

Las Ramblas Golf and Social Society



**A Game Universally Beloved for its Elegance and Splendour,
golf will always be a game of honour**

Extract from R&A Player's Edition of the Rules of Golf January 2019



Handbook & Rules A Members Guide

Published 2019

Acknowledgements

We hope that you find this Handbook useful, informative and user-friendly. Whilst thanking Bryan Neal for all his work in writing the online handbook, it is important to acknowledge that all of our Society Committee members give many hours of their time to ensure that our Society is the best it can be for all its members, whether golfers, social members, guests or visitors.

CONTENTS

	Page
1. Introduction & Background	3
2. Want to Join Us?	4
3. Guests are Welcome!	4
4. Our Aims	4
5. Our 4 types of Membership	5
6. How we Play and Compete	5
7. Turn up on time!	9
8. Our Local Rules	10
9. Handicaps	10
10. Our Committee	10
11. Annual General Meeting	12
12. Subs and Stuff	12
13. Grievances & Suggestions	13
14. Website and Facebook	13

1. Introduction & Background

Welcome to this Guide for new and existing members of Las Ramblas Golf and Social Society (The Society). It is designed to be a quick and easy guide to the Society's Handbook of Rules and we would ask that members also refer to the Society's website for a full explanation. The address of our website is www.lasramblasgolfsociety.com

Play by the rules, in the spirit of the game and have fun!

We believe that members of our Society are particularly fortunate to be playing such a beautiful course and to have the opportunity to enjoy themselves every time they play.

Las Ramblas Golf Course

The Las Ramblas Golf Course opened in 1991. Located on the Costa Blanca near Torrevieja, its design is the work of Pepe Gancedo who knew how to masterfully fit a golf course where few would have known how or even tried. The golf course is built into a beautiful landscape of Mediterranean pines and natural ravines. Its holes and environment fascinates many players who see in this golf course a true challenge for their game. Although not relatively very long, its rugged landscape and beautiful trees give much to this golf course. The greens are large and generous, with both fast and gentle slopes. There is a large modern clubhouse and great practice facilities. With the driving range a very short walk from the car park, it makes it ideal for going to practise at any time.

Las Ramblas Golf and Social Society

The Society has been playing at Las Ramblas Golf Club since 1995.

We play on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays throughout the year. On Mondays and Fridays we play a variety of team games and on Wednesdays we play our handicap competitions, usually singles Stableford. Our tee times start early to avoid the summer heat and to allow us to play without the usual delays experienced when golfing in Spain. Normally we will have about 30 players, both men and ladies, although numbers do vary according to season. We welcome players of all nationalities and have members from all over Europe, even Yorkshire!

Every competition has a nominal entry fee. We like to think we are competitive but not too serious. Our handicaps range from single figures to the maximum allowed; from experienced golfers to relative newcomers. Men play from the yellow tees and ladies from the reds. We have forward blue tees for male players who find the yellows too difficult. Las Ramblas is not an easy course for complete beginners so we expect guests and new members to have some previous ability and preferably a handicap.

Occasionally we visit other golf courses for "away days" and sometimes teams from the UK visit us for friendly matches.

Not just a golf Society, we also meet regularly to share lunch and other activities together throughout the year, as well as dinner dances in the evenings (offering an opportunity to dress up!). All of these are organized by the Social Secretary. Non-golfing partners and guests are always welcome to attend these events.

2. Want to Join Us?

If you are interested in playing with us, come up and see us at the clubhouse around midday any Monday, Wednesday or Friday. Ask for any member of the committee and if you buy them a drink you will have made the perfect start!

Our starting sheets are prepared one week in advance, but we may be able to slot you in earlier if we have any gaps. Play a few rounds with us and decide if you want to apply for membership.

Anyone wishing to apply for membership of the Las Ramblas Golf and Social Society should submit their details to the Secretary using the form found on the Society website www.lasramblasgolfociety.com on the "Come Join Us" page. Please identify any current playing handicap and where it is managed. Once received, applications are considered by the Committee and are usually agreed to Provisional Member status if approval conditions are met.

Please note that our membership is full as at December 2019.

3. Guests are Welcome

Visitors and guests of members will be welcome to play in the Society competitions where there are spaces available. Visitors and guests play in the same group as their inviting member and tee off last. Some competitions are not open to guests.



4. Our Aims

The Society is called The Las Ramblas Golf and Social Society.
The aims of the Society are to promote:

- The opportunity for members to play golf and have fun within the true spirit and etiquette of the game.
- Social events and functions which also offer the opportunity to make new friends.

