



Welton Manor Golf Club  
Seniors Newsletter  
February Edition  
No 2 -2026.

*Topics in this month's issue are:*  
*Understanding Golf Balls:*  
*Captain's Charity Final Roundup:*  
*Short Pile Grass Winter Golf Mats:*



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## Chairman's Comments:

*Alan Pretty, Seniors Chairman,  
February 2026.*



Hello Gentlemen and welcome to your February Newsletter.

In this month's edition there's a report from Simon about his Charity (Arthritis UK) and the Captains Drive-in to be held on **14th March**. Ex Captain Colin has written a Final Roundup report of his year, and the Competitions Team have provided some important information about winter mats. We've also included an article on "Understanding Golf Balls" and a piece on the "Spurks" fairway mats that are increasingly being used by golfers during the winter months. There's also our Test your Golf Knowledge quiz and some other bits and pieces you may find of interest.

On the golfing front, although the weather since Christmas has been cold and wet it has still not prevented us from completing a few fun competitions with just one competition having to be cancelled. Whilst the course is suffering during this cold spell the Grounds Staff have done a great job keeping the course in a reasonable playable condition, albeit with the use of temporary greens. Let's hope for some drier weather in the coming weeks.

Well, done to the Competitions Team for doing such a great job with starting arrangements and adopting sensible rules to meet ground conditions. Our winter knockout has progressed well with the quarter final games on schedule to be completed by the end of January, the semi's by the end of February with the final by the end of March.

Of course, we still have a few more fun games to get in before the season starts on the 1st of March when we have our Air Ambulance Competition followed by the Captain v Vice Captain's Competition to look forward to.

As you know our Captain's charity this year is Arthritis UK and you will notice that banners and collecting tins are now starting to appear around the clubhouse. I hope we can all get behind our charity fund raising activities throughout the year and promote it whenever we get the chance. We've done exceptionally well over the years with our fund raising and I hope we can continue to do so in 2026.

Finally, arrangements are currently being made for our Summer Knockout Competition and will be published in the next few weeks via our WhatsApp Group and HDID. Best wishes and happy golfing.

***Alan Pretty Committee Chairman WMSS***





## Captain's Column:

*Simon Boyes, Seniors Captain,  
February 2026.*



It's February already! Hurray as the daylight is getting longer and the sun a little warmer. We just need less rain for the course to dry out, and we can return to playing proper greens.

You may have noticed the Arthritis UK collecting tins are now on the bar and in reception. There are also booklets covering some aspects of the condition on the table in the conservatory. These are for anyone to read. I have other booklets that cover different

topics related to arthritis should you want them. The full list is available on the website [arthritis-uk.org](http://arthritis-uk.org) or ask me.

