



March GOLF CLUB

Golf Course Health & Safety Information 2013

This information identifies the main hazards that members and visitors to March Golf Club may encounter while playing, practising or walking the course.

It does not contain a definitive list of hazards, as by the very nature of the game of golf, it is impossible to eliminate risk entirely.

ALL accidents and incidents MUST be reported to the secretary, so that the appropriate documentation may be completed.

Emergency services: 999

Our address is: Frogs Abbey Grange Rd March, Cambridgeshire PE15 0YH

Clubhouse: 01354 652364

Pro's Shop: 01354 657255

March Police Station: 101

Peterborough District Hospital: (01733) 678000

March Golf Club is set in the Fens so don't expect idyllic scenery but there are several species of woodpecker and the odd pheasant that roams around the 9th green. All wildlife has no respect for health and safety rules and like many other golf courses there are always dangers associated with animal burrows, ditches and slippery banks. Persons playing or walking on the course do so AT THEIR OWN RISK and must not do anything to jeopardize the safety of themselves or others.

All players are expected to adopt good standards of golfing etiquette by not playing a golf shot if there is the remotest chance of injuring someone, or by walking in front of a fellow competitor or partner prior to them playing a shot.

The First Aider is: (TBA)

Head Green Keeper: Malcolm Hicks

Greens Staff: Geoff Oldham assisted by Maurice Wiles and Fred Gordon

Steward: Peter Barnes

A copy of the club's Health and Safety Policy is posted in the foyer.

ARRIVING AND LEAVING THE CLUB

Please be careful as you enter and leave the Club as there is a speed restriction of 10mph.

The club operates a one way system in the car park. Members and visitors are asked to respect this system. The exit gate is a particular hazard because there are blind spots on the road.

COURSE RISK ASSESSMENT STATEMENT

The Golf Course Risk Assessment has been carried out on a hole-by-hole basis. To help minimise the risks from the hazards that have been identified it is your responsibility as a golfer, caddie or spectator on the course to ensure that you adhere strictly to the following:

You are advised to exercise caution at all times on the course in respect of identifying areas where you may be at potential risk of being hit by another golfer's ball or where you can hit players by a wayward tee shot, especially on those holes where parallel fairways are played in opposing directions. Particular care should be taken on the 2nd, 3rd, 7th, 8th, 11th, 12th, 16th and 17th holes.

Care should also be taken when:

- taking your approach shot to the 3rd, 5th, 12th and 14th green as the teeing area for the next hole is immediately behind the green.
- teeing up on the 6th, 9th, 15th and 18th as these greens are shared.
- teeing up on the 5th and 14th as those playing the 9th and 18th tee are at risk of being hit by a sliced drive and persons playing the 4th and 13th green are in danger of being hit even though you have priority.
- Teeing up on the 9th and 18th as balls hit over the right hand hedge can come into contact with those teeing up on the 7th and 16th tee.

March Golf Course has a public rights of way sharing our land. Please remember that **USERS OF THE PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY HAVE PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES**. If there are people in range of your shot take a minute to enjoy the scenery and wildlife until they are out of range. The map below identifies the route of this right of way.



If a miss hit shot is heading in the direction of other people, you must shout “FORE!” in a loud voice to alert them of possible danger. If “FORE!” is heard when playing, please take evasive action if possible.

Players should not strike a golf ball when there is the risk of endangering other players, members of the Green Staff, contractors and all other users of the golf course & its surroundings.

Animal Holes: March Golf Club endeavours to fill in holes created by animals. However it is inevitable that there will be rabbit holes that can lead to sprained ankles or worse. This is possible on all parts of the course.

Buggies: March Golf Club allows the use of motorised ride-on buggies but only by prior application to the Secretary. All buggies must be operated in accordance with our Golf Buggy Safety Policy (available on request).

Fertiliser and Insecticides etc: Do not lick golf balls or fingers. A notice on the 1st Tee will advise of days that chemicals have been used. Players are advised to take heed of the warnings and protect themselves.

