

# THE SOCIAL NETWORK

More and more golfers are joining societies instead of clubs. We join one that's growing to find out why

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All for one...  
The Bunkers  
Society is  
typical of the  
movement.

**Grand day out**  
The Bunkers boys prepare for their annual Ryder Cup-style season opener.



**The uniform**  
Members take it seriously.



**King for a day**  
Individual winner Chris Parrish.



**Golden Turd**  
This is the one trophy no-one wants.

So why should golfers join a society? "If you're not going to play 30-40 rounds a season then paying a club membership doesn't make sound financial sense," he adds. "Last year I paid £1,000 to become a member of my local club and played 29 rounds. I thought that was good, but deep down I was thinking 'is it really?'"

"Society golf is different. Societies are growing whereas club memberships are falling. My club alone has lost 60 people this year. A lot of it comes down to money but, more than anything else, it's about getting value for that money and feeling part of something. That's obviously where the golf club has a big advantage, especially if it's got a bustling social element and atmosphere to it. And this is what we're trying to do with the society, though I've put a ceiling on 35 members – it makes it more manageable, you can give people a bit more time plus they get a better quality day out."

"For me, a society works when the golfers get to taste and replicate certain elements of what they've seen watching the top players on TV. In other words, their dreams are realised: the more you base it on the stuff they watch, the more they get attracted to it."

Though he was on the losing side, Andy was in buoyant mood – and not just because he holed out on the par-3 16th for his first ever ace. No, he was happy because he avoided the Golden Turd, which is not the only strange prize up for grabs. Four of the 17 Bunkers events are based around the major championships and the week after the Masters, players were battling it out for an embroidered blue jacket.

He told us: "The prime reason I do this is to see the smiling happy faces at the end of the day; that makes it all worthwhile. I've known the majority of the lads since I was a toddler, we've played football and other sports and activities together only to drift apart in later life. Golf has brought us all together again. I wouldn't see my old pals if it wasn't for golf."

**M**embers of Merseyside-based Bunkers Golf Society stood straight and proud. They were steeling themselves for some serious on-course action, poised to go into battle on the splendid links of North Wales GC against old foes The Grimshaw from Skelmersdale. But the three-day Ryder Cup-style early season tournament ended in disappointment for the Bunkers boys, who could not repeat their 'Miracle of Maesdu' (another Llandudno course) victory of the previous year. Not that it was through lack of trying – more a lack of sleep.

This is what society golf is all about: winning is good, but it's more about the banter off the course as much as the birdies on it. There is just one thing that all the Bunkers members are ultra-keen to avoid – being awarded the 'Golden Turd', which is handed to the lowest overall points scorer.

"We have little mickey-taking comps like 'The Wall of Shame' at every event," says Bunkers GS chairman Andy Roper, "and we put them on our website so everyone can see them! We all enjoy a good crack and some of the lads involved have known each other for 40 years. They enjoy the golf, but don't take it too seriously."

## 'This is what society golf is all about. Winning is good, but it's about the banter'

the purpose is the same – to bring like-minded golfers together. The first known golf society was Scotland's Royal Burgess Golf Society in 1735. Now there are a whopping 15,000 societies dotted across the UK and Ireland. Memberships range from a couple of fourballs to the 800 members of the Society of Great Britain and the 1,000-plus members of the National Farmers Union Golf Society. The army has one. So does the RAF.

A spokesperson for England Golf was unable to provide any hard numbers in terms of the growing popularity of societies, but told us: "It's an area of the game we aim to look at more as part of our strategy – we are looking to work with societies more and to offer them more. You can join a golf club in various ways and societies is one of them. Anything that encourages people to take up the game and play more has to be good news. If somebody joins a society, there's a good chance they will be bitten by the golfing bug which could well ultimately lead to him joining a golf club."

"We have a lot of reds and blues members from across Liverpool," adds Roper, "so you can imagine the banter. We've got members

from all walks of life... accountants to coppers, firefighters to military personnel, different ages and backgrounds, a good mix of people." It's typical of every golf society.