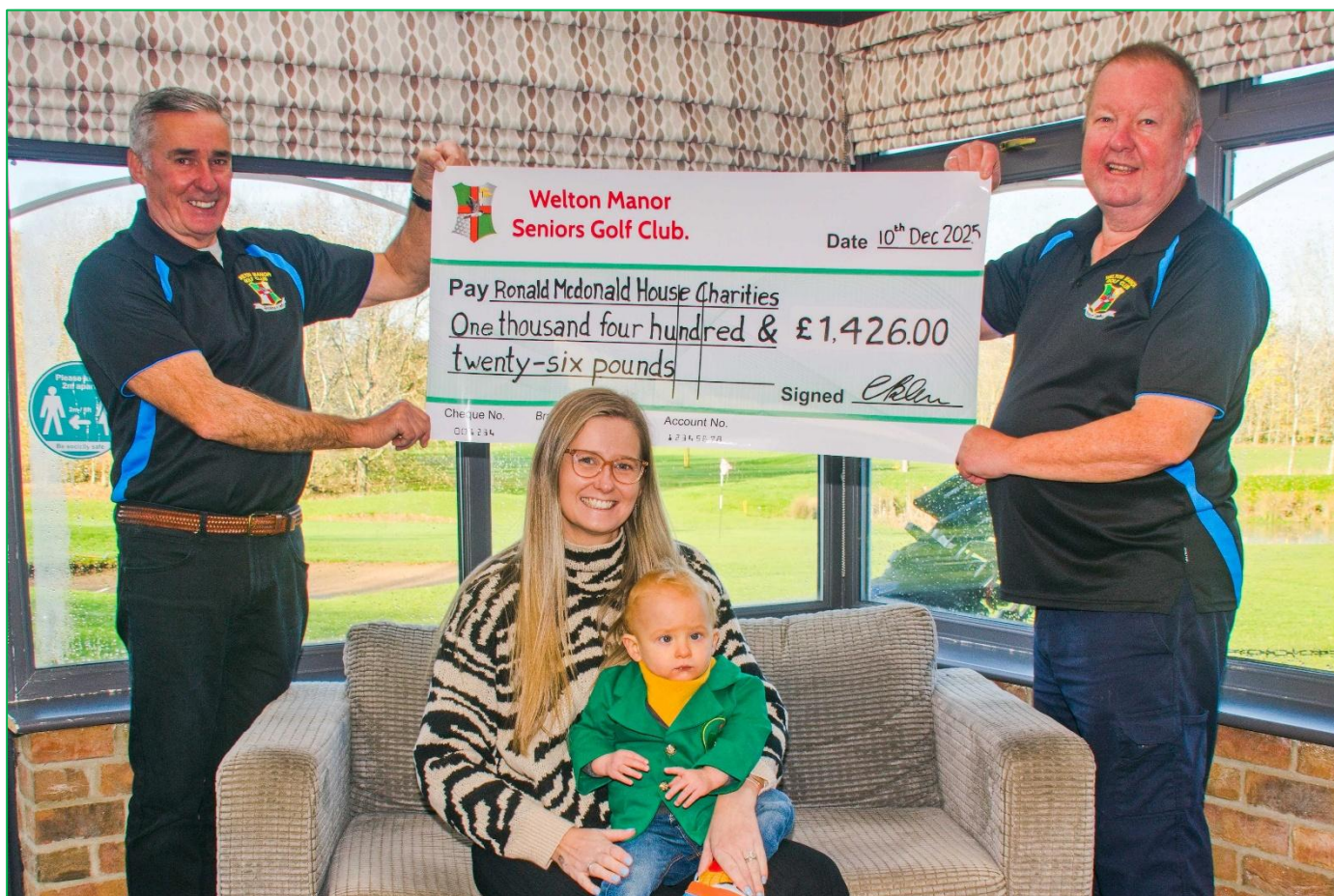
Captains drive in is the traditional opening competition of the new season. The date this year is **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March**. It would be great to get a good number of seniors playing in this competition.







## Captain's Charity Final Roundup: Colin Bilboa, Seniors Captain 2025



Gentlemen,

Please find below a summary of the email that I sent to Ronald McDonald House Charity confirming the total raised for my chosen charity in 2025. I will be forever grateful for the support given and wanted to also share the acknowledgment and thanks also given by RMHC.

"Hi Niamh,

I hope all is good with you and the rest of the team at RMHC.

On behalf of Welton Manor Seniors Golf, I just wanted to let you know that raised money £1,426 has been transferred to the Ronald McDonald House Charities (UK) Account this morning. Ref: Welton Sen Golf.

Many thanks again for all the support shown and given by RMHC.

**Colin Bilboa.** Welton Manor Seniors Captain,  
and Grandpappy to Bodhi Wilson"







“Dear Colin,

I hope you are well. That is brilliant thank you so much Colin and please pass our thanks onto the Welton Manor Seniors Golf Club too, this is a fantastic achievement. I am also pleased to let you know that your giving tree token has finally arrived please see attached photos. As we say farewell to 2025, we wanted to say a HUGE thank you for your incredible support throughout this year.

Because of you, we’ve been able to continue to make a real difference and improvement to the experiences of so many children and families across our hospital.

Thank you for all of your support. The dedication of our wonderful supporters and volunteers has made an incredible difference, allowing so many families with children in hospital to remain together and be with their sick child. Your commitment means the world to these families, thank you for being a part of it. As we reach the end of the year, we are so proud of being able to keep so many families close to their little ones during challenging times. This achievement would not be possible without the generosity and compassion of our supporters and volunteers.

