those non-members who are interested in joining.

4. The elected Committee shall include a Chairman, Captain, Secretary and Competition Secretary. The total members of the Committee shall not be more than five, five members being a quorum. The Committee will be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting held in October. The Committee will fix the date of the AGM during the current playing season. All committee members will be elected by show of hands except for the Captain who shall be elected by ballot. Previous Captains are not eligible for re-election. Current members of the society can only elect officers. The chairman has the casting vote in any event of a tie.

5. If the number of the Committee falls below five, the Committee may appoint additional members and they shall hold office until the next General Meeting.

6. The posting of a suitable notice by the Secretary, 10 working days in advance, shall be considered to be adequate notice to all members of an AGM or other General Meetings.

7. The Committee or five members of the Society may call an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society on giving 10 working days notice to the Committee specifying the subject of the meeting. The discussions at the meeting shall be strictly limited to that subject.

8. At all General Meetings, the Secretary shall take the chair. In the Secretary’s absence the Chairman will take the chair. In the Chairman’s absence the Captain will take the chair. Five members, including at least one Committee Member, shall be a quorum.

9. Alterations, additions or deletions to the Society's rules may only be made at a General Meeting.

10. The Society's operating year shall commence 1st January and finish on 31st December.

11. Society days will be subsidised, if possible, to a level recommended and approved by the Committee.

12. The standards of etiquette and rules of golf as determined by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews shall hold good, together with such local rules and by-laws applicable to the course played and any conditions applied by the Society committee.

13. The Committee has the power to suspend or expel a member for violation of the rules contained herein following a Committee Meeting, which the member is asked to attend. If the member is deemed to have brought the society into disrepute by an act of gross negligence or misconduct they will be expelled immediately. All subs will be forfeit but any advance monies will be returned. They will never be eligible to play for the society again. If the member has broken a rule that is deemed by the committee to be lesser than gross misconduct or negligence they will be suspended from playing at the next society day. All decisions will be made in writing to the member concerned.

Examples of Gross misconduct or negligence are:

1. Any comment by a local course official to the officers of the society regarding the inappropriate conduct of a society member.
2. Striking or hitting another person on a course with a golf ball with intent.
3. Deliberately damaging a course we play on in frustration after a perceived poor shot. Examples include throwing your club or damaging a green.
4. Reckless use of a buggy or the taking of a trolley on areas of the course contravening the local rules of the club.
5. Regular slow play (more than one round reported to the committee by member or course officials). The committee will warn the member.
6. Inappropriate attire for a course or the clubhouse.
7. Cheating by not playing according to the rules of the R & A. for example, no ‘gimmes’, mulligans, grounding of clubs in hazards etc. Please see section below.
8. Any other action that is deemed by the committee to bring the society into disrepute.
9. Any violent activity shown towards any person on the day.
10. Bringing the good name of the society into disrepute.
11. Wilful damage to any part of the course or other people’s possessions.

Examples of minor offences:

1. Incorrectly filled in scorecards (providing the gross score is correct, if no score is available then No Return (NR) must be entered for a hole).
2. Excessive swearing within the clubhouse and course or general behaviour that would spoil the day for other members or players on the course.
3. Unsigned scorecards.
4. Late arrival at the tee.
5. Poor display of golf etiquette.

These lists are certainly not exhaustive and all decisions made by the committee are final.

14. All members undertake to advise the secretary of any change of address or telephone number as and when required. Failure by the member to advise of changes could result in the member missing a deadline for society day payment hence missing the society day. The committee will not be liable for the member missing the day in these circumstances. The onus is on the member to keep the society informed. Similarly the society will not divulge any details of a society member to any other member or party, this information will only be retained by the secretary for the purposes of communication with members regarding society business.

15. The current joining fee for existing members of the society is £25. For new members (joining for the 2014 season) membership fee will be £35.