Bunkers formed about three years ago, mainly because Andy and his pals were fed up of "paying through the nose" to play courses. "So we decided to get round this by getting people together for group golf."

"I know societies are not always appreciated and are sometimes regarded as a necessary evil, but they provide clubs with important income often at the expense of giving away key tee-times, so it's a difficult balancing act for clubs."

It's no stroll in the park for organiser Andy, either. "It's like having a second job in a way. In the close-season I'm trying to set everything up for the year, I work shifts and playing golf is awkward – the missus doesn't see a lot of me at the start of the year!"

"It's not easy and you do need help from experienced people and you do need people to guide you along the way. When you start off, it's likely you're going to make loads of mistakes. You have to accept a bit of feedback and criticism from members."

### BUNKERS' MEMBERS

## Every society has one of these...



**THE DRINKER Tony King**  
Production manager for shipping company  
"I'm really proud of my unbeaten record. Not so proud of once falling in a pond – I hadn't fully recovered from the previous night's revelry. I lost my balance and fell in along with my trolley, clubs, the lot."



**THE BIG HITTER Chris Berry**  
Accountant  
"I average about 280 yards off the tee, but I don't get the driver out that often because it doesn't always go straight and in the right direction, leaving me to scramble around. But I've always avoided the Golden Turd..."



**THE ORGANISER Andy Roper**  
Police officer  
"I'm a bit OCD – I like things done in a certain way, done properly. I do all the website, all the bookings, all the money and accounts, pretty much do everything. But I do get a lot of satisfaction when the days run well."



**THE BANDIT Tom Davies**  
Property developer  
"My Bunkers handicap is 24, but I don't play that often... just a few times in the past couple of years. Shooting two-over gross on the front nine at Abergele GC was a shock and I've never won the Golden Turd."



**THE ENTERTAINER Dave Ashley**  
Retired head teacher  
"I do a Frank Sinatra tribute act and have been all over the world, including Madrid and Paris, with shows. I say a few words at the start of the days to raise spirits. I love being involved in society golf – it's so much fun."

### GET INVOLVED

- Join the Bunkers boys for a modest annual subscription of £50, for which members receive a shirt, golf insurance, range balls, member booklets and calendar. Visit [www.bunkersgolf.com](http://www.bunkersgolf.com)
- For general society information, including how to form a society, contact Brian Ward, secretary of the Society of Great Britain which was established in 1955 and now has nearly 800 members. E-mail [secretary@golfsocietygb.com](mailto:secretary@golfsocietygb.com)
- If your society is looking for the best courses and deals, check out [www.golfsocieties.uk.net](http://www.golfsocieties.uk.net)

DO IT YOURSELF



Bunkers' organiser Andy Roper offers his advice for anyone who wants to run a society

- 1 Create a committee to make decisions and bounce ideas about. Make all decisions through a democratic process.
- 2 Decide what you want from a society and work hard to achieve that: whether you just want an additional knock every month or two or a professionally run society with benefits.
- 3 Be clear about your aims and what members expect. If people join expecting not to pay more than £20 a round, there's no point booking Birkdale!
- 4 Be creative and try and link as much of your season to what your members see on TV. Golfers are inspired by watching the stars. You can replicate the ethos of the competition, the prestige of winning and the feeling of success.
- 5 Change game formats (Medal, Stableford, pairs etc) to keep it fresh. This is also likely to produce different prize winners.
- 6 Reward good play and make it special when members win – it brings enthusiasm and bonds the group. Make sure you have lots of trophies up for grabs along with some cash in the prize fund kitty.
- 7 Be prepared for hard work. Running a society is time consuming and at times needs hard decisions to be made.
- 8 Provide lots of information, including via a comprehensive website. Publicise fixtures, plans, costs and all the details they'll need. Embrace social media, too.
- 9 Try to book a course well ahead so you've got it safely secured in the diary.
- 10 Never stand still. Evolve and move forward. Repetition brings boredom and boredom kills golf. And have fun!



Man with a plan  
Harding set up society days before Your Golf Travel.