We have a Committee which manages the Society in the best interests of the members and in accordance with the rules of the Society.



5. Our four types of Membership

Unless specifically written otherwise the term “member” in this document refers only to Full, Provisional and Honorary Members of the Society.

- **Full Membership**, which enjoys all playing, voting and social rights.
- **Provisional Membership** where some playing rights may be restricted until Full Membership is granted.
- **Social Membership**, which enjoys the social benefits of the Society but has no playing or voting rights or count towards quorum of any general meeting.
- **Honorary Membership**, which enjoys all the rights of Full Membership but which is granted a waiver on the annual subscription. Honorary Membership may be conferred on a Full member by the Committee or by an approved resolution of the membership at an AGM.

Full membership will normally be agreed by the Committee after a period of 3 months, or after the submission of 6 handicap qualifying competition cards, whichever is the sooner. However, the Provisional Member will be awarded a Society playing handicap after the submission of 3 handicap qualifying competition cards. This allows them to enter into handicap qualifying competitions held on Wednesdays. However a Provisional Member cannot win a trophy competition, but if a Provisional Member should decide to enter a trophy event then his/her entry fee will be waived.

In the event that a prospective member does not fulfil the requirement of submitting 3 Handicap Qualifying cards within the 3 month period after application for membership then that membership request will be cancelled. If the potential member reapplies for membership, the application process will commence afresh. In the event that an old member who has lapsed his/her membership wishes to re-join the Society then the Committee will usually restore that membership upon payment of the annual current subscriptions but playing handicap re-establishment must be by submission of 3 handicap qualifying cards.

6. How we Play and Compete

Our competition calendar, which is published on our website, consists of mixed individual Stablefords and occasional medals played every Wednesday. Team games are played on Mondays and Fridays.

The number of people competing determines the amount of prize money. Trophy Competitions are played annually and winners are listed on the Honours Board. Other than the Club Championships, which attract two separate prizes, all competitions are mixed.

The allocation of tee times into all Society competitions is done on a PRIORITY basis with members first, provisional members second and guests third.

There is a nominal entry fee for all our competitions and an optional contribution for entering the 2's pot on Wednesdays. Some of the trophy competitions also incur an additional entry fee but in the main the annual member subscription fee covers entry into all the "Trophies".



Scorecards

All scorecards must be clearly and accurately completed with the following:



- Player's name
- Gross score
- Handicap
- Date
- Competition Title
- Player's signature
- Marker's signature

COMPETITIONS

The following is a brief summary of the types of game formats enjoyed by members of our Society.

The **CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP** consists of 6 Stableford rounds but only the best 4 count towards the 3 championship prizes for both men and ladies.

CAJA MURCIA is one of our longest established Trophy competitions. The format is a single round individual Stableford and the winner is awarded the largest of our golf trophies and a place on the Honours Board.



An **EASTER EGG PAIRS STABLEFORD CHAMPIONSHIP** is held annually.

 **Further information on how we play and compete can be found on our website.**

SINGLES MATCHPLAY knockout runs continuously during the week (usually in April). Entrants into this knockout trophy competition *must* be available for the Monday, Wednesday and Friday rounds of the first week of competition otherwise their entry will not be permitted. The semi-finals and the final of the competition will be arranged to suit the finalists and can be played at any time prior to the annual prize presentation day.

A new trophy competition, the **Biggerstaff Bash**, in honour of Dee and Geoff is now held in the spring. Pairs, better ball stableford.

In May, we stage our **PRESIDENT'S DAY**, which features a singles Stableford honours board competition (and food on the day thanks to our President).

We take a break from trophy competitions during the hot months of summer but return with our **2 FROM 3 MEDAL CHAMPIONSHIP** in September when the best 2 of 3 nett medal rounds determine our Champion.

October features our **CAPTAIN'S DAY** trophy - we do not currently have a Society Captain but tradition continues and the trophy is awarded to the best better ball pair on the day.

The **PAIRS BETTER BALL MATCHPLAY** knockout commences towards the end of October and is fought out over consecutive days to crown our winning team. Contestants must be available for the Monday, Wednesday and Friday of the week of competition.

October also features our **54 HOLE STABLEFORD WEEK** where 3 individual rounds are totalled to find our champion and runner up.

November 11th (closest day to) sees our **REMEMBRANCE DAY** competition on which the best Stableford score bags the prize.




