

THE HONOURABLE COMPANY  
OF EDINBURGH GOLFERS



MUIRFIELD  
Course Guidebook







## MUIRFIELD

### Course Guidebook

The Guidebook is not intended to be a substitute for a Strokesaver or similar. It does contain images and data relating to every hole but its purpose is to provide additional information about incidents from past Championships plus anecdotes and notes concerning course history which give more colour than a standard course guide.



So much has happened at Muirfield both in regular play by Members and in 130 years of Open Championships that there are sure to be many other stories and snippets to be added to this text. The Club encourages Members, Guests, Visitors and Competitors to remind us of all the other amazing happenings that are part of Muirfield folklore. We look forward to including new material in the next edition of the Guidebook.

**Championship Tees** are for information only.  
The commentary relates to the Medal Tees and a  
course yardage of 6,728 yards.

**Open Rating** is the difficulty of the hole against par  
across all four days of the 2013 Open Championship:  
1 is most difficult and 18 is least difficult.



# Hole 1



# Hole 1

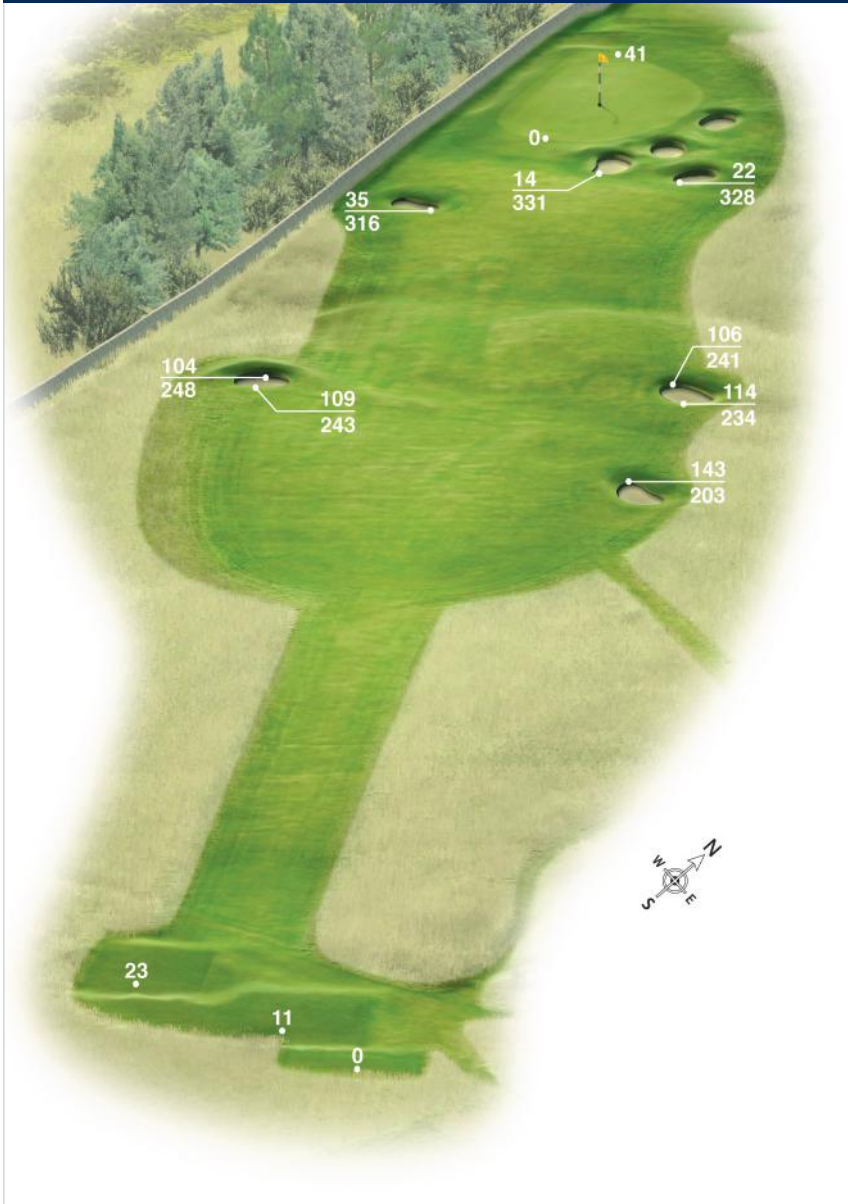
A difficult opening hole into the prevailing wind. The tee shot should be kept to the left half of the flat, but relatively narrow, fairway while avoiding the four bunkers which hug the left side. The first of these at 223 yards is not visible from the tee. The hole swings gently to the right and the greenside bunkering is predominantly short and right with a single bunker back left. The green merges with the fairway and has a subtle downslope from front to back which makes it run faster than the appearance suggests.

Champ Tee	448 yards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The rough on both sides is punishing and the wall running the length of the hole to the far left of the fairway is the southern boundary of the course and out of bounds</li><li>• The left side fairway bunker at 306 yards from the tee was added prior to the 2013 Open and is in a similar position to a bunker in Harry Colt's 1924 layout</li><li>• Tiger Woods had trouble off the tee in the first round of The 2002 Open and again in 2013. In 2002 he pushed a long iron into deep rough on the right but still managed to make par. In 2013 his fairway metal from the 1st tee finished at the base of a small tree in the left rough forcing a penalty drop leading to an opening bogey. Tiger finished T6</li><li>• Brooks Koepka opened with an 8 in Round 1 of The 2013 Open</li></ul>
Medal Tee	446 yards	
Par	4	
Open Rating	9	
Direction	West	
Fairway Width	25 yards	
Fairway Bunkers	4	
Greenside Bunkers	3	
Green Depth	40 yards	
Green Width	23 yards	

In a recent Club Match, played as a two-ball foursome, Members 1 and 2 won this hole with a par 4 against Members 3 and 4, yet Member 2 did not hit a single shot! The answer to the riddle is that Member 1 hit a good drive. His partner, Member 2, had a complete air shot. Member 1 put their ball on the green in 3, sufficiently close for the putt to be conceded for an unusual par 4 which was good enough to win the hole.



# Hole 2



## Hole 2

The shortest par 4 on the course demands accuracy rather than length. The undulating landing area slopes right to left and the ideal tee shot finishes between the two left side fairway bunkers. This line opens up the green which is heavily protected by a cluster of four bunkers on the right side. The green is sheltered by trees situated in the out of bounds beyond the boundary wall on the western extremity of the course. The green is higher on the right side and feeds down to a narrow run off between the green and the stone wall.

Champ Tee	365 yards	• This is the only surviving hole of the 1891 course - it was originally the 3rd
Medal Tee	365 yards	• The western boundary wall marks out of bounds on the left side and the wall converges to within 15 feet of the green
Par	4	
Open Rating	15	• In 1968, the planting of sea buckthorn and trees created a natural barrier to protect the green and the approach from sand blown in off the beach
Direction	N West	
Fairway Width	30 yards	• The lowest point on the course is to the left of this hole just short of the green
Fairway Bunkers	4	• John Daly drove this green in The 2002 Open
Greenside Bunkers	4	
Green Depth	41 yards	• In Round 4 of The 2013 Open, Tim Clark holed for an eagle 2
Green Width	25 yards	



# Hole 3



## Hole 3

Usually played with a helping wind, this hole favours a tee shot to the left side of the fairway to open up the view of the green. The fairway landing area is flat and generous but at 289 yards a bunker on each side, protects a narrow gully which gives access to a long green situated among the sand dunes. Two carefully concealed bunkers at the front right of the green are matched by another pair on the left. The green is 44 yards deep, rises gradually from front to back and there are multiple pin placement options.

