



The course that
Inspired Augusta

Course Risk Assessment

General Information

Introduction

This assessment addresses issues appertaining to the eighteen-hole golf course and the nine hole par three golf course (also known as the Piccolo Course) and does not consider any risks which may be present in or around the Clubhouse and Green Keepers compound. Risks associated with Green Keepers work duties are not considered within this assessment.

General Course Topography

The roughly 350 acre site is bounded by a variety of terrain including farmland, a housing estate, woodland and footpaths. There are two public footpaths running through the course.

There are a number of ponds and other water courses some of which play an integral part to some of the holes. The streams are generally shallow but can be deep and fast running during adverse weather and the pond alongside the 4th green is considered deep water.

The course would be described as hilly, moorland terrain with sloping fairways and some steep paths. there are some steep embankments especially close to the water courses on the 9th, 10th and 11th holes as well as behind the 16th green and the 5th/17th tee area.

Public Access

There are several public footpaths across and on the boundaries of the course.

Staff Working on the Course

At all times staff working on the course have priority and no golf shots shall be played if the staff are within range. This is noted on the scorecard given to every player and it is an accepted part of golf etiquette.

Use of Trolleys, Electric Trolleys and ride-on Buggies

Cavendish Golf Club Course Maintenance Policy Document states "use of trolleys, electric trolleys or buggies – this will be the responsibility of the Course Manager/General Manager or his representative, to check daily the course condition and decide whether or not trolleys and/or buggies are permitted. Any restrictions will be displayed on the home page of the Club website (daily) and on the notice board close to the 1st Tee.

Each buggy driver should be asked to read a list of buggy use instructions before being allowed to drive on the course.

Cavendish Golf Club maintains a separate Buggy Safety Policy.



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Reduced Visibility Weather Conditions

When foggy conditions prevail, the Course Manager, the Professional or his deputy will decide whether the course is safe to play. As a guide you should not tee off unless visibility is at least 250yds and the second copse of trees on the left side of the first fairway are clearly visible.

Any decision to suspend play/close the course will be reviewed every 30 minutes. When the fog clears to an acceptable distance, as previously stated, the course will be re-opened for play.

Lightning Policy

In event of lightening or threat of lightening the course will be closed by Course Manager, Professional or his deputy. The air-horn will be sounded once for the closure of the course. A sweep of the course will take place and all players will be told that they must immediately vacate the course; it is not an option to continue at your own risk.

Where there is not sufficient time to evacuate the course and there is a threat of lightning, you are advised to comply with the following procedure:-

1. Keep as low down as possible, seeking refuge in the nearest bunker or hollow.
2. Leave your golf equipment and stand away from it.
3. DO NOT shelter under trees or go to high ground.
4. Don't you use a mobile phone (switch it off).
5. Don't put your umbrella up in any circumstances.
6. Don't stand near a stream or pond.

Course may be re-opened by the Course Manager, Professional or his deputy by the sounding of the air-horn, once the risk of lightening has passed.

Paths

Where paths are available on the course all golfers, whether walking, using a trolley or buggy must use them.

Painted White Lines or G.U.R. (Ground Under Repair)

These are temporary white painted lines placed at various locations on the course. They are painted to ensure the safety of all golfers and to assist the greenkeepers to maintain vulnerable parts of the course. Under no circumstances must golfers with trolleys or buggies cross these lines.

Footwear

All golfers (members & visitors) must ensure they have golf shoes which are adequate & suitable for the ground/weather conditions on the day of play.



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Players Insurance

All golfers (Members & Visitors) are advised to take out adequate 3rd party insurance to provide cover for liability at law for damages payable in respect of:

1. Death or bodily injury.
2. Loss of damage to material property.

Safety Notices

Playing golf on uneven terrain & changeable ground/weather conditions carries inevitable risks. All players should be aware that a full risk assessment has been conducted and is available to be read via:

- The Club Website,
- The General Office,
- The Proshop
- The Men's Locker Room
- The Ladies Locker Room

All players must familiarise themselves with its content and remember that their own safety is first and foremost their responsibility.

Additionally, for players safety & for the protection of the course all signs must be adhered to. Cavendish Golf Club accepts no liability for any accident or damage caused by not following the safety notices & guidelines or signs and roped off areas whilst playing the course.

Responsibilities

The Course Manager, General Manager and Chairman are responsible for maintaining this Risk Assessment.

Overview of Risk Assessment Definitions

The risk assessment will address the following:

1. Generic risks whilst playing golf
2. Risks while carrying clubs and using motorised and pull trolleys in dry and wet conditions
3. General Hazards

When defining the location of a risk by reference to a particular hole this is ascertained by looking from the Tee to Green.

Publication of Risk Assessment

A copy of this full risk assessment is available in the following locations:-

1. Club Website
2. General Office
3. Proshop
4. Men's Changing rooms
5. Ladies' Changing rooms



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Generic Risks while playing golf.