16. Guests can be invited to play on society days at any time. However the following conditions apply:

1. Members have priority over guests up to the deadline announced for a particular society day.
2. If a member wishes to invite a guest they must explain the society rules to the guest and get the guest’s monies to the secretary before the member’s deadline. The secretary will hold the money and confirm with the member if the guest will be invited as soon as practicably possible after the deadline. If the guest is not invited monies will be returned as soon as possible.
3. After the deadline the guest list will be honoured first and should any spaces remain, they will be allocated to members on a first come, first served basis. The secretary will not arrange extra tee times after the deadline.
4. A member inviting a guest is fully responsible for the guest’s conduct and payment. If the guest has paid and then does not turn up on the day, their green fee will be forfeit to the society. Similarly if their guest’s conduct brings the society into disrepute it will be the inviting member’s responsibility.
5. Guests must pay the full green fee for the day rounded up to the nearest pound. They are not entitled to any subsidy a society member would receive.
6. The minimum green fee for a guest is £36, £1 greater than the current member’s subsidised rate.

17. If a member wishes to leave the society they may do so at any time. Any advance monies paid for society days will be refunded. Joining fee will not be refunded. This condition only applies if the member chooses to leave of his or her own accord. If the committee has ejected a member after due process monies may not necessarily be returned. An example of this situation is if a member has paid for an imminent society day and decides to leave between the deadline and the society day. Their money for that society day will be forfeit.

18. The society, it’s officers and committee members accept no liability for any injuries, losses or damages incurred by a member on any society organised day or event such as a General Meeting or Society Day. If members and guests of members have any concerns they should arrange their own liability insurance for the day. Members inviting guests should advise them accordingly before they play on a society day or attend a meeting. By paying your annual fee you are agreeing to this condition.

19. If a member wishes to hire a buggy for a society day they should call the course directly. The secretary will not book on a member’s behalf. Contact details for the course will always be provided in the monthly letters and on the web site. Please feel free to quote the society booking but use your own name to hire the buggy. The courses have been advised that the society will not be held responsible for any monies owed in respect of buggy hire.

20. If lightning is observed during a Society day whilst on a particular course any member wishing to leave the course may do so with no penalty to their Order of Merit score. The safety of all members is always the over-riding factor and none shall be penalized for not wishing to continue when lightning is threatening or striking. The Society accepts no liability for safety if a member chooses to stay on a course under such conditions. All members should familiarize themselves with a course’s lightning warning system or horns before they tee off by asking in the pro shop.

21. Size of driver club head restrictions will not apply to the IGS.

22. Maximum handicap for men will be 28 and for ladies will be 36.

23. Only 18 hole scorecards will be accepted by the IGS for handicap purposes.

25. The first member in the last group of any Society Day will be responsible for advising members of their tee time on that particular day. The Secretary will provide an order of play sheet. The person will not be responsible for members being late on the tee as it is always the individual member’s responsibility to be on time for tee off.

Date of Amendment: 21st April 2014. Secretary…………………….

## THE ORGANISATION

A committee runs the society on your behalf. This committee is elected at the society's Presentation Night, which is currently held in November. At this meeting the committee of ten is elected. This committee's officers are the Chairman, Captain, Secretary, Treasurer and Competition Secretary. The other five members are committee members and assist with decision making and discussion of salient points affecting the society. Further members may also be co-opted onto the committee.

The 2014 officers and committee members are:

**Chairman Malcolm Shawyer (First year again)**

**Secretary Mark Ristic**

**Captain Chris Rice**

**Competition Secretary Allan Ebsworth**

**Committee Member Roy Bewley**

**Committee Member Neil Butler**

**Committee Member David Binks**

**Committee Member Shane Roberts**

**Committee Member Vacant**

The **Secretary** spends most of his time overseeing the smooth operation of the running of the society, whilst the other officers ensure that the events are run smoothly. The Secretary and Tr**easurer’s** job is to liaise with the clubs and the society's membership and to be the custodian of the Society's documentation. They also oversee the society's finances. This includes collecting monies from the attendees of those events, levying the society subsidy and paying the clubs. The **Chairman**, **Captain** and **Competition Secretary** ensure that society days run smoothly and are well organised on the day.

## THE COMPETITIONS

Each of the events organised by the society (with the exception of the matches against other societies or invitations to courses for organiser days) are played as competitions for small prizes, such as golf balls or golf shop vouchers. Some of these events also have a trophy, donated to the society in times gone by, that is presented to the winner to hold for 1 year. All competitions (except those clearly stated as otherwise) are played with full handicap allowance.

