

THE EDY TROPHY

[Donated by Mr. R. Edy and family, in memory of the late Mr. A. Edy.]

FULL 'CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION'.

A) Competition Format:

A Four Ball, 'Better Ball', Match Play competition, played in **two stages**, thus: i) an initial, 'round robin', randomly drawn, 'Group' Stage; with the winners of **each** Group and '**qualifying runners-up**'¹ progressing to ii) the second, randomly drawn, Match Play 'Knockout' Stage.

Stage 1 - 'Group' Stage [Matches are to be played from the 'Yellow' Tees, or from the 'Winter Mats' *if in use*; matches may commence from either the 1st or the 5th Teeing Ground *if mutually agreed*]:

All entered Pairs will be allocated to one of several Groups by a 'random draw'. The Pairs in each resultant Group shall then play all other Pairs in their Group in a series of Matches, **each match comprising 18 completed holes**.

Points will be awarded for each 'Group' Stage Match, as follows: 2 points for a 'win', 1 point for 'a half', no points for a loss. But, the *actual margin* of each win / loss, after *18 completed holes*, must also be **recorded** and shall be declared as the number of holes 'Up' or holes 'Down' for the respective sides.

The Winners and Runner-up Pairs **within each Group** will be determined, first, on the basis of simply comparing the number of points scored. In the case of a 'tie on points', final ranked positions within a Group will be determined, secondly, by comparing the tied-Pairs' total number of net 'holes up' achieved after subtracting all 'holes down', across all of a side's Group Stage matches.²

Please note:

- All Group Stage Matches are to be played between the first Saturday in November and the first Sunday in April.
- All Group Stage Matches are to be played on dates & times mutually agreed between the Pairs; matches may be played on *any* day of the week, as may be agreed by the two sides.
- Un-played matches will be declared 'void' and no points will be awarded to *either* side in the Group League table.
- Thus, if a Pair feels they may be at risk of having a match 'voided', through no fault of their own, they must report the situation *as soon as possible* to the 'Competitions Committee', whose decision on the matter will be final.
- Should a Pair withdraw, the reason for withdrawing **must** be given to the 'Competitions Committee' *in writing*.

Stage 2a- 'Knockout', Match Play, Stage [Matches to be played from the 'White' Tees, commencing from the 1st Teeing Ground only]:

The 'Competitions Committee' will conduct a public, 'random draw' of all the **eight qualifying Pairs** from the 'Group' Stage, to determine the Match Play 'Knockout' pairings.

All 'Knockout' Stage Matches **must** start from Hole number 1.

All 'knockout' rounds, *prior to* the Final itself, will be played in strict accord with the R&A's Match Play Rules and all matches will end when a result has been determined, even if less than 18 holes have been completed.

¹See 'Identifying 'Qualifying Runners-up across Groups' below.

² If two or more Pairs are, even then, still tied, see the Section 'Resolution of Ties' herein for details of the processes we will, thereafter, use to 'break' any such ties and determine the sides' 'final ranked position' in their Group.

Should any 'knockout' round, *other than the Final itself*, still be tied after 18 holes, play will continue, on a 'sudden death, hole by hole basis, starting again from Hole number 1 [With all 'stroke allowances' starting anew from 'Hole 1'] until a winning Pair has been determined.

Stage 2b - 'The Final' [Match to be played from the 'White' Tees, commencing from the 1st Teeing Ground only]:

The 'Final' Match of 'The Edy Trophy' will be played over **36 holes**, starting from the 1st Hole on the course, with an interval of not more than one hour between completion of the 18th hole and restarting of the match, on the 19th.

In the event of a tie, after 36 holes, play will continue, *following a break of not more than ten minutes*, on a 'sudden death, hole by hole' basis, until a winning side has been determined. *[All handicap stroke allowances will be taken 'anew' in accord with the Club's White Stroke Index, from the 1st Teeing Ground.]*

Please note:

- If, due to darkness or in the case of seriously inclement weather, the Finalists *mutually agree* [in accordance with the Exception under R6-8a of the 'Rules of Golf'] to discontinue their Match, they may do so without penalty.
- But, in such circumstances all of the relevant provisions of **R6-8** within the R&A's Rules of Golf will then operate.

B) Entry Criteria:

Entry is open to all Men Members who have played in at least 2 Handicap Qualifying competitions within the previous 12 months.

C) Handicap Limits:

Maximum Playing Handicap of 28.