Risk Description	Grade of Risk	Solution/Recommendation
Being Struck by a golf ball hit offline by a golfer playing on another part of the golf course	High	All players must remain alert at all times to the behaviour of nearby players. Players who have played an offline shot must immediately shout 'Fore' to alert all surrounding players that the shot has been struck.
Being Struck by a golf ball hit by a playing partner	High	Non-playing partner(s) must not advance in front of the shot being played. Players who have played a shot towards a playing partner(s) must immediately shout 'Fore' to alert all surrounding players that the shot has been struck.

Being Struck by a golf ball played by a golfer in the following group	Med	Following golfers must ensure that those in front have advanced further than they can hit their best shot.
Being struck by the swinging club of a playing partner	Med	Players must stand at least 2 metres away from the arc of the swinging club
Tripping on uneven, sloping or slippery ground	Med	Obvious tripping hazards should be removed by fellow golfers and green keeping staff. Sloping areas which become wet and are lacking in thick grass cover should be roped off by green keeping staff to prevent entry by players. Extra care should be taken by all golfers
Tripping over a fellow golfers' playing equipment, trolley or motorised buggy.	Low	Care should be taken by all golfers on the course.



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Most of the bunkers on the 18-hole course are surrounded by steeply sloping sides. These slopes when wet are particularly Slippery.	High	When entering/exiting bunkers to play/after playing a shot, entry and exit should be from the shallowest edge of the bunker. Trolleys (whether motorised or not) and motorised buggies must not be taken within 5m of any of these slopes in dry or wet conditions.
Many of the teeing areas are surrounded by steep or medium sloping ground.	Med-High	Trolleys & Motorised buggies are not to be taken onto these slopes in dry or wet conditions.
Throughout the courses there are steep and medium slopes which must be treated with care particularly during wet conditions. Specific slopes are dealt with as part of the hole by hole assessment	Med-High	All golfers should ensure they have golf shoes which are adequate and suitable for the ground/weather conditions on the day of play.
Ponds/water courses: There are several ponds/streams on the course. These are mentioned in the hole by hole risk assessment.	High	All players should not walk inside the line of the hazard posts. If entering the sloping area at the pond/stream edge (only on foot and without trolleys) then extreme caution/care must be taken not to slip into the water. A warning notice of deep water to be placed in a clear visible location at the pond edge. All trolleys/buggies must be left at least 3 metres from the pond.

Using Motorised Buggies in Wet Conditions

If the Course Manager considers that the use of motorised buggies is likely to endanger drivers, passengers, and other players or it is detrimental to the course, then he will inform the Proshop that buggies are not permitted until further notice is given. The Proshop staff will post notices on the website and on the blackboard informing members and visitors that there are 'no buggies allowed'. If the Course Manager is absent from work then this responsibilities will pass to his deputy.

Risk – High from buggies skidding uncontrollably or overturning, causing injury to drivers, passengers and walking players.

Solution – Banning the use until conditions are suitable.



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General Hazards on the Course.

This information identifies the main hazards that members and visitors may encounter while practising or walking the course. It does not contain a definitive list of hazards, adverse weather, human and animal activity can create new hazards. It is impossible to eliminate risk entirely but the reading of this information will help reduce the risk to yourself and others. The course may be closed by management if and when it deems necessary to reduce the risk to members and others.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you adhere strictly to the following

1. Be aware and adopt golfing etiquette by not playing a shot when others are in range, if a mistake is made in judgement of distance or direction shout "**FORE**"!
2. Be aware of the behaviour and location of other golfers and members of the public.
3. Be aware of your fellow competitors or partner, do not walk in front of them as they play a shot or stand too close to the back swing.
4. Be aware of greenkeeper activity; give them time to move to safety before playing your shot, if they have not noticed you attract their attention as best you can.
5. Most holes will have a certain degree of risk regarding ball contact with others with a badly miss hit shot, many of our holes run parallel. If unsure where your ball is going to land but you feel some may be at risk shout a precautionary "**FORE**". Extra caution should be given when playing the following holes:-

Specific Hazards by Hole Number

Hole 2 - the footpath behind the green is well used. Do not hit your approach shot unless you can see it is clear.

Hole 4 - the footpath/road behind the green is well used. Do not hit your tee shot unless you can see it is clear.

Hole 5 - beware of pedestrians and traffic on the footpath/road

Hole 8 - this is a blind tee-shot so ensure that the group in front are clear before teeing off.

Hole 9 – beware of the footpath between the tee and the green. There is a bell for users to ring. If you hear the bell, you must not tee off

Hole 10 – beware of the footpath crossing the 10th fairway. You must not tee off if anybody is crossing the fairway

Hole 11 – beware of the out of bounds along the entire right side of the hole. There is housing close to the course boundary. If you strike a ball that you think has gone beyond the boundary of the course you must report the incident to the Proshop either immediately by phone (01298 79708) or immediately on finishing your round.

Hole 14 – Beware of people using the footpath immediately in front of the tee. Also, the wall bordering the left of the 14th fairway is unstable and must not be climbed on or over

Hole 15 - the footpath/road behind the green is well used. Do not hit your tee shot unless you can see it is clear.

