



## Carnoustie Championship hole-by-hole guide

### **Hole 1, 406 yards, par 4 "CUP"**

A gentle introduction to Carnoustie Championship golf course. The drive is played to a wide fairway with slopes which tend to take the ball to the right hand side, and should pose no real problems although the burn meandering in front of the first tee can intimidate the nervous golfer.

The second shot is one of the few blind shots to be played at Carnoustie and it is important to judge the distance correctly.

**CADDIE'S TIP - Ideally aim left centre of fairway off the tee which will allow you to see the whole of the green.**

### **Hole 2, 463 yards, par 4 "GULLEY"**

A long and straight drive is required to avoid the bunkers which will catch even a slightly miss-hit shot. Once the fairway has been found, the second shot is straightforward, but with a green measuring 60 yards from front to back the choice of club is crucial.

**CADDIE'S TIP - Play to the middle of the green with your approach shot as most of the trouble is at the front of this green.**

### **Hole 3, 352 yards, par 4 "JOCKIE'S BURN"**

A short but very deceptive par 4, this hole does not place too many pressures upon the drive although the fairway bunkers will catch anything pulled slightly left. Jockie's Burn, after which the hole is named, sits immediately in front of the green and awaits any approach shot that is under-hit.

**CADDIE'S TIP - Be aware of water hazard at front of green. Pay particular attention to the pin placement on this hole.**

#### **Hole 4, 412 yards, par 4 "HILLOCKS"**

The hole dog legs slightly to the right and players must be cautious not to hook the ball as a ditch awaits just over the back of the fairway bunker.

The green, the only double green on the golf course, is well protected by bunkers and the approach should be long if anything.

**CADDIES TIP - All trouble is visible from tee, but do remember this is a double green. Play to the yellow flag on the front nine.**

#### **Hole 5, 415 yards, par 4 "BRAE"**

A hole which dog legs to the right and has a two-tiered green. If the pin is placed on the top tier, it can add as much as four clubs to the approach shot. Longer hitters must be careful not to run out of fairway as a narrow ditch stretches the entire width of the fairway at around 280 yards.

**CADDIE'S TIP - Do not be too aggressive from the tee as a drainage ditch awaits too long a drive.**

#### **Hole 6, 578 yards, par 5 "HOGAN'S ALLEY"**

Named after the immortal Ben Hogan who won the Open Championship in 1953, this hole is where Carnoustie starts to turn up the heat. Normally played into the prevailing wind this hole can be a severe par 5. Bunkers and out of bounds await the miss-cued drive and although the best line is up Hogan's Alley between the bunkers and the out of bounds fence, it requires a brave player to drive to that narrow piece of fairway. The second shot is no less perilous with a ditch angling across the fairway and the out of bounds continuing to be a threat.

The approach is reasonably straightforward to an undulating green, although particular care must be taken if the pin is located on the back right portion of the green. A player should always be content with a five on this hole as it can be the ruin of many a scorecard.

**CADDIE'S TIP - Hogan's Alley is for the brave, not for the faint-hearted who should favour the right of the centre bunkers on this very difficult par five. Care must also be taken with your second shot as once again Jockey's burn bites deeply into the right side of the fairway.**

#### **Hole 7, 410 yards, par 4 "PLANTATION"**

Again the out of bounds threatens on the left-hand side and the fairway bunkers are cleverly placed to catch a drive pushed only slightly to the right. Care must be taken not to over hit the second shot and run through the green where a difficult up and down awaits.

**CADDIE'S TIP - A long drive on this narrow hole will be rewarded with a much simpler approach shot.**

#### **Hole 8, 183 yards, par 3 "SHORT"**

Carnoustie's first par 3 and well worth the wait. On par with the great par 3s in the world golf with out of bounds left and bunkers surrounding an elevated green. Normally played into a cross wind it requires a good swing and courage to find the heart of this green.

**CADDIE'S TIP - Take plenty of club as there is less trouble beyond the green.**

#### **Hole 9, 478 yards, par 4 "RAILWAY"**

The drive is paramount on this hole with out of bounds left, a ditch on the right and numerous fairway bunkers. Finding the fairway always comes as a welcome relief to any player but then a long difficult approach to a well-protected green awaits.

**CADDIE'S TIP - A long drive on this narrow hole will be rewarded with a much simpler approach shot.**

#### **Hole 10, 466 yards, par 4 "SOUTH AMERICA"**

The start of the back nine and perhaps the most challenging nine holes in golf awaits. In order to reach the green in two, a long and straight drive is required with particular care required to avoid three bunkers on the right-hand side. Once the player has found the fairway, a decision is then needed as to whether the Barry Burn, which runs some 40 yards in front of the green, can be carried with a second shot or not. Unless the player is confident of his ability to fly the ball all the way to the putting surface, it is often best to lay up and accept a five, which is never a bad score on this hole.

