

# **BERKSHIRE HILLS COUNTRY CLUB**



## **GOLF INFORMATION BOOKLET**

## **A Brief History of Berkshire Hills Country Club**

### **A.W. Tillinghast - Course Architect/Builder**

A.W. Tillinghast, also known as "Tillie", was a leading figure in shaping golf's first fifty years in America. He considered himself the "Dean of American Golf Course Architects." His design principles formed the foundation for the development of the modern golf course and fueled the growth in popularity of the sport in North America. His golf courses included Baltusrol, Quaker Ridge, San Francisco, Somerset Hills, and Winged Foot, to name a few.

For the first thirty years of his life he engaged in a variety of activities of the well-bred, one of which was golf. He frequently traveled to St. Andrews to take lessons from the legendary Tom Morris and competed with moderate success in the U.S. Amateur between 1905 and 1915.

In 1907, at the request of a wealthy family friend, he laid out his first course, Shawnee-on-Delaware, in Pennsylvania. Tillie had found his calling and with great pomp and panache, laid out and detailed magnificent courses during golf's golden age of the 1920's.

Tillie was a prolific writer and speaker, and briefly served as the editor of Golf Illustrated magazine. The Depression destroyed his chance to create more great courses, and he died in poverty in his daughter's home in Toledo, Ohio.

While many of Tillinghast courses disappeared entirely during the Depression, or have been severely altered by time, others remain so well distinguished that they are treasures of the game. Tillie's intentions were clearly known as he spoke and wrote about his philosophy of design.

Golf courses cannot be designed by committee. Tillie's eccentric behavior and bombastic way with the wealthy allowed his true talent to shine through. Most of his holes are gorgeously balanced, perfectly bunkered, and integrated into the body of the golf course. Tillie's work is now studied and cherished. To summarize, Tillie once said, "Produce something which will provide a true test of the game, and then consider every conceivable way to make it as beautiful as possible."

Berkshire Hills is the only golf course in Massachusetts to be designed and built by A.W. Tillinghast. We at Berkshire Hills truly appreciate the unique and lasting beauty of his design.

From: Golfweb Library  
& "The Course Beautiful" by A.W. Tillinghast

# **Holding & Operating Corporations**

The Berkshire Hills Country Club has been governed by a dual Board structure since 1949. This structure was a direct result of the club being denied a liquor license. In view of its "for profit corporate structure", a not for profit operating corporation, Berkshire Hills C.C., Inc. was created.

The Operating Corporation (Operating Board) generates income to maintain the club. It is responsible for daily operation of the club, including the bar, the restaurant, golf course, tournaments, social functions, membership dues, and the hiring of personnel.

Each member (Director) of the Operating Board has been assigned a specific aspect of the club for which he/she is responsible. Some examples are: Pool chairman, Bar chairman, and House chairman. Members are encouraged to contact the chairperson responsible for your area of concern. Directors names may be found on the scroll at the main clubhouse entrance or on our website: [www.berkshirehillsc.com](http://www.berkshirehillsc.com). We always welcome ideas or suggestions that might help improve our club.

The Holding Corporation (Holding Board), Berkshire Hills Country Club, Inc. controls the fixed assets of the club. The Holding Board is responsible for projects, new designs, new constructions, renovations, and major repairs. They are also accountable for the actual structures, capital spending and planning of all future projects. The share of stock most members own was issued by this entity.

# **BERKSHIRE HILLS COUNTRY CLUB GOLF INFORMATION BOOKLET**

## **Welcome to Berkshire Hills Country Club.**

Golf at BHCC is a wonderful experience. We hope you enjoy the challenge, the uniqueness, and the beauty of the course. We are committed to providing you with the best golf experience possible. This booklet is designed to answer questions often asked.

## **What do I do when I first arrive at BHCC to play golf?**

You should go directly to the Pro Shop to check in with the Pro Shop Staff. At this time you should inform them, for example, if you are going to be walking, riding, going down to the driving range, waiting for guests, etc.

## **Does BHCC require tee-times?**

Yes, BHCC requires tee-times from early May until the end of October. Tee-times may be reserved as follows: Weekdays - 1 week in advance; Weekends - Saturday for the following Saturday & Sunday.

## **How long does it take to play a round of golf in a foursome at BHCC?**

All foursomes should comfortably play in a maximum of four hours. All players are requested to observe "the open hole rule" which occurs when an entire hole opens up ahead of your match. We ask that you catch up to the group in front of you, or let the group behind you play through.

## **Must I play in a foursome at BHCC?**

During busy periods, we request that you play in a threesome or a foursome. If you do not have a threesome or foursome, the Pro Shop will do their best to arrange one for you. Rarely, you may be asked by the Pro Shop to join another group to make a foursome: For example, threesomes may be asked to let a single join them.

You may play as a single or twosome during non-busy periods, but you will not have the right to play through a threesome or a foursome.