## From organiser to owner

Andrew Harding turned his society skills into a business

**A**ndrew Harding used to run the humble Ace Golf Society, named after the 'Ace of Spades' roundabout on the A3 in Surrey. Now he runs one of UK's biggest golf travel companies. He's co-founder of Your Golf Travel – and credits those days arranging his golf outings as a huge influence in his business success.

He told us: "The Ace roundabout had a car wash on it and because of the association the owner cleaned a lot of the golfers' cars and had a lengthening recruitment list. My involvement with the society stood me in good stead for what was to follow. There were 40-50 people in the society, and I'd be responsible for sending e-mail updates and generally helping make things happen on and off the golf course.

"We probably met up and played once a month. It was very good for networking and though I wouldn't say it was crucial regarding the foundation of Your Golf Travel, it played a part."

Now YGT is a multi-million pound

business offering package trips to 3,000 courses in 24 countries, booking more than 300,000 travellers each year. In fact the Ace GS is one of YGT's clients. "They still book lots of golf with us, which is great," says Harding.

"Helping run a society was a good and useful learning curve and probably, more than anything, it gets you to understand what is value-for-money which is useful when you're based in Surrey. Camberley Heath was just that so we went there every year. They also did an amazing Christmas lunch!

"Golf wasn't always the most essential ingredient you know and that still applies as far as societies are concerned.

"I remember we had horrendous weather at the K Club in Ireland once, but we still had a great weekend owing to the hotel, the staff, the craic... and Guinness. It's more than just about 18 holes of golf – it's a great way for golfers to socialise, have fun and enjoy themselves. And you can't ask for much more than that."

# 50 BEST SOCIETY DEALS



**T**here are many reasons to join a golf society – but one of the best is the deals you can enjoy at some of Britain's top courses. When you book tee times for a group, you'll often get a reduced rate, meals thrown in, organisers going free or a variety of other offers and savings.

Over the next six pages, we've hand-picked some of the best society deals in the country. We sought advice from Brian Ward, Secretary of the Golf Society of Great Britain – one of the biggest societies in the UK – to highlight 50 quality venues that provide a cracking society day, often for less than the price of a normal green fee. ▣

Looking for a memorable day out for your society? Look no further...



# England

## 1: Astbury, Cheshire

A course that often goes unnoticed but has made large strides forward in recent years in terms of conditioning, presentation and quality of greens. **Society special:** Offer for eight or more players; £34 for 18 holes with two-course meal (£42 for 36 holes with two-course meal). Contact: 01260 272772, www.astburygolfclub.com

## 2: Bath, Somerset

One of England's oldest and finest downland courses, considered by many to be one of the top courses in the West Country. **Society special:** TG exclusive offer; society package for autumn/winter of £25 per person (subject to availability, Sun-Fri, quoting "TGWinter") for coffee & bacon roll plus 18 holes (£30, to include soup & sandwiches). Contact: 01225 463834, www.bathgolfclub.org.uk

## 3: Beau Desert, Staffs

Plotted on high ground next to Cannock Chase and one of finest and prettiest tests of golf in the Midlands. **Society special:** £70 for 18 holes with coffee & bacon roll or golfers lunch followed by two-course meal (12-19 players) or £65 for 20-36 players. Captains Away Days receive a 10% green fees discount. Contact: 01543 622626, www.bdgcc.co.uk

## 4: Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumbs

Known locally as Goswick and the home of a classic links design sitting between the railway and the sea. Regional qualifying for the Open returns in 2018. **Society special:** Summer offer (for 12 or more players); £45 for coffee & bacon roll, 18 holes and soup & sandwiches. Contact: 01289 387256, www.goswicklinksgc.co.uk

## 5: Blackmoor, Hampshire

A beautiful, traditional Harry Colt heathland course sitting on the famous sandbelt that runs through the Home Counties. **Society special:** £58 for 18 holes with coffee & bacon roll and a light lunch. Contact: 01420 472775, www.blackmoorgolf.co.uk