Champ Tee	377 yards
Medal Tee	377 yards
Par	4
Open Rating	13
Direction	N East
Fairway Width	30 yards
Fairway Bunkers	3
Greenside Bunkers	4
Green Depth	44 yards
Green Width	25 yards

- This is the first of a trio of holes heading East and the only time that three consecutive holes are similarly aligned
- The copse of trees to the right of the green is not in play but marks the location of a former curling pond which is shown on the early maps of the course
- In Round 3 of The 2013 Open, Martin Laird started in 6th place only two shots behind the leader. He opened with a par and a birdie, but a 9 at the third sadly led to a round of 81



# Hole 4



## Hole 4

Regardless of the wind direction, this is a very challenging short hole played from an elevated position to a long, narrow, plateau green. There are multiple tee options depending on the wind and the weather. Two bunkers on the front right of the green and one on the front left are deep and difficult but the severe run off areas around the green are also hazardous. A steep mound on the right-hand side of this green defines the upslope which rises from front left to back right. Missing this green is usually costly.

Champ Tee	227 yards	• There are only three bunkers - the least number of any hole on the course
Medal Tee	182 yards	
Par	3	• During the four days of The 2013 Open this was the most difficult of the four short holes against par and the second most difficult hole on the course
Open Rating	2	
Direction	N East	• In round four of The 2013 Open this was ranked the most difficult hole
Fairway Width	n/a	• Jordan Speith carded five over par at this hole for his four rounds in 2013
Fairway Bunkers	n/a	
Greenside Bunkers	3	• Although never yet used in a Championship, there is a tee which lengthens this hole to 227 yards
Green Depth	40 yards	
Green Width	15 yards	

Until 2011, there was a bunker on the left side of the approach, about 35 yards short of the green. It's removal as part of the course enhancements ahead of the 2013 Open had nothing to do with professional golfers. It was to help elderly Members who experienced great difficulty getting out of this bunker, not simply in terms of getting the ball out but as much in terms of physically extricating themselves from the hazard in question.



# Hole 5



## Hole 5

This slight dogleg requires a long, accurate tee shot favouring the left centre of a rather generous fairway. A string of five bunkers, three of which are not visible from the tee, fringe the right side. The lie of the land slopes right to left so the three fairway bunkers on the left side must be avoided to put the green within range of the second shot. The ground rises gradually towards the raised frontage of the elevated putting surface which is two-tiered front to back with the lower level towards the sea and six bunkers surrounding the green. Unless the wind is from the East, this is a good birdie opportunity.

Champ Tee	559 yards
Medal Tee	510 yards
Par	5
Open Rating	17
Direction	N East
Fairway Width	up to 50 yards
Fairway Bunkers	9
Greenside Bunkers	6
Green Depth	38 yards
Green Width	25 yards

- This hole, with a total of 15 bunkers, has the most of any hole on the course
- In good conditions in The Open of 1992, there were 21 eagles and 234 birdies. In 1987, into a headwind, there was just one eagle and 84 birdies
- In 2013, across all four days of The Open, this hole was ranked the second easiest compared to par - including 10 eagles
- Johnny Miller, playing in The 1972 Open, holed a 3 wood for an albatross 2
- In Round 4 in 2013, soon to be Champion Golfer of the Year, Phil Mickelson, who was one over par for the first three days on this hole, carded his first birdie of six in his final round

# Hole 6



## Hole 6

This is a difficult par 4 characterised by a dog leg left and the undulating fairway. The tee shot needs to counter the influence of the prevailing cross wind which seeks to move the tee shot towards four bunkers on the left corner of the fairway where the hole begins to bear east towards the green. A steep ridge across the fairway and running down in the direction of the green adds distance to a well hit drive. The green has Archerfield Wood as a backdrop and a hidden dip in front. This makes the pin seem closer than it is. A bunker 25 yards short right of the green and a matching pair on the front right and middle left require a precise approach shot to a green that is 44 yards deep.

Champ Tee	467 yards
Medal Tee	440 yards
Par	4
Open Rating	3
Direction	South & East
Fairway Width	Up to 30 yards
Fairway Bunkers	5
Greenside Bunkers	2
Green Depth	44 yards
Green Width	15 - 23 yards

- On the Club scorecard this hole is Stroke Index 3 and over the four days of The 2013 Open it was also ranked the third most difficult hole
- In Round 3 in 2013, Carl Petterson had an eagle 2, while Darren Clarke struggled to an 8
- In 1891, the stone wall which ends on the left side of the fairway 115 yards short of the green, marked the northern boundary and ran to the NW corner of the original course

There is an amusing tale told by a local caddie who was an eyewitness to a debate on this tee during a practise round ahead of The 2013 Open. From the Championship tee, no blade of fairway grass was visible. The pro in question asked for a line. "Aim at the third pylon from the right in the line of pylons around the practise ground" said the local caddie. "That's the middle of the fairway." The pro seemed confused so the caddie repeated the instruction about the third pylon. This happened twice more before one of the other two pros intervened. "For heaven's sake, aim at the middle one!" This Pro has gone on to win several Major Championships.

# Hole 7



## Hole 7

Short, but uphill, normally into the wind and with an exposed green sloping down from back to front towards the tee, this hole requires careful distance control and a precise strike. The four bunkers, one front right and three on the left of the green, are deep and difficult, as are recovery shots from the runoffs. The combination of wind, the absence of shelter around the green and the incline on it, can make this green very slippery when putting down the slope.

Champ Tee	185 yards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The tee is situated at a lower level than the green and is less exposed. It is essential to have enough club to reach and hold the green.</li> <li>• In 1933, Tom Simpson, the golf architect, wrote a report for the Club - he said that this was “a terrible hole without a single redeeming virtue”</li> <li>• Rory McIlroy and Tom Watson, in 2013, both carded a 2 in R 1 and a 5 in R 2 before missing the cut</li> <li>• Paul Lawrie had a 7 in his opening round but still made the cut - just! He did birdie this hole in rounds 2 and 3</li> <li>• During the four days of The 2013 Open, former Open Champion Ben Curtis scored 2, 3, 2, 2 and was the best in the field on this hole</li> </ul>
Medal Tee	147 yards	
Par	3	
Open Rating	11	
Direction	S West	
Fairway Width	n/a	
Fairway Bunkers	n/a	
Greenside Bunkers	4	
Green Depth	36 yards	
Green Width	20 yards	

# Hole 8



## Hole 8

This hole involves a dog leg to the right and is played from an elevated tee close to the 7th green. A cluster of five bunkers on the right side forces all but the very longest hitters to opt for the left side of the fairway while not forfeiting too much distance from the tee. The fairway is 20 yards wide at the narrowest point at the turn of the dog leg from where it is 140 yards to the front of the green. The shot to the green must carry the cross bunkers which guard the approach and recognise that a ball landing on the 30 yards of downslope beyond the cross bunkers will pitch forward towards the green. A bunker back left and one back right are shallow but add to the premium on accuracy and distance control. The green is almost circular with many undulations.

