

Beverley & East Riding Golf Club

Course Guide Audio Commentary

Welcome to the Beverley & East Riding Golf Club course guide. We have selected just thirteen of our eighteen holes to give you a flavour of our delightful old course.

As you stand on the first tee you are about to play one of Yorkshire's oldest and most natural golf courses, renowned for the quality of its greens. Look around you, the only hole in evidence is the one you are about to play – that scenario is typical of Beverley, only the thirteenth and fourteenth fairways adjoin, all others meander across open pasture land which, combined with fenced greens, provides a very different golfing experience.

1st
The first hole is a slight dogleg right, 336-yard par four. A drive favouring the left-hand side of the fairway opens up the green although it also creates a slightly longer second shot. Choose the shorter line up the right hand side of the fairway and the carefully placed bunker guarding the green comes very much into play. As with many of Beverley's holes accuracy is the key.

3rd
The third hole "Mill Vale" is our longest – at 565 yards this downhill par five is, with a favouring wind, reachable in two for the big hitters. The fairway, free of bunkers, should cause you little problem, it's when you approach the green that caution should be exercised. There are deep bunkers both left and right of the green, you may not see them from the fairway but they are most certainly there. When you reach the putting surface study the lay of the land it is deceptive, putts that you think are downhill go nowhere whilst those believed to be uphill seem to run forever.

5th
At only 323 yards the fifth hole should not be a problem yet this 90-degree dogleg left can be a card destroyer. The fairway slopes quite steeply from left to right carrying a running ball away from the green. The old racehorse-training gallop, known as the Tan Gallop, runs along the left-hand side of the hole, over that gallop is out of bounds. A shot must be pulled a long way left to go out of bounds from the tee but up at the green it is a very different story. The Tan Gallop runs only paces from the left hand edge of the green, and with a tree filled quarry being only yards from the right hand edge, accuracy of second shot on this hole is not just advisable it is essential.

6th
The 6th hole is our signature hole, a beautiful 179-yard par three. Tee off over the tree filled quarry to a green some fifty feet below. Very straight forward, very simple – but pay attention to the wind, your tee shot needs to carry the quarry, some days this hole may only require an eight iron whilst on others it may be as much as a driver.

7th
The 402-yard dogleg right par four seventh is, as it's stroke index of one suggests, not the easiest of holes to score on. The tree filled lime workings you drove over on the sixth are only too ready to collect a sliced drive on the 7th. When it comes to the approach shot a ball pulled left could be on the road, and therefore out of bounds, whereas an approach shot leaked out to the right may result in a fiendishly difficult downhill chip onto a green sloping away from you. Walk away from the 7th with a par and you can be rightfully proud of yourself.

8th
Eighth hole - 173 yard par three. The road to the left of the green is out of bounds but there is plenty of lea way, it is not a tight boundary. Chip shots from either side of the green can be tricky so just take the easy way out - hit your tee shot onto the green, sink the putt and walk off with a birdie wondering what all the fuss was about.

9th

The ninth hole is a 363-yard par four which plays every inch of its length. After teeing off over a shallow valley onto an uphill fairway club selection for the second shot needs some thought. My advice is to take the club you first thought of and add at least one. The green is sloping and well contoured so care in putting is required. A very straightforward hole that should give up a lot more pars than it actually does.

12th.

12th hole – dogleg left 318 yard par four. A steady drive to the corner of the fairway leaves only a short to medium iron to the green. If you want to take the tiger line and cut the corner it is there to be done - but be warned if you don't make the carry then the rough, especially in summer, can be very punishing. The green, surrounded by hummocks, is undulating and demanding of your full attention.

13th.

The tee for the 305 yard par four 13th is set on one side of a valley whilst the green sits proudly on the other. For the high handicapper the tee shot, over a small copse, can be a little daunting but the carry is not great. A steeply uphill fairway leads you to an equally uphill green. As with the 9th hole the second shot always plays longer than it looks. When it comes to putting my advice is to leave yourself an uphill putt, downhill ones may not rival Augusta but they can frighten most mere mortals.

14th.

Playing back across the valley the 337 yard par four 14th is a superb golf hole. A well-struck drive will land in the bottom of the valley leaving a short to mid-iron to the green. The green itself is raised which means a decision has to be made – do you try to fly it all the way, do you run it up the bank or do you run it in through the narrow entrance causeway? A lovely hole for the shot makers.

16th.

The 189 yard par three 16th is a simple enough hole. Tee off over the gorse bushes, avoid the bunker, land on the green and sink the putt – what could be simpler – what do you mean you just got a five, you must try harder!

17th.

One of the most difficult driving holes on the course the 329-yard par four 17th demands accuracy off the tee. Pull the ball left and a combination of gorse bushes and small copses eagerly await. Leak the ball off to the right and another copse beckons. Survive the drive and things get easier with only one small bunker guarding a relatively benign green. Hit the fairway on this hole and your troubles should be few.

18th.

The 18th sports the largest and most heavily bunkered green on the course. At 139 yards it is not a long par three but the position of the flag, and the direction of the wind, can make a considerable difference to which club needs to be chosen for the tee shot. The front of the green slopes uphill so, once again, the hole plays longer than it looks. If you do go in any of the bunkers on this hole then you owe the Captain's charity 20p – the collection jar is on the bar.

The Beverley course is not a monster but is best described as subtle. It is the sort of course you leave having dropped two shots to your handicap without knowing why. Small greens require accurate approach shots, achieve these and you will score well. Beverley is certainly very different to the manicured up and down courses many of us are used to these days. One American visitor described it as "golf as our ancestors played it". In many ways that sums up the unspoiled natural character of the Beverley course, please come and experience it for yourself you will not be disappointed.