In addition to the competition that is run at each event there are several competitions that run over the course of the season. Those are currently the Order of Merit, the Weekend Championship and the Matchplay Shield

### Order of Merit

This is a singles stableford competition played over eight rounds between March and October. To win the trophy a member’s best 5 scores will be added together. The member with the highest combined score at the end of the season will be deemed to be the winner. You must have played at least five society days to be eligible for this competition. All cards must be signed and dated (unsigned cards count as zero points for the round). Scrubbed, unplayed and undelivered cards will count as zero points and the committee’s decision is final if there is any dispute. In the event of a tie after the last round of the competition in October the winner will be in the player with the best 5 finishing places (using the best 5 cards returned for the combined score), if this is tied, then a count back will be used on the most recent qualifying card (from the best 5 cards returned for the combined score) for each player irrespective of course played.

### Handicapping

Handicap adjustments will be made after every qualifying round with additional adjustment for coming first or second as per the current handicap adjustment table if the score returned is below 36 points. The adjustments for coming first and second, but below 36 points, will taper according to the score returned and eventually become zero depending on score. The taper can never increase a player’s handicap. Handicaps can only be revised up by the computer handicapping system or by a Clause 19 ruling for general play adjustment by the committee. (Clause 19 has never been used by the committee). The computer handicapping system has a buffer zone set as the difference between the Standard Scratch Score (SSS) of the course being played and the Par of the course being played. This is applied before the first and second place adjustments are applied, if there are any.

**The Secretary’s Award (a.k.a. ‘The Wooden Spoon’)**

This will be awarded to the person with the lowest average score. A member must have played a minimum of five society days to be eligible. If you have played more, this will be part of the average calculation and offers the member the opportunity of improving their worst score (and hence their average) to avoid winning this trophy!

### Golf Weekend Championship

This competition requires at least 3 rounds to be completed in the weekend Championship at a venue to be decided. The total stableford score for the weekend Championship is calculated. The scores for the rounds are added together and the player with the highest total is the winner. Handicap adjustments will be made after every round but the order of merit adjustment for winning or coming second will not apply. Trophies will be awarded accordingly dependent on competition formats played. If three full rounds cannot be completed over the weekend the committee will decide how the winner will be chosen. This can happen after the event if required. One off rules can apply as decided by the committee prior to any individual event.

### Captain’s Cup

This cup is awarded at the Captain’s Day and is usually played over 18 holes. Format of play is to be decided by the Captain and all members will be informed prior to play accordingly.

### IGS Matchplay Competition

Fixtures will be advised in the monthly letters and on the website. March and April 2012 will be a trial of the new first round format advised previously to members.

Any player not able to attend a fixture will automatically be eliminated and their opponent will be given a bye for that round.

The Semi final and final fixture dates are to be mutually decided by the players involved. If a player does not play by the deadline they agree on, they are eliminated and their opponent advances to the next round. The draw for the semi final will be made at a committee meeting prior to the fixture and those involved should exchange details and contact the secretary before the relevant payment date to confirm their match is being played. Similarly for the final, the secretary must be advised of the fixture before the payment deadline for that fixture. If the finalists cannot agree a fixture then there will be no prize awarded this year for the IGS Matchplay Competition. All fixtures must be played at society days. The away weekend does not count. Any byes will be put into the hat with eligible players for the next draw.

In the event of a draw the winner will be decided by a six-hole putting playoff on the practice putting green. Holes will be won or lost as in Matchplay. There will be no handicap allowance for any player. If still tied then sudden death holes will be played until a winner is found.

Players will play their opponent in the same fourballs or group. As the competition progresses those still in will always be in the same group, all others will be randomly drawn to fill up the groups as is currently the practice.

Handicaps will be difference then ¾ rounded up to the nearest number if x.5 or higher.

Matchplay has one important major difference from stableford competitions in that holes must be finished irrespective of the strokes taken. For the IGS Matchplay the following rule will apply:

If you reach the point on a hole where you cannot score any stableford points (based on a 28 stableford handicap) you must pick up, this then means you concede the hole to your Matchplay opponent unless your opponent also had to pick up, then the hole is halved. Should you have a handicap of less than 28, you may continue to play as if you had your opponent’s handicap to make it fair to lower handicappers. For example, if your opponent has two (stableford) shots on a hole and you have none and it is a par 4, you may take 7 shots as this is the maximum your opponent could take to score any stableford points. If you both reach 7 shots and not finished the hole, you must pick up and the hole is halved. This rule must be applied so as to maintain the speed of play around the course.