Champ Tee	443 yards
Medal Tee	443 yards
Par	4
Open Rating	1
Direction	East & South
Fairway Width	Min 20 yards
Fairway Bunkers	8
Greenside Bunkers	3
Green Depth	30 yards
Green Width	25 yards

- In The 1929 Open, won by Walter Hagen, he chose to cut the corner by moving the crowd and finding a good lie in the trampled grass well to the right of the fairway. The copse of trees and sea buckthorn was planted subsequent to the Championship to discourage players from taking Hagen's direct line
- In the third round of The 1992 Open, Ronan Rafferty holed his second shot for an eagle 2
- During The 2013 Open there were no eagles, a mere 28 birdies, 158 bogeys and 31 scores of double bogey - or worse. This was the most difficult hole ranked over the four days

When the course was first opened, there was a large wooden shelter situated in the vicinity of this green which was the 13th until the course changes in the 1920's.

# Hole 9



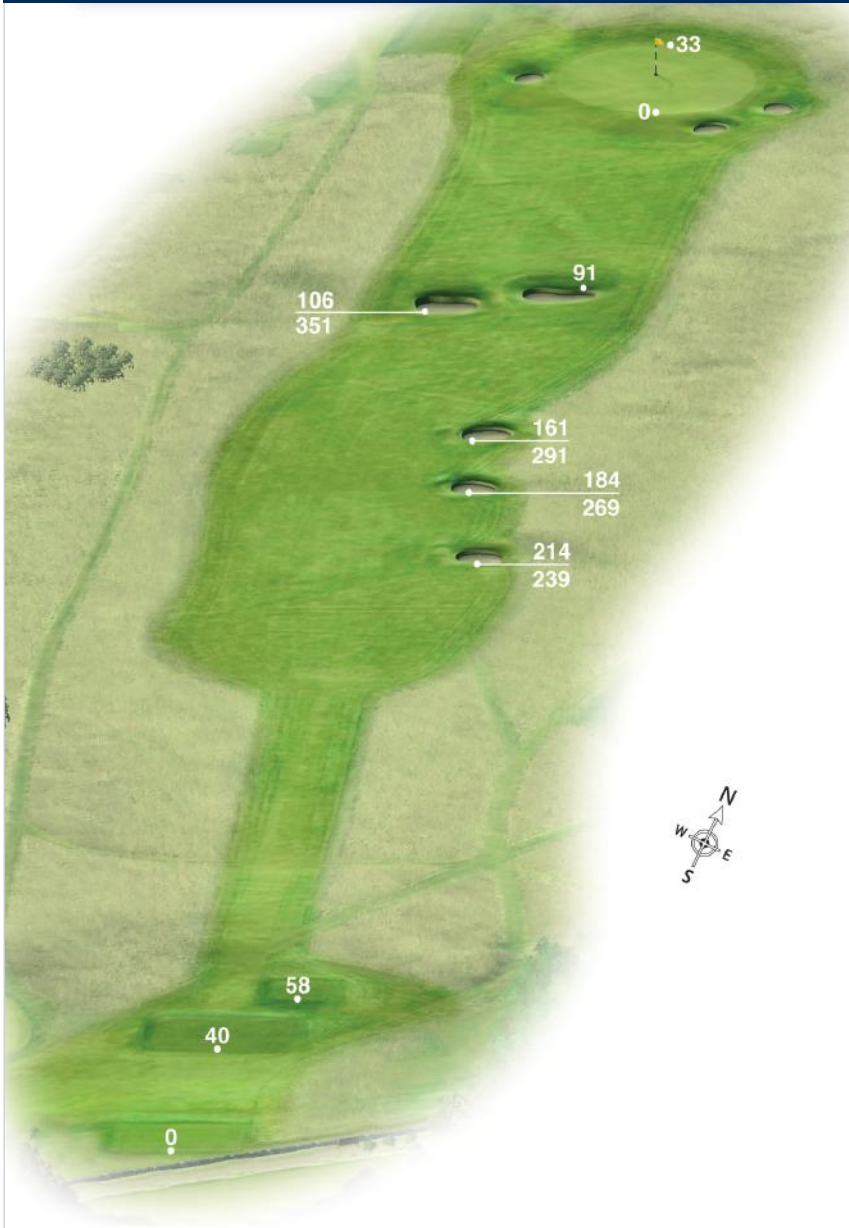
## Hole 9

The tee is situated close to the boundary wall which flanks the left side of the hole, delineates the out of bounds and comes more and more into play as the green is approached. Despite heading west against the prevailing wind, this is not a long par 5. The drive needs accuracy to avoid a bunker on each side of the fairway and length to bring the green within reach. The green is situated quite close to the wall on the left side and is protected by a row of five bunkers lining the approach on the right side. The oval green slopes gently downhill from left to right and runs away more steeply towards the back right corner.

Champ Tee	556 yards
Medal Tee	505 yards
Par	5
Open Rating	18
Direction	West
Fairway Width	Min 25 yards
Fairway Bunkers	6
Greenside Bunkers	2
Green Depth	32 yards
Green Width	20 yards

- The 9th runs from the eastern most extremity of the property back almost to the Clubhouse
- Simpson's bunker sits in a well concealed position 58 yards from the front right of the green and narrows the gap to the wall on the left
- In The 1929 Open, Walter Hagen's ball finished at the base of the boundary wall. He was able to play the shot back handed without penalty
- A new Championship tee was built in 2012 to enable the hole to be lengthened to 556 yards. A wall was rerouted to make this possible
- In 1966, Jack Nicklaus was The Open winner - his strategy was to play this as a 3 shotter and minimise the risk of bunker trouble or out of bounds problems
- Over the four days of The 2013 Open, this par 5 was the most straightforward hole ranked against par with an average score of 4.7

