

ROYAL ST. GEORGE'S GOLF CLUB

Sandwich, England
CT13 9PB

+44 1304 613090

royalstgeorges.com

New beginnings – Royal St. George's Golf Club.

MEMBER SINCE 2016

Mark Wiebe

Deputy Head
Greenkeeper (Incoming)

*Written by Andrew Marsan, Turf
Technical Sales, Plant Products. Photos
provided by Mark Wiebe.*

*Credit: Quotes are attributed to Marcus
Aurelius, Roman emperor and Stoic
philosopher. Adapted from his work
Meditations.*



ABOUT THE COURSE

Founded in 1887 by Dr William Laidlaw Purves, the course was intended to emulate the ethos and traditions of St. Andrews in the South of England, the Royal St. George's Golf Club is consistently ranked amongst the leading courses in the World.

The Club occupies a unique place in the history of golf, for it was here in 1894, that the Open Championship was first played outside of Scotland.

In all, there have been 15 Open Championships played at Royal St. George's, more than any course outside of Scotland.

"That which is not good for the swarm is not good for the bee," wrote Marcus Aurelius. A reminder that true leadership is measured not by personal gain, but by the well-being of those we guide. For Mark Wiebe, it's a simple rule for how he leads and works: focus on the team, not yourself. There's a quiet thoughtfulness to Mark, the kind that puts you immediately at ease. He often draws perspective from *Meditations*, the stoic reflections of a Roman emperor, whose short passages on persistence, gratitude, and purpose mirror how he approaches his work and his life.

Now in a period of transition, Wiebe has accepted the Deputy Head Greenkeeper position at Royal St. George's Golf Club in Sandwich, England, long regarded as one of the world's 100 greatest golf courses. The months leading up to his move have offered space for reflection—a rare pause after twenty years in turf management shaped by patience, curiosity, and an unshakable belief in hard work.

*"Waste no more time arguing
about what a good man
should be. Be one."*

IN THE HOT SEAT

Q. FAVOURITE GOLF TOURNAMENT?

A. *The Open*

Q. FAVOURITE PIECE OF EQUIPMENT?

A. 648

Q. FAVOURITE GOLF COURSE?

A. *The Royal St. Georges GC*

Q. ULTIMATE FOURSOME?

A. *My dad and my brothers*

Q. LOWEST ROUND & WHERE?

A. *83, Lowville GC*

Q. FAVOURITE MEAL?

A. *Pizza*

Q. FAVOURITE MOVIE?

A. *The Greatest Game Ever Played*

Q. FAVOURITE COURSE DESIGNER

A. *Stanley Thompson*

Q. FAVOURITE BAND?

A. *Dave Matthews Band*

Leadership, for Wiebe, isn't something to be defined or discussed—it's something you practice every day. The principle behind this line could serve as his personal motto: lead by example, stay humble, and do what's right.

Wiebe's career reflects that mindset. From his start at Hawthorne Valley Golf Course, a small, public, family-owned facility, to his years at the historic Oakdale Golf & Country Club, his reputation has been built on quiet consistency and a steady commitment to improvement. "It's the daily wins," he says. "Helping people improve, helping myself improve, and staying true to what's right."

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Predominate grass type: Fescue

Predominant soil type:

Sandy/sandy loam

Course length: 7,200 yards

Size of greens: 1.5 ha / 3.7 acres

Size of tees: 0.8ha / 2 acres

Size of fairways: 13.8 ha / 34 acres

Major Challenges:

The first major challenge is maintaining sufficient soil moisture and grass cover on a very exposed site, in a dry climate for the UK. The other is recruiting people with suitable skill sets and experience and attracting people with no previous experience to a career in the sports turf industry.



Oakdale Golf & Country Club in preparation for the 2023 RBC Canadian Open.

Patrick Greenman, Director of Property Management at Oakdale Golf & Country Club, has witnessed that commitment firsthand, sharing that "Mark is very dedicated and passionate about the golf industry. Driven by self-improvement and the betterment of the properties he works on. I look forward to seeing him continue to develop as a key member of the golf course he works at and as a member of our industry."

