



## **A brief history**

Many famous golf clubs appear to have had their beginnings in the bar parlours of hotels or public houses. It seems that the convivial conversations to be enjoyed there was eminently suitable for discussing the game, and discussed it was, to good purpose. East Berkshire Golf Club at Crowthorne, however, was not one of these, which was mooted in a place of refreshment. It flies on a rather higher plane to the Masters' Sitting Room of the nearby Wellington College.

It was in 1903 that the masters of Wellington first talked about golf – or, at least, a golf course – and being men of action as well as enthusiasm, they formed a company and bought sufficient land on which to lay out a course. And, like so many of the pioneers, they chose their site well. The ground is heathlike in character on the edge of the Bagshot sand, has plenty of heather and gorse and to add to the beauty of the scene there is a veritable forest of trees on every side.

These trees, consisting in the main; silver birch, oak and pine take away the bareness sometimes to be found on heathland courses and makes East Berkshire a golf course of beauty and one providing a restful, beautiful circuit which has found much favour with those who have played the course during the 100 years plus of its existence.

For the first few years, enthusiasm was high, and the Club flourished exceedingly, but some six years afterwards there was apparently a depression, and the records of the Club show that the Company which had been formed sold their land to Mr. Howard Palmer J.P., the head of the famous biscuit firm from Reading which bears his name.

But the change in ownership of the land proved a blessing indeed, for the new landlord granted a lease of the course to the Club on most advantageous terms, a lease which has since been renewed with the same generosity.

In fact, since Mr. Howard Palmer's interest in the Club, the family have retained their connections with it.

East Berks is not a long course, but it is still enough to give even the most adept player a testing round. Peter Paxton was the architect, and it can be deduced from his name that he came from Scotland, perhaps even from St. Andrews where there are families of that name. But it is not only by his name that one assumes he must have come from across the border, but more importantly because it can be seen that he made such good use of the several natural hazards, including the heather in his design.

In the old days, course architects were keen on cross hazards, of which the big bunkers at Brancaster and Westwards Ho are splendid examples. At East Berks, Mr. Paxton did not go in for that particular brand, but he cleverly made use of the heather, which has to be carried with the first and second shots on a number of occasions.

East Berks is a pleasant course situated within easy travelling distance of London. The Course Manager and his team of green staff keep it in first-rate condition, and visitors when they arrive are sure of a warm welcome from the Secretary and his staff.



## Membership information

The following information has been prepared for the guidance of those who might like to be considered for membership of the East Berkshire Golf Club.

The pack comprises of:

1. A brief history of the Club.
2. Notes for applicants.
3. Notes for sponsors.
4. An application form.
5. The sponsor's forms.

The completed application form, together with the sponsors' proposal forms in support of the application, should be sent to the Secretary at East Berkshire Golf Club, Ravenswood Avenue, Crowthorne, Berkshire RG45 6BD.

The membership fees applicable for the 2009 subscription year are as follows:

Category of membership	Entrance/Joining fee	Annual subscription
Full 7-day (Male)	£2000.00	£1050.00
Full 7-day (Female)	£2000.00	£998.00
5-day (Male)	£2000.00	£925.00
5-day (Female)	£2000.00	£879.00
Junior (10 to 18 yrs)	£100.00 each year	£230.00

### Notes to applicants

Two playing members of the Club must propose prospective new members, each of whom is over 21 years of age and have been a member for at least two years. Only one can be related to the applicant. They must be personally acquainted for at least two years and must take responsibility for verifying the overall eligibility of the applicant.

Alternatively applicants who are unable to nominate proposers (normally someone who is new to the area) may submit two letters as references, one from a previous golf club, or a recognised golfing society and one from another club or association. One referee must confirm that they have seen the information pack and can confirm the eligibility of the applicant.

All applications will be considered by the membership sub-committee who will give consideration to a number of factors including age, playing ability, place of residence and family connections with the Club. Applicants will be expected to attend an interview with Officers of the Club.

Applicants will be expected to have played the course on a number of occasions.

Whilst on the waiting list the applicant is expected to notify the Club each year, no later than early December, of their continued interest and of any changes that effect their application, especially their golfing experience.

There is a strict dress code for the Clubhouse and the Course, including the practice ground and these are:

#### Dress standards

Smart casual dress may be worn in all rooms of the Clubhouse except in the dining room after 7.00pm (Winter time 5.00pm) and Sunday lunches, when a jacket and tie must be worn. Shorts, providing they are of a tailored pattern and worn with knee length hose or short white ankle socks are acceptable on the course, but not in the Clubhouse after 5.30pm.

Collarless shirts are not permitted, shirts must be worn inside trousers.

Under no circumstances will the wearing of denim jeans, jackets and shirts or shoes known as trainers be permitted on the course or in the clubhouse. Golf shoes may not be worn in any club room except the locker room.

Ladies dress shall be defined by the Ladies Committee.

#### Mobile telephones

Mobile telephones, radios and other communication equipment may not be used on the course or in the clubhouse, except in the case of mobile telephones; members and visitors are encouraged to carry them (in the silent mode) for use in the event of a medical emergency.

#### Smoking

Is not permitted anywhere in the Clubhouse.



# APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

## 1. Personal details

Title: ..... First name(s): .....

Surname: ..... Known name: .....  
*(if not the first name above)*

Home address:  
.....  
.....

.....Post code: ..... Date.....

Tel. No: (home) .....Tel. No. (work) .....

Mobile no: .....

Email: .....

Age: ..... Date of birth: .....

Occupation: .....  
*(or previous occupation if retired)*

Company/Employer's name: .....

Address:  
.....  
.....Post code: .....

Tel. No.: .....

Has a member of your family ever been a member of East Berkshire Golf Club? If yes, please specify the relationship:

.....

**Proposed class of membership required** – please tick the appropriate box.

- Full 7-day
- 5-day
- Junior

**2. Golfing history**

Experience:

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Are you currently on any other golf club's waiting list? YES/NO

If yes, where?

.....

Are concurrently a member of a golf club? YES/NO

If yes, where?

.....

Will you retain that membership? YES/NO

If no, why are you leaving?

.....

What is your club or golfing society handicap?

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*(or the estimate of your ability)*

Have you paid green fees, or used or supported any facilities at East Berkshire Golf Club?

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Please list any golf clubs of which you are currently, or were a member?

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Please list any golfing societies of which you are a member?

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**3. Other interests**

Do you belong to any other sports or social clubs? If so, please give details:

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What are your hobbies/other activities?

.....  
.....

**4. Proposer's name (1):** .....

*I have read the notes for sponsors and I enclose a completed introduction form in support of the applicant in accordance with Club Rule – election of members*

Signature: ..... Date .....

**Proposer's name (2):** .....

*I have read the notes for sponsors and I enclose a completed introduction form in support of the applicant in accordance with Club Rule – election of members*

**On completion, please return your application form to:** the Secretary, East Berkshire Golf Club, Ravenswood Avenue, Crowthorne, Berkshire RG45 6BD.  
Tel: 01344 772041

<p><u>For office use only</u></p> <p>Date form received:</p> <p>Date details posted on the notice board:</p> <p>Date of interview:</p> <p>Date of meeting of Gen. Committee confirming membership:</p> <p>Date entrance fee/subs received:</p>
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