# Hole 10



# Hole 10

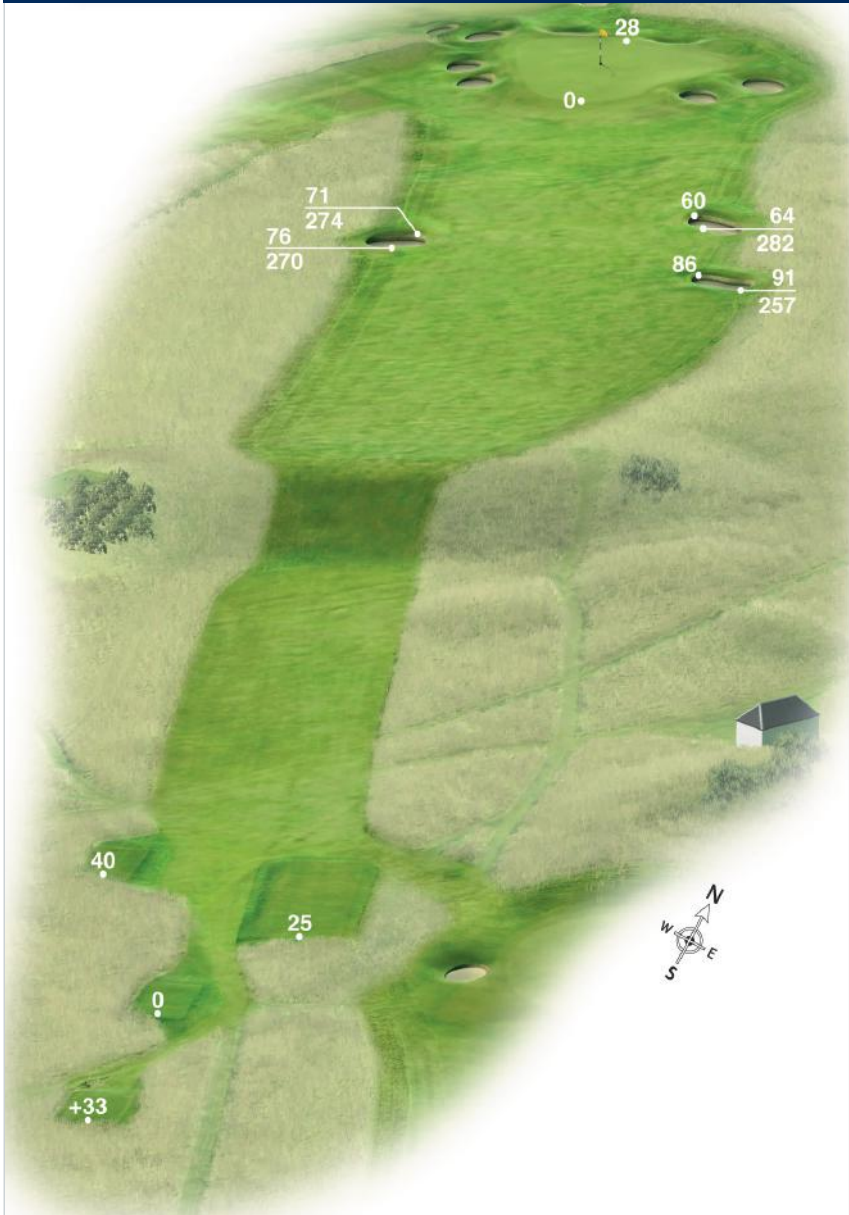
This is a long par 4 and finding the fairway off the tee is essential to put the green within range of the second shot. The hole heads north and the prevailing west wind encourages the drive towards a trio of bunkers on the right-hand side of the fairway. Two cross bunkers sit in a ridge 100 yards from the front of the green and this dead ground makes the green seem closer than it is. One greenside bunker to the front left and two to the right side require an approach shot as accurate as the drive. The green is almost circular and rises up gradually from front to back.

Champ Tee	470 yards
Medal Tee	470 yards
Par	4
Open Rating	6
Direction	North
Fairway Width	Min 25 yards
Fairway Bunkers	5
Greenside Bunkers	3
Green Depth	33 yards
Green Width	30 yards

- In 1891, there was a windmill located between the practice ground and the right-hand side of this hole. It pumped water to irrigate three greens. It was destroyed by a storm in 1920
- “A great hole” in the words of Jack Nicklaus. “One of my all time favourites”
- The 10th and 11th are the only holes on the course which head virtually due North
- In The Open of 1966, Arnold Palmer’s hopes were dashed on this hole with a triple bogey 7 in the final round

As part of the course changes ahead of The 2013 Open, this fairway and the fairway bunkers were moved 15 yards to the west. While the work was in progress to realign this hole, a tee was formed short of the cross bunkers to make it a temporary par 3. During this time, an elderly Member aced this hole and became the only player ever to have a hole in one at the 10th!

# Hole 11



# Hole 11

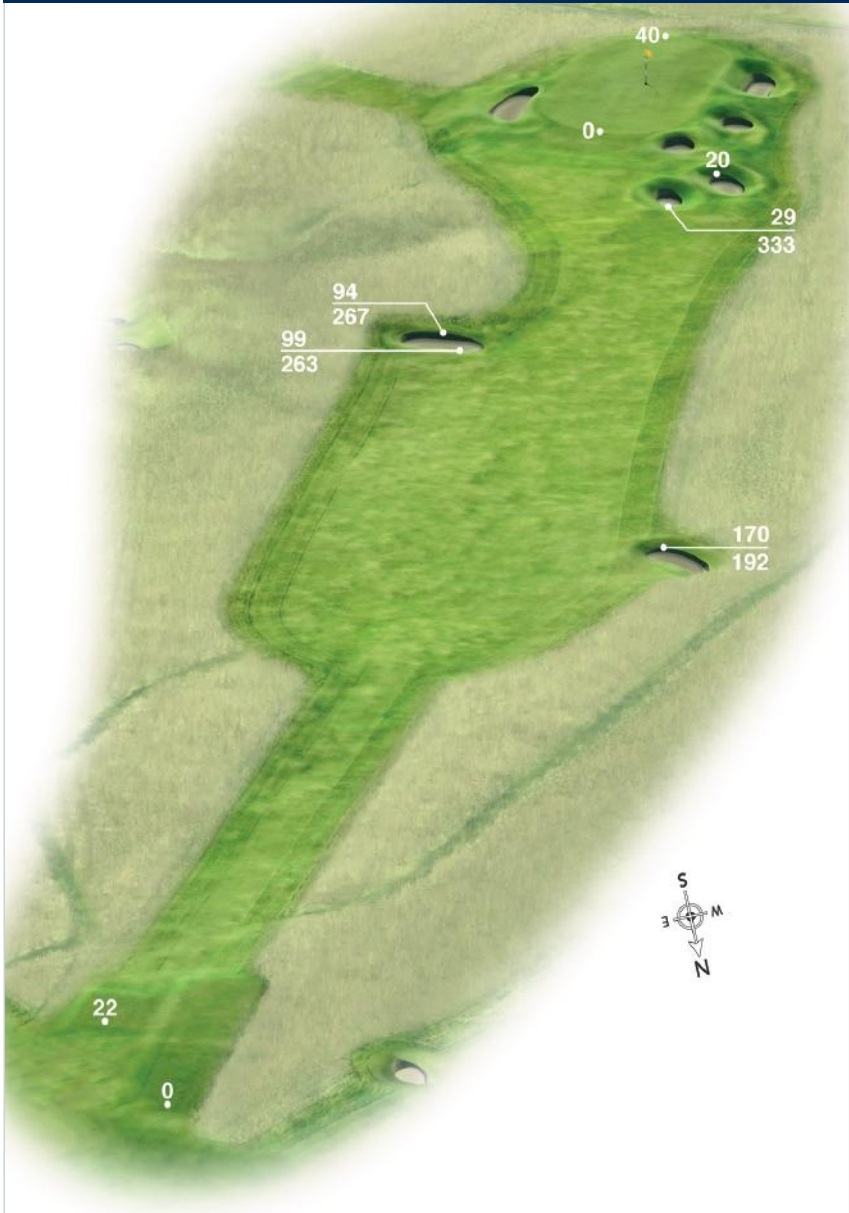
In favourable conditions, this 354 yard par 4 is a risk reward opportunity for the longer hitter willing to go for the green. However, it is the only blind drive on the course over a steep ridge and accuracy is at a premium. A pair of fairway bunkers on the right and one on the left attract shots that are only marginally wayward – and the green is surrounded by seven more. The approach shot demands precision to a smallish, slightly elevated green. The green is undulating with several distinct levels and very few putts are simple.

