



Welcome to East Berkshire Golf Club



A New Member's Guide

On behalf of the members and Board – we would like to welcome you to East Berkshire Golf Club. Whether you are an established golfer joining us from another golf club or a relative newcomer to the game of golf we hope you will find this New Member's Guide useful and that it will set you on your way to many enjoyable years at the Club.

Sue Davidge – General Manager



Formed in 1903 East Berkshire Golf Club is well over 100 years old and enjoys the facility of an established, beautiful golf course. The membership consists of roughly 700 individual members with varied golfing ability from the veritable expert to the enthusiastic novice along with many non-golfers whom simply enjoy the social aspects offered by the Club.

This guide is intended to help with all areas of your membership including playing, socialising and general admin. For members new to the game of golf and those needing a refresher, we also include some guidelines for etiquette and the Club's dress code. For any subjects not covered by this guide please speak to the Club Office who will be able to assist or point you in the right direction.

House

Our clubhouse is a relatively modest building and it will not take you long to find your way around. The Club Office will issue all members with a membership card that can be used to gain access to the clubhouse and also purchase food and drinks via the bar. Money on the card can be topped up with cash or debit card over the bar. By using the membership card members enjoy a discount of 10% off drinks and 5% off food.

Locker rooms

Both the ladies' and gentlemen's locker rooms are accessed via security doors on both the inside and outside of the building. The locker rooms are the only interior areas of the clubhouse where golf shoes may be worn. Toilets and showers are located in both locker rooms along with compact 'day' lockers for small items and valuables. The larger lockers are available to rent annually subject to a waiting list (please contact the Club Office for details). There is a limited supply of towels available in each locker room however demand may outstrip supply on busy days. Please remove any mud or debris from your shoes before entering the locker rooms. An air hose is located by the Professional's shop to assist.

Top tip: Carry your membership card with you at all times for easy access to the locker rooms.

Lounge/Bar Area

Located at the front of the clubhouse is the lounge area and bar. Members may enjoy the use of the lounge from early morning until the bar closes at night. A wide range of food and drinks can be ordered via the bar. The bar's opening hours do vary from summer to winter and may be extended for some social functions – please see notice board for details or check with our Bar staff. Located in the lounge is a television for all members to enjoy. Generally for viewing sports, any member wishing to change the channel must gain majority consensus from those members watching before doing so.

Dining Room

Located at the rear of the clubhouse is the dining room. Used for all evening meals and Sunday lunches, the dining room can be reserved for members' private functions by prior arrangement with the Club Office.

Hall

Not just the room linking all others but the main information hub of the Club. Located on the right hand side by the front entrance is the internal post system (also known as the Pigeon holes), a very handy way of delivering notes and information to the Club's active members. Further down the Hall are the notice boards displaying forthcoming social and golfing events along with an abundance of general information – a must for all new members to spend five minutes perusing the walls!

Top tip: Please make sure the Club Office has your email address so they are able to keep you up to date with all of the important news, weekly programmes etc!

Club Office

Located by the clubhouse main front entrance, the Club Office consists of two rooms – the front office and the General Manager's office. The majority of member enquiries can be dealt with by the administration staff – just knock on the door and walk right in. Payments, bookings and general admin are all part of the day-to-day business. The General Manager can be found in the far office but please be aware that on certain days the General Manager's time may be limited and an appointment will sometimes be necessary.

Top tip: If you have a request for the Club Office write it down with your name and phone number – it acts as an excellent aide memoire and saves them time.

Professional's shop

Adjacent to the gentlemen's locker room, the Professional's shop is a welcoming place for members and visitors alike and is home to some of the top swing coaches in the country! It stocks a vast range of clothing and equipment, the shop is also the check-in point for members' guests and casual visitors. All golfing visitors must complete a temporary membership card. All entry fees and sweep for Men's Club competitions are currently paid in the Pro Shop prior to play.

Top tip: Members enjoy greatly reduced green fees for their guests. If you are bringing playing guests to the club, check with the Club Office in advance to select the best time to play for maximum enjoyment.

Car Park

Other than car park spaces marked with specific signs, members may park where they wish. If the main car park is full, the overflow car park is across the 18th fairway and adjacent to the green keepers sheds. Please only park in marked bays and never obstruct the flow of traffic to our neighbours' houses.

Top tip: At busy times such as Weekends and Bank Holidays please allow sufficient time for parking and any admin ahead of your intended tee-time!

Green keepers' sheds

The buildings located adjacent to the Overflow car park are where you will find our hard working greens staff. The majority of their day is finished before most of us climb out of bed but without their specialist skills very few putts would ever find the hole. Our greens staff are approachable and never too busy to return a wave or thumbs up.

Top tip: If you feel less than satisfied with the state of the golf course please direct your comments in writing to the General Manager or Chairman of Course Management Committee (not the greens staff!)

