

# ***AMHERST GOLF CLUB***

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## ***Member Handbook***



## ***History***

The first Amherst course was located on part of the Baker farm near Etter's Brook in West Amherst in 1909. The club moved to the Embree farm in East Amherst as a tight nine hole layout. Both courses were designed by Fred Richwood who worked for many years with the famous Harry Vardon in England. As a centennial project, beginning in 1967 and continuing over a three year period the course was expanded to 18 holes. Robbie Robinson re-designed the nine hole course to an 18-hole championship layout. In 1971, a new clubhouse was completed. Today the course boasts fast greens and very lush fairways which can be found in immaculate condition.



## **Mission Statement**

***Provide an exceptional golfing experience for players of all ages and levels while maintaining a financially viable organization that is recognized as an integral part of the local community.***

## ***The Course***

The Amherst Golf Club is an open course that affords many beautiful views, but offers little protection from the high winds that sometimes whistle across the marsh from the Northumberland Strait. Hole #1, also the #1 handicap hole, is a 600 yard double dog-leg par 5 which plays to a very narrow fairway with trees on both sides. It's aptly named "Eye-Opener". The conservative player hits an iron off the tee. A long drive to the left will find a steep embankment and to the right, trees, tall grass and bushes. The fairway opens up after the second shot and plays down a slight incline to a bunkered green. The 15th, "Cat Tails", plays 155 yards over a pond. The fairway slopes sharply to the left in front of the narrow very difficult green. Two bunkers to the right of the green make this a tough par 3. The 18th, "Home-Coming", a 515 yard par 5 double dog-leg requires well positioned tee and approach shots. A delightful pond is located 50 yards in front of a small, undulating green that makes this an unforgettable finishing hole.



## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **Executive**

**Club President:** Carson Thompson

**Vice President:** David Kogon

**Past President:** Tony Morley

**Treasurer:** Charlie Atherton

**Secretary:** Thomas MacLaren

### **Directors**

**House:** Lee Gilbert

**Greens:** David Kogon

**Games:** Joel Stronge

**Juniors:** Paul Wood

**Ladies:** Heather Mitton

**Capital Planning:** Brian Creighton

**Marketing:** Carson Thompson

**At Large:** Eva Kreft

Al Morrison

Shawn Giffin

## **CLUB CONTACTS**

**Pro Shop:** (902) 667-1911

Fax (902) 667-3822

Email: [agcc@eastlink.ca](mailto:agcc@eastlink.ca)

**Dining Room & Lounge:** (902) 667-2722

Janey Allen

**Golf Club Manager:** 660-3230

Frank McShane

**PGA of Canada Head Professional:** 660-3230

Frank McShane

**Superintendent:** 667-4925

Peter McCabe

### **Mailing Address:**

PO Box 26, Amherst, N.S., B4H 3Y6

**Club Website:** [www.amherstgolfclub.com](http://www.amherstgolfclub.com)

## CLUB POLICIES

### Hours of Operation

#### **Pro Shop**

Monday through Sunday 7:00am until Dark

#### **Kitchen**

Monday through Friday – 8am to 8pm

Saturday, Sunday and Holidays – 8am to 6 pm

#### **Bar**

Monday through Sunday – 10am to 10pm

**Hours in Kitchen and Bar subject to change based on weather and demand**

### Starting Times

**ALL PLAYERS MUST CHECK IN AT THE PRO SHOP PRIOR TO PROCEEDING TO THE FIRST TEE.**

#### **Booking Policy**

Tee times can be booked 2 days in advance by calling the Pro-shop or through the online reservations program both starting at 7am.

**Note:** Tee times may be booked on Thursday for the entire weekend

Non-members may reserve with a credit card 30 days in advance.

Call Pro Shop: 902-667-1911

### Rules of Play

**The Rules of Play** are the rules and etiquette of golf as approved by Golf Canada except where modified by local rules.

#### **Local Rules**

1. Maintenance staff has priority on the course.
2. Observe posted power cart restrictions. Power carts must remain on the cart paths on all par 3's.
3. Power carts are to carry no more than two persons at any time.
4. A ball lying on a cart path/road or within the perimeter of "Blue" stakes may be lifted and dropped without penalty not closer to the hole. A ball lying adjacent to a new planting of less than four feet in height must be lifted and dropped without penalty one club length away from the planting but not closer to the hole.
5. Obey the course Marshal's directions.
6. Replace divots, repair ball marks on greens, and rake traps.

