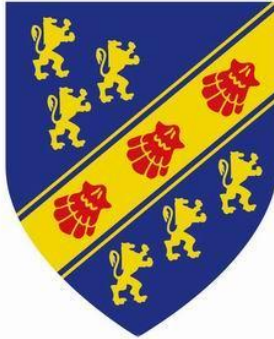


Thorpe Hall Golf Club



Founded 1907

**WELCOME
GUIDE
2020**

Thorpe Hall Golf Club – Welcome Guide

INTRODUCTION TO THORPE HALL GOLF CLUB

Joining as a new member can be daunting as each club has its own traditions and quirks.

This guide is intended to provide an overview of what goes on at Thorpe Hall allowing new members quickly to feel at ease in their surroundings and able to join in with the various sections and activities.

The club operates a “Buddy System” to help new members integrate and find regular playing partners.

The office staff and members of the Committees are available to help so please ask if you have a query.

Thorpe Hall was established in 1907, celebrating its centenary in 2007; it is not the place of this guide to provide a history of the club but if you are interested in knowing more, there are copies of the centenary book available to borrow from the office.

The club has four active sections, Men’s, Ladies, Veterans and Monday League (VMLS) and Cadets. Each of these runs a variety of competitions having their own eligibility criteria. Competition details are covered as separate documents. Numerous social events are organised throughout the year which are intended to appeal to a variety of tastes. All members, old and new, are encouraged to give their support.

The Club has reciprocal golf arrangements with Clacton-on-Sea GC, Newton Green GC, Rushmere GC and Theydon Bois GC whereby members of Thorpe Hall GC can play these courses twice in a calendar year free of charge. Please ask at the office for more details.

Like all clubs, there are rules regarding dress and conduct which, as far as possible, are kept to a minimum but which are intended to be for the benefit of all. Members are expected to follow these regulations at all times and observe common courtesy both on and off the course.

Please read the detailed below which we hope you will find helpful.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Swipe Card

On payment of the initial subscription, the office staff will provide a member with a 'swipe card' which is used when entering competitions and paying for drinks and food. The annual subscription includes an amount that is credited to the swipe card. The credit held on the card can be topped up, preferably, using the Members Hub on the website or by cash or card at the Bar. Purchases in the clubhouse using the swipe card receive a discount on non-member prices.

Bag Tag

Members are provided with bag tags and these are required to be attached to and displayed on members' golf bags. An additional tag may be requested to avoid the need to transfer from one bag to another. Colour codes indicate the membership category: Full member – Red, 7 Day Restricted – Orange, 5 Day – Yellow. Date labels are provided each year on payment of renewal subscriptions.

Diary

A printed copy of the club diary is available to all members which includes details of competition dates known at the time of publication, together with members' contact details. These may be subject to change during the course of the year. A summary of the club rules and dress code is also included. There is also a digital version of the Diary on our website: www.thorpehallgc.co.uk.

Lockers and Trolleys

Lockers are available for those members who would like to keep their golf clubs at the club. The office staff will be pleased to help. Members who rent a locker can store their trolley in the trolley store. The facility to charge batteries is also available for a small additional cost.

Parking

Cars must only be parked in the marked bays. The spaces behind the Ladies tee are reserved for the Captains, President, Secretary/General Manager and Board members. An overflow car park is available adjacent to the 14th hole when the member's car park is full. Commercial vehicles and vans must be parked either in the overflow car park or on the road.

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Playing Times

Apart from tee reservations, Members permitted playing times are:

	Summer	Winter
	1 April to 31 Oct	1 Nov to 31 March
Permitted Playing Times Full members	After 7.30 am	After 8.00 am
Weekend Playing Restrictions 7 Day Restricted members may not start until	12.00 noon	11.00 am
New to Golf members can only start on		
Weekdays after	12.00 noon	11.00 am
Weekends after	1.00 pm	12 noon
Cadet playing times vary by category and are displayed in the Clubhouse		

New to Golf members, while working towards gaining a handicap index must be accompanied by a playing member or one of the club professionals until they have been given an appropriate assessment.

The notice board at the front of the clubhouse shows details of competitions and tee reservations for a two week period. The board is updated on a Friday and should be considered as an accurate indication. General play is not permitted from a tee which has a reservation.

When starting play from the 10th tee, club etiquette requires that members do not tee off if a group playing the 9th hole has a ball on the green. When the course is busy, groups who started at the 10th wishing to continue their round at the 1st must alternate with members beginning their round.

Course Status

The status of the course is updated daily with details of playing restrictions and available on the club website and on a recorded telephone message. Telephone 01702 582205 Extension1

Website

Members are encouraged to register with the club website. This provides access to information about what is going on at the club as well as competition results and

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handicap information. The Men's and Ladies sections also use forward booking for competitions and reserved tee times are via the Member's Hub on the Club website.

