



LUCAN

PITCH AND PUTT CLUB

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Useful Tips For New Members

Practice

We encourage all members to take advantage of their membership by making use of our wonderful course. The course is available for practice for the majority of the week but there are times when practice is prohibited, for example:

- During club competitions.
- During Dublin, Leinster or National qualifiers/competitions where Lucan is the host course.
- When the course is closed (due to inclement weather, work being carried out etc.).

The best way to check if any of the above will prevent you from practicing is to check the Lucan website (www.lucanpitchandputt.com), here you will find details for "the week ahead" on the main page with in-depth fixtures available on the Fixtures page. Any non-standard course closures will also be posted in the news section of the website, making it the best method of checking course availability. Alternatively there are various fixture lists posted on the noticeboard in the changing room.

In order to protect the course, it is forbidden to pitch more than two balls to any one hole during the play of a practice round. Repetitive play, including chipping and putting, of holes 17 & 18 is not permitted. Play from any sand bunkers is strictly forbidden at all times during practice rounds.

Your Registration Number and Handicap

It is important for any member wishing to take part in competitions both within and outside of the club to know their registration number and current playing handicap.

- Your registration number is unlikely to ever change and will be printed on your "Pitch and Putt Ireland Registration Card", which you will receive at the beginning of each season. It can also be found in the "Player Profiles" section of the Lucan website (www.lucanpitchandputt.com) and on the wall of the changing rooms, on the left hand wall as you enter.
- Your handicap can change on a weekly basis if you regularly play in competitions. To check your current playing handicap and returns history, you can visit Pitch and Putt Ireland's website (www.irishpitchandputt.ie) and click "Handicap System" link in the top right corner of the page. Alternatively your current playing handicap can be viewed by visiting the "Player Profiles" section of the Lucan website (www.lucanpitchandputt.com) while a printed list of current handicaps is also posted in the changing room (on the left hand wall as you enter).

Note: Handicap changes come into effect on Thursday of each week and will not change again until the following Thursday, thus it is sufficient to check your handicap once a week.

- New members are given a provisional handicap (-9 for gents, -14 for ladies). A full handicap will be awarded once a four competition cards are returned over a minimum of two competitions.
- Players playing off a provisional handicap are not entitled to win any prizes in club competitions. All new members may play four competition cards over a minimum of two competitions free of charge. This will allow them obtain a firm handicap. Furthermore players with a provisional handicap are prohibited from entering handicap based matchplay competitions.

Determining Your Grade/Class

The vast majority of internal and external competitions are divided into various grades or classes in order to have players of similar abilities play against one another. Your grade will usually be determined using your sex and your handicap. Here are the current grades/classes:

Lucan Gents Regular Grades	
+3 to -5	Class 1
-6 to -9	Class 2
-10 to -16	Class 3

Lucan Gents Club Strokeplay	
+3 to -3	Senior
-4 to -8	Intermediate
-9 to -16	Junior

Lucan Ladies Regular Grades	
+1 to -14	Class 1
-15 to -21	Class 2

Lucan Ladies Major Grades	
+1 to -11	Class 1
-12 to -16	Class 2
-17 to -21	Class 3

Pitch & Putt Ireland Gents Grades	
+3 to -3	Senior
-4 to -8	Intermediate
-9 to -16	Junior

Pitch & Putt Ireland Ladies Grades	
+1 to -7	Senior
-8 to -14	Intermediate
-15 to -21	Junior

The handicap ranges for the various grades above may occasionally change. Should any change(s) occur, all members will be notified of the alterations via the Lucan website and through the club noticeboards.

Note: You can also view your relevant grade/class information in the "Player Profiles" section of the Lucan website (www.lucanpitchandputt.com).

Coaching

For those new to the game Lucan is equipped with fully qualified coaches, including double National Strokeplay Champion Anthony Malone and multiple Dublin Matchplay Champion Philip Sweeney, these coaches can meet with members on request or members are free to drop in at the special designated times.

Playing In Club Competitions

Lucan Pitch and Putt club runs club competitions from mid-March thru to the end of December each year. The majority of club competitions are made up of our regular "Weekend Competitions" which usually run from 9am until last tee-off at 4pm on most Saturdays and Sundays, with play from 4pm until dusk on Friday's in the months where daylight permits. You can always check the fixtures on the Lucan website to see which days/times are applicable for the weekend ahead.

Before playing in any club competitions it is important to familiarise yourself with the rules of pitch and putt, these can be downloaded from Pitch and Putt Ireland's website (www.irishpitchandputt.ie) or from the downloads section of the Lucan website (www.lucanpitchandputt.com). The rule book is quite comprehensive and maybe overwhelming if you are new to the game. You may find it much easier to attend a coaching session, or speak to one of our coaches (see section above), in order to get a grasp of the fundamental rules of the game, which in turn should give you enough knowledge to feel confident about playing in competition.

To play in a "Weekend Competition", you need to do the following:

- Arrive at the club between designated competition times and proceed to the changing rooms.
- Enter your name, handicap, number of rounds you intend to play and the cost of entry fees for said rounds, in the competitions book which is located on the desk.

