

## SENIORS PROTOCOL

### 1 JOINING REQUIREMENTS

#### 1.1 AGE

The qualifying age to join the Seniors' Section is 55.

#### 1.2 RESTRICTIONS

Anyone who is a member of the Portal Golf Club (7 day, 5 day or Play More Golf) may join the section and play along with the Seniors. Members without an official handicap may play in order to obtain a handicap but cannot win until they have an official handicap.

#### 1.3 JOINING

In order to join the Section, members simply need to turn up on a Monday morning and make themselves known to the organiser.

Additionally they should provide their names and e-mail address to the Seniors' Secretary or a member of the Seniors' committee.

### 2 SENIORS SECTION

#### 2.1 STATUS

The Seniors Section is an organised group of members which has a sitting representation on the Executive Council of Portal Golf Club. Whilst it is run as an independent section with its own protocol (this document), it is obligated to conduct competitions in accordance with the Rules of Golf and any relevant Local Rules. It also supports the Club's Handicapping Committee with requisite details to maintain Seniors' handicaps and, as appropriate, enters the records into the Club's computer system. It is interesting to note that members from the Seniors Section often hold official positions on the Club's committees (such as Handicap, Competitions and also Club Captain).

The Seniors' Section operates as a non-profit organisation and maintains its own accounts with its own bank account and its own AGM, separate from the Club.

#### 2.2 COMMITTEE AND OFFICIALS

Activities of the Section are managed by a group of volunteers who form the Seniors Committee and officials. Committee members are elected at the Annual General Meeting and run for a term of three years. After three years, members stand down but may stand for re-election. Members wishing to join the Committee should put their names forward in response to the AGM calling notice and if more than one member applies for a position the election will be decided by vote at the AGM.

The Committee comprises the following officers:-

Seniors Coordinator	Acts as "Leader" of the seniors, ensuring a smooth running of the section. Chairs the AGM and officiates at events such as Christmas party, Charity Shield and Monday Roll-Ups.
Secretary	Maintains the documentary records of the section including recording the minutes of AGM and committee meetings. Maintains the e-mail account of the section ( <a href="mailto:portalseniors@gmail.com">portalseniors@gmail.com</a> ) and is communication focal point with members.
Treasurer	Responsible for maintaining the Section's financial accounts and managing moneys for prizes and events.
Handicaps Controller	Throughout the winter period, manages the "Seniors' handicap adjustment system" and maintains records throughout the winter for the Order of Merit competition.

Webmaster	Maintains the Seniors' web page ( <a href="http://www.portalseniors.co.uk">www.portalseniors.co.uk</a> ) with the latest information and results, upcoming events, matches, contacts, links and details of the Seniors' section.
Competitions Organiser	Manages the Seniors' Major competitions (see paragraph 3.2) as well as the Triggs Trophy knock out and the Christmas and AGM competitions. Arranges appropriate food and organises grouping and tee times for the events.
Inter-club Match Organiser	Agrees dates and times for the home and away matches with all the clubs involved. Where necessary, gets agreement with Macdonald Director of Golf for changes to the calendar. Negotiates price for meal and refreshments for home events. Organises teams for each event and nominates the "Captain of the Day".
Roll-Up Coordinator	Maintains a schedule of Roll-Up organisers for "seeing out" and "seeing in" on a Monday morning. Ensures that Roll-Up organisers are aware of any special arrangements regarding starting times (e.g. inter-club match). Maintains the supply of Roll Up sheets, envelopes and score cards in the seniors' locker. Organises the schedule of competitions (qualifiers and fun competitions) throughout the summer period and ensures that arrangements are in place for managing Eclectic and Order of Merit through the winter.

In addition to these Committee members, there is a nominated Auditor who vets the Seniors' accounts, a team of Roll-Up organisers who officiate on a Monday morning performing the "seeing out" and "seeing in" duties and specialists who set up and close the competitions.

The document "Portal Seniors Officers.pdf" also describes the responsibilities of the officers in more detail.

## 2.3 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM is held to review the previous year's activities of the Seniors' Section, discuss any current issues or future events, confirm any changes to the Committee and is scheduled for the last Monday in March. A quorum for the AGM is 20 members.

Requests for items of "any other business" to be added to the agenda of the AGM are to be made in writing to the secretary at least two weeks before the AGM so that these can be advised to members in advance of the meeting.

During the AGM, the winners are announced and prizes presented for:-

- The Bob Molyneux Trophy
- The Gross Winter Eclectic and Nett Winter Eclectic
- The Malcolm Robinson Memorial Trophy (Order of Merit)
- The Triggs Trophy
- The Yellow Ball Competition held on the day of the AGM

In addition, the winners of the previous year's other Major Competitions (Charity Shield, Jubilee Cup & Pairs Plate) are to be read out.