The rules of Matchplay of playing out of turn or conceding shots will not apply in the IGS Matchplay competition. However, other rules such as playing wrong ball, that would normally incur a two-stroke penalty in stroke play will lose you the hole in Matchplay. I will not go into detail here as these rules can be found on the Royal & Ancient’s web site. On the day, the opponents should note the details of any dispute, and if a ruling cannot be made immediately, the committee will rule at the end of the round. Play should never be held up for disputes.

## Competition Formats

**In any event where a card is handed in, it is only the GROSS score that is being verified.**

If the event is Stableford you are encouraged to calculate the Stableford points, but mistakes in this regard can be rectified at **any** time with no penalties incurred before the card is signed and handed to the Competition Secretary. In any case, once the card has been signed by the player, and found to be wrong whether up or down in score, the player will score zero points for the round and it will go towards their Order of Merit score. The onus is very much on the player to make sure the card they are declaring is an accurate reflection of their score before they sign.

The format of the rounds played in the competitions are arranged to provide the membership with a varied format for their golf. Generally the golf played by the society at each event conforms to one of the following formats:

* Stableford
* Medal
* Four Ball Better Ball
* Greensome Foursomes
* Texas Scramble
* Matchplay
* IGS Matchplay

### Stableford

The majority of the golf played by the society conforms to this format as it is not so punishing and should be quicker than medal play. For those who are not familiar with this type of play it will be useful to explain how the scoring works.

First of all, we should stress that the **gross** score for each hole must be recorded. It is this that the player signs for. In the event of a hole not being completed, a No-Return (NR) may be entered.

This is a stroke play competition, so no putts may be conceded as in match play.

From the gross scores recorded, the handicap allowance is applied in accordance with the stroke index of each hole and a net score per hole calculated. From this:

* A net bogey scores 1 point
* A net par scores 2 points
* A net birdie scores 3 points
* A net eagle scores 4 points

Anything more than a net bogey scores ZERO points and you should pick up your ball at this point. The player scoring the most points over the course of the competition (usually 18 holes) is the winner.

### Medal

Every stroke taken during the round is counted and every hole must be completed. Your handicap is subtracted from your total number of strokes (Gross score) to give your net score. The lowest net score wins the competition.

### Fourball Better Ball

A team is made up of two players who play together. On each hole both players play their own ball (as in normal play) but only the best **net** score of the two on each hole counts for the team score. Normally the format is medal, in which case we usually use the full handicap allowance for each player. However, the format may be stableford with each player using ¾ of his or her usual handicap. Matchplay can also be used usually handicapping as ¾ the difference with the lowest handicap playing off scratch.

**NB** The scoring can be a little tricky, so to ensure that any problems in the scoring can be easily resolved, it is best to make sure that the marker of the card puts down both players gross scores in the appropriate columns as well as the best net score (and, of course, both of his own teams scores in the marker's column).

### Greensome Foursomes

As with normal fourballs both members of a team of two drive, but then only one ball is selected for subsequent play. That ball is then played alternately by the team members until holed out; the second shot being played by the player whose tee shot was discarded. The format for this competition is usually Medal. The handicap allowance is 7/16 the combined handicap of the two players.

### Texas Scramble

The 'Texas Scramble' is played in teams of three each member of a team drives. The best tee shot is selected and all three team members hit their second shots from that position. The player of the ball that has been selected **always** plays first. The other two **place** their ball within 6 inches, no nearer the hole. Play continues in this manner until a ball is holed. The score for the hole is the number of shots played by the team after one of the balls is holed out.

NOTE: If a ball that has been played is played again, before the other balls have been played, then this ball is now in play (i.e. do not tap in putts before the other players have played).

Normally a team will be allowed a handicap of one ninth of the combined handicap of the team members and the format of the competition is medal.

### Matchplay

As its name suggests, this method of scoring is only used in matches a stroke allowance for the course is given based on 3/4 of the difference between a player's handicap and the lowest handicap of the group playing the match. After that, the game is played by holes.

A hole is won by the side that holes its ball in fewer (net) strokes. A hole is **halved** if each side holes out in the same number of strokes. The reckoning of holes is kept by the terms: so many **holes up** or **all square**, and so many **to play**.  
A side is **dormie** when it is as many holes up as there are remaining to be played.  
The match is won by the side, which is leading by a number of holes greater than the number of holes remaining to be played. Specific differences exist for the IGS Matchplay competition (see above).