## 6: Bradford, West Yorks

A fine example of Herbert Fowler's design principles. He made impressive use of the available land to make a stunning course with great views. **Society special:** 18 holes with soup & sandwiches for £40 (min 12 players). Contact: 01943 875570, www.bradfordgolfclub.co.uk

## 7: Broadstone, Dorset

Laid out on a stunning piece of heathland, Broadstone is without doubt one of the finest



**Woodbridge**  
A true hidden gem on the Suffolk coast.

courses in the south of England. This most picturesque of layouts offers panoramic views of both the Purbeck Hills and Poole Harbour. **Society special:** Winter warmer, £45pp including 18 holes, coffee & bacon roll and light lunch. Contact: 01202 642524, www.broadstonegolfclub.com

## 8: Bowood G&CC, Wiltshire

Dave Thomas-designed Bowood oozes class and charm but you need to keep out of the bunkers – they're cavernous and seemingly everywhere. **Society special:** From £45pp, including 18 holes, lunch and a pint. Contact: 01249 823881, www.bowood.org

## 9: Camberley Heath, Surrey

Designed by Harry Colt, this is regarded as one of Surrey's finest courses which is high praise indeed. Set amid towering pines, the course occupies 135 acres of glorious free-draining



**Littlestone**  
127-year-old Kent links.

heathland. **Society special:** Summer offer (for 12 or more players); £70 for coffee and bacon roll, 18 holes and a one-course meal. Twilight rate; £60 for sandwiches & chips before the round and 18 holes. Contact: 01276 23258, www.camberleyheathgolfclub.co.uk

## 10: Delamare Forest, Cheshire

Designed by Herbert Fowler in 1910, this is one of the north west's finest and most popular heathland courses. **Society special:** Offer for 25-45 players; £64 for 18 holes with three-course meal. Contact: 01606 883800, www.delamaregolf.co.uk

## 11: East Devon, Devon

An outstanding layout and one of the jewels in the crown of south west golf. Situated on clifftops close to Budleigh Salterton, the course offers magnificent views and excellent drainage throughout the year. **Society special:** £40 for 18 holes with coffee & bacon roll and a two-course meal. Contact: 01395 443370, www.eastdevongolfclub.co.uk

## 12: Edgbaston, West Midlands

Situated close to the centre of Birmingham, Edgbaston is ideally located and this outstanding Harry Colt course is backed up by the wonderful facilities of its Georgian mansion clubhouse. **Society special:** Summer package (for 12 or more players) £60 for coffee & bacon roll, 18 holes and two-course lunch or dinner. Contact: 0121 454 1736, www.edgbastongc.co.uk

## 13: Frilford Heath, Oxfordshire

Built on sandy soil by JH Taylor in 1908 and measuring 7,015 yards, the Red course serves up a challenge to all standards as it winds through beautiful gorse-lined heathland fairways. The Red is rightly regarded as the best of the trio but don't ignore the pretty Green and more modern Blue layouts. **Society special:** Summer Sizzler available during August for online bookings only; £85 for unlimited golf and food. Contact: 01865 390864, www.frilfordheath.co.uk

## 14: Hornsea, East Yorks

Established in 1898, but moved to its current site in 1908. The course was designed by

Sandy Herd and modified in its early years by James Braid and Dr Alister MacKenzie. **Society special:** £33.50 for six or more players, including coffee & bacon roll, 18 holes and a one-course meal. Contact: 01964 534989, www.hornseagolfclub.co.uk

## 15: Hever Castle, Kent

Home of 27 holes set in the mature grounds of the Hever Castle Estate. The main Championship course is made up of the Kings and Queens nines and is supported by the nine-hole Princes. **Society special:** £50pp for coffee & bacon roll, 18 holes and light lunch. Contact: 01732 701003, www.hever.co.uk

## Luffenham Heath

By far the best course in England's smallest county.



