

HISTORY OF SUNBURY GOLF CLUB - THE ACTUAL COURSE

The facility opened in late 1992 and was a 6,210 yard Par 72 nine-hole layout that was played twice in each round. It remained in its original format until 26 May 1997 at which point work commenced on upgrading the facility to its current 27-hole format by the then-American Golf Corporation.

LAYOUT 1 - 1992 to May 1997

1st Hole - 379 yards - Par 4 - SI 9 and SI 10

This was basically what is now the first hole on the Academy. The yardage changed when the course was re-measured in 1999. An additional bunker was located on the right hand side of the fairway some 210 yards from the tee. The bank to the right hand side of this bunker can still be seen. The remainder of the hole remains the same to this day.

2nd Hole - 445 yards - Par 4 - SI 3 and SI 4

This is now the 18th hole on the Main Course but played from what is now the Ladies' tee on that hole. There was no bank along the right hand side as this was added during the 1998 course re-modelling. There was a flat bunker on the right hand side of the fairway opposite the two remaining fairway bunkers which were more in play from this tee. At the green there were two further bunkers, both opposite the ones that remain and their positions can still be seen.

3rd Hole - 492 yards - Par 5 - SI 5 and SI 6

This was a flat par five alongside the railway running from roughly where the first tee on the Main Course is now, to the current 16th green. There were no mounds along the right hand side that there are now and of course, there was no current 1st green and sculpting that there is now. There was a fairway bunker on the right hand side, some 220 yards from the tee. There was also another fairway bunker, roughly in the position of the new bunker on the current 16th, but a lot longer and wider. The outline of this bunker can still be seen.

4th Hole - 155 yards - Par 3 - SI 17 and SI 18

This was played from what is now the 18th tee on the Main Course, to the current 17th green. The trees that are on the left of the current 18th tee were only planted in 1999. There was also a bunker at the back of the green leading up to the mound that is there now. The green also stretched further left than it does now, almost down to the edge of the bunker.

5th Hole - 354 yards - Par 2 - SI 7 and SI 8

This is basically what is now the second hole on the Academy course. There was a bunker on the right hand side level with the current bunker, although this latter one was actually two individual ones. The green was the same as it is now although there was another bunker on the front left hand side of the green.

6th Hole - 267 yards - Par 4 - SI 13 and SI 14

This is now the 5th hole on the Academy course, but The Water Hole only had the one front tee in the original layout and it also had a small water hazard on the left hand side of the fairway, ending some 50 yards before the bunker that remains there now. This was basically reeds and wet marshland that was definitely unplayable from. At the green, there was a bunker on the left hand side that now remains as a grass depression.

7th Hole - 176 yards - Par 3 - SI 15 and SI 16

From the 6th green, you walked back down what is now part of the Academy course as the 6th fairway to a tee that was located some 70 yards back in the opposite direction. This was a par three played to a

Sunbury Original Course			
Hole	Yards	Par	SI
1	379	4	9
2	445	4	3
3	492	5	5
4	155	3	17
5	354	4	7
6	267	4	13
7	176	3	15
8	477	5	1
9	360	4	11
OUT	3105	36	
10	379	4	10
11	445	4	4
12	492	5	6
13	155	3	18
14	354	4	8
15	267	4	14
16	176	3	16
17	477	5	2
18	360	4	12
IN	3105	36	
	6210	72	

heavily sloping green from front right to back left with stadium-type mounds all around the green. There was a bunker on the front right corner that took many a ball, and another in the back left corner that saw action when the flag was located on that side of the green. This hole has now completely vanished from the existing layout.

8th Hole - 477 yards - Par 5 - SI 1 and 2

This was played from what is roughly the 7th tee on the Academy course, to the existing 8th green on the Academy course. The tee was not raised and with rough all the way down the left hand side (no current 6th fairway to play to), it was a pretty tight tee-shot. The area on the right over the river was known as "Boon's Island" after one of the stalwarts of the early Sunbury GC League team, John Boon, who would invariably draw every shot until he reached the 8th tee, at which point he would slice a ball straight over the river! The ground dipped down and dog-legged left around the current location of the Academy 7th green and many balls bounced down into the river on the right. The current bunkering and green remain the same, although the back ridge on the green was built as a par five defence, rather than for the par three it is today.

9th Hole - 360 yards - Par 4 - SI 11 and 12

This remains the 9th hole on the Academy course and has not changed over the years until you reach the green where the bunker on the front left hand side of the green has become a depression with rough rather than sand.

LAYOUT 2 - Jan 1997 to July 1997

Work commenced on the new facility in early 1997 and pending the first digging, the course layout changed in January 1997. But inclement weather and some remaining planning issues over the location of the bridge over the railway, led to the original course being restored at the beginning of March until the end of May.

But this second layout was in play for an initial six week period and then again from mid-May through to the middle of July 1997.

1st Hole - 379 yards - Par 4 - SI 9 and SI 10
Remained the same as before.

2nd Hole - 445 yards - Par 4 - SI 3 and SI 4
Remained the same as before.