Champ Tee	387 yards
Medal Tee	354 yards
Par	4
Open Rating	12
Direction	North
Fairway Width	30 yards
Fairway Bunkers	3
Greenside Bunkers	7
Green Depth	28 yards
Green Width	25 yards

- A completely blind tee shot is not universally popular but the views from the top of the ridge across the Firth of Forth to Fife provide some compensation
- Jack Nicklaus went on to win The 1966 Open but missed a birdie putt from 9 feet and also the return from 15 inches
- In Round 1 of The 2013 Open, Y E Yang played holes 8 through 11 in 8 over par including an 8 at this hole. He still managed to shoot 78, made the cut and went on to finish T32
- This is the only hole on the course with bunkers directly behind the green. They are not so deep but playing from the very back of one of these bunkers down the green is not recommended

A black and white, square, guidepost positioned at the top of the ridge, gives golfers the line off the tee. At least, that's the theory, but there are three separate teeing grounds all at slightly different angles to the green and the post is only reliable from one of the tees. That notwithstanding, one of the Club's better players hit a beauty of a drive which was cresting the ridge perfectly but had the misfortune to strike the post full on. Such was the accuracy of the strike and the velocity of the shot that it rebounded all the way back to the tee.

# Hole 12



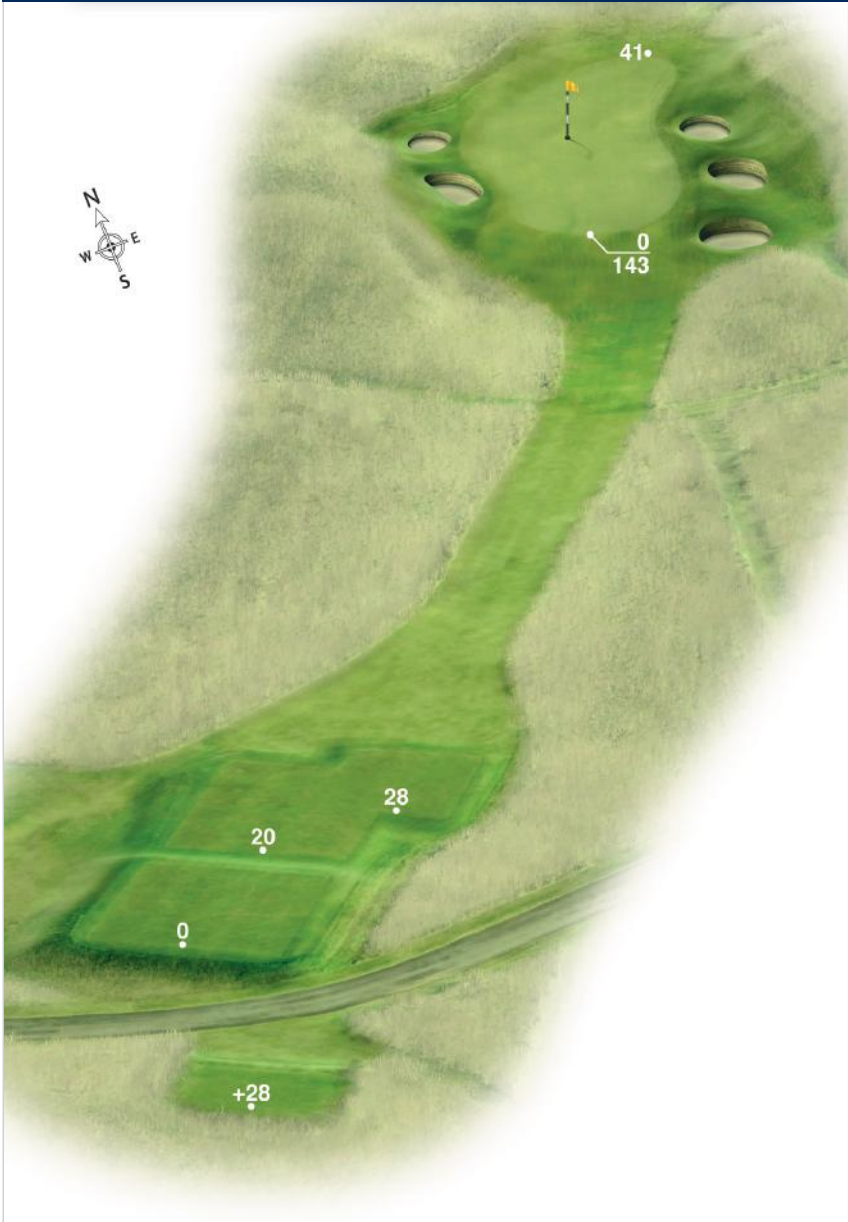
## Hole 12

This is a shortish par 4 played downhill into the prevailing wind. A left side fairway bunker at 263 yards and a difficult bunker complex to the right of the green give two options off the tee: play left of centre and short of the fairway bunker and have a slightly longer but easier shot down the depth of the green, or, hit a longer, right of centre tee shot and enjoy a shorter approach coming in over the greenside bunker complex. The green is long and rather narrow. The highest point is in the back left corner with a significant slope up the green as well as across it. The runoffs to the left of the green and behind it are severe.

Champ Tee	380 yards
Medal Tee	380 yards
Par	4
Open Rating	14
Direction	SWest
Fairway Width	Min 20 yards
Fairway Bunkers	4
Greenside Bunkers	4
Green Depth	40 yards
Green Width	20 yards

- The 12th tee is in an elevated position looking back towards Gullane. Included in the 360-degree view is the spectacular outline of the Queensferry Crossing
- Two-time Major Champion, Sandy Lyle, once described this as a fairly comfortable driving hole but ran up a quadruple bogey 8 in the final round of The 2013 Open
- At 5 over par standing on the 12th tee in the final round of The 2013 Open, Jason Day was heading for a top 20 finish but ran up a triple bogey
- Members often use a handicapping system called Dallmeyer after the Captain who introduced it. If one side goes three down, they are offered a stroke a hole until they are only one down when the match reverts to level. Dallmeyer has an uncanny knack of shaping the result

# Hole 13



# Hole 13

This is a classic par 3 played to an elevated green which is long, narrow and well defended by sand. The uphill tee shot and the framing of the green amidst the sand dunes make the pin seem closer than it is and anything short will run some distance back down the hill. There is a tangle of heavy rough on the surrounding dunes and three bunkers to the right and two on the left are all deep and difficult. The contours of the green help bring the ball towards the centre of the putting surface which is never more than 15 yards wide. There is a pronounced slope from back to front and downhill putts require considerable finesse.