**East Devon**  
Stunning views over the south Devon coast.

## 16: Hexham, Northumberland

A mature parkland course on fast draining land on the south side of the River Tyne. The greens are regularly among the best in the county. **Society special:** £38 for bacon roll & coffee, 18 holes, one-course meal. Contact: 01434 603072, www.hexhamgolf.co.uk

## 17: Kedleston Park, Derbyshire

Kedleston Park is right up there among the cream of the county crop. It's a mature James Braid parkland creation which opened in 1947. **Society special:** 'Captain's Away Days' through the year involve a minimum saving of 40% off the normal green fee. Contact: 01332 840035, www.kedlestonparkgolf.co.uk

## 18: Kenilworth, Warwick

Located within a beautiful parkland setting in the heart of Warwickshire, this demanding 6,300-yard parkland course features many mature trees and pine woods. **Society special:** £36 for 18 holes with coffee & bacon roll. Contact: 01926 858517, www.kenilworthgolfclub.co.uk

## 19: Kingswood G&CC, Surrey

A mile from legendary Walton Heath and was created by long-time Walton club pro James Braid in the late 1920s. Regarded as Braid's finest parkland piece, though it is still virtually unheard of outside the Home Counties. **Society special:** Vardon Package £73, includes coffee & bacon roll, 18 holes and one-course meal. Contact: 01737 832188, www.kingswood-golf.co.uk

## 20: Littlestone, Kent

Throughout its 127-year history Littlestone has hosted many big championships and was chosen once again as a Final Qualifying Course for the 2011 Open. The course is highly regarded by links lovers. **Society special:** Summer offer (10 or more); £75 for coffee & bacon roll, 18 holes and a two-course meal. Contact: 01797 363355, www.littlestonegolfclub.org.uk

## 21: Liphook, Hampshire

Whatever time of year you choose to play



**Camberley Heath**  
One of Surrey's finest courses.

**Woburn**  
The Marquess' hosts the Tour in October.

Liphook, you can rely on the course being presented in immaculate condition. **Society special:** £87 (16 or more players) for 18 holes and a three-course lunch. Contact: 01428 723271, www.liphookgolfclub.com

**22: Luffenham Heath, Rutland**

Situated in England's smallest county, Luffenham Heath is a real charmer. Originally laid out by Harry Colt, this heathland gem has a number of excellent holes. **Society special:** £68 for 18 holes with two-course meal. Contact: 01780 720205, www.luffenhamheath.org

**23: Lyme Regis, Dorset**

Founded in 1893, Lyme Regis golf sits on a clifftop site with magnificent coastal views of Portland Bill. The layout is fairly compact, consistently well maintained and although sitting high on a plateau, is relatively easy walking. **Society special:** £40 for bacon roll & coffee, 18 holes with a two-course meal. Contact: 01297 442043, www.lymeregisgolfclub.co.uk

**24: Moor Park, Hertfordshire**

Provides one of England's finest and most

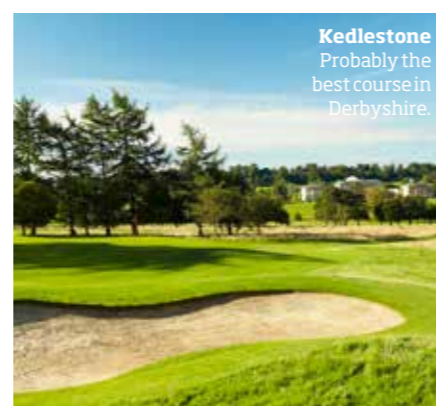
elegant golfing experiences: there are 36 holes to choose from, all of which surround the magnificent Palladian mansion clubhouse which dates back to 1670. **Society special:** £76 for coffee & bacon roll, 18 holes and golfers buffet. Contact: 01923 773146, www.moorparkgc.co.uk

**25: Northants County, Northants**

Designed by Harry Colt, Northants Co. opened in 1910 and is an undulating woodland track featuring many heathland characteristics including gorse, heather and pines. **Society special:** Summer offer (for 17-24 players); £77.40 for coffee & bacon roll, 18 holes and a two-course meal. Contact: 01604 843025, www.countygolfclub.org.uk