Best wishes, ***Niamh Smythe Community Fundraiser - Midlands***”





Here's the straight, golfer-friendly breakdown of **why Spurk's short-pile grass winter golf mats are worth using**, backed directly by the information from the search results.

## **Why Use a Spurk Short-Pile Winter Golf Mat?**



### **1. Protects the Course in Winter**

Clubs require mats in winter to prevent **irreparable fairway damage**. Spurk mats are designed specifically to solve this problem without ruining your strike.

### **2. Feels Close to Real Grass**

The **short-pile turf with latex backing** mimics a firm links-style fairway, giving you a realistic lie instead of the usual spongy, grabby winter mat feel.

### **3. Doesn't Move When You Hit**

This is the big one. Traditional mats slide, twist, or bounce. Spurk uses a **patented spike system** (six spikes) that locks the mat into the turf, staying completely stable at address and impact.

### **4. Gives a True Strike**

Because the base is firm and stable, your strike isn't disrupted. You get a clean, confident hit—no “mat bounce,” no false feedback, no fear of chunking into rubber.



## 5. Aerates the Turf

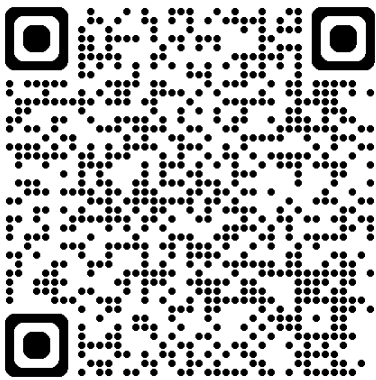
The spikes don't just hold the mat down—they also **aerate the ground**, which greenkeepers love.

## 6. Lightweight & Portable

Designed for the course but also great for garden practice. Easy to carry, set down, and use anywhere.

## **GB 7. UK-Designed and Made**

A nice bonus: fully UK-manufactured, which many golfers appreciate for quality and durability



To watch the video.



Feature	Spurk Short-Pile Mat	Typical Winter Mat
<b>Stability at impact</b>	Locked with spikes	Often slides or twists
<b>Strike realism</b>	Mimics firm fairway	Spongy, inconsistent
<b>Course protection</b>	High (plus aeration)	Basic protection only
<b>Player feedback</b>	True strike	Artificial feel
<b>Portability</b>	Lightweight	Often bulky

<https://spurkgolf.co.uk/product/spurk-golf-mat-short-pile-grass/>



## ***Can My Club Force Me to Use a Fairway Mat?***

Yes, your golf club can require you to use a fairway mat during certain times of the year, particularly in winter months when course conditions are most vulnerable. This is done through **Local Rule E-12**, which is sanctioned by **The R&A**, the official governing body of golf, and allows clubs to enforce the compulsory use of fairway mats to help protect the turf and preserve course quality.

### **Why Do Clubs Implement This Rule?**

In winter, golf courses often suffer from wet, muddy, or even frozen ground, making it difficult for golfers to play without damaging the course. **Fairway mats** provide a solution by giving golfers a consistent and reliable surface to hit from, even in harsh conditions. Without this rule, players might inadvertently cause damage to the course, whether by striking the ground too hard or leaving deep impressions in soft turf. Implementing the fairway mat rule ensures that golfers can still play without compromising the course's condition.

### **Model Local Rule E-12: Compulsory Use of Fairway Mats**

Here is the official statement on **Model Local Rule E-12**, as provided by **The R&A**:

#### **Purpose:**

It may be necessary to protect parts of the course from damage during play, particularly when prolonged cold weather limits grass growth. In these situations, the Committee may decide to require the use of mats on areas of the general area that are cut to fairway height or less, where a putter is not being used for the stroke.

This Local Rule is not recommended for use outside the fairway in the general area and does **not** authorize the restriction of putter use in any specific areas.

For guidance on when and how this Local Rule may be applied, consult the World Handicap System™ publications or other guidance from the local handicapping body.