Champ Tee	191 yards
Medal Tee	156 yards
Par	3
Open Rating	10
Direction	N East
Fairway Width	n/a
Fairway Bunkers	n/a
Greenside Bunkers	5
Green Depth	41 yards
Green Width	Max 15 yards

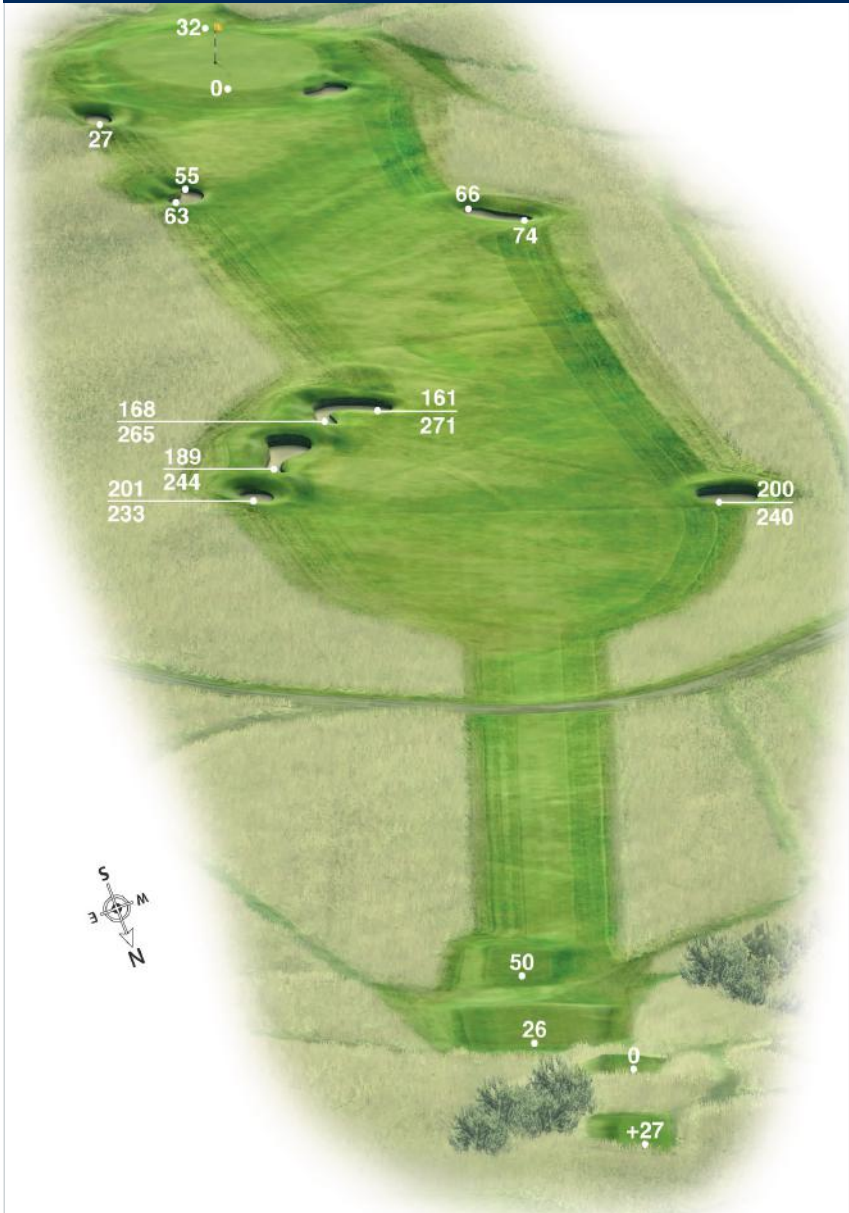
- Tom Simpson, the English golf architect, remodelled this hole in 1934. He made significant alterations to the Harry Colt design from the 1920's and created a classic
- In The 1948 Open Championship won by Henry Cotton, Charlie Ward, the English professional had a hole in one witnessed by King George VI, an Honorary Life Member of the Club
- Tony Jacklin narrowly missed out on an Open win in 1972. A par in Round 2 rather than his triple bogey 6 would have been enough to make him the Champion Golfer
- Ernie Els played a miraculous recovery shot from the front left bunker in the final round of The 2002 Open. The top of the bunker was almost at head height, the ball

was very close to the revetted face which was almost vertical. He put it inside 3 feet, saved par and went on to win in a play off

- In his winning round in 2013, Phil Mickelson birdied this hole to get to level par for the tournament and inspire him to three more birdies in the final five holes



# Hole 14



## Hole 14

This is an exacting drive to a slightly right to left dog leg fairway. It slopes to the right and narrows at 271 yards before the change of direction to the green. A group of three fairway bunkers on the left side – the first of which is hidden, a single one on the right and unfriendly rough on both sides, mean that it is essential to hit the fairway and stay on it. The shot to the green is often played into a headwind and must avoid two bunkers short left of the green and a pot bunker greenside on the right. The green is slightly raised with run offs on three sides and contours which mean that there are very few straight putts.

Champ Tee	476 yards
Medal Tee	449 yards
Par	4
Open Rating	5
Direction	S West
Fairway Width	Min 25 yards
Fairway Bunkers	7
Greenside Bunkers	1
Green Depth	32 yards
Green Width	Max 30 yards

- This hole is Stroke Index 2 on the Club scorecard and was ranked 5th for difficulty across all four days of the 2013 Open, Three 7's and an 8 were recorded
- A new Championship tee was added in 2012 adding 28 yards to the hole. The elevated tee is one of the highest points at Muirfield and gives a spectacular view of the hole and the entire course

One of the regular caddies at Muirfield was observed leaving the course at 11.30a.m. on a Visitors day, meaning the morning round could not have been completed. "Presumably the golfer picked up an injury" enquired the observer. "Nah" said the caddie, "The 14th was the last straw. Ah couldn't stand it anymore, so ah sacked ma player and left him to it."

# Hole 15



## Hole 15

From the Championship tee the hole is a left to right dog leg, but from the Medal Tee it is straight. Regardless of the tee, there are 13 bunkers, eight of which line the fairway. The landing area is quite generous but bunkering and the rough demand accuracy. The best angle of approach is from the right-hand side of the fairway which runs gradually downhill towards the green. A ridge runs from short of the green to its centre and approach shots tend to drift right off the ridge towards a line of three greenside bunkers. The green is large allowing for a range of pin placements, all of which are challenging on this green of many contours.

Champ Tee	445 yards
Medal Tee	394 yards
Par	4
Open Rating	6
Direction	S West
Fairway Width	Min 25 yards
Fairway Bunkers	8
Greenside Bunkers	5
Green Depth	36 yards
Green Width	Max 30 yards

- In 1959, Jack Nicklaus, then 19, drove this green twice while practising for the Walker Cup
- In the final round of The 1992 Open, Nick Faldo, having lost a 4-stroke lead to John Cook, hit his 5 iron second shot to three feet for birdie setting up a winning finish
- In 2013, in the final round of The Open, Phil Mickelson played a 5 iron off the tee which ran out to 330 yards
- In The 2013 Open there was a 7-stroke spread between the lowest and highest scores on this hole

Members refer to this green as the Camel's Back because of the humps and undulations. It is the largest on the course and there are no simple pin positions. While playing in a foursomes match in 1948, King George VI, an Honorary Life Member of the Club, holed a pitch from short of the green. Perhaps he was aware of the difficulty of putting on the Camel's Back!

# Hole 16



## Hole 16

It is a testament to the quality of this hole that precious little has changed since Colt's day when it measured 193 yards. The elevated green is heavily protected by a steep upslope leading up to the putting surface, by seven bunkers surrounding it, by a runoff on the left side and by a slippery incline from back to front. There are no easy pin positions, it is safer to be a fraction long than short and the centre of the green is the prudent target. The prevailing wind may provide some extra carry but the raised green makes the hole play slightly longer than the yardage on the card suggests. Birdies are relatively rare and it is a hole that merits plenty of admiration and respect.

