

Make sure you pick up your free **Rules Book** and also your club **Programme Book**. You don't need to learn **all** of the rules but there are a number you should be familiar with (check elsewhere in this newsletter for a few essentials). In your Programme there is a description of various trophy competitions that you are welcome to participate in. Check your availability for competitions but always be aware that dates may be affected by weather and rescheduled.



Greymouth Golf Club

Welcome. The purpose of this 'newsletter' is to welcome all new members to the club and provide what is useful advice and information for you regarding the 'grand old game'. There will be various things that will seem strange to you both about the game itself and the various forms it is played in, as well as practices at the Greymouth Golf Club regarding "do's and don'ts", the season playing programme and the competitions that are contested throughout the open season. Of course the course is never closed (unless emergency conditions or 'closed' tournaments are being held) and members are welcome to play at any time throughout the year. So- WELCOME to the Greymouth Golf Club and we hope we can count you as a 'member' for many years to come!

PAR

'Par' is the 'standard' score for a hole. Holes on our (and most) courses are par 3 (we have 4), par 4 (we have 8), or par 5 (we have 4) **PAR** for our course is 72. If you subtract your handicap from your score you should end up with *about* 72. If you are less you've had a very good round, if you're more you've not had a great day.

PLACING

At times you will be required to 'play the lie' meaning you must play the ball from where it is, but more often at Greymouth GC you will have 'placing' on your own fairway, which allows you to place your ball in a preferred position. If 'placing' is allowed-

1. It only applies on your own fairway.
2. Mark your ball (with a tee or coin).
3. You may clean your ball.
4. Place your ball in your preferred lie within 15cm from where you marked **no nearer the hole**.
5. Don't forget to pick up your marker!

At all other times and places on the golf course you must play the lie unless you get or take relief.

There are some places where you get free relief (no penalty) and others where you choose to **take** relief but are penalised 1 stroke for doing so.

If there is **no placing** sometimes your ball may be embedded where it lands (**plugged ball**). If your ball is 'plugged' you may get free relief (check the notice board for special instructions). Normally you get **free relief** if your ball is 'plugged' on **your fairway** (the fairway of the hole you are playing). Again, mark your ball, clean it then drop within 1 club length of where it was 'plugged'.

WORKING 'B's

Occasionally the club will organise a 'working B' if there is a special, tournament coming up, there is damage to the course that needs to be repaired, or the committee decide on a project to build, repair or remove some structure on the course. If a 'B' is called the more people who turn out the quicker (and the better) the job is done. PLEASE GIVE UP AN HOUR OR TWO OF YOUR TIME IF THE COMMITTEE CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR A WORKING 'B'. Bring tools.



"HAGGLES"

Each 'Club Day' there is an organised "Haggle" which is simply a competition among the players who enter. There are a number of different formats- I'll try to explain them here.

1. **Stableford** In this format you earn points depending on what your hole score was, less your handicap. (Each hole is allocated a number- if it is the same or less than your handicap you 'get a stroke, if it is greater than your handicap, you don't 'get a stroke'. If your handicap is over 18 you will get **2 strokes** on some holes.) You earn 1 point for 1 over par, 2 points for par, 3 points for 1 under par, etc.. (In a 'stableford' round you may pick up once you are unable to score a 'stableford point'.)

2. **Medal** In a 'medal' round you must play a hole out. The 'Medal' haggle is decided on **nett** scores i.e. your **total score minus** handicap.

3. **Par** (sometimes called 'single par') In a 'par' haggle you score a **win +** if your hole score less any handicap stroke is below **par**, a **half o** if your hole score less any handicap stroke equals **par**, or a **loss-** if your hole score less any handicap stroke is above **par**.

These are all **stroke play** meaning you play every stroke. Sometimes you may be in **match play** in which you will be playing against another player.

In 'match play' you may play "off the stick" meaning handicaps are not taken into account, or "off handicap" meaning the lower handicap player gives strokes to their playing partner. A stroke is given according to the stroke number of a hole. You get (or give) as many strokes as the difference between your handicap and your playing partner's.

CLUB DAYS

There are 4 'club days' at Greymouth GC-

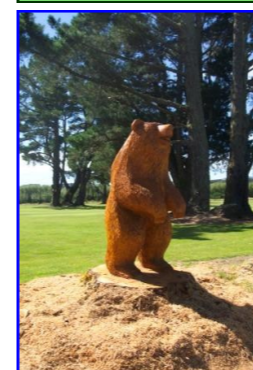
- Wednesday is the **Women's Day** and all woman members are welcome to turn out for the 'match of the day'. Play commences at 10:30. \$2 entry
- Thursday is **Vets Day**. To qualify as a 'vet' one should be 40+ years of age, but they're generous old tykes so anyone is welcome. Play starts at 12:30. \$2 entry
- Saturday **and** Sunday are the 'Club Days' and play starts for both women and men at 12:30 (unless otherwise notified). **ALL** are welcome. The 'match of the day' will be notified in the club programme and in the Thursday night's '**Grey Star**' -men \$4 entry, women \$2 entry **Note: Those who don't wish to play 'match of the day' are free to use the course but should give way to those who are playing 'match of the day'**.
- There will be occasions when Greymouth GC plays against other clubs, either home or away. Anyone may play, but a 'haggle' (*match of the day*) will be organised for those who don't.

FREEBIES- When you become a member of the golf club there are a few things that come with paying the sub- sadly automatically playing well isn't one of them!!

- * You will receive a club programme booklet which includes the year's playing programme as well as information on who to ask (the committee) the format of trophy competitions, some general information and a list of 'clever buggers' (previous year's trophy winners)
- * You will be entitled to insurance cover.
- * You will receive a membership card that has you info on it but also allows you **free** access to every other golf course on the West Coast, McLeans Island GC, Weedons GC, Waimak Gorge GC, Dannevirke GC and Patea GC. (a really good deal!!!)
- * You will receive the friendship of all other Greymouth GC members. Do come out and join them- they will be welcoming and very helpful. They'll give you tips on play, tips on rules, tips on gear, tips on etiquette, tips on fashion and they'll do their darndest to see you buy the drinks!

Your Information Online.

Each time you put a card in the score is entered for handicapping purposes. You are able to view your scoring history and find out how your mates are doing at <http://www.golf.co.nz> When you first go there you can **register** for **My Golf** and then set your page up and access a whole bunch of interesting stuff. Do check this site out and refer back to it on a regular basis- I'm sure you'll find it interesting.



You will notice around your course some impressive carvings. These are a welcome addition and a talking point for visitors. The carvings were done by Ron Harthill using just a chainsaw. There's no plan to add to the menagerie but we are quite proud of our kiwi, bear & eagle.