

# Courses

Edited by **Jeremy Ellwood and Rob Smith**



## Prestbury

**T**ake the mighty links of the Wirral out of the equation and many golfers would rank the fine course at Prestbury among the top three in Cheshire.

The club, which reached its centenary milestone in the difficult year that was 2020, plays over a wonderfully

varied yet relatively compact layout, which makes excellent use of a number of eye-catching changes in elevation. The reasonably accommodating par-5 opener drops down before rising to the green, while the steeply downhill par-3 4th plays from a tee you must scale via steps aplenty.

Although best described as parkland/woodland terrain, there is more than a hint of a heathland feel trying to get out in places, with Prestbury's sandy soil ensuring it is one of the best-draining courses in the area.

From the 8th, the course plays around the course's extremities in an

anti-clockwise direction, until making a deviation after the delightful 12th. A look at Google Maps tells you houses lie close to those extremities throughout, but you are often blissfully unaware of this as you make your way round.

### History

Harry Colt was the man tasked with creating the course back in 1920, and as ever, the master designer made excellent use of the natural terrain, picking out some excellent green sites,

including the distinctive shelf greens on the 3rd and 5th holes. Reflecting on his work some years later, Colt commented that "every hole presents some distinct feature of an impressive character" and few who have played here over the years would disagree.

### Signature holes

There are a number of holes you will remember long after playing Prestbury, perhaps none more so than the difficult 9th with its testing drive and steeply

**ESSENTIALS**  
**Address:** Prestbury Golf Club, Macclesfield Road, Prestbury, Nr. Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK10 4BJ  
**W:** prestburygolfclub.com  
**Stats:** par 71, 6,419 yards  
**GF:** round: £60-£95 (not Sat); twilight: £50 (not Tues/Weds); Colt reciprocal: £35-£40

uphill approach to a long, narrow green at the highest point on the course. Yes, it is a par 4, not a par 5!

A couple of holes later, it's the downhill approach over a meandering stream just short of the narrow-fronted 12th green that will linger in the memory, while the shortish par-3 17th then plays across a wide gully from an unusual semi-circular tee wrapped around the left half of the 16th green.