## **How can I speed up my group's pace of play?**

### **Tips for speeding up play:**

- When using a cart, take three clubs from your bag when going to your ball, rather than finding yardage and going back for a club.
- Drop your cart-mate off at his/her ball and then proceed to your ball, instead of staying to watch your cart-mate hit his/her shot.
- Play ready golf. If a member of your foursome is going through his/her pre-shot routine, you should be ready to hit as soon as he/she is finished. Also, if you are ready to play, although you are not away, then play (unless you are in a tournament).
- Make your guests aware of the speed of play expectations at BHCC and be responsible for keeping play at a good pace.
- Limit your practice swings. Too many practice swings are time-consuming (and might contribute to fatigue later in your round).
- Line up your putt while others are putting.
- Hole out with continuous putting whenever practical.

### **May we stop for lunch after 9 holes?**

Don't plan on it. You will lose your position on the course if you stop for lunch in the middle of your round. Only the pro shop can authorize starting or resuming play on #10 tee.

### **May my group start on the 10th hole?**

Teeing off the 10th hole requires permission from the starter/pro shop. The rule of thumb is that if there is a group on the 8th green or closer, your group will be required to tee off on the 1st hole.

### **Does BHCC allow metal spikes?**

Metal spikes are not allowed at BHCC. Soft spikes with the small metal stubs are also not allowed. The Pro Shop can change spikes for a nominal charge.

### **What is the dress code at BHCC?**

We trust all golfers to wear proper attire. Collared and tucked-in shirts are required.. No cutoffs or tank tops will be permitted. Shorts are permissible provided they are an appropriate length (i.e. no short shorts). Gym shorts or sport team shorts with logos are not acceptable. Swim attire is not allowed in the clubhouse or on the golf course. Ladies may wear collared sleeveless shirts.

Members are responsible for the attire of their children and guests.

### **How and when do I post my score to the handicap system?**

Each member is responsible for posting his/her own score in the handicap computer. One is located directly in the Pro Shop; another is located inside the club house. Your score should be posted within 24 hours of completion of the round. Any member who does not enter their score within this time period may be given a penalty score.

### **When are bunkers groomed?**

Bunkers on the course are raked in the morning. If you hit out of a bunker, please be courteous and rake the bunker properly for the next person.

### **Where do the bunker rakes go?**

Although there is no rule on where rakes should go, they should be placed outside the bunker where they will not interfere with play. We are very grateful to members that exhibit pride in our course by raking areas that have been left un-raked.

### **How do I repair a ball mark on the green?**

1. Discard the loose piece of turf taken out by the ball.
2. Insert the repair tool just outside the back of the mark, and pull the turf toward the center of the hole.
3. Gently tap the repaired area down with your putter.

This action of stretching undamaged turf over the ball-mark may provide instant recovery.

Be aware of un-repaired ball-marks and please make an effort to repair them. Repair your ball-mark and two others when you are on the green.

**A fresh ball mark repaired by a player takes only  
FIVE SECONDS**

**A freshly repaired ball mark will completely heal in  
24 HOURS**

**A fresh ball mark left un-repaired for only one hour requires  
15 DAYS TIME  
before the scar has satisfactorily healed.**

### **Where are the yardage markers?**

All yardage markers are located in the fairways. Blue = 200 yards, white = 150 yards, and red = 100 yards. Yardage may also be obtained from the sprinkler heads located throughout the golf course.

### **What do the colored flags on the green mean?**

The different color flags on the green determine the general pin locations for the day. They are as follows: Red - front 1/3 of the green, White - middle 1/3 of the green, and Blue - back 1/3 of the green.

### **How do I obtain a locker?**

All men's and women's lockers are assigned through the Club Treasurer. If you desire a locker, simply send a request to the Treasurer. Lockers are permanently assigned and issued on a first-come-first-served basis. Golf club bags are not permitted in the locker rooms or lockers. Other guidelines are posted in the respective locker rooms.

### **Are minors allowed in the Member's Pub?**

Liquor liability laws states that you must be 18 years of age to be in the bar area unless accompanied by a parent. You must be 21 years of age to consume alcohol or sit at the bar.

### **When may junior members play golf?**

Junior members have restricted playing times. They are required to start their rounds prior to 3:00 P.M. on weekdays. Furthermore, they may not start until 2:00 P.M. on weekends. The Golf Professional may employ his/her discretion during less busy periods.

### **Who is allowed to drive the golf carts?**

You must be 16 years of age or older to drive a golf cart. Riders under 16 years old may not drive golf carts...with or without adult supervision.

### **How much does it cost to rent a cart?**

We occasionally change the rental rate for the use of a cart. Please check with the Pro Shop for the current rate. There are two basic rates: two players and one player. Non playing passengers are charged at the two player rate. The cost of carts may vary for outings, tournaments, and functions at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

### **What path must I take to the Driving Range?**

All persons who wish to use the driving range will be allowed to take a cart, but are required to stay on the designated pathway.

