

How to play the first hole at Cranbourne

The first hole is a relatively short par 5 for the better player, however a reasonably challenging hole for the mid to high handicap player. The key to understanding how you play the course, is always to work from the green, back. Plotting how best to attack the greens, working from the green back towards the tee.

The alignment of the green is towards the left side of the fairway, so therefore the shot that you are playing to the green, needs to come from the left side of the hole.

For the mid to high handicap player, endeavour to hit your 2nd or 3rd shot towards the left side of the hole, as you get closer to the green. The worst place to hit the ball to the green from is anywhere near the bunker on the right side. Even if you hit the ball into the rough on the left side, it is better than being in the fairway on the right. If you are on the right side, play to the front left of the green ensuring that you come up short of the green. The chip shot from the front of the green is significantly easier than the chip shot from off the side of the green on the left, because the grain of the grass off the left is back into you. If you do miss on the left side of the green, my suggestion to most players is to putt, because you will produce a better result on average.

Ideally for the mid to high handicap player, tee the ball on the right side of the tee and aim down the left side of the fairway.

The better player who can hit the ball onto the green in two shots, needs to try to drive the ball down the fairway trying to have the ball finish on the left side of the fairway, therefore opening the green for their 2nd shot. From the left side you can play an attacking shot up the line of the green, however from the right side you should play a club that will come up short and left ensuring an easy chip. Most better players play aggressively from the right side hitting the ball into the green side bunker or left of the green and having a tough chip back from a tight lie into the grain of the grass.

Remember for all standards of players play aggressively from the left and defensively from the right on the first hole. This strategy will give you a better chance of success.