



# MALTA GOLF ASSOCIATION

## THE NESCAFÉ DOLCE GUSTO MGA SHIELD

• 8<sup>TH</sup> EDITION ~ 2014 •



### COMPETITION DATES

Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> January 2015:      DAY 1    LADIES    STROKE PLAY MEDAL  
*(Alternative Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January)*

Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> January 2015:      DAY 1    MEN        STROKE PLAY MEDAL  
*(Alternative Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January)*

Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2015:      DAY 2    MIXED     STROKE PLAY STABLEFORD

### MAIN PRIZES

**Overall Best Net Aggregate Score: \***

Declared Winner of the Competition & Presented with the MGA Shield

**Overall Best Net Aggregate Score by a Lady:**

Circolo Auto Titanium + Variety Box + Baci Cubotto + memento Trophy

**Overall Best Net Aggregate Score by a Gentleman:**

Circolo Auto Titanium + Variety Box + Baci Cubotto + memento Trophy

## 1. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

### a) Status of Players:

Entries will be accepted from players who:

- Conform in all respects to the current Amateur Status of the R&A;
- Are fully paid up or overseas members of the Royal Malta Golf Club [RMGC]; and
- Hold a current valid RMGC handicap as provided in the RMGC's General Competition Rules (*RMGC lapsed handicap players, members' guests and visitors will be unable to win any prizes*).

### b) Handicap Limits & Allowances:

The Handicap Limit for the Ladies will be **36** (max. exact CONGU® Handicap 36.4).

The Handicap Limit for the Men will be **28** (maximum exact CONGU® Handicap 28.4).

The competition will be played on **full handicap allowance\***. The Handicap of a player at the beginning of day 1 of the competition shall apply also on day 2.

Similar to other RMGC "Qualifying Competitions", the competition's scores will go towards the RMGC's Eclectic table and for the allocation of Order of Merit points.

### c) Entry Form:

Players must enter by filling in the draw sheet that will be posted on the RMGC's Competitions Notice Board. All entries shall be subject to approval by the Malta Golf Association [MGA] Championship Committee which reserves the right to accept or refuse, or having accepted, to subsequently reject any entry without giving reason for its decision which shall be final. The Championship Committee reserves the right to disqualify any competitor making a false statement on his entry form.

### d) Closing Date of Entry:

Applications for entry in the MGA Shield will be received until **Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at 19.00 hours**. Late applications will only be considered by decision of the Championship Committee.

### e) Entry Fee:

The entry fee will be **€15**. This has to be paid prior to the first round. No 'discount' or 'refund' would be possible for playing only 1 round of the competition.

*Lunch will be available at the end of the competition and will be charged at the caterer's cost. A booking list will be displayed at the Club.*

## 2. GENERAL CONDITIONS

- a) The competition shall be played in accordance with the Rules of Golf as approved by R&A Rules Limited and with the approved Local Rules for the RMGC course.
- b) The Championship Committee will reserve the right to fix and/or alter the Competition's Conditions and/or Starting Times.
- c) Players will be requested to register at the Clubhouse immediately on arrival.

- d) The Championship Committee will be the final arbiter of all on and off course disputes. A player, in doubt of a procedure, will be advised to play a second ball according to Rule 3-3 of the Rules of Golf. Players will be requested to refrain from approaching a member of the Championship Committee for a decision during play, as they will not be given an answer during the round.
- e) *Dress code:* Soft spikes will be obligatory for players. If not respected, access to the golf course will be denied. Normal golf attire will be required on the course. Denim jeans will not be allowed under any circumstances and gentlemen should wear collared shirts, tailored shorts or slacks, socks and proper golf shoes. The same will apply to ladies, but sleeveless shirts will be allowed.
- f) *Smoking:* Smoking is not encouraged anywhere on the golf course (however there is no penalty if a player decides to smoke).
- g) *Electronic equipment:* The use of mobile phones for communication and similar electronic devices (radios, MP3 players, pagers, etc) by a player or caddie while on the golf course during a stipulated round is considered distracting and inconsiderate. If any player or caddie is in possession of such a device it should be turned off or silenced before commencement of play. Any use of such device will result in the Championship Committee taking disciplinary action against the offending person(s) in accordance with the concluding paragraph of Section 1 of the Rules of Golf (Etiquette). Primarily this would mean the player being prohibited from playing in the next two RMGC competitions and, if the offence is persistent or very disturbing to others, in a penalty of disqualification of the player being imposed under Rule 33-7. A mobile phone may exceptionally be used in case of emergency (for medical reasons) or danger (e.g. lightning).
- h) *Disclaimer:* On entering the competition, players agree that there are certain risks inherent in the game of golf and accept personal liability for all such risks.

### **3. FORM OF PLAY**

- a) The competition will be played by individual stroke play in a two-day event over 36 holes at the RMGC. The first day will be medal whilst the second day will have a Stableford format.
- b) Ladies will play from the MGA red tees; men will play from the MGA white tees.
- c) A cut will be applied after the first round. To ensure proper competition for the prizes, the cut will be based on the best scores in approximate proportion to the number of entries according to gender.
- d) Play will be in flights of 3 players all off the first tee for the first day and in flights of 4 players with multi-tee start for the second day of the competition.
- e) The player with the lowest score over 36 holes (Stableford points are deducted from the net medal scores to arrive to a result) will be the overall winner of the competition and will be presented with the MGA Shield\*. In the event of a tie after the last round, the winner will be the player who has obtained the best result on the second day. If this does not decide then the process as recommended by the R&A in Appendix 1 of the Rules of Golf will be applied.