## **GOLFER'S GENERAL GUIDELINES**

- The Golf Professional and the Golf Superintendent have been given the authority by the Board of Directors to bring any infractions to the attention of the golfer. The Operating Board respectfully requests that all players adhere to the established guidelines.
- Golf carts are not allowed within 30 feet of the greens or tees, nor between traps and greens. Furthermore, golfers are asked to adhere to any temporary restrictions with regard to the carts.
- Golfers should repair all ball marks on the greens, replace all divots, and rake/smooth traps after use.
- Golfers may not wear metal spikes at BHCC. Soft Spike shoes only.
- Only tees with markers displayed, and greens with cups and flags in place are open for play.
- BHCC hosts a full schedule of tournaments. Each member will receive a copy of the schedule. During the season, information pertaining to tournaments will be noted in the newsletter, in the Pro shop, on the web at [www.berkshirehillsc.com](http://www.berkshirehillsc.com), and on the bulletin boards in the clubhouse.

## **PRIVILEGES**

### **Affiliation:**

- Massachusetts Golf Association
- Women's Massachusetts Golf Association
- United States Golf Association
- Allied Golf Association of Berkshire County\*

\*This association is affiliated with local courses offering a variety of tournaments at reduced greens fees. As an adult golf member of BHCC, you are entitled to participate.

### **Guests**

- Members are allowed to have guests on the golf course and in the club house. Members shall be responsible for the conduct of their guests including all debts incurred. Guests are required to be signed in by the member at the Pro Shop and/or at the club house.
- Guests of a member are only allowed to play a *limited* number of rounds per year. Check with the Pro shop for full details. Any member may, however, bring his/her guests to the club house anytime.

### **Pool**

- Use of the pool is available to all golf members, spouses, and legal dependents under U.S. tax codes. Additional swim only memberships are available to the public.

### **Golf Shop Accounts**

- Each membership is assigned a charge account in the golf shop. This account is for charging golf shop merchandise only. All accounts come due in 30 days and must be cleared by October 31. Failure to comply may result in the loss of playing privileges until the account is cleared.

At Berkshire Hills Country Club, we want every day you spend here to be relaxing, pleasant, and memorable, so courtesy to others at all times is very much appreciated. If everyone follows these guidelines, we can all achieve the ultimate golf experience. Enjoy the upcoming season!

Sincerely,  
The Operating Board of Directors

## **Berkshire Hills Country Club Golf Classifications**

- Golf Individual** Single Golf Membership with family Pool privileges.
- Golf Combination** Husband and wife Golf membership, with family Pool privileges.
- Golf Senior I** Single Golf membership for someone who is 65 years of age as of January 1st of the current golf season, and has **completed** 20 consecutive years as an adult Golf member of BHCC. This classification has family Pool privileges.
- Golf Family** Golf membership for husband, wife and all children who meet our age policy guidelines, and obtain Board approval. BHCC requires proof of age and, where applicable, verification of college enrollment. This classification has family Pool privileges.
- Senior II Restricted** Single Golf membership for someone who is 70 years of age as of January 1st of the current golf season, and has **completed** 25 consecutive years as an adult Golf member of BHCC. Senior II Restricted provides for weekday play only (except club scheduled events). This classification has family Pool privileges.
- Senior II Unrestricted** Single Golf membership for someone who is 70 years of age as of January 1st of the current golf season, and has **completed** 25 consecutive years as an adult Golf member of BHCC. This classification has family Pool privileges.
- Senior I Unrestricted Combo** Husband and wife Golf membership for married persons who are **both** 65 years old as of January 1st of the current golf season, and have **both completed** 20 consecutive years as an adult Golf member of BHCC. This classification has family Pool privileges.

<b>Senior III Unrestricted</b>	Single Golf membership for someone who is 80 years of age as of January 1 <sup>st</sup> of the current golf season, and has <b>completed</b> 25 consecutive years as an adult Golf member of BHCC. This classification has family Pool privileges.
<b>Young Adult</b>	Single Golf Membership for someone who is less than 35years of age as of January 1, at a reduced membership fee. No Golf restrictions. This classification has family pool privileges.
<b>Juniors &amp; Students</b>	Children may become junior & student members of BHCC provided they meet the age guidelines, receive approval from the Operating Board, provide verification of age, and enrollment for students. NOTE – juniors & students have restricted playing times. This classification includes Pool privileges.
<b>Club Social Qualified</b>	Social member who the previous year was a "full" Golf member. This classification may be used to maintain your continuity as a BHCC member should you need up to two years leave from active golf status Members opting back to full golf status are not subjected to a waiting list nor new initiation fees. This classification includes club-house privileges.
<b>Club Social Unqualified</b>	This classification provides for clubhouse privileges and participation is club social events. Conversion to a classification requires the normal process and charges associated with new golf applicants.
<b>Individual Swim</b>	Single Pool membership. This classification includes clubhouse privileges.
<b>Family Swim</b>	All members living in the same household, and those who are legally dependent as per the U.S. Tax codes. This classification includes clubhouse privileges.

**Student Swim**

Single Student Pool membership...verification of eligibility (full-time student) is required. This classification includes clubhouse privileges.

**Senior Restricted**

Single Golf membership for someone who is 70 years of age as of January 1st of the current golf season. The Senior Restricted membership provides for weekday play only (except club scheduled events). This classification has family Pool privileges.