

# Lambda Links

## Montgomery County Golf Challenge 2016

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### The Courses and Dates

We will play the 8 full-length Montgomery County Courses one time each this season for this challenge. The dates and courses are shown in the table below.

The cost is \$40 – you are essentially putting \$5 into the skins pool for each round you could play. But you can choose to join the challenge any time – for instance if you join at the last possible chance, 10/23/2016, it will cost you \$5 but you could win everything. The more you play, the better your chances of winning, but you only have to play one great round. Only the best one counts for the overall winner. However, read on – there is a special sweetener this year for people who play at least four times.

#	Date	Day	Organizer	Course	Cost to Participate	Women's Tee/Slope/Rating	Men's Tee/Slope/Rating
12	6/18/2016	Saturday	Charlie	Poolesville	\$40	Red/123/70.3	White/121/70
15	7/10/2016	Sunday	Charlie	Needwood	\$35	Red/110/68.5	White/118/66.9
18	7/30/2016	Saturday	Charlie	Hampshire Greens	\$30	Tan/119/69.3	Green/121/69
21	8/21/2016	Sunday	Richard	Northwest	\$25	Gold/117/69.3	White/121/70
23	9/11/2016	Sunday	Charlie	Little Bennett	\$20	Red/112/68	White/127/69.4
25	9/25/2016	Sunday	Charlie	Rattlewood	\$15	Red/108/68	White/127/69.5
26.5	10/08/2016	Sunday	Charlie	Laytonsville	\$10	Red/116/67.7	White/113/66.4
29	10/23/2016	Sunday	Charlie	Falls Road	\$5	Green/101/63.5	Blue/123/68

Winning is based on NET SCORES, not gross. So everyone has an equal chance to win. The women's and men's course ratings are included in the table because last year we discovered just how important the course rating is. At Laytonsville, for example, the men have to give the women 2 strokes (66.4 rounds to 66 and 67.7 rounds to 68). At Falls Road, the women have to give the men a whopping 4 strokes.

Generally, though, the ratings are well matched, so if you play every course, it should average out. But it's important generally to pick the tees that are maybe a slight stretch for you, then play below your handicap – that is a winning combination. Each course has at least 4 tees; while only 2 are shown in the table, you should carefully inspect them all on the scorecard or online before choosing which to play. We can accommodate any tee you choose.

## The Challenge

We will have net stroke and closest-to-the-hole competitions. Low net is your lowest handicapped score of all the rounds you play on these courses. Closest to the hole is the single closest shot by anyone on the designated par 3s, one per course. If you play all 8 times, you have 8 chances for the lowest round and 8 chances to be closest to the hole.

Suppose you play 8 rounds and your lowest net round is a 65 at Needwood. That is your lowest score for the challenge. If your 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest scores are 66 and 67, they don't matter. Only your lowest score counts. Consequently a different person will place 1, 2, and 3 for medalist honors even if a single player has all 3 lowest scores.

However, the same person could place as a medalist and win closest to the hole. If there is a tie for any of the medalist spots, we will let them stand. Thus, if 2 people tie for 1<sup>st</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> will be split between them, and the next lowest competitor will be 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Because the competition is handicapped, everyone should be evenly matched. You are on your honor to enter your 2016 scores promptly in the handicap system to keep it up to date. If you have no official handicap, sorry, you cannot participate.

## New in 2016 – Weekly Competitions and Overall Performance Recognition

Lambda Links will sweeten the pot with an additional \$470 in gift cards, to be distributed as follows, only to competitors in the Challenge:

### Each Week of the Competition

Lambda Links will sponsor the following weekly prizes (net scores only):

MCG Challenge Weekly Competition	
Place	Prize
1	\$15
2	\$10
3	\$5
Closest to the Hole	\$10
Total	\$40

## Special Performance Recognition

Lambda Links will sponsor the following overall prizes to recognize special achievements. If there are ties, the prizes will be divided evenly.

