

HISTORY:

Bakewell Golf Club was founded in 1899. It was designed by George Lowe, who also designed Royal Birkdale and Royal Lytham & St Annes. Bakewell is a more modest but enjoyable challenge. The course runs out and back along the hillside to the east of the town. Although only 5244 Yards in length (Par 68) for the Men and 4681 Yards. (Par 69) for the Ladies, the course is challenging and tricky with small, fast greens that have deceptive borrows. Allied to the natural contours of the hillside, players will need to employ a variety of shots to gain a low score. The major change since the course was laid out is the addition of extra tees, so the course now comprises 9 holes but 18 tees, which makes the course a fine test of golf.

COURSE GUIDE:

Hole: 1/10

The first provides a particular challenge for an opening hole. Long hitters must avoid the brook running in from the left. However if you leave you tee shot much short of this, getting onto the raised green will be difficult. If you find yourself at the bottom of the bank for the third you will be playing a blind shot and may have wished you had played left with your second.

The tenth is even more of a challenge. The tee is further down the hill and thirty yards further away. A four is always a good score here!

As you walk off the first, remember to have a look at where the flag is on the 4th, as you will not see it again until after you have played your approach shot to this hole.

Hole: 2/11

The second is one of the "new" holes, and one of the hardest on the course. Aim your ball along the left side of the fairway, as all shots will run right. The second shot is through the gap in the trees and up the hill on the far side. Two good blows are needed to reach the green.

The tee shot on the 11th is from a less elevated position, but the strategy is the same. Aim left and get as close to the bottom of the hollow as you dare.

Hole: 3/12

The third is a sharp dog-leg right. The tee shot is straightforward- a drive or an iron down the hill onto the expansive fairway. Although the shot to the green is only likely to be a short iron, accuracy is required to avoid the stream left and out of bounds behind. The green is also raised, so some members prefer to run the shot up the bank rather than hit a full wedge.

The tee for the 12th is somewhat further back. This should not be a big change, but somehow the woods on the right seem more in play. A fade is generally not a good idea.

Hole: 4/13

Did you remember to look where the flag was on the green as walked off the first? No, well you won't be the first!

Drive over the shoulder of fairway to the left of the hawthorn tree to have the best approach in. Many shots that start down the middle will end off the left hand side of the fairway. The second is a blind shot up the hill. Trust in your club selection and hit a steady shot using the marker post as a guide. Be careful not to take too much club or will you will find your ball back on the first green!

Hole: 5/14

The first of the par threes. A course guide from the 1950s describes it thus "psychology plays a considerable part. If the area between the tee and the green were close-mown sward, who would not fail to find the green? But no! The lush verdant growth of the bulrushes holds open arms for the mishit ball, the clean hit hook shies away down the hill and the slice fades deep into primeval jungle. Do not let this worry you! The straight ball will hold on the tighter-than-it-looks green and it really is an easy three- but otherwise, perhaps double figures." The years have not mellowed it, although the shorter shot, from an easier angle, make the 14th a much more favourable prospect.

Hole: 6/15

We now enter a run of easier holes. The sixth is straightforward as long as you clear the bank behind the 5th green with your drive. Stop to admire the view before hitting a short iron onto the inviting green.

The challenge of clearing the bank is greater on the 15th. Aiming right of middle is the safe bet, as shots will run down to the middle of the fairway.

Hole: 7/16

A fabulously scenic hole as you play across the footpath. Two strategies are open to your here. An accurate drive will clear the hill and run down the bank to leave a short wedge in, but be careful of the out of bounds left. For the more risk averse, a rescue or iron to the plateau just over the footpath will leave a short/mid iron to the inviting green. If you are going to chase your ball in, aim at the right of the green.

Hole: 8/17

A fabulous view from an elevated tee as you hit across the road. The car park and club house are left, so aim to the right of the fairway. There is a lot of room for your drive as the practice area is in bounds. Many a par has been made from here.

The angle from the 17th is more difficult as you are playing across the fairway. Don't hook your ball from here, as the steward keeps all balls found in their garden.

Hole: 9/18

A delightful hole to finish. Bakewell's own postage stamp. Accuracy is key. Balls straying right run away down the hill, leaving a tricky chip up to the green.