#### **Model Local Rule E-12:**

“When a player's ball lies in a part of the general area cut to fairway height or less, and a putter is not being used for the stroke, the player must take free relief by lifting the original ball and placing the original ball or another ball on an artificial mat and play it from there. The mat must be placed on top of the spot where the ball came to rest.

If the ball, when placed, rolls off the mat, the player must try to place it a second time. If the ball again does not stay on the mat, the mat must be moved to the nearest spot (no closer to the hole) where the ball will come to rest on the mat when placed.

If the ball on the mat is accidentally moved before a stroke is made, there is no penalty, and the ball must be placed again on the mat.

If a tee is used to secure the mat into the ground, the ball must **not** be placed on the tee.”



## What Happens If You Don't Use a Fairway Mat?

If you refuse to use the fairway mat when it is required by the club's Local Rule, there can be a **general penalty**. This is typically a **two-stroke penalty** in stroke play or the **loss of hole** in match play. These penalties are applied when a player is judged to be playing from the wrong place (i.e., off the mat).

## What Happens If the Ball Rolls Off the Mat?

The Local Rule also clarifies the steps to take if your ball rolls off the mat after you've placed it:

- If the ball rolls off the mat, you must place it again in the same spot.
- If the ball continues to roll off, you can move the mat to the nearest spot where the ball will stay on the mat. This new spot must not be closer to the hole.
- If the ball is accidentally moved before you strike it, there's no penalty, and you should replace it on the mat.

If a tee is used to secure the mat in place, **do not place the ball on the tee**.

## Can Mats Be Used in the Rough?

No, **fairway mats cannot be used in the rough**. According to **Model Local Rule E-12**, the mat is only allowed in areas that are cut to **fairway height or less**. The general area includes both the fairway and parts of the course that are maintained at the same height as the fairway, but **the rough** is excluded from this rule.

If your ball lies in the rough (where the grass is typically higher and thicker than the fairway), you are not permitted to use a fairway mat. The mat should only be used in areas that are cut to fairway height, ensuring consistency and fairness for all players.

## Why Enforce Fairway Mats?

For golf clubs, requiring the use of fairway mats during winter is a necessary step to protect course conditions and ensure the course remains in good shape for the next season. With the unpredictable weather in the UK, it's a straightforward way to prevent the course from getting excessively damaged and ensure golfers can still enjoy their game without causing unnecessary wear to the turf.

Using a fairway mat also ensures that the practice conditions are consistent and fair for all players, giving everyone the same opportunity to practice and compete under the same conditions.

## The Spurk Golf Winter Mat: The Perfect Solution for Winter Golf Rules

When it comes to choosing the right mat for complying with the winter golf rules, [the Spurk Golf Winter Mat](#) is the ideal choice. Specifically designed to meet the requirements of **Model Local Rule E-12**, the Spurk mat provides a consistent and durable surface that helps protect the course while offering golfers the best possible playing experience during the winter months.

The **Spurk Golf Winter Mat** is stocked in many golf club pro shops up and down the country, making it easily accessible for golfers of all levels. Whether you're playing at your local club or traveling to prestigious venues, the Spurk mat is trusted by golf professionals and enthusiasts alike. It's used at some of the **most prestigious golf clubs in the world**, ensuring that players have a reliable and high-quality surface for practice and play during the colder months.



# Understanding Golf Balls



By Ben Crane September 29, 2025

## Types of Golf Balls:

Golf balls are available in different constructions, including one-piece, two-piece, three-piece, four-piece, and five-piece. The construction of the ball plays a significant role in how it reacts when hit with the clubface.

One-piece balls are the cheapest and most durable, but they do not offer the same distance or control as other types of golf balls. Two-piece golf balls are the most popular type of golf ball. They have a solid rubber core and a hard plastic cover, which makes them durable and provides distance. Three-piece golf balls have a softer cover and a liquid or solid rubber core, which gives them more control and spin. Four-piece and five-piece golf balls are designed for advanced players who need more control and spin.

