

WELCOME TO THE SENIORS - FAQs

Q : Who can join the Section?

A : Anyone who is a member of the Portal Golf Club (7 day, 5 day or Play More Golf) and has reached the age of 55 may join the section and play along with the Seniors in the Monday competitions. Members without an official handicap may play in order to obtain a handicap but cannot win until they have an official handicap.

Q : Is there a membership fee?

A : There is no membership fee (but see 'Where does the money come from for the prizes' below).

Q : How do I join?

A : Just 'roll up' on a Monday morning between 7:40 and 8.30 a.m. and go to the Pro Shop. You will see a man at a table handing out cards to golfers. Make yourself known to this person and provide him with your details (name/e-mail). He is the Organiser of that day's Roll-Up.

Q : How does the Roll-Up work?

A : The Seniors Roll Up is held each Monday or, when the Monday is a Bank Holiday, it is held on the Wednesday. Each Roll-Up is an organised competition and players are sent out in 3-balls as they arrive. This way, you do not choose your playing partners and it means you have to a chance to get to know more or less everybody in a short time. This is something quite important for the Seniors Section. We are a very friendly group and new members are made very welcome.

Q : Are there prizes?

A : Yes, for the best score, and also for second, third, fourth and possibly fifth, depending on the number who turn up. We also have a prize for the Nearest the Pin, for twos, and for the best front 9 and back 9. The value of these prizes varies depending upon the number of players.

Q : Where does the money come from for the prizes?

A : Everyone pays £3 before going out. Any surplus on the day goes towards subsidising our other activities such as inter-club matches, social events etc.

Q : How many turn up for the Roll-ups?

A : Usually between 30 and 50, depending on the time of year and the weather!

Q : Are the Roll-ups Qualifiers?

A : During the summer months we have Stableford Qualifiers intermixed with fun competitions. Having Roll-Ups as qualifiers enables Seniors to easily avoid their handicap going 'inactive'. The fun competitions include formats such as "Texas Scramble", "Better Ball", "3 Clubs and a Putter" and "Yellow Ball".

Q : Don't a few good, consistent players win every week?

A : Adjustments to players handicaps helps to prevent this. In summer it is the Qualifiers that change the players' club handicaps. In winter we have an internal handicapping system. This is nothing to do with official club handicaps. Somebody who wins a Monday Roll-Up is docked 3 shots the next time they play in a Seniors Roll-Up, reducing to 2 shots the following time, and so on. The second placed gets docked 2 shots, and so on. So more or less everybody gets to win something eventually. And of course there are the prizes for 2s, Best Front 9, Best Back 9, and Nearest to the Pin at the 15th.

Q : So it's a democratic set-up?

A : Absolutely. Important decisions are taken by a majority vote. The AGM also elect a Committee, led by the Seniors Co-ordinator who is supported by a Committee of about seven. Most of these have specified roles such as Secretary, Treasurer, Match Organiser and of course those invaluable people who organise the weekly roll-ups week in, week out.

Q : You mention a Match Organiser. What are these matches?

A : Between late March and mid-September, we have Home and Away fixtures against the Seniors of 8 other Cheshire Clubs, making 16 fixtures in all. Usually we start at 9.30 a.m., playing a 4-ball better-

ball format. After the match, we usually get changed and have lunch with the opposing team and of course more socialising. This means we get to see and play lots of other courses, many of them really good ones (in 2018 we play Crewe, Dunham Forest, Helsby, Mere, Sandiway, Vale Royal, Vicars Cross and Warrington). We are able to attract these clubs because our own course is highly regarded.

Q : How do I get into the Seniors' Team for these matches?

A : By looking out for the 'Sign Up' Sheet for the season posted on the Seniors' notice board in January. This is in 'Matrix' form. Many matches are oversubscribed, so the Match Organiser decides who will play. He tries to give most members an equal chance to play in a reasonable number of games, and preference is given to those who come to the Monday roll-ups and are able to play in both the home and away legs. But people sometimes withdraw so, when the Team Sheet is posted a couple of weeks ahead of a fixture, the organiser will provide a list of Reserves and, more often than not, one of the Reserves gets a game.

Q : Are there other competitions apart from the weekly roll-ups & matches?

A : Yes, we have two knock outs, one run through the summer and the other through the winter; an individual "bogey" and a team event held in July and a pairs competition run in October. To maintain interest over the winter, there is an Eclectic competition and an 'Order of Merit' competition for which everyone is entered, based on performances on Mondays. Finally, there are two "yellow ball" competitions - one at Christmas, followed by our chief social event of the year (a subsidised Christmas party in the evening with partners invited); the other at the end of March, which is followed by a simple lunch and our AGM.

Q : It all sounds very competitive.

A : Not at all. We just want to have a good time and keep fit in our retirement years!

Q : Does the Seniors Section have a written constitution?

A : Yes, in effect. We call it the 'Seniors Protocol', and a copy is posted on our notice board. You can get an electronic copy by contacting the Secretary, or by downloading it from our website.

Q : How many members are there of the Seniors Section?

A : At the last count 97. Recently, roll-up numbers have risen to 50 on Monday mornings, but we welcome this despite the increase in work for the Organisers!

Q : Is the Seniors Section organised and equipped for the 21st century?

A : We have our own website (see www.portalseniors.co.uk) and our own e-mail address at portalseniors@gmail.com. The website gives the results of each week's roll-up, forthcoming competitions and details of Competitions and Matches. We use the club computer at every Monday Roll-up during the summer for the qualifying competitions and in the winter months for the 'Eclectic' and 'Order of Merit'. We regularly communicate with Seniors by email – over 99% of Seniors have an email address.

WHY NOT COME AND JOIN US?