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The Management Team at The Millbrook Golf Club sincerely hope that Members and Visitors fully enjoy their golf here in conditions which are as safe as reasonably possible.

By the very nature of the game of golf we believe that it is not possible to completely eradicate the risk of damage or injury, but every effort has been made to keep these risks to a minimum. The Risk Assessments noted below are intended to provide a brief resume of probable risks encountered on a hole by hole basis and we hope the information provided will assist players when making their safety decisions on the course.

Individual players remain responsible for their own negligent actions and we recommend that adequate insurance is arranged by them to provide financial protection in the event of accident or injury.

This Risk Assessment has been undertaken with the average golfer in mind. Do be aware that golf club and ball development has made it possible for better than average players to hit a golf ball above average distances. It is expected that golfers of above average ability will take additional care when playing their golf ball and ensure that they do not endanger fellow golfers or the public. Please be aware at all times of the general public who walk extensively on and around the golf course.

Many understand the danger posed by a moving golf ball but on the other hand some do not. Always be ready to shout a warning of 'FORE' or stop playing.

Steps

Constructed from railway sleepers can be very slippery when wet. Always walk carefully up and down any steps using the non-slip pads or the matted 'astro turf' areas if provided.

Steep slopes and banks

Can also present a risk of falling or slipping in particular when wet. Please try to avoid these where ever possible. Ensure that you have appropriate golf shoes with well-maintained spikes. Always replace spikes before they become over-worn. Metal spikes are recommended during winter months.

Lines of sight

Can become restricted due to 'dog leg holes' growth of gorse, other vegetation and trees thereby posing a risk to players and walkers. Always check that you are not endangering other players or the general public when playing a golf shot.

Rabbit holes

Can become obscured on grass tracks and elsewhere on the course and pose the risk of tripping or falling. Watch for indentations caused by rabbits or burrowing animals and be careful when using pathways and tracks.

Weather Conditions

Closure Procedure - If the committee/manager/professional decide that weather conditions are such that it is unsafe to play, the course will be closed and a player may not override this decision.

Players may not start when fog limits visibility, Players must be able to see the 10th green from the white tees, and to the end of the fairway on the 1st hole from the white tees, before play can commence.

In the event of lightning, a continuous siren will sound, players must leave the course immediately returning to the clubhouse. Resumption of play will be determined by the manager/professional.

Use of Caddie Cars

Please keep to the pathways and tracks provided where ever possible and avoid going up or down steep grassy banks and inclines. Please keep arms and legs inside the cab when in motion and do not travel too fast. Park in a safe place and on level ground. To hire a buggy you must hold a valid drivers licence.

Blind Tee Shots

If, when playing holes 5, 9, 11 & 13, it is necessary to search the rough/trees for lost balls, please leave at least one trolley/ set of clubs visible on fairway to warn following players of your location, thus avoiding play from behind before it being safe to do so. On leaving the landing zones, please sound the bell where provided.

Public Footpaths

We have a public footpath that travels from the 12th tee to the 15th fairway. Routed alongside the 8th and 7th holes, crossing the rear of the 17th hole and crossing directly through the 4th, 3rd, 2nd and 15th fairways. Walkers are advised to take extra care when crossing the fairways but they have priority. Please allow walkers time and space to cross and remove themselves from danger.

HOLE BY HOLE RISK ASSESSMENT

Hole 1:

This hole is adjacent to the 18th fairway to the left. Please shout fore if your tee shot goes left. The 1st fairway is hidden in the dip, If necessary, for second shots, send a player forward to check the way ahead is clear. The banks of the valley can be slippery when wet. Approach with caution and ensure a firm footing before playing a shot. Always use the gravel pathway to the right of the hole into and out of the valley. Miss-hit approach shots to the green can bring the 16th green into play, shout fore if you are unsure where your ball will land.