- Place your entry fee (normally €2.50 per player, per round) into a small brown envelope, writing your name and the date on the outside, then place the envelope in the "Entry Fees" slot in the desk.
- Take a blank scorecard from the wall near the door, carefully selecting the correct colour code for your grade.
- Fill out your relevant information on the scorecard. You must include your name, handicap and date at the top of the card and your registration number in the area provided at the bottom of the scorecard. Failure to complete some, or all, of this information may lead to disqualification.
- Once at least one other member is also ready to play in the competition you may proceed to the course and commence play. You may not play alone in competition, nor may you play in a group larger than three.
- Once you have completed your round, ensure your scorecard is an accurate reflection of your round and then sign it (in the space provided at the end of the card), ensuring your marker has also signed the card.
- Once the card has been checked and signed, place it in the "Cards" slot in the desk in the changing room.

Some of the clubs more prestigious competitions adopt a timesheet to ensure all players get the chance to play, with as few delays as possible. The timesheet is normally placed on the noticeboard in the changing room and is normally posted 2-3 weeks prior to the competition date. Slots on the timesheet are allocated on a "first come, first served" basis, so it is important to get in early if you have a limited window in which you are available to play. Competitions which adhere to a timesheet include: The Captain's Day, The President's Day, The Captain's Drive In and the Remembrance Competition. Entry fees for these competitions are pre-paid as part of your membership fee. Pitch and Putt Ireland's Dress Code is also in force for all Club Major Competitions.

Note: There will normally be one or more committee members on duty on the day of these competitions to maintain the running order and provide players with their pre-prepared scorecard.

Playing In External Competitions

As a member of Lucan Pitch and Putt Club you will automatically be registered as a member of Pitch and Putt Ireland, which enables you to play in competitions which are sanctioned by them. These competitions range from individual club open competitions and scratch cups to National, Provincial and County Championships and Competitions. A full list of competitions for the season is listed in the annual Pitch and Putt Ireland fixture book, a copy of which can usually be retrieved from the club and can also be downloaded from Pitch and Putt Ireland's website (www.irishpitchandputt.ie).

Entering Open Competitions and Scratch Cups

To play in any club's open or scratch cup, you simply need to turn up at the club during the hours of the competition, pay your entry fee and you will be entered into the competition. It is advisable to bring your Pitch and Putt Ireland Registration Card to open events, as you may be asked to provide proof of membership of Pitch and Putt Ireland.

Entering Dublin, Leinster and National Championships & Competitions

All Dublin championships and competitions are run by the Dublin County Board, while both Leinster and National events are organised by Pitch and Putt Ireland. Pre-entry is required for all of these types of events and entries are processed by the club and forwarded along with entry fees to the relevant body. In order to enter any of these events you will be required to fill in your information on the relevant entry form, which will usually be posted on the notice board in the changing room about a month prior to the closing date (details on entry form or fixture book). Please be aware that it is advisable to pay your entry

fee at the same time as entering the competition, as if payment hasn't been received by Lucan when the club comes to submit the entries, your name will not be sent forward and you will be unable to play in the event.

Note: To pay your entry fee: Place your entry fee into a small brown envelope, writing the following on the front: your name, the name of the event you are entering and the entry fee which is contained within the envelope. Once you have done this, simply place the envelope in the "Entry Fees" slot in the desk (as you would do when entering a "Weekend Competition").

These events may have qualifying rounds depending on the overall size of the entry, so be sure that you are available on both the day of the proposed qualifying and the day of the event itself. The Dublin County Board and Pitch and Putt Ireland will publish draws (time-sheets) for each event on their websites (www.dublinpitchandputt.com / www.irishpitchandputt.ie) in advance of the event and these draws will also be posted on the notice board in the changing room.

Dublin Leagues

Lucan is one of the biggest supporters of the Dublin County Board Leagues and regularly enters teams in all events. The Leagues usually run between May and August (depending on the number of clubs entered). If you wish to play on one of the Dublin teams, keep your eye on the notice board in the corridor between the changing room and the bar during the month of March and April where details on that year's event will be posted.

Communication

There are a number of ways to keep up to date with the latest news and events within the club. As mentioned above, we have a very informative website (www.lucanpitchandputt.com) which is regularly updated with the latest information. You can also find us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/Lucan-Pitch-and-Putt-Club-139625969415765>).

Social

Entertainment

The club bar is a great place to unwind after a game and is open throughout the weekend (opening hours on the website). The bar also opens for other special occasions, with members being notified by one of the various methods covered in the "Communication" section above.

The club usually also hosts at least one special night during each month, with live music, race nights, darts, pool, quizzes etc., offering members a chance to enjoy something a little different. Information on these nights are published well in advance and can be viewed on the "Social" page of the Lucan website.

Dinner Dances

There are two annual dinner dances held in Lucan, the Captain's Night and the President's Night, both of these events follow on from the Captain's Day and President's Day club major competitions. Although both events are all-ticket affairs, they will be advertised well in advance, giving all members the chance to take part in what are always very special occasions.

Outings

There are normally four outings arranged during each season, two for the gents and two for the ladies.

A separate day trip for ladies and gents will generally take place in the month of March each year. This is a great way to get a bit of practice in ahead of the start of the season, while also getting to know your fellow members and experiencing an unfamiliar course in a relaxed atmosphere.

A separate Ladies and Gents weekend away (Friday to Sunday) will generally take place in the month of October and is normally one of the most anticipated weekends of the year.

All outings will be advertised on the Lucan website and also on noticeboards within the clubhouse. Should you wish to attend any of these outings, the sign-up sheet will normally be placed on the noticeboard (between the changing room and the bar), once the details have been announced.