## Dress Code

**Members/guests must conform to the following regulations:**

1. Shorts may be worn providing they are mid-thigh in length. No cut-offs, sweatpants, bathing attire or gym shorts are permitted.
2. Jeans are acceptable as long as they are neat, no cut-off or torn jeans are permitted.
3. Golf shoes or flat soled shoes are to be worn when on the course.  
**SOFT SPIKES ARE MANDATORY**
4. Women are not permitted to wear halter tops or short tennis shorts.
5. Men are not permitted to wear tank tops, sleeveless shirts nor may they remove shirts.
6. Any clothing containing offensive statements will not be permitted.
7. Any person violating these regulations will not be permitted to play.

**The dress code regulations will be enforced by staff and the board of directors of the Amherst Golf Club.**

**Members, please ensure that your guests are dressed appropriately.**

## Pace of Play

**Under normal conditions no round of golf should take longer than 4 hours 15 minutes; however your position on the golf course is immediately behind the group in front of you.**

**WHEN HOLES ARE OPEN IN FRONT OF YOUR GROUP IT IS EXPECTED THAT YOU WILL LET THE GROUP BEHIND PLAY THROUGH.**

## Tips on speeding up play

- Be ready to hit when it is your turn.
- Pre-shot routine should be done when other players are hitting.
- Compile scores on the tee of the following hole.
- Know the rules of golf, 5 minutes when searching for a lost ball
- When your putt is close to the hole finish the hole.

**While playing on your home or away Golf Course remember the following:**

- Replace all of your divots
- Repair your own + 1 other ball mark on the green
- Rake sand traps after you blast out
- Respect the golf course and fellow golfers

## Member Owned Power Carts

It is the policy of the Club to allow the use of member owned motorized power carts. The usage is subject to the Club's regulations and payment of a fee set by the board of directors. Usage is furthermore allowed only to those members who are allocated an approved storage space.



## Regulations:

1. Only full paying members of the club are eligible to use and store owned power carts on club property.
2. Full paying members who own property with property lines that are immediately contingent to the property owned by the club may apply in writing to the directors to be allowed to use a private power cart. Such members must be a resident of the contiguous property.
3. Members who store carts at the club and who cease to be full paying members may transfer their storage space to a spouse who must also be a full paying member at least two years prior to the transfer.
4. Dual ownership of a cart is allowed. Such dual ownership must be registered with the club at the time when storage is first allocated. Dual ownership remains in place as long as both owners are full paying members. When one of the dual ownership persons ceases to be a full paying member, the dual ownership ends. The first full paying member named in the dual ownership registration is fully responsible for the payment of all charges and fees. A member is allowed only one dual ownership application.

## Golf Services

**Pro Shop** - Your club owns the Pro Shop so any purchase that you make benefits the Amherst Golf Club and helps support the overall financial structure of the club. The club has made a commitment to be competitive with larger golf stores and therefore we will match or be lower than similar regularly priced products available at those locations.

## **SUPPORT “YOUR” PRO SHOP**



**Repair Services** - Re-gripping and minor repairs are available. There is a wide selection of grips on display in the Pro Shop. Installation is included in the retail price.

## **Golf Lessons**

**PGA of Canada Head Professional - Frank McShane**

**PGA of Canada Associate Professional- Michael Archibald**

**PGA of Canada Assistant Professional – Alex Harrison**

Golf Lessons are available from our on course professionals; please call or book ahead to insure that they are available.

### **Rates:**

- Private lesson ( ½ Hour) \$ 35.00

**Lost and Found** - If you have lost anything while playing on our course please check at the Pro Shop later after your round or the following day to see if it was turned in. If you have found an item while playing please turn it into the Pro Shop, we will keep it secure until the owner is located.

**Demos** – Your Pro Shop has **DEMO CLUBS** available for members who would like to try a club before purchasing, please take care not to abuse them and remember to **return them promptly at the end of your game**. Pro Shop staff will be delighted to place an order for any club you are interested in.

**Rental Clubs** – Rental clubs are available at the Pro Shop, both right and left handed.

Rate: \$ 16.09 for 18 holes of play (HST not included)

**Driving Range**- The practice facility opens daily in conjunction with the opening of the pro shop and closes daily at dusk throughout the season. (Times may vary based on weather and day light).

**Note:** The range will close every Monday evening at 7pm to clean up the range balls and will re-open Tuesday am after being mowed.

Tokens for range balls are available at the Pro Shop; please remember to return all unused tokens before year end closing.