He's never been one to talk about leadership in abstract terms. Wiebe simply lives it—showing up, setting the tone, and focusing on the small details that add up to something bigger. It's a form of professionalism rooted not in titles, but in principles.

The early mornings, the weather, the relentless rhythm of the work—it all requires purpose. Few people

understand that sentiment better than a turf professional

For Wiebe, those pre-dawn hours are not a burden but a gift. They're a quiet moment before the noise of the day, often spent reading—a few pages from *ONCourse*, *GCM*, or another passage from *Meditations* or *The Tao*. It's how he sets his intention before stepping into a day of decisions, teamwork, and detail.

"The last twenty years in the industry do seem like quite the uphill battle," he says. "But I wouldn't have it any other way. The hard times have made the good ones that much sweeter. Since I've had to chase after things and continue to dig deep, I've been able to accomplish a lot more—and, more importantly, appreciate more."

That appreciation comes through in how he talks about his career—not as a series of achievements, but as a series of lessons. His education at Durham College and the University of Guelph gave him a solid foundation, but it was experience that shaped him. At each course, he built on the same approach: show up, work hard, and bring others along for the journey. Mentors like Dean Baker helped reinforce that. “Dean’s passion for life and for people really stuck with me,” Wiebe says. “He showed me what it means to lead with enthusiasm and care.”

“The impediment to action advances action. What stands in the way becomes the way.”

The past few years have proven that truth in Wiebe’s own journey. After challenging times during Covid, he found a new purpose at Oakdale Golf & Country Club, joining a team preparing for the Canadian Open. What could have been a setback instead became a turning point—reigniting his passion for the work and the people who make it meaningful. Being part of that group gave him a new sense of direction after an uncertain stretch for many in the industry. “I couldn’t have wished to be part of a better team of professionals,” he says, “and I’ll forever value the mentorship of Patrick Greenman, as well as all those I had the opportunity to mentor at Oakdale.”

That same belief in perseverance guides Wiebe through this next stage of his career. The opportunity at Royal St. George’s represents both a challenge and a milestone—a chance to apply two decades of experience to one of golf’s most storied and demanding landscapes.

He approaches it with the same calm focus that’s carried him this far. “It’s given me time to reflect on the kind of leader I want to be when I get there,” he says. “To think about what



The 2018 Bermuda Championship was just the beginning of Mark’s PGA Tour experience.

I’ve learned and how I can contribute from day one.” Royal St. George’s, an exposed links course along England’s southeast coast, will test both agronomic skill and human patience. Its firm, fescue-dominant turf and unpredictable coastal conditions demand adaptability—the very trait Wiebe has refined throughout his career. For him, the challenge is part of the draw. “Every day in this industry teaches you something new,” he says.

“Do not act as if you were going to live ten thousand years....While you live, while it is in your power, be good.”

“It’s humbling in the best possible way.” There’s a calmness in how Wiebe views life—an awareness that time and purpose are precious. He credits much of that perspective to his father, a retired nuclear engineer who taught him that strength and kindness can coexist—and to his wife, Hannah, whom he met in 2015 at RattleSnake Point Golf Club. Both have been steady sources of support, grounding him through each step of his journey.

Away from the course, he finds balance in reading and working on a science fantasy novel, a creative outlet that reminds him to think beyond systems and schedules.

He’s also the vice president of his local Toastmasters club, where he continues to refine his communication and leadership skills. “Communication is such a big part of leadership,” he says. “It’s something I’ve worked at my whole career, and Toastmasters has been an incredible environment for that.”

When asked what advice he’d offer to those entering the industry today, his answer feels almost stoic in its simplicity: “Buy in. Never stop learning. Stay humble, stay kind, and stay resolute.”

“You can’t forget to enjoy it,” Wiebe says. “We’re lucky to do what we do—to be part of something bigger than ourselves.”

As he prepares for this next chapter, that mindset remains his compass. For Mark Wiebe, what stands in the way has always become the way—and the way forward has never been clearer. ■

“I remember our first meeting; many years back, Mark was determined to ask me how to get into the turf industry. Fast-forward, we have become friends and look what he’s done. I’m watching close to see how my friend’s next chapter unfolds.” -Dean Baker