Snooker Room

Situated adjacent to the Men's changing room, the snooker room contains two full size tables which are available for all adult members to use.

Guests

Member's guests are always welcome at Thorpe Hall and should be signed in using the book in the professional's shop. Guests who are playing golf should have a recognised handicap index and all guests are the responsibility of the member whilst at the club. Before inviting guests, members are advised to check that there are no restrictions in place that might limit their enjoyment of Thorpe Hall. Members may sign in up to three playing guests at any one time but, at weekends, they may not play before 1pm. Members are required to accompany their guests when they are on the course and in the bars or restaurant.

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ETIQUETTE – ON AND OFF THE COURSE

The Captains have precedence on the course.

1. Introduction

This section provides guidelines on the manner in which the game of golf should be played. If these are followed, all players will gain maximum enjoyment from the game. The overriding principle is that consideration should be shown to others on the course at all times.

2. The Spirit of the Game

Unlike many sports, golf is played, for the most part, without the supervision of a referee or umpire. The game relies on the integrity of the individual to show consideration to other players and to abide by the Rules. All players should conduct themselves in a disciplined manner, demonstrating courtesy and sportsmanship at all times, irrespective of how competitive they may be. This is the spirit of the game of golf.

Before playing, check on the main outside board for permitted times of play for two, three and four ball games and take particular note of any tee reservations. Reserved tee times are also shown in the digital diary on the THGC website. Also check whether 'Winter Rules' are in force.

3. Safety

Players should ensure that no one is standing close by or in a position to be hit by the club, the ball or any stones, pebbles, twigs or the like when they make a stroke or practice swing.

Players should not play until the players in front are out of range.

Greens staff have priority on the course during weekdays, except on competition days.

Players should always alert green staff nearby or ahead when they are about to play a shot that might endanger them.

If a player plays a ball in a direction where there is a danger of hitting someone, they should immediately shout a warning. The traditional word of warning in such situations is "fore".

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Whether the klaxon is sounded or not, players are responsible for their own safety as well as the safety of others and must not continue to play when visibility is significantly impaired, e.g. by fog.

4. Consideration for Other Players

Players should always show consideration for other players on the course and should not disturb their play by moving, talking or making unnecessary noise. Making or receiving of calls on the course is not permitted and players should ensure that any electronic device taken onto the course does not distract other players.

On the teeing ground, a player should not tee up their ball until it is their turn to play.

Players should not stand close to or directly behind the ball, or directly behind the hole, when a player is about to play.

On the putting green, players should not stand on another player's line of putt or, when he/she is making a stroke, cast a shadow over his/her line of putt.

Players should remain on or close to the putting green until all other players in the group have holed out.

In stroke play, a player who is acting as a marker should, if necessary, on the way to the next tee, check the score with the player concerned and record it.

5. Pace of Play

Players should play at a good pace. The Committee may establish pace of play guidelines that all players should follow.

It is a group's responsibility to keep up with the group in front. If it loses a clear hole and it is delaying the group behind, it should invite the group behind to play through, irrespective of the number of players in that group. Where a group has not lost a complete hole, but it appears that the group behind can play faster, it should invite the faster moving group to play through.

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Players should be ready to play as soon as it is their turn to play. When playing on or near the putting green, they should leave their bags or carts in such a position that will enable quick movement off the green and towards the next tee. When the play of the hole has been completed, players should immediately leave the putting green.

If a player believes their ball may have been lost or is out of bounds, to save time, they should play a provisional ball.

Players searching for a ball should signal the players in the group behind to play through as soon as it becomes apparent that the ball will not easily be found. No longer than three minutes is permitted to search for the ball. Having allowed the group behind to play through, they should not continue play until that group has passed and is out of range.

6. Always leave your trolley or bag at the side of the Green toward the next tee – never in front of the green. Do not wheel trolleys between bunkers and green. Leave the putting green as soon as play of the hole is completed and only then mark your card.

7. Priority on the Course

Unless otherwise stated by the Committee, priority on the course is determined by the group's pace of play. Any group playing a whole round is entitled to pass a group playing a shorter round. The term "group" includes a single player. Players continuing their round from 18th green should alternate with any players waiting at the 1st tee. Players starting at the 10th must not tee off if a group playing the 9th have a ball on the green without asking if they are continuing their round. On non-competition days, players taking part in matches will have priority over members playing social golf only.

8. Care of the Course

Bunkers

Before leaving a bunker, players should carefully fill up and smooth over all holes and footprints made by them and any nearby made by others. If a rake is available, it should be used for this purpose.

Repair of Divots, Ball-Marks and Damage by Shoes.

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Players should carefully repair any divot holes made by them and any damage to the putting green made by the impact of a ball (whether or not made by the player him/herself). On completion of the hole by all players in the group, damage to the putting green caused by golf shoes should be repaired.