## PLAYING IN AN EVENT

* Entering an event
* Payment
* Filling in your score card
* Dress Code
* Etiquette

### Entering an event

The current practice is to send a letter to every member of the society, about 3 weeks in advance of an event, asking for monies. Places for the event are allocated on a first come first served basis. The number of places allocated for an event is always restricted by the golf club, some more severely than others, so it is best to reply early to avoid disappointment.

The current fee for a society day is between £35 and £40. This represents excellent value for money considering the courses and tee times available to the society this year, especially on Sundays. It represents a considerable saving at some courses on the normal Sunday green fee. All society days include coffee and bacon rolls on arrival.

It is very important that you are ready on the tee at your allotted time. If you are not, your playing partners will be greatly inconvenienced and you will probably not be able to play in the competition. Please allow plenty of time for travel.

Events are not cancelled because of weather conditions, unless the course being visited is closed. If in doubt on the day of an event you should contact the course.

**Note** if you are a late cancellation and a replacement cannot be found, or you do not turn up at an event, you will incur the full cost for your allocated place. This can be in excess of £40 for some day events.

### Payment

All society days must be paid for in advance of the day. Payment on the day is not accepted (unless paying for future events). A deadline will be provided in the monthly letter and all monies must be received by 16.00 on the day in question. Where possible deadlines will be coincident with committee meetings, however this will not always be the case. Alternatively bank transfer may be used (details in the first letter) but the member must inform the secretary how much has been transferred and when. Failure to inform the secretary will invalidate your place on a society day. Cheques should be made payable to ‘Isleworth Golf Society’ and must be received on or before the deadline. Putting the cheque in the post on the Saturday before a deadline will not be acceptable. Put very simply, if the member’s payment is not with the secretary on or before the deadline, the member will not be playing at that day. Notice of fixtures is given many months in advance and the committee sees no reason to be flexible to any member. Courses have to be paid for up to 10 days in advance including confirmation of numbers hence the strictly adhered to deadline.

#### Filling in your scorecard

It is extremely important that you and your marker fill in your scorecard correctly.

On arrival at a course you will be given a prepared scorecard from the Competition Secretary and told what group and time you will be teeing off in. All groups are drawn at random prior to the event, the only exception being that you are in the Matchplay Competition where you will play with your partner.

Before playing you must give your scorecard to one of your playing partners and obtain a scorecard to mark from another playing partner.

During the course of the round it is now your responsibility to enter the number of shots played on each hole by the person whose card you are marking. This should be done clearly in the correct column (usually column A), any correction being clearly initialed by you. You should also keep track of your own score in the "marker's column" as this helps to verify that your score has been accurately recorded.

At the end of the round you will be asked to sign the card as the marker, to verify that the scores marked are accurate and the date is correct.  
In a Stableford competition, you should also enter the points scored on each hole but if you are unsure about this leave it to the organisers at the end of the round.   
You should now also obtain your own card from your marker and ensure that it is clear, accurate, and signed by the marker. **Only sign your card if you agree it is accurate.** If, after signing, it is found to be incorrect, zero will be entered for your Order of Merit score.

When you are satisfied that the card has been marked correctly (the date and number of shots taken on each hole are accurate) you should sign the card and hand it to the Competition Secretary (or their deputy).

### Dress code

Please remember that we are guests at a golf club so please observe the rules of any club that we are visiting. The private clubs that we visit expect us to conform to their dress code. This always means **no** jeans, T-shirts, un-tailored shorts, exotic looking tank tops, tracksuits, trainers etc. Many clubs require men to wear long socks when wearing shorts. Most clubs expect all visitors to be smartly dressed at lunch and dinner and normally it is required for men to wear jacket and tie at the evening meal. Some clubs even require a jacket and tie to be worn at lunchtime! Trainers are never permitted in the clubhouse or on the course. Never wear trainers to a society day, as this is a society rule as well as a general golf club rule.

If you are in any doubt about appropriate dress please direct any questions to a member of the committee.