### **Rates:**

- Small bucket - \$ 4.30
- Large bucket - \$ 6.91
- Yearly membership: members - \$ 120.00

**Prices do not include HST**

**Locker Rooms** - Lockers can be rented for the season for a cost of \$42.61 + HST. Both men's and ladies locker rooms are located on the lower level of the clubhouse.

**Club Storage** - Club storage and cleaning is available at a cost of \$104.95 + HST per year. Clubs are washed once daily, usually at the end of the day.



Clubs will be set out for those members that have a Tee time, however if you need your clubs please ask our Pro Shop staff and they will be glad to get them for you. Please make sure that your name is on your golf bag. You are asked to respect the “staff only” policy in secured area of the back shop unless under staff supervision. At the completion of your round, please ask one of the staff to take your bag to the storage area.

### **Power Carts**

Power carts are provided to members at special rates.  
18 holes - \$28.69 + HST

### **Power Cart Rental Pre-Payment Packages**

#### **HST not included**

10 round packages - \$ 217.30

20 round packages - \$ 413.64

30 round packages - \$ 543.84

Unlimited package - (1 person only) - \$ 598.45

Unlimited package - (2 person) - \$ 755.95 some restrictions apply

Pre-paid rentals must state when booking tee times that they require a cart, a cart will not be automatically booked. Reservations will be taken 2 days in advance. Pre-paid rentals so not include outside tournaments.

### **Power Cart Policies**

Power cart rates are posted in the pro shop. Members receive a lower rate than guests and further bulk-buying incentives are available to members. All golfers playing in a power cart must observe the following rules:

- maximum of two riders per power cart
- power carts must not be driven in treed areas
- power carts are not to be driven on tee boxes
- power carts must remain a minimum of 50 feet from the greens
- where available, power carts must use cart paths
- observe and adhere to all signage posted on the course
- observe and adhere to all directional lines drawn on the course
- power cart drivers must be at least 16 years old, whether with an adult or not
- be responsible for any damage done to or by the power cart while in their possession

## **Player Divisions**

### **Ladies' Division:**

The ladies' division provides opportunities for women to golf with other members on both Tuesday and Thursday morning ladies' golf and its opening and closing events in May and October. Members wishing to play on Thursday mornings sign up by the previous Friday on the list inside the ladies locker room.

**The current ladies representative is: Heather Mitton**

**Men's Division:** Men's League is every Thursday afternoon with approximately seventy men participating. The tee is blocked from 3:30pm to 5:30pm every Thursday to allow for mens night. There is no need to sign up just register in the pro shop when you arrive. The Men's Division has several other events throughout the season including the always popular two man scrambles. Please keep an eye on the bulletin board outside the men's locker room or in the weekly e-mails for event information.

**Junior Development:** The Amherst Golf club has 60 juniors who are very active thanks to a very dedicated committee who have the support of all our club's members. The kids can attend regular clinics on Monday and Thursday mornings through the summer. Junior players must be off the tee prior to 4pm throughout the week and cannot play before 10:30am during the weekends unless accompanied by an adult player.

**Schedule and Communications:** A schedule of events is included with all membership packages at the beginning of each season. This package is available for pick up in the pro shop, it also includes your bag tag. The Calendar of events is also on the website is more accurate and up to date than the paper calendar you receive at the start of the year.

Events are also posted throughout the clubhouse and pro shop. Please watch for upcoming events at the main level bulletin board. Information bulletins for the ladies, men's and junior division are located on the lower level directly outside the pro shop and in both locker rooms. The main form of communicating with the membership will be through the use of our member e-mails, you will get a weekly e-mail from the Pro/Manager. If you are not getting these e-mails please contact the pro shop to update your profile.

## **Food and Beverage Services**

**Kitchen & Bar:** The club offers a tasty menu at very reasonable prices for the enjoyment of all players. A variety of daily lunch specials are also available. The bar offers many of the popular beer, spirit and wine selections.

Payment options in the food and bar areas include cash, debit card or credit card. A charge account may also be setup by providing the administration office with a valid credit card.

**Beverage Cart:** The beverage cart will be on course throughout the season on select days weather/demand permitting. Beverage cart services will run from early May to mid-September and will be available to members and guests Tuesday through Sunday. The cart will also be on course during "special" events throughout the season. We encourage the entire membership to support the beverage cart to ensure the service remains consistent throughout the season.