Champ Tee	186 yards
Medal Tee	186 yards
Par	3
Open Rating	8
Direction	East
Fairway Width	n/a
Fairway Bunkers	n/a
Greenside Bunkers	7
Green Depth	34 yards
Green Width	Max 25 yards

- This hole has provided more than its fair share of Championship drama. Ernie Els took 5 in his final round in 2002 before going on to win in a four-way play off.
- In round 3 of The 1972 Open, Lee Trevino's tee shot finished on a downslope towards the back of a bunker right of the green. His sand wedge was a tad thin but hit the flagstick and dropped into the hole for a birdie, his third in a sequence of five over the closing five holes. The next day he went on to win the Claret Jug by one shot!
- In The Open of 2013, this hole yielded only 23 birdies in the entire Championship, the smallest number of any hole on the course

This hole shares with the 11th the distinction of having the most greenside bunkers on the course. When this green is at summer speed and the pin is in the front half, even accomplished golfers have putted off the green. In recent times in a Medal, a Member memorably holed in one here when playing into a strong east wind. His club of choice – driver!

# Hole 17



# Hole 17

The only par 5 on the back nine is a birdie opportunity but it requires a well-placed drive to avoid the run of five bunkers down the left side where the hole dog legs north towards the green. Given thick rough on both sides, a tee shot a fraction right of centre is ideal. Unless the wind is from the east, the cross bunkers, 100 plus yards from the green, are not a factor. The green is set amidst a circle of dunes with a narrow entrance guarded by a single bunker on either side. The ball tends to travel well into the deep and relatively flat putting surface but swings left across the frontage. There is less borrow on this green than any other on the course.

Champ Tee	576 yards
Medal Tee	506 yards
Par	5
Open Rating	16
Direction	East & North
Fairway Width	Min 34 yards
Fairway Bunkers	9
Greenside Bunkers	2
Green Depth	38 yards
Green Width	Max 20 yards

- At this hole in 1972, Lee Trevino looked to have handed The Open Championship to Tony Jacklin when he went through the back in 4 shots while Jacklin was just short in 2. However, Jacklin 3 putted from relatively short range for a 6, Trevino holed his chip and went on to claim his second consecutive Open with a par at the last
- “Two shots of a lifetime, consecutively” is how Jim ‘Bones’ Mackay described the two three woods that Phil Mickelson hit to this green in 2013 to secure his birdie enroute to a final 66 and his first Open Championship
- In the last round of The 2002 Open, Gary Evans stood on the 17th Tee 2 shots ahead of the field after 8 birdies in 10 holes. He pulled his 4 wood second shot into deep

rough on the left. The search party of officials and spectators found five balls but not his. Despite recovering brilliantly to make par he bogeyed the last and missed the play off by one shot

# Hole 18



# Hole 18

The view of the Clubhouse, sitting directly behind the 18th green, is inspiring but the drive is rather daunting. A single bunker to the right of the fairway and a pair on the left must be avoided although the landing area is more generous than it looks. The prevailing right to left cross wind affects the drive but has even more impact on the approach shot to a green which is deep, narrow and rises from front to back. The “island” bunker at the right of the green adds further character to one of the best-known finishing holes in the world of golf.

Champ Tee	471 yards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In The 1901 Open, James Braid struck his second shot to the final green from 200 yards. The shaft splintered, the head flew off but the ball reached the green and he made par to win his first of five Opens</li> </ul>
Medal Tee	418 yards	
Par	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fifty-eight years after Braid, Gary Player started the final round 4 shots behind. He shot 68 and he was convinced that he had lost The Open with a 6 at the last, but others fell away and he won by two shots</li> </ul>
Open Rating	4	
Direction	South	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 1987, Nick Faldo split this fairway off the tee and duly completed his final round with his 18th par. Paul Azinger bogeyed the final two holes and shared second place</li> </ul>
Fairway Width	35 yards	
Fairway Bunkers	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ernie Els won a four-way playoff in The 2002 Open and eventually won on the 18th by getting down in two from the bunker to the left of the green.</li> </ul>
Greenside Bunkers	2	
Green Depth	34 yards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the final round of The 2013 Open, Phil Mickelson birdied four of the last six holes, including the 18th, to be the only player with an aggregate score below par</li> </ul>
Green Width	20 yards	

Most Members, playing in the morning, start thinking of Lunch no later than the 14th tee, so the prospect of driving towards the Clubhouse is very enticing. “Four to win The Open” is the challenge which daydreaming Members set themselves on the tee – admittedly in some cases the blue tee!

# Greenkeeping

The principles on which the course is managed are:

- deep respect for the character of the historic links
- commitment to the importance of agronomy expertise and data
- embracing sustainability and sound ecological practices
- carefully considered use of advances in equipment and technology
- working hand in hand with nature and the prevailing weather patterns
- continuing to enhance the qualities of the course to present a fair challenge both for elite players and for Members, Guests and Visitors regardless of their age or handicap

## Statistics

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There is a total of 81 hectares of land at Muirfield – specific details are as follows:

Tees	0.73 hectares
Fairways	10.1 hectares
Aprons	0.49 hectares
Greens	1.01 hectares
Semi & cut rough	4.45 hectares

The annual rainfall during the years 2012 – 2021 was 537 mm and the mean temperature range is 3.3 deg C to 9 deg C in the Autumn and Winter months and 9 deg C to 16 deg C in the Spring and Summer months.

The highest point on the course – 32 metres above sea level – is the ridge running between the 6th fairway and the Championship tee on the 14th.

## Looking after the Links

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In 2022, there are 13 staff looking after the Links. This includes the Course Manager and the mechanic. In addition, the Club receives valuable help from the R&A in the form of reviews, monitoring and recommendations from the R&A Agronomists. Twice yearly visits in regular years are supplemented to four visits in major Championship years. The R&A also provides an Annual Ecological Monitoring Assessment.

## Weather

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Muirfield is close to the sea but is less exposed than many links courses. The prevailing wind is from the West which is slightly more friendly than when it hits Muirfield from the East – Moscow is on a very similar latitude to Gullane.