Hole 2

Bordered by holes 3 and 15, errant tee shots can endanger players on these holes, shout fore if your tee shot is left or right. Beware of the public footpath crossing the hole adjacent to the ditch. Beware of the ditch, especially when crossing or using buggies. Please use the bridges provided, stepping on the astro-turf areas only. Miss hit approach shots can endanger those on the 14th green, be ready to shout fore.

Hole 3

Bordered by holes 2 and 4, errant tee shots can endanger players on these holes, shout fore if your tee shot is left or right. Beware of the public footpath that crosses this hole alongside the ditch. Take care when crossing the ditch, especially in buggies, use the bridge provided, stepping on the astro-turf only. The bunkers by the green are deep, please take care when exiting the green, using the front of the green to exit, not the steep bank alongside the bunkers.

Hole 4

Tee shots heading well left can endanger those on the 6th green, tee shots heading well right can endanger those on hole 3, shout fore if you can't see where your ball might land. Beware of walkers crossing the fairway. Take extra care when crossing the ditch, using the bridges provided, stepping on the astro-turf areas only.

Hole 5

This is a blind tee shot. There is a bell situated about 100 yards from the green, ring this bell once all players in your group have passed this point, alerting the group behind that it is safe to play. BEFORE teeing off, wait for the sound of the bell. Tee shots heading right may endanger the 13th green, tee shots heading left could endanger those on the 6th hole. Shout fore if can't see where your ball might land.

Hole 6

Tees shots heading left could endanger players on the 5th fairway, tee shots heading right could endanger the 7th green. Shout fore if you can't see where your ball may land. Take care when nearing the pond, staying at least 3 meters away when using buggies, there are steep banks leading down to the waters edge, do not attempt to retrieve your balls. This is a shallow pond but life rings are provided, situated on either side of the pond. Mis-hit approach shots heading right could endanger those on the 7th tee, shout fore if can't see where your approach might land.

Hole 7

Tee shots heading well left can endanger those on the 8th tee, tee shots heading well right can endanger those on the 6th fairway. Shout fore if you can't see where your ball might land. Please use the pathway provided, keeping buggies and trolleys to the path. This is a modernised tee area and is outlined by sleepers which can be slippery when wet, take care when entering/exiting the teeing area. Take care by the green, some tree roots cross the pathway.

Hole 8

Tee shots heading right can endanger those on the 6th tee, tee shots heading left can endanger people on the practice area. Shout fore if you can't see where your ball may land. Be aware of the public footpath running alongside the tree line of the 8th hole all the way from the tee to the green. Be aware of golfers playing the 12th hole to the right of the 8th when playing your second and third shots.

Hole 9

Be sure to check that the group ahead are not looking for balls in the dip or trees to the right. Sending a player forwards if necessary. The car park and clubhouse are in range for the longest of hitters, attempting to hit the green could be seen as a negligent action by the golfer. Use the pathway provided, do not attempt to walk down the grass slopes especially in wet conditions. Taking buggies off the fairway on this hole is not advised, especially to the right of the hole. Be aware of the entry and exit road and path that crosses behind the green when playing your second shot, giving cars and pedestrians priority.

Hole 10

Be sure to check that players have completed the hole, sending a player forwards if necessary. If your tee shot heads severely left please shout fore. This is a modernised tee and in some places sleepers are present, take care when entering and exiting the tee boxes especially in wet conditions. Use the pathway provided especially when using buggies, this hole has multiple steep banks which are slippery when wet, take care with foot placement when entering and exiting the green area.

Hole 11

Be sure to listen for the bell, do not play until you are certain the group ahead are out of range. This is a modernised tee area and sleepers are present please take care when entering and exiting the tee area using the steps or ramps provided. Golfers must keep to the pathway provided especially when using trolleys and buggies. If necessary, Players should park their trolley/buggy and walk across the slope to find their ball. Multiple slopes are present on this hole, which become slippery when wet, take care with foot placement. Use the steps to enter the bunkers on this hole. A severely miss hit approach shot might endanger players on the 12th tee, please shout fore if you can't see where your ball may land.

