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|  | **WINTER GREENSOMES** **KNOCKOUT TROPHY 2023/24****TERMS OF THE COMPETITION** |

1. The competition shall be played according to the general BCLGA “LOCAL RULES, TERMS OF THE COMPETITION AND REGULATIONS” available on the BCLGA web site.
2. The competition shall be open to all members of the Buckinghamshire County Ladies Golf Association. All matches in the competition must be played at clubs that are affiliated to BCLGA.
3. The management of the competition shall be vested in the Competition Organiser appointed by the Executive Committee. Any dispute must be put in writing to the Competition Organiser, who may refer to the Executive Committee for a decision, whose decision shall be final.
4. To be played as a Knockout Greensomes Competition.
5. Matches shall be played off handicap. Handicap allowances are calculated according to the WHS handicapping system as implemented by England Golf. Stroke allowance is 100% of the difference between the Greensomes Handicap of each pair.
6. The Greensomes Handicap for a pair shall be determined as follows:
	1. Calculate the Course Handicap for each player using her Handicap Index on the day of the match and the Slope Rating for the course to be played; and
	2. Look up the Greensomes Handicap for each pair, using the Course Handicap for each player, on the Greensomes Handicap Conversion Table provided to all entrants (also available on the BCLGA web site).
7. The venue for the matches, except for the final, shall be the "home" club of one of the pairs. The first round draw will be done by automated software with the first named pair having home advantage.
For the second round draw onwards, home advantage is decided by the organiser using the following algorithm: a) if one pair had a home draw in round one and the second pair had an away draw in round one, then the second pair is given home advantage in round two. b) if both pairs had the same advantage in round one, then home advantage in round two is decided by the organiser by the toss of a coin.
For the third round onwards – a similar pattern applies, if one pair has not had a home advantage then they are given it in round three, but if both pairs have had the same advantage in the first two rounds, then the organiser decides by the toss of a coin.
8. Pairs need not be members of the same club, however if they are members of different clubs, they must nominate their ‘home’ club for the competition on the entry form. Once a pair has played a ‘home’ match in the competition, they cannot change their ‘home’ club unless BOTH players are no longer members of the club.
9. Permission to play must be obtained from the Secretary of the “home” club, the cost of the green fee, if any, being shared by the players. Where a green fee is payable, the home pair should wherever possible notify their opponents in advance.

The final shall be played on a neutral course. The course and date of the final to be arranged by the Competition Organiser.

1. The winners of each match must notify the Competition Organiser of the result and the date the match was played within 48 hours of the completion of the match. A failure to do so may result in the winning pair being disqualified.
2. Responsibility for arranging matches is shared jointly between the two pairs, who must agree a mutually convenient date between themselves. The “Home” players should offer at least 3 dates which must be a mix of weekday and weekend dates with no more than 2 dates to be in the same 7 day period. If the “Home” players do not contact their opponents within 7 days of the start of the current round then they shall forfeit the right to the “Home” venue.
3. The competition dates for 2023/24 are as follows:

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| Round 1 must be played between | 25 September | 29 October |
| Round 2 must be played between | 30 October | 3 December |
| Round 3 must be played between | 4 December | 21 January |
| Round 4 must be played between | 22 January | 18 February |
| Semi-Finals must be played between | 19 February | 18 March |

In order to retain Home advantage, the Home pair must contact their opponents ON or BEFORE the following dates:

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| Round 1 by | 1 October |
| Round 2 by | 5 November |
| Round 3 by | 10 December |
| Round 4 by | 28 January |
| Semi-Finals by | 25 February |

After these dates, whichever pair makes initial contact may claim the Home advantage.

1. If both pairs so agree, a match may be played prior to the start date of a given round as specified in the table above. However, a date within the specified period must also be agreed as a reserve date.
2. After consultation with the Competition Organiser, if a pair who has played a previous round withdraws from the competition, then the beaten pair from the previous round can be offered the opportunity to be re-instated, providing there is at least 2 weeks left for the match to be played and a mutually agreeable date can be found. However, if no mutually agreeable date can be found within the two-week period or if there is less than two weeks left to arrange a match, then the pair who would have played the withdrawn pair has a walkover.
3. Extensions will not be given unless both courses are closed or unavailable on the last day of the round, in which case the Competition Organiser must be contacted to approve an extension.
4. If a match has not been played by the last day of the round, or the pairs fail to agree a mutually convenient date, BOTH pairs will normally be disqualified following consultation with the Competition Organiser

**ADDITIONAL RULE FOR KNOCKOUTS**

Juniors are welcome to enter county knockouts, however parents/guardians are reminded that it is their responsibility to arrange for safeguarding of their child.

For each match a 'responsible adult' must be nominated (be it a parent or any other nominated adult) who will be responsible for the junior for the duration of the match.  The ‘responsible adult’ must have details of emergency contact information and any special medical needs of the junior.  The junior and her opponent must be provided with the contact telephone number of the nominated ‘responsible adult’.

Note: ‘duration of the match’ includes the time from a junior being dropped off by parents/guardians to their collection by parents/guardians.

In accordance with item B4 In BCLGA Local Rules, Terms of the Competition and General Regulations, a player must not practice on the competition course before or between rounds.

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