

Donnington Grove
Golf Course Risk Management Overview

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1	Introduction
This document considers issues relating to Donnington Grove golf course, (18 Holes) . Also, any risks that may be present around the clubhouse including the driveway, car park, waterside area, and practice area.	

2	General Course Topography
The Estate and surrounding Golf Course are of a Parkland type, with many undulations and slopes. With some 30 meters difference in elevation from the highest point on the course (6th hole) to the lowest point (10th fairway). The soil composition of the Estate and course is mainly that of "Blue Clay" so as such can be prone to slippery surfaces during wetter periods. The site has many ponds within its boundaries and a "live" water course that runs through the estate including the Kennet River. There are some occasionally steep inclines within the golf course extending over short distances. Drainage ditches also feature on the courses which have intermittent water depending on conditions.	

3	Public Access
All Members, Staff, Visitors, Contractors and delivery vehicles pass through a "Shared Drive" to enter the Golf Club this drive has Vehicle Calming measures and a maximum speed of 10MPH Priority must be given to Pedestrians on the drive. The Carpark is also maximum speed of 10MPH with Priority to Pedestrians. There are Public Footpaths that run along part of the shared drive of the Golf Course access, running along the 13th, running alongside the 10th/9th, the shared drive also crosses the 12th and 11th holes. The Greenkeepers and any vehicle travelling on this road have Priority, Golfers must give courtesy and let them pass.	

4	Staff/Contractors Working on the Course
Staff/Contractors working on the course have priority at all times and golfers should not play shots if individuals are within range or at obvious risk of being struck by a golf ball.	
5	Adverse Weather Conditions
In the event of extreme weather episodes, the management Team i.e., Course Manager (or his/her Deputy in their absence) will close and open the Course at their discretion after course inspections have taken place. No play should commence/continue until this inspection has taken place. Buggies and Trolleys use are at the Discretion of the Clubhouse Manager (or his/her Deputy in their absence) Any visitor bringing their own buggy should be asked to provide a copy of an insurance certificate providing 3rd party public liability before using the buggy on the course. Fog Closure/opening are at the Discretion of the Clubhouse Manager (or his/her Deputy)	
6	Lightning
In the event of Lightning or the imminent threat of lightning the course will be closed by the Clubhouse manager (or his/her Deputy in their absence. The air horn will be sounded by several long blasts, signalling that the course is closed. Continuing to play at Golfer discretion is not an option. Where there is insufficient time to evacuate the course and there is a threat of lightning, Golfers and others on the course are advised to comply with the following: • keep as low down as possible, seek refuge in the nearest bunker or hollow. • leave golf equipment and stand at a distance from this. • DO NOT shelter under trees or go to high ground. • Switch off your mobile phone and do not use it. • DO NOT put up your umbrella • DO NOT stand close to any stream or pond. The Course will be reopened by the Club Manager (or by his/her deputy in their absence)	
7	Painted Lines GUR and Temporary Signs and Rope
Where the Course manager (or his/her) representative have marked up areas for the protection of golfers and to assist the greens staff in maintaining or repairing damaged or vulnerable areas of the course. Golfers with buggies and trolleys must remain outside these lines.	

8	Footwear
All golfers must ensure they are wearing golf shoes that are adequate and suitable for the ground and weather conditions on the day of play.	

9	Safety notices/recommendations
All users of the golf course should be made aware of the full risk assessment which is available to be read/QR Scanned/in the following locations: • Club website • General office • Pro Shop Please Take Time to Familiarise Yourself With its Content. Donnington Grove wants everyone to enjoy their round of golf but accepts no liability for any accident or damage caused by not following the safety notices and guidelines whilst playing the course.	

10	Responsibilities
Maintaining Risk Assessments is the responsibility of the Clubhouse Manager, assisted by the Course Manager.	

11	Overview of Risk Assessments definitions
The risk assessment will address the following: • Generic risks whilst playing golf • Risks from carrying clubs and using pull and motorised trolleys in dry and wet conditions • General hazards within the golf course	

12	Generic Risks Whilst Playing Golf

Risk	Being struck by a golf ball hit offline by a golfer elsewhere on the course.
Recommendation	All players must remain alert at all times. Players who have played an offline shot must immediately shout "Fore" to alert surrounding players/staff the shot has been struck

Risk	Being struck by a golf ball hit by a playing partner
Recommendation	Non-playing partners must not advance in front of the shot being played, without watching the shot being played. Players who have played a shot towards a playing partner(s) must immediately shout "Fore" to alert all surrounding players the shot has been struck

Risk	Being struck by a golfer in the following group
Recommendation	Following Golfers must ensure that those in front have advanced further than they can hit their best shot.