Preventing Unnecessary Damage

Players should avoid causing damage to the course by replacing divots when taking practice swings or by hitting the head of the club into the ground, whether in anger or for any other reason.

Players should ensure that no damage is done to the putting green when putting down bags or the flagstick.

To avoid damaging the hole, players and caddies should not stand too close to the hole and should take care during handling of the flagstick and the removal of the ball from the hole. The head of the club should not be used to retrieve the ball from the cup.

9. Marking Cards

Scores should be checked with your playing partner on completion of each hole after leaving the green and at the end of the round. Before leaving the course, check each hole and the result; ensure that your course handicap is correct and do not forget to sign the card and return the whole card.

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HANDICAPS AND COMPETITIONS

Obtaining an official Handicap Index

The World Handicap System (WHS) controls the way in which handicap indexes are allocated and maintained worldwide. To obtain a WHS Handicap Index, a golfer must submit to their respective Committee scorecards of 54 holes (3x18, 6x9 or any combination of 9 and 18 holes) on their home course. The maximum handicap index that is available to all golfers is 54.

CDH Number

All golfers who maintain a handicap index are registered on the Central Database of Handicaps and are given a unique ID number. Details of competition results and current handicap index are stored on the database and updated the day after a qualifying score card has been submitted. Golfers who enter competitions away from their home club will usually be asked to provide their CDH number on the competition entry form.

Eligibility for competitions

Any member with a handicap index may enter the monthly Medal and Stableford competitions.

Mixed Competitions

A number of mixed events are held each year. These are run jointly by the Ladies and Men's Sections. Entry sheets for these are posted in the foyer.

Guest Days

A Guest Day for men is usually held at the end of August or beginning of September and comprises an 18 hole Better Ball competition in the morning, a buffet lunch, and a team competition in the afternoon followed by a formal dinner. The course is closed to those not taking part. If held at a weekend, 7 day restricted and 5 day members are able to take part if the available places have not been filled by full members.

The Ladies also organise an Open Day and a Guest Day, the format for which is decided by the Ladies Committee.

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Captain's Day

Both Men and Ladies hold a Captain's Day which takes place in June or July. The usual format is a Stableford competition in the morning, buffet lunch, a team competition in the afternoon followed by dinner and prize presentation.

The course is closed for both of these days with the morning competition starting at four different tees. 7 day restricted and 5 day members are able to take part if the available places have not been filled by full members.

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THE MENS SECTION

An important part of any golf club is the opportunity to enjoy social golf as well as taking part in competitions. As well as the regular monthly competitions, Thorpe Hall provides a variety of such opportunities for members, both new and old, to meet new friends or find playing partners.

Veterans and Monday League Section (VMLS)

As the name implies, this group is open those who have reached the age of 55 with the “regulars” competing in a league of four divisions. A full calendar of events is planned by the VMLS committee with matches scheduled to be played on Mondays. Matches against other local golf clubs are also arranged throughout the year.

The “irregulars” are those who no longer wish to commit themselves to play every Monday but who still like to play on an occasional basis.

The AYC

The AYCGC (Alexander Yacht Club Golf Circle) was first established in 1926 and is still going strong. It was originally an allegiance between THGC members and AYC members and was a very formal society, but nowadays it is made up of solely THGC members and is run on a much less formal basis. It holds 6 events each year as shown below:

- April - Captain's Drive In & Dinner (18 Holes Singles, 9 Hole Texas Scramble, Dinner)
- May - Captain's Prize Day & Dinner (18 Holes Singles, 9 Hole Texas Scramble, Dinner)
- July - Guest Day & Dinner (18 Holes Pairs Better Ball, 9 Hole Texas Scramble, Dinner)
- August - Annual Fixture v North Foreland Golf Club - Alternating Annually Home & Away
- October- Dunning Salver & AGM & Dinner (18 Holes Singles, 9 Hole Texas Scramble, Dinner)
- November - Texas Scramble & Dinner (18 Hole Texas Scramble, Dinner)

New members are welcome and details of who to contact can be found on the AYC Notice Board in the clubhouse.

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The Strugglers

Open to all handicap golfers, this group meets on Wednesday mornings with a draw at 8.15 for playing partners. New playing members are always welcome as playing on a Wednesday morning is a great way of getting to know other club members. Depending on numbers, play is in three balls with the best two Stableford scores of each team counting.

The Roll Up Boys

This weekend roll-up takes place when there is no club competition.

Notice Boards

There are four separate notice boards in the men's changing room. Nearest the entrance door, the boards are used to display the results of the current month's competitions and information regarding future events. At the other end of the changing room, opposite the shower enclosure are the draw sheets for the ongoing knock out competitions. There is also a message board at this point.