**26: Pannal, North Yorkshire**

A majestic wooded moorland course located on the outskirts of Harrogate. There is great variety in this Sandy Herd design affording outstanding views over the North Yorkshire moors from much of this rolling layout. **Society special:** Offer (12 or more); £67 for coffee & bacon roll, 18 holes and soup & sandwiches. Contact: 01423 872628, www.pannalgc.co.uk



**Kedlestone**  
Probably the best course in Derbyshire.



**Tandridge**  
You'll enjoy some fantastic Surrey views.

**27: Prince's, Kent**

Boasts an impressive history having hosted the Open in 1937 as well as offering 27 holes next door to Royal St George's. The challenge is not to be underestimated as the rippled fairways are littered with deep pot bunkers, many having been renovated for Open. Qualifying prior to the 2011 Open. **Society special:** £70 Mon-Thurs for 18 holes with coffee & bacon roll with two-course meal and £130 for one night B&B at the Lodge plus two rounds of golf. Contact: 01304 611118, www.princesgolfclub.co.uk

**28: Ross on Wye, Herefordshire**

Nestles in the wooded hills above the Wye Valley and is one of the finest courses in the south west Midlands. Rolling fairways lined with mature stands of trees. **Society special:** £50 (eight or more until Oct 31), bacon roll & coffee, 18 holes, two-course dinner. Quote 'Today's Golfer' when booking. Contact: 01989 720267, www.rossonwye.intelligentgolf.co.uk

**29: Sandiway, Cheshire**

Cheshire has plenty of terrific tracks and this is one of the very best: it's a brilliant if

somewhat quirky heathland layout and though the fairways are quite generous, stray offline and you'll meet mature oak, beech and birch. **Society special:** Golf Society of GB members benefit from £30 (midweek) & £40 (weekend) green fees. Contact: 01606 883247, www.sandiwaygolf.co.uk

**30: Sand Moor, West Yorkshire**

Sits on the same stretch of sandy moorland as Ryder Cup host Moortown and Top 100 course Alwoodley, Sand Moor enjoys the lowest profile of these three north Leeds tracks. However it is a fine course in its own right, offering a terrific year-round challenge. **Society special:** A participating club of the Golf Society of Great Britain with a 50% discount on green fees if based more than 35 miles from the club. Contact: 0113 268 5180, www.sandmoorgolf.co.uk

**31: Sandy Lodge, Hertfordshire**

Founded in 1910 and designed by Harry Vardon, Sandy Lodge is a superb example of an inland links course. Benefiting from excellent drainage, the course is open year-round and has been chosen as a Regional Open Qualifying venue between 2015-2019. **Society special:** Summer offer (for 12 or more players); £75 for coffee on arrival, 18 holes and three-course lunch or dinner. Contact: 01923 825429, www.sandyldodge.co.uk

**32: Sheringham, Norfolk**

Plotted on a strip of undulating, gorse-laden clifftop overlooking the North Sea. Most of the drama comes early on in the form of the spectacular back-to-back 5th and 6th holes which hug the cliffs. **Society special:** 10% off standard rates (£70 a day, eight or more). Contact: 01263 823488, www.sheringhamgolfclub.co.uk

**33: Tandridge, Surrey**

This delightful layout was the handiwork of Harry Colt in 1924 and is set among mature, undulating woodland with spectacular views of the surrounding countryside. **Society special:** Summer package; £112 for coffee & bacon roll, two rounds of golf, four-course carvery with coffee and sandwiches. Contact: 01883 712274, www.tandridgegolfclub.com

**34: Trentham, Staffordshire**

Set in an attractive parkland location this mature course is renowned for its superb greens and high standards in manicuring and presentation. **Society special:** Offer applies to eight or more; £63 for coffee & bacon roll, 18 holes and a two-course meal. Contact: 01782 658109, www.trenthamgolf.org