Risk	Being Struck by the swinging club of a playing partner
Recommendation	Players to stand at least 2m from the arc of the swinging

Risk	Tripping on natural terrain - uneven sloping, or slippery ground.
Recommendation	Obvious tripping hazards should be removed by fellow golfers. Most obvious wet laying slopes to be roped off. Extra care should be taken by all golfers and visitors encountering these conditions, to self-assess the safest way to proceed i.e., walk a slightly longer route if the slope is less steep, including ensuring they are wearing appropriate footwear.

Risk	Slipping when on natural terrain of the course such as sloping ground, especially when ground conditions are wet
Recommendation	Enter and exit the bunkers from the shallowest Side/steps wherever possible. Do not go down riverbanks in wet conditions. Trolleys and buggies must be kept at least 5 meters from such slopes in all conditions.

Risk	Natural terrain and slopes on the sides of tee boxes may become slippery when wet.
Recommendation	Use steps if provided for the individual tee box.

Risk	Natural terrain of the golf course including slopes within the course may become slippery when wet
Recommendation	Treat all slopes with extreme care particularly when wet. Always self-assess for the safest way to navigate slopes if ropes are in place do not step over them. Ensure Golf shoes are adequately spiked and suitable for the ground conditions on the day of play

Risk	Ponds/streams marked by Hazard posts/paint. (see Hole by Hole analysis)
Recommendation	Players should remain outside the line of the hazard. Only enter the marked area on foot and with extreme caution to avoid slipping into the water. Keep all trolleys and buggies 5 meters from the edges of hazards.

Using Buggies in wet conditions	
If the Clubhouse manager or his/her representative considers that the course conditions are too wet to safely operate motorised buggies without damaging the course (liaise with Course Manager or his/her representative) and risking damage to buggies / users, the Club website will be amended to state that buggies are off (i.e., not to be used).	

Risk	High level from buggies skidding uncontrollably or overturning, causing injury to drivers, passengers, and others, as well as damage to the course
Recommendation	Use of buggies will be banned until course condition improves.

Risk	Inexperienced drivers of the buggies
Recommendation	Drivers must be 18 years of age or over.

Risk	Driving vehicles when intoxicated (drink/drugs)
Recommendation	Driving when intoxicated is strictly prohibited. Golfers will not be permitted to access a buggy if intoxicated.

Risk	Injury/incident in/on shared driveway/entrance and carpark
Recommendation	Maximum speed 5 MPH

Risk	Deep water at the Driving Range
Recommendation	Stay 1 meter back from unprotected Water. Always supervise Children and the vulnerable.

General Hazards Present on Or Near the Golf Course	
The information below identifies the main hazards that members and visitors may encounter when playing, practicing on, or walking the golf course. This is not a comprehensive list as adverse weather and unforeseen human, or other actions may create new and unforeseen hazards. Being aware of this information will reduce the risk to yourself and others. The Golf Club Management may deem it necessary to close the course if risks to members and the public are considered excessive.	

All Golfers must adhere to the following: 1. Be aware of and adopt golfing etiquette, do not play a shot when others are in range; if an error of judgement is made in terms of distance or direction, shout "FORE"! 2. Be aware of the behaviour and location of other golfers and members of the public, particularly on holes running alongside the public footpath SR526 and the access roads on site. There could be increased use of this path by members of the public who may not be aware of the dangers of being hit by a golf ball or may be moving quickly (cycling) and therefore harder to spot when teeing off. 3. Be aware of your playing partners, do not walk in front of them when they are playing a shot, or stand in range of the arc of their golf club. 4. Be aware of Greenkeepers/Contractors when they are working on the course, give them time to move away before playing a shot. If they are unaware of your presence, attract their attention as best you can (noting they may be wearing ear defenders so may not hear you easily). 5. Many holes on the golf course run in parallel, if unsure where your ball will finish shout "FORE"! as a precaution. See also the hole-by-hole notes for more information. Hazards associated with Ponds, Streams, and Ditches All banks and edges of ponds, streams and ditches should be treated as potentially slippery, and caution taken when negotiating these. Do not step onto frozen ice. Keep motorised buggies and trollies clear of hazards and at least 5m from the edges of these.