Another long-standing trophy day is the **MEMORIAL/JACK MYERS PAIRS**, a better ball competition that is also usually staged during November in memory of the many members no longer with us.

PAIRS TROPHY played as a two ball better ball.

Please note Trophy competitions can only be won by full members although those with inactive handicaps, guests or provisional members can still play where numbers permit.


In addition to the SINGLES and TEAM GAMES that are staged throughout the playing season there are several other "EVENTS" being managed that appear on the Results Page (Members Section) of our website that will be of interest to the members:

TEAM GAMES INCLUDE:

- **Greensome** – In teams of 2 each team member drives off and then a decision is made as to which ball will be played in alternating shots.
- **Texas Scrambles** - 2, 3 or 4 players all hitting one tee shot on every hole, one of which is selected by the team and play continues from that point. The draw for this game, in particular, is managed so that teams are fair and balanced. 
- **Counter Games** – A 4 player Stableford with scores dictated after each hole using a domino. *A variation of this is the **Counter Game Strategic**, where the number of scores to be counted is declared in advance.*
- **Dusty Bin 3-2-1** – Played in teams of 4 with any 3 scores to count on hole 1, 2 scores on hole 2 and 1 on hole 3, then repeated.
- **Waltzer 1-2-3** – Similar to Dusty Bin with teams of 4, with any 1 score to count on hole 1, any 2 on hole 2 and any 3 on hole 3, then repeated.
- **Yellow Peril** – Played in teams of 4, a fictional yellow ball allows for the doubling of Stableford scores on a given hole. If a team member loses their 'yellow' ball they revert to single scores for the remainder of the game. Usually yellow ball score plus 2 others.
- **Bowmakers** – Generally played in teams of 4 with the best 3 scores to count on each hole. 
- **Change Partners** – Teams of 4 each playing Stableford and changing partners every 6 holes.
- **6 x 6 x 6** - Teams of 4 each playing Stableford with one player to score on the 1st 6 holes, any 2 on the next 6 holes and any 3 on the final 6 holes. 



ALBERT Explained: Where it is not possible to make teams of 4, the Society brings “**Albert**” into play. Albert’s points are adjusted to fit in with the various team game formats and there are four variations. There is a full explanation on how the points are calculated, elsewhere on our website.

 **Full details of all the above games can be found on the website. Just search ‘Games’.**

Non Completion, Rain and Electrical Activity

In general, all Society competitions, once commenced, must be completed by each player and each team. However, there may be circumstances when competitions may have to be cancelled, for example, heavy rain, flooding, the likelihood of lightning, an incapacitating injury/illness to a player.

7. Turning up on time is important!

All players must arrive at Las Ramblas Clubhouse at least 20 minutes before their allocated tee time. This is to ensure adequate time is allowed for all fees to be paid. It is imperative that payments to the Caddy Master are made before teeing off, as not doing so impacts on the good relationship the Society enjoys with the Golf Course Management.

Members are asked to observe which team they are following and to be ready to tee off as soon as that team has departed.

There is a monthly 'tick' list in operation to allow members to provide their availability for play. This list is used to compile the weekly draw which is done one week in advance. The draw is posted on the Society notice board in the Clubhouse as well as on the website.

In the event a member is unable to play, he/she should inform the Secretary, or a Committee member as soon as practicable.

Note that the draw sheets can only be altered by members of the Committee.



8. Our Local Rules

The Rules of Golf have existed for over 270 years!

Whilst we ask that players endeavour to play to the R&A Rules of Golf 2019 Edition, the Committee has introduced some local rules to deal with the difficulties sometimes presented by our unique and beautiful golf course.

New members and guests should familiarise themselves with the local rules, which are explained in detail on our website. In addition, it is worth mentioning here that "ready golf" is encouraged by the Society for all players.

9. Handicaps

Each player will be given an exact handicap. The 'slope' is then applied to give a playing handicap, relating to whichever course you are playing.

To retain their playing handicaps all Las Ramblas Golf and Social Society members must submit at least four score cards a year from Handicap Qualifying Competitions during the season.

10. Our Committee

The Committee's decisions in matters over which it has authority are final. The Committee consists of:

- President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Social Secretary
- Handicap Secretary
- Competitions Secretary



All Committee Members are elected each year at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Society members wishing to stand for election to the Committee must be proposed and seconded by eligible members. The Secretary must receive proposals in writing* or by email at least 7 days before the AGM.

****please note where the term 'in writing' is mentioned in this booklet, this will include communication by email.***

Committee Meetings shall be held every 3 months or at the discretion of the Committee. Committee meetings do not require the prior publication and distribution of the agenda to the members.