Hole 16 - the footpath/road to the right of the fairway is well used. Do not hit your tee shot or approach to the green unless you can see it is clear.

Cavendish Golf Club Ltd

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Hole 17 - beware of the footpath/road between the tee and the green. There is a bell for users to ring. If you hear the bell, you must not tee off

Hole 18 – beware of the footpath/road in front of the tee and along the right of the fairway. When teeing off or hitting an approach shot you must ensure this is clear. Also, when hitting an approach to the 18th green beware of the clubhouse veranda. A playing partner should be in position to judge the flight of your shot and to shout "**FORE**" should a shot be heading towards the clubhouse. Be aware of anybody who may be on the putting green and on the bank in front of the veranda and if in doubt shout "**FORE**"

Ponds, Streams & Ditches

Treat all banks and the edges of the pond, streams and ditches as potentially wet and slippery and proceed with caution. Motorised buggies and electric carts should be kept clear of these hazards and kept at least 5-10 Metres away from the edge. Treat all ponds and streams as deep water and never walk across them when they are frozen.

Do not attempt to retrieve balls from the pond and streams especially in wet conditions, unless you have the necessary equipment and can maintain a safe distance from the banks.

Hazards associated with Ponds, Streams & Ditches

Hole 4 - has a pond to the left and fast flowing stream in front of the green. There is a ditch at the back. Do not enter the pond under any circumstances and beware of slippery banks if retrieving a ball from the stream or ditch.

Hole 5 – has a ditch/stream on the right hand side. Beware of slippery banks if retrieving a ball from the stream or ditch.

Hole 7 – has a ditch to the right of the fairway and running across the fairway. Beware of slippery banks if retrieving a ball from the ditch.

Hole 9 – has a stream in front of the green. Beware of slippery banks if retrieving a ball from the stream.

Hole 10 – has a fast flowing stream in front of the green with steep sides. Beware of slippery banks if retrieving a ball from the stream. Special care must be taken if attempting to play your ball from the penalty area where slipping or losing your footing could result in a serious accident

Hole 11 - has a fast flowing stream in front of the green with steep sides. Beware of slippery banks if retrieving a ball from the stream. Special care must be taken if attempting to play your ball from the penalty area where slipping or losing your footing could result in a serious accident. The left side of the 11th is a steep bank and **ALL** players are advised not to enter the penalty area. A fall here could result in serious injury.

Hazards associated with Slopes & Banks

- Only wear correct golfing footwear on the course and ensure that the spikes/dimples are adequate for the conditions. If in doubt, speak to the Proshop.
- Caution should be taken when going up or down steep inclines, especially when using golf buggies and or trolleys. When conditions are difficult under foot, consider:
 - Do you need to take the route you are taking?
 - Is it necessary to take your trolley or golf buggy up the slope to play your shot?

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- Avoid hard breaking especially when there are ditches, streams, lakes or steep slopes in front of you.
- Enter and exit bunkers from the lowest point (remember to rake the bunker after you).
- Follow all signs and do not take buggies into roped off areas or past signs that state 'no buggies beyond this point'

Hazards associated with Trees

Branches/trees we consider to be dangerous are removed when conditions allow, unfortunately branches can fall unexpectedly due to disease, decay, and wind or leaf weight. During windy weather we advise caution in areas where there is tree cover

Hazards associated with Animal Damage

Please be aware that animals are often busy creating holes and mounds that can cause sprained ankles or worse.

Hazards associated with Oral Contact

Avoid oral contact with anything that comes into contact with the course, especially when "Caution Spraying" signs are out. Fertilisers, chemicals, and animal/human waste can be found on the course.

Hazards associated with Dead Animals

Please avoid contact with dead wildlife on the course. Please report any such findings to a member of staff who will deal with it accordingly.

Hazards associated with Adverse Weather

You are advised to take additional care when moving around the course in wet, cold, icy or windy weather. During hot weather stay hydrated (bottled drinks are available from the bar, the Proshop and buggy bar), wear a hat and use sun cream.

During most adverse weather conditions it is left to the player to make the decision to continue playing. Players must accept responsibility for their safety.

On occasions when the weather is particularly bad and it is decided that the course is either unfit or dangerous, play will be suspended and you must leave the course for your own safety. If you hear a long blast on the air horn you must make your way back to the clubhouse IMMEDIATELY.

Accidents, Noticed Dangers and Hazards

Please report accidents to the Proshop where a First Aid Kit can be located. There is also a First Aid Kit in the bar, the office and the kitchen and a defibrillator is located on the veranda by the steps to the 18th green.

If anything dangerous is noticed, such as an unsafe branch, rabbit hole, wasp nest, subsidence, etc. these should also be reported to the Proshop as soon as possible.



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Any player hitting a ball beyond the boundaries of the course or onto the veranda must report the incident to the Proshop.

Any altercations with members of the public on the golf course must be reported to the Proshop.

RA Completed Sept 2021 by Terry Hayward, Club Chairman

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