## Construction and Layers:

Golf balls are made up of different layers, which affect how the ball performs. Two-piece golf balls have a solid rubber core and a hard plastic cover. Three-piece golf balls have a softer cover and a liquid or solid rubber core. Four-piece and five-piece golf balls have multiple layers, including an outer cover, inner cover, mantle layer, and core.

## Cover Materials:

The cover material of a golf ball affects its performance. The most common cover materials are urethane, surlyn, and ionomer. Urethane-covered golf balls are soft and provide more spin and control. Surlyn-covered golf balls are harder and provide more distance. Ionomer-covered golf balls are a combination of the two and are designed for intermediate players.



## **Performance Factors:**

### **Compression and Feel:**

Compression and feel are two important factors to consider when selecting a golf ball. Compression refers to the amount of pressure a ball can withstand before it deforms. A high compression rating means the ball is harder and is ideal for golfers with faster swing speeds. A low compression rating means the ball is softer and is better suited for golfers with slower swing speeds. The feel of a golf ball is also important as it can greatly impact your shot. A softer ball will give you a better feel for the ball and can help with accuracy.

### **Spin and Control:**

Spin and control are two factors that can greatly impact your game. High-spinning balls are ideal for golfers who want more control over their shots. These balls have a higher spin rate, which means they will spin more when hit with a clubface. Low-spin golf balls are ideal for golfers who want to maximize their distance. These balls have a lower spin rate, which means they will spin less when hit with a clubface.

### **Distance and Velocity:**

Distance and velocity are two factors that are important for golfers who want to maximize their distance. Distance balls are designed to travel farther than other types of balls. They are typically made with a harder cover and have a lower spin rate, which means they will travel farther when hit with a clubface. Velocity is also important as it can impact the distance of your shot. A ball with a higher velocity will travel farther than a ball with a lower velocity.



## **Golf Ball Design:**

### **Dimple Pattern and Aerodynamics:**

One of the most noticeable differences between golf balls is the pattern of dimples on the surface. These dimples actually play a crucial role in the aerodynamics of the ball. When a golf ball is hit, the dimples create turbulence in the air around the ball, which reduces drag and allows the ball to travel farther.

Different golf balls have different dimple patterns, and some are designed to be more aerodynamic than others. Some balls have fewer, larger dimples, while others have more, smaller dimples. The exact pattern and size of the dimples can affect the ball's flight in different ways, so it's worth experimenting with different types of balls to find the one that works best for you.

### **Core and Overall Stability:**

Another important aspect of golf ball design is the core of the ball. Most golf balls have a rubber core, which can vary in size and density. A larger core can help the ball travel farther, while a denser core can help it maintain stability in flight.

In addition to the core, the overall stability of the ball can also affect its performance. Some balls are designed to be more durable than others, which can be important if you tend to lose balls frequently. Others are designed to have a softer feel, which can be more comfortable to hit.

When choosing a golf ball, it's important to consider your own playing style and preferences. Experimenting with different types of balls can help you find the one that works best for you, whether you're looking for more distance, better accuracy, or just a more comfortable feel.



## **Selecting the Right Golf Ball:**

### **By Skill Level:**

If you are a beginner or have a high handicap, you may want to consider using a low compression golf ball. These balls are softer and easier to compress, which can help you achieve more distance and accuracy. On the other hand, if you have a low handicap, you may want to consider using a high compression golf ball. These balls are harder and can help you achieve more control and spin.

### **By Playing Conditions:**

Another factor to consider when selecting a golf ball is the playing conditions. If you are playing on a soft course, you may want to consider using a ball with a softer cover. This can help you achieve more spin and control on your shots. If you are playing on a hard course, you may want to consider using a ball with a harder cover. This can help you achieve more distance and accuracy on your shots.

### **Golf Ball Brands and Models:**

#### **Titleist Pro V1 and Pro V1x:**

Titleist is one of the most well-known golf ball brands in the world, and their Pro V1 and Pro V1x models are some of the most popular golf balls on the market. The Pro V1 is designed for golfers who want a higher ball flight and more spin, while the Pro V1x is designed for golfers who want a lower ball flight and less spin. Both balls are made with a soft feel and provide excellent distance and accuracy.