MCG Challenge Special Performance Recognition	
Achievement	Prize
Low Net Average Total Score for All Outings (minimum 4 competitions)	\$50
Low Net Average Score on <u>All</u> Par 3s (minimum 4 competitions)	\$50
Highest Participation Rate (just play – the maximum is 8)	\$50
Total	\$150

## The Cost to Participate

Apart from the competitions supported by Lambda Links, this will be a self-financing game with 100% payout. The payout depends on the number participating. In the table on page 1, you can see the cost to participate in the 6<sup>th</sup> column. If you begin participating on 5/22/2016, it will cost \$40 for the challenge, payable on that date. If you begin on 8/21/2016, the cost falls to \$20. If winning were completely random, the reduced cost roughly reflects the reduced chance of success by starting later. This system worked well in 2015, and it seemed to be fair.

The only catch is that you must join the competition prior to playing, not after your round is complete. Your first round to count is the one you commence after paying your fee. We will ask you at each competition if you want to participate (if you have not already joined), just so you are fully informed prior to playing. There is never any pressure to participate.

## The Payout (Example)

We will not be able to calculate the payout until we know participation, but the more the merrier! Suppose we have 20 participants, half paying \$40 and half paying an average of \$15. The total pool will then be \$550, and the payouts would be as shown in the table below. This year we are making Closest to the Hole equivalent to second place. Last year it was equivalent to third place.

MCG Challenge Payouts		
Place	Prize	Share
1	\$193	35%
2	\$138	25%
3	\$83	15%
CTH	\$138	25%
Total	\$550	100%

## Experience in 2015

In 2015, we had 12 players. The final result is shown below:

MCG Challenge 2015			
Place	Prize	Share	Winner
<b>1</b>	\$121	38%	Charlie Griffin (64, Needwood)
<b>2</b>	\$89	28%	Richard Phillips (65, Falls Road)
<b>3</b>	\$54	17%	Glenn Boledovich and Tony Dalton (Both 66, Falls Road)
<b>CTH</b>	\$54	17%	Glenn Boledovich (9 ft 3 in, Falls Road)
<b>Total</b>	\$318	100%	

## Tees

Players choose your tees. Be sure your playing partners know your tee choice at hole number 1, and be sure to note it on your scorecard.

## Closest to the Hole

The organizer at each course will choose the par 3 for closest to the hole and will announce it before you play.

## Scoring

If possible, please use 1 score card to mark the gross scores of all the competitors in your group by a designated scorer who writes legibly and reliably (marking the scores immediately after completing each hole). Announce your score at the completion of each hole. Give this card to the Lambda Links organizer at the end of the round. Each competitor should also keep your own score as a backup and as a record for you. Everyone should initial the official scorecard to indicate that you have checked your own hole-by-hole score. Whatever is on that card is your official score once it is turned in. Even if you do not sign it, once it is handed to the organizer, it is your official score. If it is incorrect, that round is disqualified. Please also enter your score in the handicap system ASAP.

## Pace of Play

Please always keep the group in front of you in sight. If you have lost them, play "extra ready golf" and only take a cursory look for lost balls. The following two provisions are intended to encourage faster play.

## Maximum Score

Your maximum score on any hole is your ESC (Equitable Stroke Control). Prior to each competition, your Course Handicap and ESC will be sent to you by email, but you can easily

determine it from the table below. Note that ESC is based on your Course Handicap, not your Handicap Index.

<b>Equitable Stroke Control</b>	
<b>Course Hcp</b>	<b>Max Score</b>
9 or less	Double Bogey
10 thru 19	7
20 thru 29	8
30 through 39	9
40 or more	10

Please pick up your ball if you cannot do better than your ESC. If you are on the green in 6 and your ESC is 7, pick up your ball and announce to your playing partners that your score is your max, a 7. If your ESC is 7 and you haven't gotten off the tee in 5, pick up and mark your score as a 7 (unless it's a par 3, as you could get a hole in one on your 6<sup>th</sup> try). You can tend the flag for your buddies. Following this rule is essential to improve our pace of play.

### **Putts**

Standard putters are roughly 20-24 inches from the putter head to the grip ("inside the leather"). Putts that are shorter than the putter head to the grip are "good." At least two players other than you should agree that the putt is "good;" don't assume it. This option is primarily to improve the speed of play.

### **Otherwise**

Play by the rules. Competition is a great opportunity to learn the practical application of the basic rules of golf. They are not difficult!

## **Keeping Participants Informed**

After each MCG round, the participants will be updated on scores and standings. You will be able to see all of the information we have about all of the competitors' rounds. In 2015, we were able to post this information one or two days after the round, and it included a blank scorecard for the next round, including course handicaps, ESC, and all of the tee options.