Golf Course

Comprising 18-holes the East Berkshire golf course meanders through mature woodland, crossing ditches and many areas of heather and gorse. Most rounds of golf will commence at the first hole and finish on the eighteenth but please check with the Professional's shop or Club Office when the course is busy as they may suggest an alternative starting point to avoid congestion. Those members wishing to play fewer holes often start at the first hole but finish after the sixth – just a short walk back to the clubhouse. In the evenings, it is common to play holes 1-6 and then cross the road and continue from the fourteenth tee onwards. Members must always be mindful of groups playing the thirteenth and should seek

their permission ahead of ‘cutting-in’. Members playing on their own may choose to play a maximum of two golf balls if time allows and it causes no delay to the game behind. All other ‘multiple-ball’ practice on the course is forbidden!

There are four sets of coloured tee markers from which to play:

White: Gentlemen’s competition tees other than during recognised Club competitions these tees may be used for general play by members and their guests only, provided they are of an appropriate standard and do not unduly hold up the game behind.

Yellow: Gentlemen’s tee of the day used for general daily play by members, their guests and visitors. Older/more experienced juniors may play from the yellow tees.

Red: Ladies tee used by lady members their guests and lady visitors for general daily play and recognised Club competitions. Younger juniors may also play from the red tees.

Blue: Used by older gentlemen members for general play.

Note that the “STONES” mark the official “measured” start of each hole for the White Course on the course cards. These tee markers are only used for the scratch, men’s singles and pairs summer KO competitions and designated other matches. Under no circumstances should they be used for general play.

Practice ground & putting green

Although small in acreage the practice ground is useful for those members wishing to hone their skills on a regular basis or simply to warm-up prior to a game. Range balls are not available so members must use their own practice balls and pick them up afterwards. Two practice nets are located adjacent to the 18th green and two undercover driving bays are located at the bottom of the practice ground as is a short game area. Members are asked to be mindful of the Professionals whilst they coach students and to give way to their use at all times. Golf balls may only be hit from the bottom of the practice ground up – in the direction of the clubhouse. Golf balls may be chipped on to the putting green from between the two blue markers. Please try to avoid damage to this area and do not attempt shots likely to create a divot!

Starting times

In general, when no tee-time reservations are specified in the weekly programme sent by email, or posted outside the Pro Shop, the following starting times are used:

	2-ball	3 & 4-ball
8.00 – 10.00am	7th tee	1st tee
10.00 – 11.00am	1st tee	7th tee
11.00 – 2.00pm	7th tee	1st tee

Apart from these starting points, the 16th tee may be used for 4-ball games after 1.00pm provided the 15th fairway is unoccupied.

On Saturday mornings, all matches must commence from the 1st tee up until 1.00 pm and guests of members are not permitted on the course before 10.00am. There are quite a few groups and "roll-ups", men and ladies, who play on a Saturday morning. None of these groups has any preference over the other – there are no "reserved" tee-times, unless so designated on the Club Notice Boards. Despite this it is known that these groups tend to try and play together, so please respect each other and try and keep play moving, preferably in 3 or 4-balls.

Top tip: It is always a good idea to check the notice board outside the Pro Shop for details about what competitions, inter-club matches and societies will have the 1st tee booked on any specific day/ date. If there is any doubt, please contact the Club Office.

Golf Trolleys

Members may choose to carry their golf bag or use a manual or electric trolley. Please do not take trolleys through heather or densely wooded areas as it may disturb delicate flora or fauna – please leave your trolley at the side and walk to your ball.

Top tip: Throughout the summer months Adders may bask in the sunshine close to heather areas 'in-play'. If carrying your clubs, remove a club as you walk and gently tap the ground ahead to alert them of your presence. Approaching trolleys generally make more than enough noise.

Buggies

Individual buggies may be used providing they are ‘medically’ required and approval must be via the Club Office. Storage for members’ buggies is available but very limited. Please contact the Club Office for more details as there is a waiting list. The Professional’s shop currently has two double buggies for hire at special members’ rates.

Handicaps

If you are an established golfer moving to us from another club, transferring your handicap is a fairly simple process. All handicaps are now registered with England Golf’s CDH (Central Database of Handicaps). As such you will have a unique reference code that allows a new club to transfer your handicap from old club to new. Please make sure you give this to the Club Office to complete this process.

If you are new to the game of golf and as yet have not obtained a playing handicap, you will need to complete three rounds of golf in general play with another member, and submit the signed and marked cards to the office/General Manager to make an assessment of your first handicap.

Roll-ups

A player literally turns up at the Club to join a regular group of players at a prearranged time. Depending on the number of players present, the group will be drawn into three- and four-ball games (usually by dealing playing cards). On Sundays when there is no Men’s Competition or other specified competition, tee-times between 8am and 10am may be pre-booked up to 1 week in advance through the Pro-Shop. This arrangement has the traditional name of the “greedy book”.