3rd Hole - 240 yards - Par 3 - SI 7 and SI 14
The original par five 3rd hole alongside the railway was shortened into two long par threes. The first of these was to a temporary green alongside the original fairway bunker. The bunkers were at this stage, in a pretty terrible state, so a good tee-shot just missing the temporary green to the right, could result in an unfortunate bogey or worse.

4th Hole - 202 yards - Par 3 - SI 13 and SI 8
This was another long par three played from what is now the base of the hill on the 16th hole on the Main course, to the existing 16th green. The fairway bunker on the right hand side remained in play.

5th Hole - 155 yards - Par 3 - SI 15 and SI 16
Remained the same as before but was now the 5th rather than the 4th.

6th Hole - 354 yards - Par 4 - SI 1 and SI 2
Remained the same as before but was now the 6th rather than the 5th.

7th Hole - 267 yards - Par 4 - SI 13 and SI 14
Remained the same as before but was now the 7th rather than the 6th. It was in this format that this hole was albatrossed on 8 February 1997 by Paul Stewart.

8th Hole - 175 yards - Par 3 - SI 17 and SI 18
From what is now the 5th green on the Academy course, players walked across to the right, past what is now Academy 6th tee, to a temporary tee set roughly where the Academy 7th green is. From here, you played to what is now the Academy 8th green.

9th Hole - 360 yards - Par 4 - SI 11 and 12
Remained the same as before.

Sunbury 1st revised course			
Hole	Yards	Par	SI
1	379	4	9
2	445	4	3
3	240	3	7
4	202	3	13
5	162	3	15
6	354	4	1
7	267	4	5
8	175	3	17
9	360	4	11
OUT	2584	32	
10	379	4	10
11	445	4	4
12	240	3	14
13	202	3	8
14	162	3	16
15	354	4	2
16	267	4	6
17	175	3	18
18	360	4	12
IN	2584	32	
	5168	64	

LAYOUT 3 - July 1997 to July 1998

The continued development of what is primarily the Academy course continued through 1997 and into 1998 and led to further amendments to the 9-hole layout whilst sculpting work was done.

1st Hole - 379 yards - Par 4
Remained the same as before.

2nd Hole - 445 yards - Par 4
Remained the same as before.

3rd Hole - 154 yards - Par 3
The foundations and mound work that led to what is now the 1st green on the Main course being built, led to an alteration on the 3rd hole on revised course. A temporary green was created some 150 yards away from what is now the 1st tee on the Main course, and this was used for a 12-month period. Two larger-than-usual holes were usually cut on this green and the flags alternated on a daily basis.

4th Hole - 192 yards - Par 3
Remained the same roughly the same as before but the tee was moved 10 yards nearer the green because of the earthworks.

5th Hole - 155 yards - Par 3
Remained the same as before.

6th Hole - 354 yards - Par 4
Remained the same as before.

7th Hole - 267 yards - Par 4
Remained the same as before.

8th Hole - 121 yards - Par 3
Development of what is now the 7th green on the Academy course, led to a temporary tee being built behind what is now the 5th green on the Academy course. From here, you played over the greenside bunker to the existing Academy 8th green. This was famously aced by the then-bar manager Steve in May 1998 when watching the culmination of a Thames Summer League match, and him having borrowed a club and ball for a one-off shot.

9th Hole - 360 yards - Par 4
Remained the same as before.

Sunbury 2nd revised		
Hole	Yards	Par
1	382	4
2	445	4
3	154	3
4	192	3
5	165	3
6	354	4
7	267	4
8	121	3
9	357	4
OUT	2437	32
10	382	4
11	445	4
12	154	3
13	192	3
14	165	3
15	354	4
16	267	4
17	121	3
18	357	4
IN	2437	32
	4874	64

LAYOUT 4 - Jul 1998 to Sep 1999

The completion of some of the new holes led to the opening of an 18-hole course on 27 July 1998. This layout was also used for a time during the winters of 2000 and 2002 when waterlogged fairways led to a temporary suspension of play on what is now the 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 6th holes of the current course. The layout was the current Academy course layout, and then nine holes of the current Main course.

1st Hole - 376 yards - Par 4

Remained the same as before but the length was reduced by three yards on a re-measurement.

2nd Hole - 354 yards - Par 4

This was the previous 6th hole on the revised course. The bunker on the right was in time, filled in and allowed to have rough grown over. The two bunkers were left in a poor state and began to merge into one larger bunker. The left hand greenside bunker was filled in and soon had almost disappeared from view.

3rd Hole - 114 yards - Par 3

The first of the new holes on what is now the Academy course. It remains as it is now, a short par three behind the driving range.

4th Hole - 126 yards - Par 3

Another new hole, played back in the opposite direction.

5th Hole - 292 yards - Par 4

This was the previous 7th hole but with the addition of a new back tee right up next to the driving range. This is only used on odd occasions as its location is pretty dangerous with balls coming over from the range. The water hazard on the left hand side had disappeared by now, and during 2000, the greenside bunker on the left was removed and became the grass depression that is there now.