**Banquets:** The Amherst Golf Club is a great place to host your wedding, retirement party, business meeting or special event. The banquet room can seat up to 135 people and we can design a menu to fit your needs. There is a large deck overlooking the golf course and the Tantramar Marsh. Please contact us for rates and booking information.



## **Course Maintenance**

The Amherst Golf Club has a reputation for being well maintained and in excellent playing condition for both our members and guests. This is only accomplished through the hard work that is provided by the club's maintenance crew and the volunteers of the Greens Committee. Our staff starts very early in the day in order to have most of their daily duties completed before the course is full. To maintain our course in the quality condition that we all expect it is necessary to perform several of our maintenance programs during prime golf time. All golfers are expected to respect staff when they are attending to these tasks and remember that tolerating these minimal inconveniences is what is required to attain the excellent course conditions that we all enjoy throughout the season.

Members who begin play prior to the commencement of starting times must give priority to club staff that is busy preparing the course for the day's play. Golfers who do not respect this request will have their early play privileges reviewed.

## **Handicap Policy**

All members who would like to play in club sanctioned events **MUST** enter all their scores in the handicap computer currently located next to the Kitchen in the upper level of the Club

house. If you require assistance please consult the club manager or a Pro Shop staff member. Members can also enter their scores online through the golf Canada website. A username and password will be set up by the pro shop staff and they can assist you in getting started entering your scores.

Developing and maintaining an up to date handicap is very important and required by members wishing to participate in club tournaments, provincial tournaments, etc. We encourage all members to maintain a valid handicap, but it is not mandatory should the desire not exist to participate in club tournaments or outside tournaments.

Fair handicapping depends upon full and accurate information regarding a player's potential scoring ability as reflected by a complete scoring record. Each player is responsible for posting **all** acceptable scores following the round.

Acceptable scores include adjusted gross scores from all courses with a RCGA Course Rating and Slope Rating, both home and away, scores in both match play and stroke play, scores made in accordance with the principles of The Rules of Golf. If 13 or more holes are played, the player must post an 18-hole score. If 7 to 12 holes are played, the player must post a 9-hole score. For handicap purposes Equitable Stroke Control **must** be applied to all scores including tournament scores.

**To score for un-played holes:** the score shall be par plus any handicap strokes that you are entitled to on each hole.

**To score for unfinished holes:** score the number of strokes already taken plus, in your best judgment, the number of strokes needed to complete the hole from that position more than half the time, i.e. your **most likely** score. This score must not exceed your maximum under Equitable Stroke Control.

It is particularly important for you to have an accurate handicap if you intend to play in any club handicap competitions, any RCGA, NSGA or invitational tournaments. **Without an accurate, up to date handicap you may not be permitted to participate in the competition.** An accurate handicap requires that all acceptable scores be posted.

If you have a question as to how to score in match play, team play, or when a hole or holes are not played, please ASK.

## **Dangerous Weather**

Pro Shop staff shall make the final decision as to whether or not current weather conditions are safe for play. When weather conditions are considered dangerous a horn will sound three times to indicate that play has been suspended. When this horn sounds everyone must leave the golf course and are welcome to pass the delay in the clubhouse. All golfers should be aware that due to noise from wind, and bad weather in general, the horn is not always audible at certain areas on the course.

Therefore, if you feel weather is suspect or you see others leaving the course then you should do so as well. All golfers are requested to report any thunder they hear or lightning they see to the pro shop staff. If necessary, call the pro shop from your cell at 667-1911

## **Medical Emergencies**

The Amherst Golf Club has purchased a portable Automated External Defibrillator unit and will have a number of staff trained to perform CPR in case of an emergency.

If there is a medical emergency in your group **CALL 911** and they will dispatch an ambulance.

## **Member Charge Accounts**

To open an account you **MUST** provide a valid credit card number and expiry date. Upon completion of the account set-up, your account will be activated on the next business day.

Monthly statements will be issued at the end of each month and each member is responsible to pay off their own account before the 14th of the following month, if they do not want their credit card charged. Members may make a payment or inquire as to their balance at any time by contacting the Pro Shop.

**Club Accounting:** Starting in May until October our book keeper Jeff Croft will be available Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8am to 12pm to answer any of your accounting questions.

## **Disciplinary Actions**

Management and staff at the Amherst Golf Club want your experience at our club to be second to none. We are willing to work hard to ensure that this is the case. However, realizing that we are human, and therefore not perfect, there will be times when a member or guest has reason for concern. It is requested that all complaints and concerns be IMMEDIATELY given to the Pro/Manager which will allow a timely solution for all parties concerned.