Hole 12

This a modernised teeing area, sleepers are present and are slippery when wet, please use the steps provided to enter/exit the tee box, stepping on the non-slip pads only. A tee shot heading right can endanger players on the 8th hole, shout fore if you can't see where your ball may land. The net to the left of the hole is to minimise balls going onto the adjacent A507 road. In order for us to monitor the amount of balls that stray onto/near the road please report any tee shots of this nature. The road may also come in to play for second shots. The 13th tee is in range for second shots, please shout fore should your ball head towards this area.

Hole 13

The A507 road can be reached from this tee with a shot heading severely left, again, please report any shots that head out of bounds toward to the road. Ensure that the group ahead have cleared the corner before playing your tee shot. Beware of the steep sided bunkers on this hole especially when operating a buggy. Use the steps to enter the bunker to the left of the green. Beware of shouts of fore from the 5th tee.

Hole 14

Shots heading severely right can endanger players on the 5th tee. Shots heading out of bounds left could endanger pedestrians using the public footpath. Give pedestrians time to move away from any landing areas, shouting fore if you can't see where your ball may land. Exercise caution when playing into the green, the 2nd green adjoins the 14th green, therefore players on the 2nd green are in range of miss-struck shots. Use the pathway provided when walking around the green and to the next tee. Groups are encouraged to send forward a player to check/view over the mound, ensuring the green area is clear before approach shots are hit.

Hole 15

Beware of the public footpath crossing this fairway, giving pedestrians right of way before playing your tee shot. Shots hit right on this hole can endanger payers on the 2nd hole, please shout fore if can't see where your ball may land. Take care when walking around the bunker to the right of the green, it's very deep. Use the steps provided to enter and exit. There are two ponds on the 15th hole, keep buggies well away from these steep sided shallow water hazards and do not attempt to retrieve your ball, the banks are slippery when wet.

Hole 16

Enter this teeing area via the steps only, these steps are slippery when wet. The 1st green is in range for this shot, if possible, let players finish putting on the 1st green before hitting your tee shot. Shout fore if your ball is heading towards the 1st green. Players on the 17th tee have priority when teeing off. Let players walk up from the 1st hole before teeing off unless they indicate for you to play. Beware of the public footpath to the left of the out of bounds boundary fence, let pedestrians clear any potential landing areas. Take care when walking around the bunkers, they are deep, entering only via the steps. Beware of approach shots from the 1st green.

Hole 17

A tee shot heading severely right might endanger players on the 4th tee, shout fore if you can't see where your ball may land. Exercise caution on your second shot, shots hit over the back of the green may endanger both pedestrians using the public footpath and golfers walking from the 7th tee to green. Give them priority. Exercise caution when walking around the bunkers by the green, they are deep and when using the naturally formed pathway around the green, beware of exposed roots.

Hole 18

Beware of the maintenance road crossing at the beginning of the fairway. Give green keepers/course staff priority. A tee shot heading severely left could endanger players on the 1st hole, shout fore if you can't see where your ball may land. The clubhouse, access road and pathway to the 1st tee are all in range for the approach shot. Give cars, golfers and pedestrians priority before playing your shot. Beware of the bunkers around the green they are deep, using the steps when provided to enter and exit.

Warm up area.

Please hit from mats only, do not stray on to the grass to retrieve balls. Hit within the back fence (170 yards) Green keepers/members of staff could be working behind the fence. Balls struck outside of the fence line at the rear could be seen as an act of negligence.

Members Practice Ground

You are entitled to hit from one end of the range, the closest end to the chipping green. Do not hit across it. The 1st person on the area has priority and all subsequent players must hit in the same direction. Collect your balls together when possible, exercising caution when this is impossible.

Chipping & Putting Greens

The bunkers on the chipping green vary in depth, two of them are very deep and players must use the steps to enter and exit. The banking around the green is slippery when wet. The putting green is surrounded by sleepers which are slippery when wet, please step over them.

Robert Brightman

General Manager

The Millbrook Golf Club

1st March 2024