Footwear: March Golf Club recommend that golf shoes are worn on the golf course as they help with avoiding slips; they also help your golf! However, suitable trainers can be worn for those taking up the beautiful game, but be aware that will invariably mean that those wearing this type of footwear will have a greater risk of slipping or sliding in wet conditions.

Greenkeepers: The greens staff are regularly working on the Course when golf is in progress. Please be careful and courteous to them and ensure that they are aware of and have acknowledged your presence prior to playing in their proximity.

Insurance: March Golf Club provides liability insurance to their members. This insurance is also extended to green fee paying visitors. However, all golfers must ensure that they are adequately insured in respect of the risks involved with the playing of golf. If certain parts of the course are closed for essential maintenance and members insist on playing these areas the clubs insurance will not cover any injuries or damage incurred.

Out of Bounds: Balls below ground level on the boundary of the course are deemed to be out of bounds. If you hit your ball into the field to the left of the 4th and 13th they must not be retrieved. Any balls hit over the hedge to the right of the 9th and 18th

Practising: This is strictly limited to the Designated Practice Area of the Club. There is a notice located at the entrance to the practice area detailing the correct usage of the practice facilities. To ensure the safety of all users of the practice area, as well as other golfers and members of the public, these instructions must be adhered to.

Wildlife: Players should be aware that there is a potential threat from wildlife such as wasps, bees and other biting insects on the course.

Slips, Trips and Falls: Special care must be taken to avoid trips, slips and falls when standing on, or walking near, banks/slopes, as these are considered to be some of the most hazardous areas of the course, particularly during or immediately after adverse weather conditions

Contractors: During certain times of the year grounds contractors will come onto the course to maintain it in good condition. During these times it will be necessary to close certain parts of the course for short periods (normally a fairway at a time). All players are required to abide by the closure signs for the safety of the contractors and players. The club's insurance will not cover any play in these areas during times when contractors on behalf of the club and its members have closed certain fairways for essential maintenance to occur.

Inclement Weather:

Darkness, rain, fog and ice: During inclement weather, the fact that the course has not been officially closed does not warrant that it is fit for play. Therefore, members and visitors should themselves determine whether they consider it safe to play. Players have a duty of care to behave in such a way that others may not be injured by their actions. They also have a duty of care to ensure that they do not injure themselves. All players play at their own risk and should do nothing to jeopardise the safety of themselves or others.

Lightning: It is the player's own responsibility to discontinue play when, in his/her opinion, a danger from lightning exists. In the event that a player is out on the golf course when lightning is about then the following safety considerations are advised:

1. KEEP AS LOW AS POSSIBLE AND IDEALLY CROUCH DOWN IN THE NEAREST BUNKER/HOLLOW
2. LEAVE YOUR GOLF EQUIPMENT WHERE IT IS AND STAND AWAY FROM IT.
3. DO NOT USE A MOBILE PHONE – MAKE SURE IT IS SWITCHED OFF
4. DO NOT PUT AN UMBRELLA UP UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES

However, if the Horn sounds, the instructions below **MUST** be followed:

1. Three short blasts - it is mandatory that you leave the course. For more details please make yourself aware of the club Klaxon Policy.
2. If the Horn has not sounded and a player believes there is a real danger by proceeding, he/she is entitled to discontinue play under Rule 6-8 (A)(ii)
3. Depending on the wind conditions on the day some members/players may not hear the horn. Please look around you and make sure that everyone is leaving the course for their own safety.

The following persons have authority for blowing the horn to cease play. In order of priority they are:

The Club Professional
The Competition Secretary
Club Captain
Lady Captain
Club Steward
Any member of the Management Committee
Chairman

Development and Review

To help with the review process of our safety procedures all Members, Guests and Visitors are kindly requested to bring to the attention of the Secretary any incidents that happen on the golf course, or hazards they feel have not been addressed in this guidance.