## Course layout

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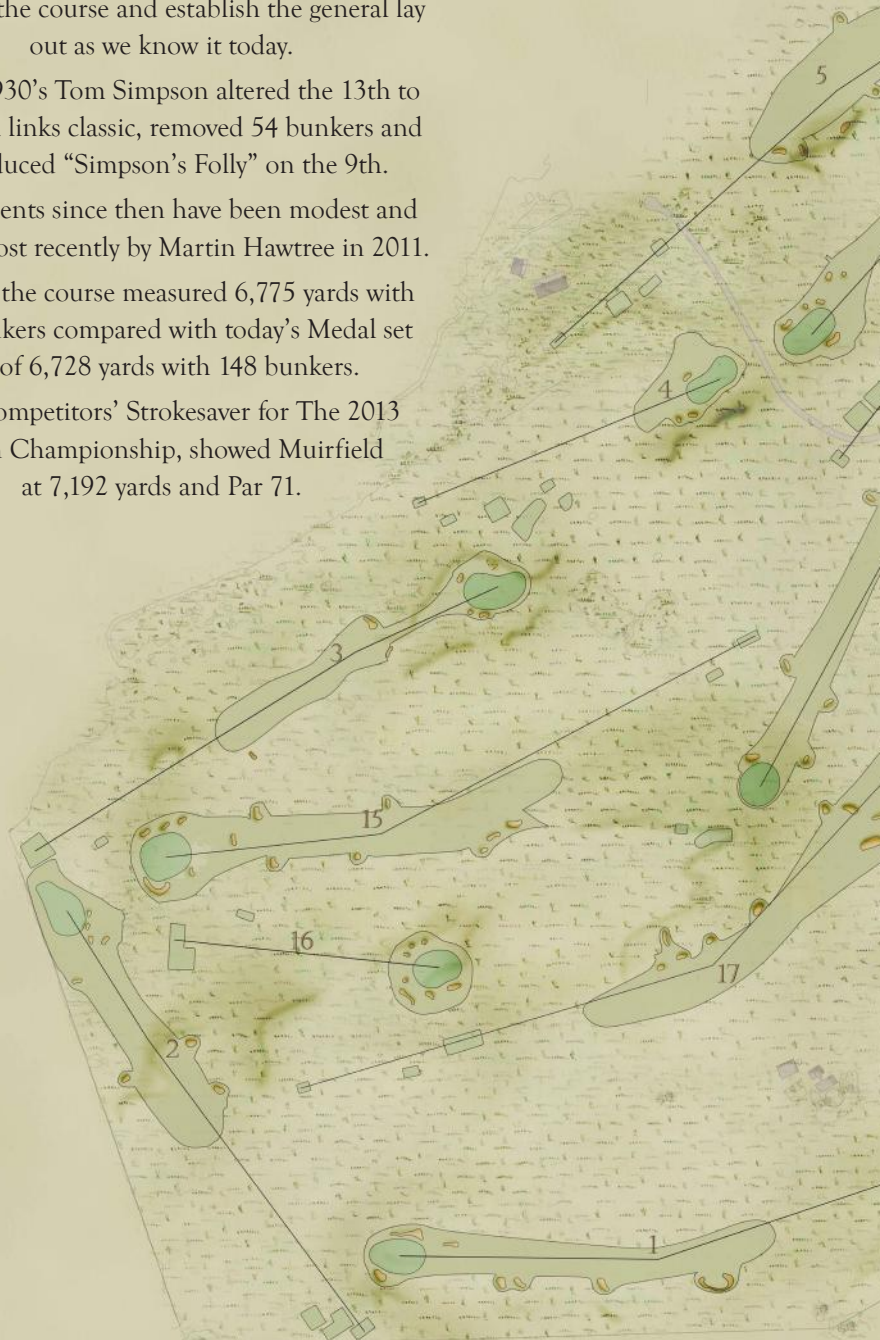
In 1924, Harry Colt completed his work to remodel the course and establish the general layout as we know it today.

In the 1930's Tom Simpson altered the 13th to make it a links classic, removed 54 bunkers and introduced "Simpson's Folly" on the 9th.

Refinements since then have been modest and subtle, most recently by Martin Hawtree in 2011.

In 1935 the course measured 6,775 yards with 169 bunkers compared with today's Medal set up of 6,728 yards with 148 bunkers.

The Competitors' Strokesaver for The 2013 Open Championship, showed Muirfield at 7,192 yards and Par 71.





## Tees

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Muirfield currently has 63 teeing grounds in total. Nine of the holes have a Championship Tee, a Medal Tee, a Members Tee and a Blue Tee to make the course challenging but playable for golfers of different skill levels. The Tees for the remaining holes often combine the Championship and Medal Tees or the Members Tees with the Blues.

## Fairways and Rough

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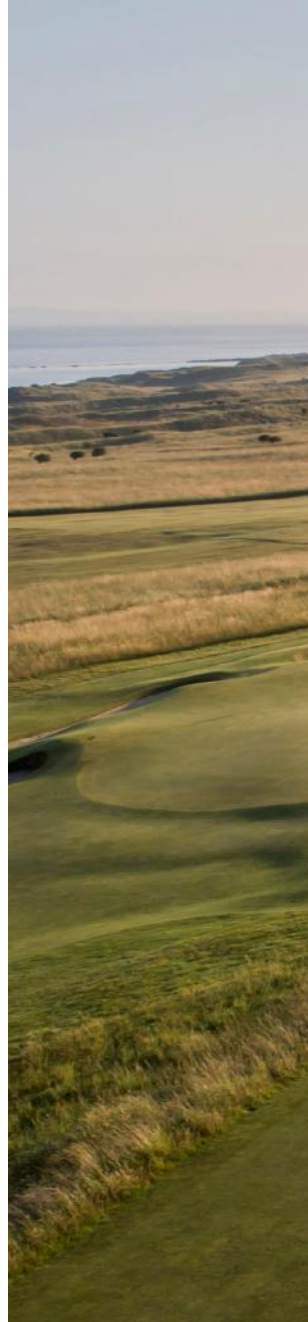
The sophistication and precision of cutting technology, the ability to deal with the humps and bumps, the advent of GPS, and faster and more efficient machinery, have all contributed significantly to better course care and a more attractive appearance. In the first months of 2022, 8.1 hectares of rough were cut, baled and raked. Weather permitting, this will have regenerated by early Summer.

## Bunkers

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Films of past Championships at Muirfield going back over 60 years show bunkers which had a rather rough and ready look about them. The sand was local. Rakes in every bunker for everyday play only became the norm in the mid 1980's.

Not all of the 148 bunkers are revetted but the deeper traps are. There is a maximum 60 degree slope on bunker faces and the bases are lightly dished. During the winter of 2021/2022, repair and maintenance work was completed on 66 bunkers, of which 26 were completely rebuilt and revetted where appropriate.









## Greens

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Greens are cut and maintained 7 days per week. Fairway sprinklers were first installed 25 years ago and the system around the greens was first installed just over 10 years ago.

The greenstaff keep the greens between 9 and 10.5 on the Stimp Meter for regular play. The cut height is set at a maximum of 4 mm while giving due consideration to the impact of wind and weather conditions. There is a high level of standardisation across all greens to within 1" of speed. Every year, 120 tons of sand is spread on the greens.

The Sward Composition of the greens varies slightly from year to year. In 2021, The R&A Agronomy team determined it to be 45% Bent grass, 45% Fescue and 10% Annual Meadow Grass.

## Drainage

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The drainage at Muirfield is excellent but it was not always so and in the 1890's Andra Kirkaldy dismissed the course as "nothing but an old water meadow". Originally there were ditches, a pond to the right of the current 9th fairway, a vast waste area in the centre of the property and, from 1925, a curling pond to the right of the 3rd green. A century of ground improvements and tens of thousands of tons of sand have transformed the Muirfield sward.

## Sustainability

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The Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers course at Muirfield has successfully obtained sustainability certification from GEO – Golf Environment Organisation. As a result of becoming GEO certified, the Club has achieved the most widely regarded and credible sustainability rating in golf.

Specific sustainability practices include:

- bore hole for water
- licensed sand extraction for use on the course
- turf nursery for maintenance
- recycled turf, soil and sand for divots and small repairs
- flora and fauna protection

**“The best Open Championship course in Britain”**

Jack Nicklaus

Muirfield is regularly rated among the top courses in the British Isles and in the top 20 in the World. These assessments are made by panels of players and golf writers who are tasked with objectivity. In addition, the quality of The Open winners at Muirfield tells the same story. Since Henry Cotton’s victory in 1948, the 8 Open Champions at Muirfield have won a total of 60 Majors between them.

It is one of the Club’s top priorities to manage the golf course so that it produces exceptional Champions while retaining all of the links characteristics that make it a fair challenge for elite players and for Members, Guests and Visitors of widely differing ages and levels.

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