For details of all roll-up times and contacts please contact the Club Office.

Teams

East Berkshire Golf Club has a long tradition of team golf and matches are played both home and away against other local golf clubs. Many matches are followed by a meal and are a very social method of meeting a variety of other golfers. If a particular team is of interest to you, simply contact the team captain and convey your availability. Team captains are always pleased to find eager new recruits. The following list covers the

majority of teams available but please check the Club notice boards for additional information:

A Team: (also known as the First Team): Gentlemen category 1 players (handicap 5 and below)

B Team: Gentlemen with handicaps ranging from 6 to 12

C Team: Gentlemen with handicaps ranging from 13 to 18

19+: Gentlemen with handicaps above 19

Seniors: Gentlemen over 55 years of age, which is the general age recognised for inter-club “Seniors” matches. The Club also plays in the “Reading and District Over 60's League” which, as the name implies, has an age restriction of 60 years or more for their inter-club matches

Ladies: 4 Ball League for Lower Handicaps, Silver Salver (12-20 Handicaps) and the Bronze League for 21+ Handicaps. In addition there are various teams for specific county and national events. Details are on the ladies notice board in the ladies locker room

Juniors: Please contact the Junior Organiser for further details or see the junior notice board.

Golf competitions

Competitions are played throughout the year at East Berks. There's something for everyone, both mid-week and weekends. Most singles competitions are held in the spring through autumn months with regular medal and Stableford handicap qualifying competitions, some with named trophies for the winner. There are summer KO competitions and also regular mixed events on bank holidays. In the winter months, most of the pair competitions are held.

East Berks uses the Club 2000, CONGU approved, handicapping software, and the booking of tee-times for most singles handicap qualifying competitions is done through in-house PSI terminals, or using “How Did I Do” through the internet. Many of the tee-times on Sundays are shared between lady and gentlemen players, each in their separate competitions, but playing together at the same time. In this case, men may mark Ladies cards and vice versa.

Pairs, mixed and KO competitions are entered via sign-up sheets posted on the main notice board and you should check these for any conditions of entry.

All singles competitions must be entered on the day using the touch screens in either the hallway or the Professional's Shop. Entry fees are normally deducted from your membership card automatically when you sign in, but for pairs or mixed competitions these are taken in cash in the Pro-Shop or the Office. At the end of the competition all cards must be signed and marked and put in the box in the hallway, or as designated when signing into the competition.

All matchplay (knockout) competitions need to be entered on an individual entry form and submitted with the entry fee, which must be paid prior to the draw being made. All match play competitions are drawn and each round must be played by a particular date.

Local Rules

The local rules can be found on the back of the scorecard. It's worth having a read through every now and again to familiarise yourself with them... they can help you just as much as much as penalise you! Any temporary local rules (such as adverse playing conditions and how to take relief) will be displayed on the Club notice boards.

Competition Etiquette

Having booked a tee-time through the PSI system or the notice board, or agreed a tee-time with a competitor in match-play, it is unforgivable to "no-show" and your playing partner(s)/competitor(s) will not be impressed. Last minute withdrawals without a valid reason will be rewarded with a two-competition ban and a letter from the General Manager. Clearly personal emergencies will be treated sympathetically but please phone to confirm your absence. For match-play it is up to the opposing individuals or teams to arrange a mutually convenient time to play their match. The Bye-laws give the details, but ultimately, if no time or date can be agreed, then the player standing on the 1st tee at 3.00pm on the last day of the round will be given a walkover.

Competitions are an excellent way to meet new people at the Club and obviously a great way to test your own skills! A leader-board is easily accessed on the display terminals or you can check the results at

www.howdidido.com the following day. If you are lucky enough to be a winner, cash and/or voucher prizes may be collected from the Office two or three days after the competition.

There is an Annual Prize-giving event held in the autumn, at which trophies and 1st place awards are handed out – this is great social occasion, usually accompanied by a curry supper. For the winter pairs and bank holiday mixed “jollies”, the prizes are awarded straight after the competition and often followed by a meal in the evening, which wives and partners as well as players attend.

General Etiquette

Golf etiquette is an extremely important part of the game at all clubs not just East Berkshire. The etiquette golfers shown to one another out on the course is one of the things that distinguish golf from all other sports.

Safety first

Do not swing clubs close to other people and do not walk near to people swinging clubs. Always shout ‘fore’ following a wayward shot and cover your head with your arms should you hear a shout of ‘fore’.

Be quiet and still

Golf requires lots of concentration and even if the people in your immediate group don't seem to be bothered by noise and movement there are other groups all around you that will be. So keep your voice down and be aware of others. Keep still when people are playing their shots – from the moment they address the ball until it has left the club.