6th Hole - 363 yards - Par 4

The third new hole and the current 6th on the Academy course.

7th Hole - 318 yards - Par 4

The fourth new hole and the current 7th on the Academy course.

8th Hole - 138 yards - Par 3

The building of a new tee behind the 7th green meant that this hole finally came into play in July 1998 but still to the existing 8th green.

9th Hole - 363 yards - Par 4

This remained the same as before.

10th Hole - 304 yards - Par 4

From the 9th green, players walked past the clubhouse and down to what is now the 1st tee on the Main course. The hole remains the same as it is today although the trees on the right hand side short of the bunker were nowhere near the size they are today.

11th Hole - 396 yards - Par 4

This is now the 14th hole on the current Main course and has not changed since it was opened. Players walked right on crossing the bridge and behind what is now the 15th green as this was still in development.

12th Hole - 151 yards - Par 3

Sunbury Composite Course		
Hole	Yards	Par
1	376	4
2	354	4
3	114	3
4	126	3
5	292	4
6	363	4
7	318	4
8	138	3
9	363	4
OUT	2444	33
10	304	4
11	396	4
12	151	3
13	173	3
14	342	4
15	119	3
16	287	4
17	127	3
18	487	5
IN	2386	33
	4830	66

This is now the 10th Hole on the main course. Players walked past what is now the 15th tee and down to what is now the 10th tee.

13th Hole - 173 yards - Par 3

This is now the 11th hole on the current Main course.

14th Hole - 342 yards - Par 4

This is now the 12th hole on the current Main course.

15th Hole - 119 yards - Par 3

This is now the 13th hole on the current Main course.

16th Hole - 287 yards - Par 4

From here, players walked past what is now the 14th tee and 15th greens, back across the bridge, and up to what is now the 16th tee.

17th Hole - 127 yards - Par 3

The new tee for this green was introduced at this point. It did have the effect of taking the left hand bunker more out of play. The bunker at the back of the green had been allowed to grow over to its current state. The green did also stretch further left but in time, has been brought less into play.

18th Hole - 487 yards - Par 5

This is now the 18th hole on the current Main course.

LAYOUT 5 - Sep 1999 to Jul 2006

The new 18-hole course was opened for play on 15 September 1999. Modifications were made to four holes during 2005/6 and are noted below.

1st Hole - 304 yards - Par 4

This was the 10th hole from the previous layout.

2nd Hole - 293 yards - Par 4

This hole was extended by 24 yards for medal play in the spring of 2006 by combining the tee with that used for the 9th hole. In addition, a small copse of trees and rough was allowed to grow at the far corner of the dog-leg to the green.

3rd Hole - 293 yards - Par 4

This hole has remained the same since September 1999 although drainage problems during 2001 and 2002 did leave the fairway under water for a period of a few weeks. For a time in 2003, the bunker at the far end of the fairway was deemed GUR, but this has now been brought back into play. The trees on the out-of-bounds area have grown considerably since the hole was first opened, and the out-of-bounds markers have been replaced by markings on the trees themselves in some cases.

4th Hole - 93 yards - Par 4

A new tee to the left of the existing tee was introduced during the winter of 2005/2006 to preserve the main tee in inclement weather.

5th Hole - 318 yards - Par 4

This hole has remained the same since September 1999 although the small plantation to the left of the green has gradually disappeared.

6th Hole - 314 yards - Par 4

The internal out-of-bounds to the left hand side of the fairway was introduced in August 2005. The area just short of the green was allowed to grow further at the same time, to prevent so many balls rolling down into the lateral water hazard.

7th Hole - 132 yards - Par 3

This hole has remained the same since September 1999.

8th Hole - 356 yards - Par 4

This hole was extended by 26 yards for medal play in July 2006 by the building of a new elevated tee behind the existing tee.

9th Hole - 438 yards - Par 4

This hole has remained the same since September 1999.

10th Hole - 151 yards - Par 3

This was the 12th hole from the previous layout.

11th Hole - 173 yards - Par 3

This was the 13th hole from the previous layout.

12th Hole - 342 yards - Par 4

This was the 14th hole from the previous layout.

13th Hole - 119 yards - Par 3

Sunbury Main Course

Hole	Yards	Par
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1	304	4
2	293	4
3	293	4
4	93	3
5	318	4
6	314	4
7	132	3
8	356	4
9	438	4
OUT	2541	34
10	151	3
11	173	3
12	342	4
13	119	3
14	396	4
15	480	5
16	287	4
17	127	3
18	487	5
IN	2562	34
	5103	68

This was the 15th hole from the previous layout.

14th Hole - 396 yards - Par 4

This was the 11th hole from the previous layout.

15th Hole - 480 yards - Par 5

This hole has remained the same since September 1999.

16th Hole - 287 yards - Par 4

Originally, there was no bunker on the right hand side some 40 yards from the green. This was introduced in March 2006.

17th Hole - 127 yards - Par 3

Remained the same as before.

18th Hole - 487 yards - Par 5

Remained the same as before.