#### **TaylorMade TP5 and Others:**

TaylorMade is another popular golf ball brand, and their TP5 model is one of the best on the market. The TP5 is a five-layer ball that provides excellent distance and spin control. It also has a soft feel and provides

great greenside control. Other popular TaylorMade golf balls include the Project (a) and the Distance+.

### **Bridgestone, Srixon, and Callaway:**






Bridgestone, Srixon, and Callaway are three other popular golf ball brands. Bridgestone's most popular ball is the Tour B XS, which provides excellent distance and spin control. Srixon's most popular ball is the Z-Star XV, which provides great distance and control around the greens. Callaway's most popular ball is the Chrome Soft, which provides excellent distance and spin control.

Overall, there are many different golf ball brands and models to choose from, each with its own unique characteristics and benefits. It's important to find the one that works best for you and your game.





## Messages from the Competition Team.

				
<b>Competition Sec.</b> <i>Graham Robinson</i>	<b>Asst Competition.</b> <i>Julian Worsdale.</i>	<b>WMSS</b>	<b>Handicap Sec.</b> <i>Tony Crook.</i>	<b>Starter.</b> <i>Steven Wells.</i>



### ***Winter Mats. Quick guide:***

1. It can only be used when Preferred Lies are in place!
2. You can use this on the Tee Box to tee off!
3. You can use this on closely mown grass areas in general play!
4. You **CANNOT** use this in the rough!
5. You **CANNOT** use it with a putter!



### **Up and Coming Starters List.**



Date	Competition	Tees	OOM	Starter
11th Feb	Stableford	Yellow	No	S. Rowe
18th Feb	Foursomes	Yellow	No	C. Jehan
25th Feb	Greensomes	Yellow	No	A. Pretty
4th March	Medal *	Yellow	No	L. Winch
11th March	Stableford	Yellow	No	C. Bilboa

***Note for the Starters NOT to let members start early and stick to the correct tee times.***



# WMSS Winter Knock-Out Competition Draw.



First Round Played by 30 <sup>th</sup> November	Second Round Played by 31 <sup>st</sup> December	Quarter Finals Played By 31 <sup>st</sup> January	Semi Finals Played By 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Final played by 31 <sup>st</sup> March
Alan Phillipson	Tom Pickering	John Doherty	Simon Boyes	
Tom Pickering				
John Doherty	John Doherty			
David Spencer				
Simon Boyes	Simon Boyes	Simon Boyes		
Tony Crook				
	Steven Wells			
	Tony Robinson	Tony Robinson	Tony Fell	
	Roy Smith			
	Stewart Rowe	Tony Fell		
	Tony Fell			
	Alan Pretty	Alan Pretty	Alan Pretty	
	Neil Campbell			
	Paul Eveleigh	Paul Eveleigh		
	Vic Solomon			
	Mick Clark	Mick Clark	Mick Clark	
Graham Robinson	Richard Johnson			
Richard Johnson				
Les Ramsay	Jim Crayston	Jim Crayston		
Jim Crayston				
Colin Jehan	Colin Jehan			
Julian Worsdale				

**Format; Singles Matchplay. Handicap; 100% of Course Handicap. Tees; Yellow**  
Ties at the end of 18 holes to be decided by Matchplay play-off over holes 1,2,17 and 18 from the **Yellow** Tees.  
Ties at the end of Matchplay Playoff will be decided by WhatsApp video draw made by **Julian Worsdale** and also send your results to [juljul@ntlworld.com](mailto:juljul@ntlworld.com); Mob **07928 060802**.

= Not Paid



# TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

# R&A



**1**  
Fergus asks Jezz what club he has just hit before he plays his tee shot. What is the ruling?

- A. There is no penalty.
- B. Fergus receives the general penalty, if he changes club.
- C. Fergus receives the general penalty.



**2**  
Jezz has a short putt for par. He taps down gently on a spike mark with his putter. What is the ruling?

- A. Jezz receives a one-stroke penalty.
- B. There is no penalty.
- C. Jezz receives the general penalty.