Speed of play

Slow golf is annoying to everyone on the course. No matter how many players there are in a group, slower groups must invite faster groups to play through. Be aware of the group behind and try to adopt the following habits:

- **Take only one practice swing** for each shot, and then hit the ball. (Remember: if you take 90 shots in a game and you take an extra 30 seconds for each one you will add 45 minutes to the length of your golf

game.)

- **Plan your shot before it's your turn** (don't wait until your turn to start thinking about what club you will hit, or whether to go over the water or lay up to it - be ready in advance).
- **Watch any misdirected shots** carefully and play provisional shots if necessary – this prevents an embarrassing walk back.
- **Look for the next tee.** As you approach the green determine in which direction the next tee is located and leave your clubs/trolley on that side of the green.
- **First one in take the pin** – whoever holes out first, assist the others by taking the flag and replacing it as soon as everyone has holed out.
 - **Keep up with the group ahead of you.** As they leave the green you should be ready to hit up to the green. Don't worry about how far ahead you are of the group behind, focus on staying a reasonable distance from the group ahead.
- **Play Ready Golf.** Ready golf means the golfer who is ready to hit can do so even though he or she may not be farthest away from the hole. Just agree ahead with the others in your group that you will play ready golf when it makes sense but before you hit be sure that everyone in your group knows that you are going to hit and that you are aware of where everyone in your group is.
- **Fill in your scorecard when you have a spare moment**, not on the green!

Top tip: Make the lowest handicap player in your group responsible for the speed of play! This really does work and it's far nicer for them to suggest you speed up a little than someone in another group.

Playing Through

Playing Through another group is one of the most difficult parts of golf. It is difficult because often, there is an implication that the group who is 'being played through' is guilty of slow play and they typically resent that implication, even if it's true. Be courteous and thank them for inviting you through.

Repair the ground you play on

Make sure you have a pitchmark repairer with you and use it to repair your own and one other! Replace your divot or fill the hole with soil and sand mix. Please rake bunkers like you mean it!

Dress Code

All members, their guests and visitors are asked to observe this simple code in order to maintain the standards associated with a Private Members golf Club.

General

All members and guests are requested to respect the spirit of this dress code and The General Manager and Golf Professional will oversee that a patron's attire is considered appropriate notwithstanding that it is the members responsibility to ensure that their guests are appropriately dressed at all times. Members should be aware that specific dress codes may be applied to certain functions and these will be notified accordingly on posters advertising the event.

No collarless T-shirts or football shirts will be allowed on the course nor in the clubhouse, however round necked shirts are permissible. The wearing of blue or distressed jeans, jackets, shirts or trainers is not allowed on the course nor in the clubhouse.

On the Course (includes practice ground and putting green)

All golfers should wear clothes specifically designed for golf. Caps must be worn with the peak facing the front. Shorts are allowed provided they are of a tailored pattern and this includes cargo shorts. Socks can either be knee length of any colour, or ankle/sports socks which are predominantly white or "hidden" socks. Gentlemen's shirts must be tucked into trousers and shorts at all times.

Please see illustration on next page...



Ladies may wear shirts with collars, with or without sleeves. Sun tops are not acceptable. Golf tops that are specifically designed to be worn outside skirts, shorts or trousers are acceptable.

In and around the Clubhouse

Smart casual dress may be worn in all rooms of the clubhouse. Golf shorts may be worn in the clubhouse at anytime from 1 May to 31 October and outside this period up to 6.30 pm. Caps and golf shoes are only allowed in the locker rooms. Visitors under the age of 16 will be allowed in the clubhouse with smart trainers.

In the Dining Room smart casual dress may be worn unless the event notice says otherwise.

Social Functions

East Berkshire Golf Club has a lively social calendar. From casual BBQs in the summer months and curry nights in the winter to formal 'black tie' events and a host of other functions too. The majority of social events are noted in the Club diary but please check notice boards for more up to date information including dress code and ticket prices. Card playing is a popular pastime at the Club with monthly Bridge and Cribbage played throughout the winter season. To take part, just add your name to the various lists on the notice boards or contact the organisers, if you are in need of a partner, they are happy to assist.

The Club Diary

Published exclusively for the members of East Berkshire Golf Club, the Club diary holds an enormous amount of useful information such as competition dates, society bookings, social functions, and members' telephone numbers.

Secretary

General Manager: Miss Sue Davidge
01344 772041 – option 7
Email: manager@eastberkshiregolfclub.com

Club Office

01344 772041 – option 2
Email: office@eastberkshiregolfclub.com

Professional

Jason Brant 01344 774112

Course information

01344 772041 – option 1



East Berkshire Golf Club Limited

The Clubhouse, Ravenswood Avenue, Crowthorne,
Berkshire RG45 6BD

www.eastberkshiregolfclub.com