## 3 COMPETITIONS

### 3.1 MONDAY COMPETITIONS (ROLL-UP)

#### 3.1.1 Eligibility

Any club member (5 day, 7 day or Play More Golf) aged 55 is eligible to play in the Monday Roll-Up.

Members without an official club handicap may play in the Monday Competitions to obtain a handicap, but will not be eligible to win prizes until they have an official Club handicap. They will be exempt from the entry fee and will not be permitted to mark the score card of another player during a qualifying competition.

### 3.1.2 Tee Times

Seniors should arrive between 07:40 and 08:30. They should make every effort to be ready to begin their rounds as soon as they register with the organiser. When Monday is a Bank Holiday (or sometimes Open Week) the competition may be transferred to the Wednesday of the same week.

### 3.1.3 Format

During the summer period, there is a mixture of stableford “qualifiers”, in which the results impact on players’ club handicaps, and a variety of “fun” competitions (see paragraph 3.1.7). Both types of competitions are played from the yellow tee boxes.

During the winter period, all Monday Roll-Ups are played as stableford non-qualifiers and are normally played from the winter tee boxes. During the winter period a player’s handicap can be affected by the “Seniors’ handicap adjustment system” (see paragraph 3.1.6).

Play will normally be in 3-balls, or exceptionally in 2 or 4-balls, starting from the first tee.

### 3.1.4 Entry Fee

The Monday Competition entry fee is £3.00, payable at registration on arrival.

Members without an official club handicap, are exempt from the entry fee and will not be eligible to win any prizes.

### 3.1.5 Prizes

The minimum number of players for a formal Roll-Up competition is 15. Should there be less, the competition will be run as an “informal” Roll-Up (see paragraph 3.3.5)

The value of Prizes and the number of prizes vary depending upon the number of players. For example:-

For 15 players the prize pool is:-

1 <sup>st</sup>	£8
2 <sup>nd</sup>	£6
3 <sup>rd</sup>	£4
Best front and back 9	£4
2’s pool	£4
Nearest the Pin	bottle of wine

As the number of players increases, the value of the prizes increases also, e.g. for 30 players the prize pool is:-

1 <sup>st</sup>	£17
2 <sup>nd</sup>	£12
3 <sup>rd</sup>	£9
4 <sup>th</sup>	£7
5 <sup>th</sup>	£5
Best front and back 9	£7
2’s pool	£9
Nearest the Pin prize	remains as a bottle of wine

The remaining sum from the total paid in is kept for Section funds.

The prizes are awarded after the last group has come in. Prizewinners not in attendance at the presentation should nominate someone to collect their prize. If prize is not collected within two weeks, it will be paid into the Captain’s charity.

### 3.1.6 Handicap Adjustments

**Club Handicap** - When playing in the “qualifying” competitions during the summer months, players’ Club Handicaps will be adjusted under normal CONGU regulations.

**Seniors handicap adjustment system** (non-qualifying competitions during winter) – When a player has come in the top 3 of a competition, his handicap is adjusted for up to the next three games. The member's playing Handicap will be reduced in accordance with the following:

For:-	1 <sup>st</sup> place	- 3 points,
	2 <sup>nd</sup> place	- 2 points and
	3 <sup>rd</sup> place	- 1 point

will be deducted for the next game played. Then the handicap will be restored (by 1 point) pro-rata on subsequent games when the member is playing.

### 3.1.7 Fun Competitions

“Fun” competitions are run throughout the summer period intermingled with the stableford qualifying competitions. A variety of formats are used for the fun competitions such as Texas Scramble, 3-club & Putter, Yellow Ball and Better Ball.

## 3.2 MAJOR COMPETITIONS

To enter these competitions the member must have played in at least **Three** Monday Competitions during the 12 months leading up to that competition. The following four competitions are classed as the Seniors Majors:-

### 3.2.1 The Bob Molyneux Trophy

Held during the summer months, this is an individual matchplay knockout competition with competitors playing off full Club handicap. The entry fee is £3 per player and matches have to be organised personally by the competitors and each round played by a certain date. The draw for the competition is random and takes place on the third Thursday in March with the first round being held in April.

### 3.2.2 The Captains' Charity Shield

Teams of three are made up using a balanced draw and score stableford points playing off full handicap. The team points to be counted are the best individual score on the first six holes, the best two scores on the next six holes and all three scores on the last six holes. However, if the hole is a par 3, irrespective of where the hole is on the course, then all three scores are to count.

It is held in the first week of July and is followed in the evening with a dinner to which partners are invited. Entry fee is £6 and the proceeds go to the Captains' Charity.

### 3.2.3 The Jubilee Cup

An individual Bogey competition playing off full handicap held in the last week of July. Scoring per hole is +1 for a score better than net par, -1 for worse than net par and 0 for net par. Total score is the sum of the 18 holes.

After the competition the players attend a lunch.

### 3.2.4 The Pairs Competition Plate

Pairs are made up from a random draw and play together over two separate weeks (second and last) during October. Scoring is better ball stableford and winners are the pair with the best accumulative score for the two weeks.