**35: West Lincs, Merseyside**

An unsung hero of England's Golf Coast, this class links act is nevertheless steeped in history – 1892 and 1897 Open winner Harold Hilton is a former secretary of the club. With two loops of nine emanating from the new clubhouse, the course is flanked on one side by the railway line and the Irish Sea on the other. Eleven holes are 400 yards plus, but although visually it appears fairly flat and defenceless, looks can be deceptive – with some wind around, it can turn into a real monster. **Society special:** £75 midweek Oct & Apr. Contact: 0151 924 1076, www.westlincashiregolf.co.uk

**36: Willow Valley G&CC, West Yorkshire**

An impressive all-round venue, Willow Valley sits next to the M62 and offers a grand total of 50 holes as well as a 24-bay floodlit driving range. **Society special:** Free golf for organiser



**Sheringham**  
Stunning golf high above the North Sea.

on all group bookings over 16. 'Weekends on Championship Course' offer, costs £25pp with lunch. Contact: 01274 878624, [www.wvgc.co.uk](http://www.wvgc.co.uk)

**37: Woburn, Beds**

The home of three superb courses – the Marquess', Duke's & Duchess'. The former is the most modern and now the No.1 layout – it hosts the British Masters in October. However, many golfers still regard the magical Duke's as the pick of the trio. **Society special:** To Oct (12 or more players); £250pp, including up to two rounds played over a choice of the Duke's, Duchess' or Marquess' courses with a three-course lunch, complimentary Strokesavers and range balls. Contact: 01908 370756, [www.woburn.co.uk](http://www.woburn.co.uk)

**38: Woodbridge, Suffolk**

If Woodbridge was transported to the Home Counties, you'd be forking out double the money. James Braid's re-worked Heath course, lined by an assortment of heather and gorse and oak and pine, ticks all the boxes. **Society special:** 18 holes £45 (up to 15 people, £40 16 or more); 36 holes £60 (up to 15 people, £55 16 or more). Contact: 01394 382038, [www.woodbridgegolfclub.co.uk](http://www.woodbridgegolfclub.co.uk)

**39: Woodhall Spa (Hotchkin), Lincs**

Regularly ranked in the top three of Britain's best inland courses and among the world's Top 100. Guaranteed to be fast running all year round you need to carefully plot your way around some of the most cavernous bunkers in world golf as well as an abundance of heather and birch to score well. The Bracken is the No.2 course and more parkland in nature. **Society special:** May-Oct: 18 holes on the Bracken £40 or the Hotchkin £70, incl. sausage or bacon bap/coffee on arrival (min. 24 golfers). Contact: 01526 352511, [www.woodhallspagolf.com](http://www.woodhallspagolf.com)



**Castle Course**  
Sensational views down into St Andrews.

Scotland

**40: Castle Course, St Andrews, Fife**

Situated on a clifftop overlooking the town, the course rises and falls along rumpled fairways to some of the most undulating greens you will ever encounter. **Society special:** Offer (8 or more players); £99 including £20 food & bar voucher. Contact: 01334 466666; [www.standrews.com](http://www.standrews.com)

**41: Crail, Fife**

Home of the seventh oldest golf club in the world. Today it is one of the Kingdom's resolute links and ably supported by the modern Craighead layout. **Society special:** 10% off normal rates (exc Jul 8-22) for 12 or more. Contact: 01333 450686, [www.craiggolfsociety.co.uk](http://www.craiggolfsociety.co.uk)

**42: Kilspindie, East Lothian**

Measures a relatively modest 5,450, but is an extremely popular course. Great fun to



**Kilspindie**  
A fine East Lothian test.

play and a true hidden gem. **Society special:** 12 or more players; £56.50 for 18 holes and a two-course meal. Contact: 01875 870358, [www.kilspindiegolfclub.co.uk](http://www.kilspindiegolfclub.co.uk)

**43: Lanark, South Lanarkshire**

A fine example of free-draining moorland golf with majestic scenery everywhere you look. The 25th oldest golf club in the world, it was extended to 18 holes by Old Tom Morris in 1897. **Society special:** Quoting TG; £35 for groups of between eight and 24 including a soup & sandwich platter before or after golf (Mon-Fri). Contact: 01555 663219, [www.lanarkgolfclub.co.uk](http://www.lanarkgolfclub.co.uk)