D) Handicap Allowances:

Full Handicap Allowance, as directed by CONGU. Specifically, each player receives **90% of the difference** between their own Playing Handicap and that of the 'back-marker'³

E) Stroke Index:

All Stroke allowances will be taken in accordance with the Men's S.I. as on the printed scorecard.

F) Representation of Side:

A side may be represented by *one* partner for all or for any part of a Match [See R30-3a]. **Please note:** a) An absent partner may not join the Match *during* play of a hole and b) *even if it is the 'back-marker' who is absent*, all stroke allowances must still be calculated by reference to the 'back-marker's own handicap.[Decisions 30-3a/1 & 30-3a/3]

G) Partner Substitution:

If one partner is unable to play and **before** the side has played any Match whatsoever, the side will be allowed to introduce a 'substitute', if in accord with the 'Partner Substitution Policy' published in the 'Blue Book'. When a 'substitution' is required, any such substitution **must** be authorised by the Competitions Committee **prior** to the side playing any of its matches.

H) Shortened Course: ['Group Stage' Matches played from Yellow Tees / Winter Mats]

If Holes 3 & 12 ['The Dell'] are closed, competitors shall still play on normal handicap allowance terms, using the Stroke Index as published, but will use the substituted holes 3 & 12 on the 1st and 2nd Fairways. [Note: those substituted holes need not be played last, but rather, in the sequence agreed by the two sides.]

I) Entry Fees:

Such an amount as may be determined by the Competitions Committee.

³ The 'back-marker' is the player with the lowest handicap in the Four Ball. This revised allowance is effective immediately and not merely from 1st January, 2016, and has been expressly authorised by England Golf /CONGU.

J) Prizes:

The Winners of 'The Edy Trophy' will receive a Cup of a value to be determined by the Committee and the Runner-up Pair will also receive a prize of a value to be determined by the Committee.

K) Resolution of Ties within a Group:

How we will determine 'final ranking positions' in a Group, to yield a *single* Winning Pair and a *single* Runner-up Pair from within each Group.

Two-way tie:

If, at the end of the Group Stage there is still a **two-way** tie, [when we are trying to identify either the Winner of the Group or when we are trying to identify which one Pair is 'Runner-up' in the Group] even *after* comparing both points earned *and* 'net holes won', by the relevant Pairs, then:

- a) the 'Head to head' result of the two Pairs' own Match will determine which Pair ranks higher in the Group; if, the result of the Pairs' own Match was itself 'halved', then:
- b) the Pair which achieved the largest single margin of victory [e.g. 'Won 6&4'] in **any** of its Group Stage Matches, will be ranked higher than the other Pair [and thus be identified as the Winner /single Runner-up Pair within the Group.]

Only if, even then, two Pairs are *still* tied will:

- c) the two sides play an eighteen hole 'Play Off' Match, starting from the 1st Teeing Ground, followed as necessary by a hole by hole 'sudden death play off' until a winner emerges.

Three-way tie:

If, at the end of the Group Stage there is a **three-way** tie, [when we are trying to identify either the Winner of the Group or when we are trying to identify which one Pair is 'Runner-up' in the Group] even *after* comparing both points earned *and* 'net holes won', by the relevant Pairs, then:

- a) the 'Head to head' Match results of just the **three** sides' matches **against each other** [e.g. A vs. B, A vs. C and B vs. C] will, first, be used to determine how the Pairs are to be finally ranked relative to each other **thus: (A1)** the side having scored the most **points** from just those specific matches will rank highest; but, if two or three sides still score **the same points total**, from just those three matches, then **(A2) the side with the highest 'Net Holes won' score, from just those selected matches, will be ranked highest of the tied Pairs.**
- b) If even **that** 'Net Holes won' comparison *still* does not break the tie, or only yields a further two-way tie, then the one Pair, from among those still tied, which achieved the **largest single margin of victory** [e.g. 'Won 6&4'] in **any** of its Group Stage Matches, will be ranked highest.
- c) If there is *still* a **two-way** tie, only then will the two tied sides play an 18 hole 'Play off' Match, with 'sudden death' continuation, until a winner is determined and final ranking positions within the Group are established.
- d) Only if, after the comparison **b)** above, has been made [however mathematically improbable] there is *still* a **three-way** tie, then the three sides will simply 'draw lots' to determine which **one** side is to be ranked highest. Once that has been established, the respective 'final ranking positions' of the other, originally tied, Pairs' will be determined by that process detailed under 'Two Way Ties' above