Hazards associated with trees on the Golf Course Many of the older trees on the golf course contain a lot of dead wood and may shed branches at any time, particularly in strong winds. Avoid walking close to trees in windy weather as branches can fall unexpectedly.
Hazards associated with animal damage Rabbits and other animals can dig holes in areas of the golf course, be aware of the risk of stepping into a hole, particularly in areas of long grass; this may result in sprained or broken limbs.
Hazards associated with chemicals used on the course Avoid oral contact with anything that has come into contact with the golf course, especially if signs "Caution Spraying" are in place. The golf course will at times have traces of fertiliser, fungicides/herbicides, and other chemicals, as well as animal waste.
Hazards associated with dead animals Any dead animals found on the course should not be handled but reported to a member of staff, who will take action to address this.
Hazards associated with extreme weather events Additional care is required when moving round the golf course in wet, cold, or icy conditions. During hot weather, ensure you remain well hydrated by having a bottled drink with you, wear a hat and apply sunscreen. Players must take responsibility for their own safety on the course when it is open for play.
Hazards associated with slopes and banks Wear the correct footwear on the course, having regard for the weather / ground conditions. Take care when going up or down slopes; use steps where these are provided; avoid taking buggies and trollies up or down steep slopes, especially if an alternative route is available. Do not brake suddenly when driving buggies on slopes, especially in wet conditions. Enter and exit bunkers from low points.
Practicing This is limited to the driving range, and the two short game areas to the front of the main building

Golf hole by hole analysis
Abbreviations: OOB – out of bounds R/H/S – Right hand side L/H/S – Left hand side F/way – Fairway
1st Hole
OOB L/H/S of the Hole Risk of wayward Shots played from the 9th. Sloping ground around R/H/S of Fairway and Green be careful in wet slippery conditions
2nd Hole
Sloping ground around Green be careful in wet slippery conditions Risk of hitting 8th green R/H/S of fairway Risk of hitting 3rd Tee left of green
3rd Hole
Risk of wayward shots hitting either 2nd or 4th Fairways Sloping ground around Green/Tee be careful in wet slippery conditions
4th Hole
O/O/B L/H/S Risk of wayward shot hitting players R/H/S on the 3rd Hole and 5th Green Sloping ground around Tee boxes be careful in wet slippery conditions
5th Hole
Open ditch running from Left to Right in front of Green 100 meters from Tee Box Cross open drain at bridge, Caution bridges maybe slippery when wet Risk of hitting Tee Box (6th) hitting long into the Green Moderate slopes around Green Take care when wet.
6th Hole
Sloping ground around Tee boxes be careful in wet slippery conditions Water hazard to R/H/S of the hole Lifebuoy on lake edge. Steep drop to water course area please stay clear of these drops.
7th Hole
Risk of wayward shot hitting players on the 8th Tee Box Hole L/H/S Sloping ground around L/H/S of Green be careful in wet slippery conditions
8th Hole

Sloping ground all Fairway and around Green be careful in wet slippery conditions Risk of wayward shot hitting 2nd Fairway R/H/S of green
9th Hole
Risk of wayward shot hitting players R/H/S on the 1st Hole Risk of wayward shot hitting players R/H/S on the 1st Tee playing long into the Green O/O/B and path L/H/S of fairway and green Access road runs down L/H/S of hole. Public Footpath runs L/H/S within the tree line
10th Hole
Risk of wayward shot hitting players R/H/S 18th Hole Risk of hitting Tee box (11th) hitting long into Green Ditch to L/H/S be careful in this area (marked as hazard) Water hazard L/H/S near Green Public Footpath runs adjacent to the hole risk of wayward shot hitting Footpath (please shout "Fore" if your shot heads in that direction) Sloping ground around Green be careful in wet slippery conditions
11th Hole
O/O/B R/H/S of the hole Sloping ground around Green/Tee be careful in wet slippery conditions Public footpath and shared drive runs across hole Risk of wayward shot hitting footpath (please shout "Fore" if your shot heads in that direction) Risk of wayward shot hitting players R/H/S 12th Hole Water hazard (pond) L/H/S near green Cross water hazard at bridge, Caution bridges maybe slippery when wet Water hazard (stream) runs all along hole within the tree line
12th Hole
Risk of wayward shot hitting players R/H/S 11th Hole Please ensure Players are clear of the Green before taking your shot. Shared Drive runs across from L/H/S of this Hole please ensure that it is clear before taking your shot.
13th Hole
Public Footpath L/H/S of hole Risk of a wayward shot hitting players R/H/S 16th hole and 17th hole. (please shout "Fore" if your shot heads in that direction) Sloping ground/Steep Drops around Green/Tee be careful in wet slippery conditions
14th Hole
Risk of wayward shot hitting players R/H/S 15th Hole Steep slopes around Green to exit the Hole Please take the flattest route possible and show extreme caution in wet and slippery conditions. Pond R/H/S of the hole please be careful in these areas.
15th Hole

Steep slope around green please take extra care when walking on these especially in wet and slippery conditions.
16th Hole
Risk of wayward shot hitting players R/H/S 13 th hole and L/H/S 18 th Tee Box
17th Hole
Risk of wayward shot hitting players R/H/S 10 th Hole Steep slopes on Tee Boxes, Green please take care in all areas especially in wet and slippery conditions.
18th Hole
Risk of a wayward shot hitting 10 th in front of Tee Box (please shout "Fore" if your shot heads in that direction) O/O/B behind green Pond to right of green life buoy at rear