**3**  
Fergus' ball is just in bounds, but lying against an out of bounds post. Which of these is correct?

- A. Fergus cannot remove the stake and must play the ball as it lies (or take penalty relief).
- B. Fergus can take free relief from the stake by removing it and playing his stroke.
- C. Fergus can take free relief from the stake, by dropping within one club-length not nearer the hole.



**4**  
Fergus finds an area of Ground Under Repair in the general area and wishes to take free relief. What is the ruling?

- A. Fergus can find the nicest side, then drop within one club-length not nearer the hole.
- B. Fergus must find the nearest point of complete relief where there is no interference from the GUR, and drop within one club-length, not nearer the hole.
- C. Fergus must play the ball as it lies, as it is in a good lie.

## ● QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1. C – Under Rule 10.2a, Fergus must not ask anyone for advice, other than his caddie.
- 2. B – Under Rule 13.1c, Jezz may repair damage such as spike marks on the putting green.
- 3. A – Under the definition of a Boundary Object, free relief is not allowed from an artificial object defining or showing out of bounds, such as a stake.
- 4. B – Under Rule 16.1b, Fergus must find the nearest point of complete relief and drop within one club-length, not nearer the hole, remaining in the general area.




## WMSS Fixture Calendar 2026.

Date	Month	Day		Date	Month	Day
	<b>January (1)</b>				<b>July (7)</b>	
07	Whiskey Stagger (Y)*	Wed		01	Stableford (Y)*	Wed
14	Texas Scramble (Y)	Wed		08	Captains Charity Day	Wed
21	Greensomes Pairs Y	Wed		15	Monthly Medal (W) OM	Wed
28	3 Club + Putter (Y)	Wed		22	Club Champs (W) OM	Wed
				24	Club Champs (W) OM	Fri
	<b>February (2)</b>			29	Stableford (Y)	Wed
04	Texas Scramble (Y)*	Wed		30	Tetney (A)	Thurs
11	Stableford (Y)	Wed				
18	Foursomes (Y)	Wed			<b>August (8)</b>	
25	Greensomes (Y)	Wed		05	Woodthorpe (H)	Wed
				05	Stableford (Y)	Wed
				12	Stableford (W) (OM)	Wed
	<b>March (3)</b>			19	Captains Home Day	Wed
04	Medal (Y)*	Wed		26	Monthly Medal (W) OM	Wed
11	Stableford (Y)	Wed				
18	Par/Boggy (Y)	Wed			<b>September (9)</b>	
25	Monthly Medal (W) OM	Wed		02	Medal (Y)*	Wed
				09	Stableford (W)	Wed
	<b>April (4)</b>			16	Carholme (H)	Wed
01	Air Ambulance (Y) OM*	Wed		16	Stableford	Wed
08	Captain v Vice Captain	Wed		22	Laceby (H)	Tues
15	Calvert Cup (Y) OM	Wed		23	Monthly Medal (W) OM	Wed
20	Normanby Hall (H)	Mon		30	Stableford (W)	Wed
22	Monthly Medal (W) OM	Wed				
29	Carholme (A)	Wed			<b>October (10)</b>	
29	Stableford (Y)	Wed		07	Medal (Y)*	Wed
				09	North Shore (H)	Fri
	<b>May (5)</b>			14	Monthly Medal (W) OM	Wed
06	Stableford (Y)	Wed		21	Stableford (Y)	Wed
13	Memorial Shield (Y) OM	Wed		22	Normanby Hall (A)	Thurs
20	Monthly Medal (W) OM	Wed		28	Winter Shield (W) OM	Wed
27	Woodthorpe (A)	Wed			<b>November (11)</b>	
27	Stableford (Y)	Wed		04	Medal (Y)*	Wed
				11	Poppy Appeal (Y) OM	Wed
	<b>June (6)</b>			18	Stableford (Y)	Wed
03	Summer Shield (Y) OM*	Wed		25	Par/Boggy (Y)	Wed
05	North Shore (A)	Fri			<b>December (12)</b>	
10	Monthly Medal (W) OM	Wed		02	Stableford (Y) AGM	Wed
17	RJR Trophy (Y)	Wed		09	Medal (Y)	Wed
24	Captains Away Day	Wed		16	Turkey Trot (Y)	Wed
25	Tetney (H)	Thurs		23	Texas Scramble	Wed
30	Laceby (A)	Tues		30	Stableford (Y)	Wed

