



## **BB&O GOLF HILLMAN TROPHY & PLATE 2026**

**2025 Winners:** Newbury & Crookham Club    **Runners - Up:** Hinksey Heights  
**2025 Plate Winners:** Buckingham Golf Club    **Runners – Up:** Mill Ride Golf Club

### **Conditions of Entry**

1. Each affiliated Club, registered and currently uploaded to the World Handicap System (WHS) shall be eligible to enter on payment of the entry fee as stipulated. Entries shall be restricted to one team per Club. Unless advised to the contrary, Clubs 'knocked out' in the preliminary and/or first round will automatically be entered into the Hillman Trophy Plate Competition.
2. Each team shall consist of 7 male players, three in Category "A" (handicap index range of 5.5 to 9.4) and four in Category "B" (with a handicap index 9.5 to 20.4.) Should a player's handicap go up after selection\* and take him into a different category, he can still be counted as a player from that category but MUST play off the maximum handicap within that category. Should a player's handicap go down after selection\* and take him into a different category, he can still be counted as a player from that category but MUST play off their correct handicap on the day. \* Players must have played off an eligible handicap within 30 days of the match date. If clubs struggle to field players from Category A, they may select a player with a higher handicap who must play off an index of 9.4 on the day.
3. **All players MUST have a fully built WHS handicap with at least 3 competition rounds in his record from the previous 12 months. If a player is found to have represented a club when not eligible, the opposition club will be retrospectively awarded the match.** It will be the responsibility of the Team Captain to produce on the day, the names of his players with respective handicap indexes. **Players must play off their exact handicap index on the date of the match (unless having to play off a lower handicap than their own to fit into one of the required categories).**
4. Players must be an affiliated member of the Club they represent. No player may represent more than one Club in each annual competition. Players representing a Club must be **OVER 18 YEARS OF AGE** on 1<sup>st</sup> January of year of play.
5. Play will be singles match play in order of EXACT handicap index, lowest first, highest last, and with **FULL DIFFERENCE** in **Course Handicap** being applied. Matches should be played in singles (2 ball) format, but if this is not possible then the HOME Club should give a minimum of 48 hours' notice of the likelihood of having to play games in four ball format. The AWAY Club may insist the match is played in singles format but only if they are able to host the match to accommodate the change.
6. Play shall be from the furthest 'back' Medal Tees (regardless of Tee colour) or if not available, from the 'back' Tee of the day. Team Captains may agree to play from a forward tee.
7. If the home Club knows in advance that it will be on more than 3 Temporary Greens or more than 1 hole closed, the away Club must be given the opportunity to host the match.
8. The Club at the top of each pair as drawn in the first round (even if coming through a preliminary round), marked with an \* shall have choice of venue. In subsequent rounds the HOME team shall be drawn by 'lot' and this will be conducted at the BB&O County Office. A HOME Club may forego its HOME right in any round if the AWAY Club is agreeable.
9. It is the responsibility of both teams to arrange the match. HOME Clubs must be able to offer at least **two weekend dates** for matches (**which cannot be over the same weekend**) and all weekend/midweek game starting times must be no later than 5 hours before sunset. In the event of no mutually agreeable date/time being available then the match winners will be decided by BB&O County. Should one team be seen to act unreasonably, the County Union will adjudicate accordingly but otherwise, the winner will be decided by lot. Should Captains want to do this themselves and just inform the county of a winner without the match taking place, they can do.
10. Entering the Hillman Trophy gives us permission to share the provided contact details to the other entrants of the competition.
11. Away players must be given courtesy for matches. If at all possible, a courtesy practice round for the AWAY Club should be given in the **Semi Finals only**. HOME Clubs may charge a green fee should an AWAY Club require a practice round in earlier rounds. Please note that not all Clubs may be able to offer a practice round, or at a reduced rate, and it is not compulsory. Any Catering requirements must be arranged beforehand and any apportionment of charges agreed between the Team Captains.
12. The Club Secretary or Team Captain of the **WINNING** Club (not necessarily the HOME Club) must inform the County Union Office of the result **without delay by email**.
13. Matches will be played in accordance with the current Rules of Golf and Local Rules of the HOME Club.
14. Matches **must** be played by the due date. No extensions will be given.
15. In the event of a halved match result, the last individual match halved will continue to the 19<sup>th</sup> hole or beyond as a 'stipulated round' for a result.
16. Players shall walk at all times during a stipulated round. Except in cases, when competitors claim exemption under the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Acts 1995 & 2005, they produce a Medical Certificate signed by a Registered Medical Practitioner. Medical Certificates must be provided to the County Secretary not less than 5 clear days prior to the start of the match. Competitors shall always be responsible for providing their own motorised buggy/trolley.

**In the event of any dispute the decision of the County Union shall be final.**

**County Union Office:** J A Kennedy, Executive Officer, BB&O Golf Ltd, Unit 5, Rycote Farm, Rycote Lane, Thame, Oxon, OX9 2NZ. Tel: 01844 279600