**44: Powfoot, Dumfriesshire**

Originally built as a nine-hole course in 1903 and re-designed by James Braid in 1923. Most holes are laid out on easy walking linksland with magnificent views over the Solway Firth. **Society special:** To Sept: £45 for coffee & bacon roll, 18 holes and a two-course meal. Contact: 01461 204100, [www.powfootgolfclub.com](http://www.powfootgolfclub.com)

**45: West Kilbride, Ayrshire**

Built on a comparatively narrow strip of land, bordered by the sea, the original nine-holer designed by Old Tom Morris was extended to 18 in 1905 by James Braid. **Society special:** 12-20 players; £59 for coffee & bacon roll, 18 holes and a two-course meal. Further reductions available for bigger groups. Contact: 01294 823911, [www.westkilbridegolfclub.com](http://www.westkilbridegolfclub.com)

Wales

**46: Conwy, Caernarvonshire**

Popular year-round course with fine links turf and a challenge to match, with an estuary on one side and mountains on the other. **Society special:** To Oct 18: £53.50 for coffee & bacon roll, 18 holes and a two-course meal. Contact: 01492 592423, [www.conwygolfclub.com](http://www.conwygolfclub.com)

**47: North Wales GC, Llandudno**

A top links which offers an enjoyable experience and fantastic value. There are a number of memorable holes here including the 16th and 17th which are wonderful back-to-back par 3s. **Society special:** Min. eight players, £40 for coffee & bacon roll, 18 holes and two-course meal. Contact: 01492 875325, [www.northwalesgolfclub.org.uk](http://www.northwalesgolfclub.org.uk)

**48: Pennard, West Glamorgan**

Known as 'the links in the sky', it's an accurate

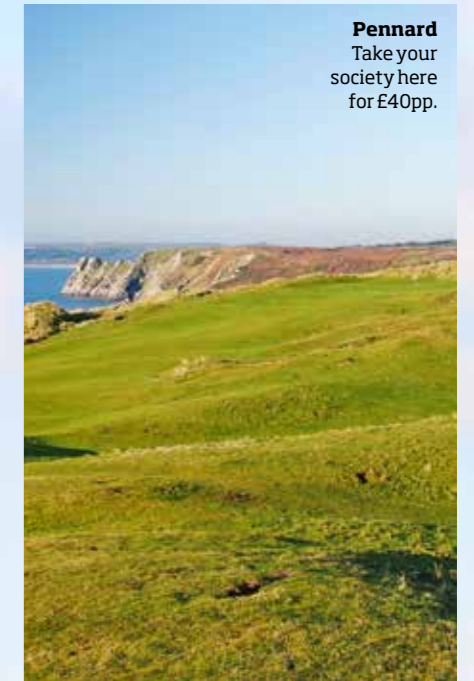
description of a course perched on clifftops 200ft above sea level. **Society special:** £40pp midweek, £50 weekends. Contact: 01792 233131, [www.pennardgolfclub.com](http://www.pennardgolfclub.com)

**49: Royal St David's, Gwynedd**

Provides a challenging test of golf in the most beautiful and scenic part of the Principality and is dominated by the brooding presence of Harlech Castle. **Society special:** Coffee & bacon roll, 18 holes, and bar meal for £67.50 per person (£10 supp for Saturdays). Stay-and-play package: One night's stay & two rounds, £115 (winter) & £135 (summer). Contact: 01766 780361, [www.royalstdavids.co.uk](http://www.royalstdavids.co.uk)

**50: Tenby, Pembrokeshire**

A stunning links with several unique holes, fast and undulating greens and superb views across to Caldey island. **Society special:** Summer rate £30pp (12-plus golfers). Contact: 01834 842978, [www.tenbygolf.co.uk](http://www.tenbygolf.co.uk)



**Pennard**  
Take your society here for £40pp.



**Royal St Davids**  
Easily one of the best courses in Wales.