### Are you now having doubts?

If you are relatively new to golf you may now think that playing in a golf event will be too traumatic. However, please do not be put off by what you have read. The golf society is always keen to see new members and there is always somebody willing to help you through your first few events. If you haven't played before it would be a good idea to take lessons. Good Luck, and remember that everybody in the society today was once in the same position as you. The current members are always here to help.

### Course etiquette

There is an unwritten set of etiquette rules that are generally picked up when playing in events. The main ones are (in no particular order):

* Do not be late on the tee.
* Remain quiet when your playing partner is playing a shot.
* Play without undue delay.
* If you are losing ground on the game in front and holding up the game behind allow the game behind to play through.
* Replace Divots.
* Repair pitch marks on the green.
* Do not stand on the line of your playing partners putt.
* Do not play a shot unless you are sure that the game in front is out of range.
* If you can see that a ball (even if it is not yours) is heading towards another player, shout '**FORE**' as loudly as you can.
* The player who got the lowest score on the previous hole tees off first on the next hole.
* Observe the dress code of the Club both on the course and in the 19th.

### Keeping the game moving

Slow play is always a bone of contention in the game of golf and can often lead to hot tempers and and missed lunches. If you follow the etiquette rules everybody is much happier. However the best policy is to keep your own game moving at a good pace so that you do not loose ground. There are many things that you can do to help this and these generally become obvious once you have played for a while.

The basic tip is to speed up everything you do between shots and then you never have to rush your shot. Here are some things to remember (again in no particular order):

* No matter what sort of shot you play keep your eye on the ball and make sure you know where it went (after all not everyone is like our secretary who hits the ball arrow straight to the centre of the fairway on every tee shot!!!!!).
* **If you play a ball and subsequently cannot find it when looking for it you will not be allowed to return to where you played it from. Always play a provisional ball if in doubt.**
* If you think that your ball may be lost and you are playing in a competition tell your partners you wish to play a provisional ball and save yourself the long (or short) walk back. The rules of golf allow you to search for a ball for five minutes, so if you think that you are going to spend this much time looking, call the following group through if they are waiting to play.
* It is normal etiquette for the player who is furthest from the flag to play the next shot. However it is quite acceptable to play out of sequence if you are ready to play your shot and the player furthest away is not, but you should
* Make sure that your partners are aware of your intention. However this does not mean that you should leave your playing partners behind.
* Be ready to play your shot when it is your turn. Golf is full of inactive moments when you are waiting for the players in front to finish or for your partners to play their shots. Use these times wisely. Think about what shot you will play next, decide what club to use, line up your putt. These are also the times to take your waterproofs off, fill in the scorecard, get some more tees out of your bag, crack open the can of lager etc. For example, do not fill in the scorecard on the previous green or on the next tee when it is your turn to play, but wait for the next inactive moment when waiting for your partners to tee off or walking after your drive on the next hole.
* When approaching the green observe where the next tee is and place your bag in a strategic position between the flag and the tee. There is nothing more annoying to the players waiting behind than to see you walking across the green to pick up your bag and walking back again to the next tee. Even more so with players who insist on using trolleys - make sure you move your trolleys to the back of the green next to the tee. Take this time to observe the lay of the green so that when you do come to putt or chip from the fringes you have an idea of which way the ball will move.
* Please make use of distance cards provided by the club. Most courses will have markers at 200/150/100 yards to the hole. In the last few years I have seen people walking 60 yards up to the green and back before playing their shot. I know we all like winning however we are not playing in the British Open but in a friendly competition.
* When putting, if you are close to the hole and confident of holing the next putt, exercise your right to putt out, providing you do not stand in someone’s putting line.
* If you are playing in a stableford and have played too many shots on a hole to score a point, pick the ball up and exercise good etiquette for the other players whilst they play out the rest of the hole.
* If you are in a medal competition and have taken so many shots that you have no chance of winning and are now having another bad hole, be willing to pick the ball up and move to the next tee.
* If you do this you should write "**N/R**" (No Return) as the score for the hole that you pick up on, and as the total score. In effect you are withdrawing from the competition. However, you can still play and record scores for the remaining holes. This applies to the Match play Competition as well.
* Lastly, always consider that there are other golfers playing with you and behind you so please make the effort to keep up with 2/3/4 ball ahead of you.

Hopefully, this list of tips on etiquette and how to avoid slow play will enable ALL of us to enjoy our golf days.