#### 4. CONDITIONS OF PLAY

- a) *Time of Starting:* If a player arrives at his starting point, ready to play, within five minutes after his starting time, in the absence of circumstances which warrant waiving the penalty of disqualification as provided in Rule 33-7, the penalty for failure to start on time is two strokes at the first hole.
- b) *Caddies:* A player is prohibited from having a professional golfer serve as his caddie during a stipulated round. Penalty for breach of this condition is two strokes for each hole at which any breach occurred; maximum penalty per round – four strokes. A player having a caddie in breach of this condition must immediately upon discovery that a breach has occurred ensure that he conforms to this condition for the remainder of the stipulated round. Otherwise the player is disqualified.
- c) *Practice:* Rule 7-1b of the Rules of Golf applies and therefore practice, on the competition course or testing the surface of any putting green, **before** a round **on the days** of the competition is prohibited. Penalty for breach of this condition: disqualification. Under Rule 33-2c the Championship Committee permits practice **between** rounds of the competition.
- d) *Trolleys & Buggies:* Electric or manual trolleys may be used but should not be taken onto tees or greens. The use of golf buggies would be according to RMGC Rules.
- e) *Artificial Devices & Unusual Equipment:* Players are allowed to use devices that only measure or gauge distance.
- f) *Driving Clubs:* The driver the competitor carries must have a club-head, identified by model and loft, which is named on the current List of Conforming Driver Heads issued by R&A Rules Limited. Note: Any individual driver on the List, if tested on pendulum testing apparatus approved by R&A Rules Limited, must not have a characteristic time greater than 257 microseconds Penalty for breach of this condition: disqualification.
- g) *Suspension of Play Due to a Dangerous Situation:* When the Championship Committee suspends play due to a dangerous situation, if the players are between the play of two holes, they must not resume play until the Committee has ordered a resumption of play. If they are in the process of playing a hole, they must discontinue play and not resume play until the Committee has ordered a resumption of play. The signal for suspending play immediately due to a dangerous situation will be a prolonged note of a siren. If a player fails to discontinue play immediately, he is disqualified unless circumstances warrant waiving the penalty as provided in Rule 33-7.

The signals used will be as follows:

**Discontinue Play Immediately: One prolonged note of siren.**

**Discontinue Play: Three consecutive notes of siren, repeated.**

**Resume Play: Two short notes of siren, repeated.**

- h) *Returning a Scorecard:* Following each of the stroke play rounds, players must return their scorecards to an area designated by the Championship Committee. A player's scorecard is deemed officially returned when it has been recorded in the designated area/tournament office.
- i) *Close of a Competition:* Any dispute or doubtful point on the Rules must be referred to the Championship Committee as soon as possible and before the conclusion of play on the final day. The Competition will be deemed closed once the result is officially announced at the end of Day 2.

## 5. PRIZES AND PRIZE GIVING CEREMONY

A total of 2 main and 7 consolation prizes will be presented as follows:

- Overall best net aggregate score from a lady player
- Overall best net aggregate score from a gentleman player
- 2<sup>nd</sup> best net aggregate score from a lady player
- 3<sup>rd</sup> best net aggregate score from a lady player
- 2<sup>nd</sup> best net aggregate score from a gentleman player
- 3<sup>rd</sup> best net aggregate score from a gentleman player
- 4<sup>th</sup> best net aggregate score from a gentleman player
- Best net aggregate score from a senior player [65 years and over]
- Best net aggregate score from a youth golfer [21 years and under]
- Best net score on Day 1 from a lady player
- Best net score on Day 1 from a gentleman player
- Best net score on Day 2 from a lady player
- Best net score on Day 2 from a gentleman player

**There will be a limitation of only one prize per individual. All prizewinners are expected to attend the prize presentation, which will take place during lunch following the last round of the competition. No prize will be awarded to any competitor who is absent from the prize presentation unless there are very exceptional circumstances and the Committee is so advised.**

**A junior (not having reached the age of 18 at the start of the competition) member can be declared as the Overall Winner of the competition but cannot win the prize for the Overall Best Net Aggregate Score. A suitable alternative prize will be offered and the next adult will win the prize for the Overall Best Net Aggregate Score.**

The Shield, although presented to the Overall Winner, will be retained by the MGA.

## 6. CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE

The authorised officials for disputes and doubtful points are Maria Woodward, Nigel Hall and William Beck. No other club member or official will give a decision on a rule matter unless he has been authorised by this Committee to give final decisions in its name. The decision of this Committee on any matter relating to the Rules of Golf or these Conditions shall be final, and there shall be no right of appeal.

*With the kind auspices & collaboration of:*



- \* ***The ladies are requested to apply their normal CONGU® playing handicap on both days of the competition. The Championship Committee will determine the overall winner by considering the two additional strokes per 18 holes for the ladies due to the course rating prevalent at the RMGC course.***