*N.B., Whilst the eventualities above may seem highly improbable, or extremely remote they are **all**, in fact, possible.*

*And we feel it is far more preferable to 'pre-define' how **all** such, however improbable, eventualities will be dealt with, before rather than after they may occur, in the interests of clarity and total fairness to all.*

L) Identification of 'Qualifying Runner-up' Pairs 'across' Groups:

In some years the number of Pairs entering the 1st Stage of 'The Edy Trophy' will allow for all Pairs to be allocated 'neatly' to one of four Groups, from within each of which **both** the 'Winning' and 'Runner-Up' Pairs will automatically progress to the second, 'Knockout', Stage of the competition, comprising eight Pairs.

In other years, however, as is the case in 2015, 'force-feeding' all entered Pairs into just *four* Groups would very likely lead to significant 'fixture congestion' - and foreseeable defaulting of matches - during the initial Group Stage, precisely because the number of Pairs in each Group would be quite large [e.g 7 or more].

Thus, it may be necessary, as is the case this year, to allocate entrants to an odd number of Groups (five Groups in 2015; one Group of 6 Pairs and four Groups of 5 Pairs.).

In such circumstances, when we are trying to reduce the field, **on merit**, to only 8 Pairs progressing to Stage 2, it has been determined that a) the Winners of each Group will automatically progress [e.g. five 'Winning' Pairs this year] and, thereafter, b) the other, remaining, qualification spots [i.e. 3 other places] need to be filled on the basis of a transparent mechanism and clear process.

The Notes immediately below detail that process.

L1) The Winners of each Group will always automatically progress to the 'Knockout' Stage.

L2) When there is only four Groups, both the confirmed Winners and Runners-up of each of the four Groups will always automatically progress.

L3) When there is more than four Groups, but *less than eight*, then only the Winners of each Group will automatically progress. When there is exactly eight Groups, only the Winners of each Group will progress.

L4) When there is more than four Groups and when one, two, or three such Groups has more Pairs initially allocated to it / them than do the other Groups, [e.g. Scenario 1: Groups of 6,5,5,5,5 Pairs; Scenario 2: Groups of 6,6,5,5,5; Scenario 3: Groups of 6,6,6,5,5 Pairs etc.,] then both the Winners and Runner-Ups of that / those 'largest Group[s]' will automatically progress to the 'Knockout Stage'.

Thus, in 2015, the confirmed Winners and Runners-Up from within the single Group containing six Pairs will, both, automatically progress.

L5) When the number of 'automatic qualification spots' has thus been determined that number, simply *subtracted from eight*, informs us as to how many other qualification places are still left to be filled.

Thus, in 2015, the confirmed Winners and Runners-Up from within the single Group containing six Pairs will, both, automatically progress. [Two 'automatic qualifiers' filled]

Further, the Winners of those four other Groups, comprising only five Pairs each, will also automatically progress. [Four more 'automatic qualifiers' now filled]

Thus: Six 'automatic qualification places' will have now been determined / filled; leaving just TWO more to be filled from amongst the FOUR confirmed Runners-up in those FOUR Groups enjoying only one 'automatic' qualifying spot.

L6) We will determine which TWO [out of those four ‘candidate’] Runner-Up Pairs are to progress, as follows:

- (a) To identify the two best ‘Qualifying Runners-up’, by comparison across Groups, from amongst those ‘candidate’ Runner-Up Pairs, none of which have already secured automatic qualification, we will **first simply compare the Points Scored totals** of the [four] relevant Pairs.
- (b) If there is then still a ‘tie’, to fill one or both, of the two available qualification places we will, **secondly, compare the ‘Net Holes Up’** achieved by each ‘candidate’ Pair.
- (c) If *that* comparison still doesn’t break the ‘tie’ then, **thirdly, we will compare the single highest ‘Winning Margin’** achieved by each of the tied Pairs, from all of the matches they have played at the Group Stage.
- (d) If *still tied*, **finally, there will be a ‘Drawing of Lots’**, organised by the H’Caps & Competitions Committee, to determine which of the Pairs will progress to the Knockout Stage.

N.B., None of the above is *actually* ‘complex’, even tho’ it may initially read as if it is!

But, by adopting such a defined and sequential process, we will obviate the need to organise, potentially ‘multi-way’, Play-off matches which, *in the past*, have so often proven to be difficult to schedule and which can cause significant delay to the progression of the Knockout Stage itself.