No business shall be transacted by the Committee without a quorum, which shall consist of a majority of the Committee members being present. If this is not achieved, any decision taken by those Committee members in attendance must be ratified in consultation with those Committee members who did not attend so that a majority agreement is obtained.

The Committee can appoint Sub Committees to facilitate the management of the Society.

The Committee may co-opt eligible member(s) if a vacancy occurs for whatever reason and for whatever purpose the Committee determines.

The Committee shall have the power to suspend/expel members for serious breaches of the rules of the Society, or deliberate infringements of the rules or etiquette of golf.

Committee members' contact details can be found in our website.



Responsibilities of Committee Members

The President will be responsible for the overall smooth running of the Society, and will chair (or appoint a chair) for all meetings; Committee, AGM and EGM. The President (or appointed chairperson) will hold the casting vote over any voting situations that result in a tie.

The Secretary will manage the draw and starting sheets for all competitions. Also will keep minutes of Committee and General Meetings and will circulate and offer them for approval at subsequent meetings. Agendas for AGMs and EGMs will be compiled and circulated to the members by the Secretary.

The Treasurer will manage the Financial affairs of the Society. The Committee must approve any *exceptional* expenditure over 100 euros. The Treasurer will present a Balance Sheet (year to end on 30th November) at the Annual General Meeting of the Society for approval by the members. Payments made on behalf of the Society by a member will normally be reimbursed by cash (provided a receipt is obtained).

The Handicap Secretary will manage and keep updated each member's exact handicap. The Handicap Secretary will establish a handicap sub-committee, consisting of the Handicap Secretary and 2 other members (one male one female). This sub-committee will be responsible for undertaking a handicap review at least once a season and analyse any member's general play that could render them liable to a handicap review.

The Competition Secretary will manage the annual calendar of competitions. And manages the Annual Trophy and Prize presentation at the end of the season.

The Social Secretary organizes various social events on behalf of the members, as well as managing the Social Memberships.

All Committee members submit an annual report to the AGM.

Current Co-Options: A Web Master is appointed by the Committee to design and manage the Society website.

11. Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The AGM of the Society shall be held in December at the Las Ramblas Golf Club or another venue at the discretion of the Committee.

At least seven days' notice of all Extraordinary and Annual Meetings shall be given by the Hon. Secretary.

A notice shall be made available to all members specifying any business to be discussed at Extraordinary and Annual General Meetings.



Extraordinary General Meetings will be called when deemed necessary by the Committee or upon receipt by the Hon. Secretary of a request signed by a minimum of 51% of the members stating their reason(s) for the request. Annual General Meetings require a quorum of 25% of the total playing membership. Members who cannot attend an Extraordinary or Annual General Meeting may submit proxy votes. A proxy vote will count towards the quorum requirement and should be submitted to a Committee member, in writing or by email.

Proxy votes can only be submitted for or against specific proposals on the meeting agenda. They may not be given as discretionary votes for another member to exercise.

Notice of proposals to be included in the agenda of the Annual General Meeting must be lodged in writing with the Hon. Secretary at least 7 days before the meeting.

A member shall not be eligible to vote at any meeting unless his subscription has been paid for the current year.



12. Subs and Stuff

The annual subscription shall be set at the AGM. The subscription will be collected by the Treasurer at the AGM or within 28 days thereafter. Members may, however, pay the subscription before the AGM if it is likely that they cannot attend or are unlikely to be present locally before 31st January.

The Committee determines the number of members of the Society.

No alteration can be made to these rules except at a Committee meeting or at a properly constituted EGM or AGM of the Society.

Any member who wishes to propose changes to the running of the Society should first discuss it with a Committee member.

Any proposal for an AGM should be submitted to the Committee in writing as a resolution and the resolution must be seconded (supported in writing) by another member. Notice of proposed alterations shall be circulated to all members.

13. Grievances and Suggestions

In the event that members are unable to resolve any disagreements between themselves, the President and/or Committee members are available to advise or assist to reach a solution.

Suggestions from members are welcomed and can include ideas for new games, social activities or improvements to the way things are done.



14. Our Website and Facebook Group

The Society website provides members with a comprehensive range of pages detailing activities, rules, Committee proceedings, weekly reports, tee times, honours board history, pictures, weather, notices etc. There is also a social events section where details of forthcoming social activities can be viewed. There is a Las Ramblas Golf Society Facebook Group where current information about our golf and social activity is also available to members only.