Golf Course Architects’ Study Tour
To South-east England
Organised by the EIGCA and Kindly Supported by the TORO Company
The European Institute of Golf Course Architects is pleased to announce the details of the 2015 Golf Course Architects Study Tour, supported by the TORO Company.

The “To Heath & Links” 2015 Study Tour will take in four of the greatest links and heathland golf courses in South-east England. The week will begin at Sunningdale Golf Club with a tour of Harry Colt’s “Lost Holes” before golf starts in earnest the following day on the New Course. From Sunningdale, we move just down the road to experience the work of Herbert Fowler and The Red Course at The Berkshire.

It is then time to turn our attention to seaside golf as we head to the Kent Coast to play two of England’s best links courses, both of which have hosted The Open - Royal St George’s and Royal Cinque Ports. Courses with finer and more challenging green complexes would be hard to find.

After the hugely successful tours arranged by the Australian and American societies in 2009 and 2012 respectively, the EIGCA are determined to arrange an event that does justice to their Herculean efforts. We hope you agree that the itinerary below represents a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the very best of English golf. Once again, the generous support of TORO Company has made this tour feasible.
ITINERARY

Sunday 13th September

Morning - Gather at the Runnymede Hotel, Surrey
http://www.runnymedehotel.com/ Located just a few minutes from Heathrow Airport, The Runnymede Hotel sits on the banks of the River Thames a few hundred yards from the meeting place where King John sealed the Magna Carta in 1215. From the hotel, it is a short drive to the delights of some of the great heathland courses including Sunningdale, The Berkshire, Swinley Forest and Wentworth.

Afternoon - Tour of Harry Colt’s “Lost Holes” at Sunningdale. Recently Sunningdale GC has rediscovered four of Harry Colt’s original holes from the New Course which were lost following major reconstruction in 1934. Because of the more strenuous walk required to play them, the holes were unpopular with the members and were replaced by Tom Simpson, whose own work was subsequently revised by Harry Colt’s partner, John Morrison. The New Course certainly provides a great insight into the tensions and rivalries between two highly respected design practices and a tour of these lost holes provides a fantastic opportunity to step back in time.

Evening – Official Welcome Reception, Runnymede Hotel
Monday 14th September

Sunningdale New Course
http://www.sunningdale-golfclub.co.uk/
No. 22 – Golf World, Top 100 Courses of Great Britain & Ireland 2013

Sunningdale New Course is undoubtedly one of Harry Colt’s best courses and is perhaps unfairly overshadowed sometimes by the Old Course. Many believe the green complexes on the New to be greatly superior to those on its sister course and the stretch of holes between 2 and 14 are difficult to match anywhere. Its dramatically rolling, open heathland landscape makes it perhaps the prime example of this type of course.

Evening –
Dinner, Sunningdale Golf Club
Tuesday 15th September

The Berkshire, Red Course
http://www.theberkshire.co.uk/
No. 34 - Golf World, Top 100 Courses of Great Britain & Ireland 2013

The Berkshire was the last work by the great eccentric golf course architect Herbert Fowler and remains one of his least altered creations. We are playing The Red Course with its innovative 6 par fives, six par fours and 6 par threes.

Evening –
Dinner, The Berkshire, followed by transfer to Ashford International Hotel, Kent.

http://www.qhotels.co.uk/our-locations/ashford-international-hotel/
Wednesday 16th September

Royal St George’s Golf Club
http://www.royalstgeorges.com/
No. 15 – Golf World, Top 100 Courses of Great Britain & Ireland 2013

Royal St George’s hosted its first of 14 Open Championships in 1894 and its most recent in 2011 when Darren Clark unexpectedly triumphed. Originally laid out by Laidlaw Purves, the course has evolved gradually to become a favourite for many links enthusiasts. Indeed, Bernard Darwin wrote that Royal St Georges was “as nearly my idea of heaven as is to be attained on any earthly links”. Renowned for its challenging greens, this is a course that will exploit any frailties in the short game even if the wind is not blowing.

Evening –
Dinner at Royal St Georges Golf Club
Thursday 17th September

Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club  
http://www.royalcinqueports.com/welcome/  
No. 43 - Golf World, Top 100 Courses of Great Britain & Ireland 2013

Royal Cinque Ports, in the town of Deal in Kent, hosted The Open twice in the early 20th century and was set to do so again in 1949 until the course was flooded by the sea. Although sea defence work caused significant disturbance, it remains a top class links that still hosts major amateur events. In common with its near neighbour Royal St. George’s, Deal (as many people know it) has some of the most interesting green complexes in links golf. The closing run of seven holes is among the most demanding in links golf when the prevailing wind is blowing.

Evening –  
Official ‘End of Tour’ Dinner at Leeds Castle  
http://www.leeds-castle.com/home

Leeds Castle is one of the great English castles and dates back to William the Conqueror. It has been the private property of six of England’s medieval Queens, a palace used by Henry VIII and his first wife, Catherine of Aragon, and in the last century was the home of a wealthy Anglo-American heiress. The ‘End of Tour’ Dinner will take place in the Henry VIII Banqueting Hall, with its magnificent fireplace, ebony floor and sweeping views across the castle moat.
Friday 18th September

Morning –
Return to Runnymede Hotel, arriving around midday

The tour concludes at this point but if you are staying in the area you may wish to consider doing some of the following:

• Golf at Swinley Forest, Tel: +44 (0) 1344 620197

• Golf at Wentworth, [http://www.wentworthclub.com/golf/](http://www.wentworthclub.com/golf/)

• Riverboat cruise to Windsor Castle and the Runnymede Monuments [http://www.frenchbrothers.co.uk/](http://www.frenchbrothers.co.uk/)

• Walk to the Runnymede Monuments, only a few minutes from the Runnymede Hotel [http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/runnymede/things-to-see-and-do/memorials/](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/runnymede/things-to-see-and-do/memorials/)

• Rugby World Cup starts Friday evening with England vs Fiji at Twickenham at 20.00 so you could find a pub and watch the game [http://www.rugbyworldcup.com/](http://www.rugbyworldcup.com/)

• Physio?

• Sleep ….
Not only are the courses first class, but between them Sunningdale, The Berkshire, Royal St George’s and Deal have some of the best examples of great British Clubhouses. And Leeds Castle will be a spectacular end to the tour. Prepare yourselves for lots of good food in wonderfully traditional surroundings, but don’t forget to bring a jacket and tie.
PACKAGE
The package includes:
• 2 nights’ accommodation at The Runnymede Hotel (Sunday and Monday nights)
• 3 nights’ accommodation at The Ashford International Hotel (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights)
• Transportation between the hotels and the venues during the Tour by coach
• All meals during the Tour (from Sunday evening to Friday morning)
• Green fees at the four golf courses

Exclusions:
• Transport to The Runnymede Hotel on the Sunday morning
• Transport from the hotel on the Friday afternoon
• Golfing extras such as caddies, hire clubs, etc.

PACKAGE COST
The cost in a single room is £889.00
The cost sharing a twin room is £699.00
Additional accommodation can be booked at The Runnymede Hotel on the Friday night, £105 per single room, £175 per twin room, including breakfast.

REGISTRATION
Registration is now open. ASGCA, SAGCA and EIGCA will take registrations from their own members and they will provide their members with exact payment amounts and payment terms.

CANCELLATION DATE
The cancellation date for the tour is 28 February 2015. After this date if a member cancels and a replacement cannot be found, the member will be responsible for the full cost of the tour.