Players attend lunch after the competition on the second week.

## 3.3 OTHER COMPETITIONS

### 3.3.1 Order of Merit and Eclectic competitions:

These competitions are based on games played in the Monday Competitions over the winter period November to end March. Entry is free and open to all members who play in the Monday Competitions.

- i) Order of Merit – the Malcolm Robinson Memorial trophy is awarded to the competitor with the highest cumulative number of points from Monday competitions. Points are awarded on the following basis:-

Position	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
Points	12	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2

- ii) Winter Eclectic - prizes are awarded to the Gross winner and Runner-up, and to the Net Winner and Runner-up. A player may only win one prize, precedence being given to the Gross prize.

### 3.3.2 Christmas Team Competition

A “yellow ball” competition is held on the first Monday in December preceding the evening of the Seniors’ Christmas party.

Teams are made up from a balanced draw and each member plays off 3/4 handicap. Scoring is as follows:-

- Holes 1 - 6.                      Best individual Stableford Score counts to team total.
- Holes 7 - 12                      Best two players scores to count.
- Holes 13 - 18                      All 3 team scores to count.

The Yellow ball scores as double points and changes hands on every hole in the same order. If Yellow ball is lost, there is no team score on that hole. For the remainder of holes a new ball is nominated as the Yellow ball.

If the Original Yellow ball is returned at end of round, 2 additional points are added to team total.

### 3.3.3 AGM Yellow Ball Competition

The AGM yellow ball Competition is held immediately preceding the AGM on the last Monday in March.

Three man Teams are made up using a balanced draw. Playing off 7/8<sup>th</sup> handicap, Stableford Scores are taken for the yellow ball and one other player on each hole except on par three holes where all three scores count.

The Yellow ball changes hands on every hole in same order. If Yellow ball is lost, there is no team score on that hole. For the remainder of holes a new ball is nominated as the Yellow ball.

The competition is followed by lunch and the Seniors’ Annual General Meeting.

### 3.3.4 The Triggs Trophy

This singles knock out competition is played through the winter months starting with the first round in November. It is played using the same basis as the Bob Molyneux Trophy.

### 3.3.5 Informal Roll-Up Competitions

As well as the “formal” Roll-Ups on a Monday morning, for which the Seniors have a fixed block of tee times, there are also “informal” Roll-Ups on Wednesday and Friday mornings. Arrangements for tee times for these informal Roll-Ups are made privately by individuals. The format of the game is usually non-qualifying stableford. Entry is £1 with all money collected being distributed as prizes.

## 4 INTERCLUB MATCHES

### 4.1 MATCHES

The Seniors’ Section has arrangements with several other golf clubs to play home and away inter-club matches with their seniors. All clubs have an agreement that no charges are made for green fees, so the only cost to the players is for the meal and refreshments. The normal format is to meet before the match for tea and coffee around 09:00, play the match starting with tee times at 09:30 and then get changed and have a sit down meal after the match.

Clubs currently involved in this arrangement are:-

Crewe, Dunham Forest, Helsby, Mere, Sandiway, Vale Royal, Vicar’s Cross and Warrington.

### 4.2 **FORMAT**

Each match will normally comprise teams of 16 players. The format is Pairs Better ball matchplay off 9/10 handicap. The Portal Seniors team colours are white shirts with a dark blue sweater.

### 4.3 **SELECTION OF THE TEAM MEMBERS**

#### 4.3.1 **Team Members.**

All Seniors are eligible to play in the matches, but priority will be given to Seniors who play regularly in the Monday competitions.

A person electing to be considered for a match should try to ensure that he is available for both home and away legs. All team members are expected to attend the post-match meal wearing jacket, shirt and tie.

Team members should arrive 30 minutes before the first match tee time.

If a team member is unable to play, he is responsible for arranging a substitute drawn initially from any posted substitute list. He must also notify the Inter-club Match Organiser and the Captain of the day of the substitution.

#### 4.3.2 **Captain of the Day.**

The Captain of the Day for each match will be nominated by the Inter-club Match Organiser.

The Captain of the Day is responsible for all aspects of administration from the time the team sheet is posted, including dealing with any queries from team members.

## 5 **LEAP YEAR COMPETITION**

In 2016 it was recognised that the 29 February fell on a Monday for the first time in 28 years and equally wouldn't fall on a Monday again for another 28 years. In view of this, a "special" Leap Year competition was held involving a Texas Scramble using three clubs and a putter.

In further recognition of the auspicious occasion a "time capsule" was created containing memorabilia from the time and was sealed and placed in the trophy cabinet of the club. Instructions were placed upon this time capsule (a wooden treasure box) to be opened again by the Seniors Section on Monday the 29<sup>th</sup> February 2044. Hopefully its contents will be appreciated by our future Seniors colleagues and they will continue the tradition by holding a special competition and maybe establishing a new time capsule to be opened in 2068.