Revised 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025

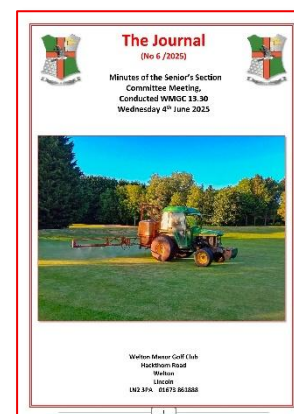
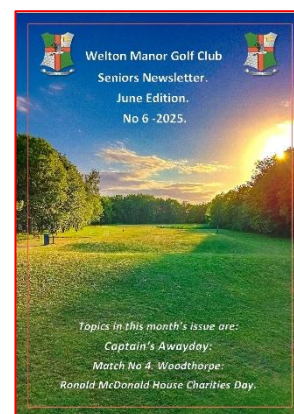
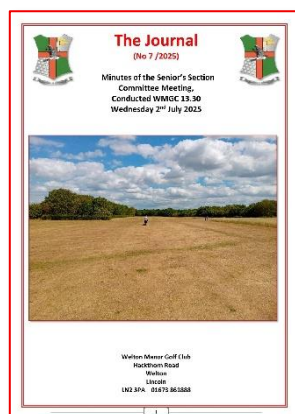
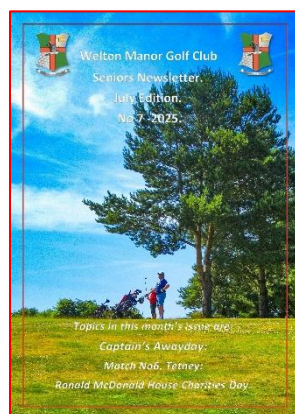
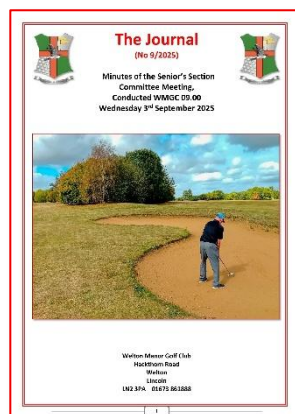
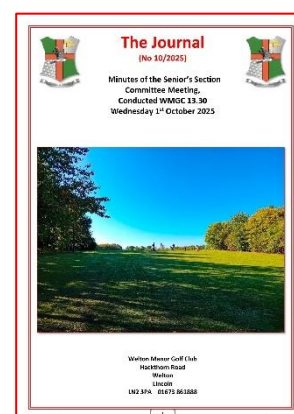
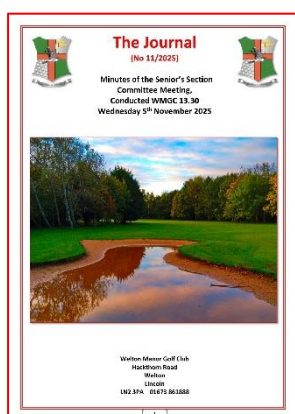
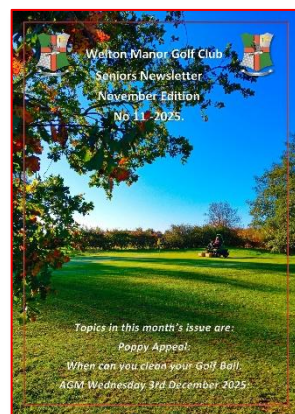
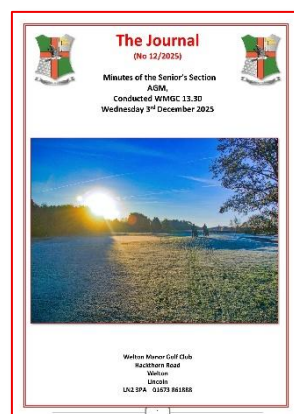


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