**CADDIE'S TIP - Avoiding the three right-hand bunkers is essential if you hope to reach this green in regulation.**

#### **Hole 11, 383 yards, par 4 "JOHN PHILP"**

A decision must be made on the tee to either take on the fairway bunkers with the driver and try to guide the ball through a narrow neck of fairway, or to lay up and leave a longer shot into the green. The green is well bunkered and slopes quite significantly from back to front which can make putting tricky.

**CADDIE'S TIP - Hitting the fairway with a reasonable length of drive on the slight dogleg assures only a mid to short iron approach to the green.**

#### **Hole 12, 499 yards, par 4 "SOUTHWARD HO"**

Played as a par 5 from the back tees and a par 4 from the other tees, this hole again challenges the player with an intimidating drive - whins and gorse must be carried and there are ditches on both the right and left-hand sides. Two massive fairway bunkers on the right-hand side eat into the heart of the fairway and will catch any shot that cuts slightly to the right. The approach must be played between two sets of bunkers positioned on the right and left-hand side about 30 yards short of the green. It is often wise to lay up and rely upon a pitch and a putt.

**CADDIE'S TIP - This hole should be treated as a three-shot par five regardless of the tee in use on the day.**

#### **Hole 13, 176 yards, par 3 "WHINS"**

A deceptively difficult short hole, particularly if it is played down wind when it becomes extremely difficult to stop the ball from running through the green. Bunkers surround the green and will catch anything which is not straight. Once in the bunker, the high lips will test any player's ability to get up and down.

**CADDIE'S TIP - Heavily bunkered par three, although if you play for the middle of the green you shouldn't be too far away.**

### **Hole 14, 514 yards, par 5 "SPECTACLES"**

Gary Player struck the finest shot of his life here in 1968 to make an eagle three which enabled him to go on to win the Open Championship. The drive is tough enough with out of bounds on the left and bunkers well in play, however the hole is made by the second shot when the player must decide whether to carry the massive Spectacle bunkers or not. If a player goes for the green and lands in the Spectacles, he can be there for some time as these bunkers are huge. Further bunkers closer to the green provide further protection and any player making four can feel justifiably proud.

**CADDIE'S TIP - Another hole where getting on the green in three is not a disappointment. An accurate drive is paramount and remember this is the second part of our only double green - play to the red flag on this nine.**

### **Hole 15, 472 yards, par 4 "LUCKY SLAP"**

As hard a par 4 as can be found anywhere in golf, this hole requires a long and accurate drive and then a powerful approach to a well-protected green. Into the wind, the majority of golfers will not be able to get home in two and if a lay up is required, care must be taken to avoid the bunkers some 25 yards short of the green as getting out of these can be extremely difficult.

**CADDIE'S TIP - Most exacting par four on the course. What is required is a drawn drive followed by a faded approach although for the majority, playing this hole for a bogey is not a bad idea.**

### **Hole 16, 248 yards, par 3 "BARRY BURN"**

A 248 yard par 3 often played into the wind. Tom Watson had five attempts to get a par 3 here during the 1975 Open Championship and failed to do so. In 1968, Jack Nicklaus was the only player to get past the pin during the final round. This hole is really a 3.5, so a par is an outstanding achievement.

**CADDIE'S TIP - Hit plenty of club on this lengthy par three. Just like eight, the majority of the trouble is at the front of the green.**

### **Hole 17, 461 yards, par 4 "ISLAND"**

Continuing with Carnoustie's fearsome finish, the Barry Burn winds and twists its way down this tough hole. Ideally, the drive must reach the island part of the hole, which then leaves a long and difficult approach shot to a green protected by whins and bunkers.

**CADDIE'S TIP - The line from the tee is the gable end of the white house, which means you are aiming for the right half of the island. Water awaits a hooked tee shot.**

### **Hole 18, 499 yards, par 4 "HOME"**

No more difficult a finishing hole will be found anywhere. The burn is in play for the drive to the right and left of the hole and also short. Fairway bunkers edge in to the right-hand side and it was here that Johnny Miller lost the 1975 Championship when he took two shots to get out of the bunker. The Barry Burn crosses right in front of the green and it poses a huge obstacle for the second shot. It was here that the hopes of Jean Van De Velde sunk in 1999 when Paul Lawrie went on to take the title.

**CADDIE'S TIP - The clock on the hotel is the line off the tee. Remember the Barry Burn at the front of the green. If you better a seven – reward yourself with a drink!**

# Greenkeeping and course information

## Championship Course information

- Greens composition – 55% Poa, 35% Fescue and 10% Bent
- Total greens area – 13,634m<sup>2</sup>
- Tees, surrounds and fairways - 50% Fescue, 25% Poa and 25% Bent
- Total tees area – 13,871m<sup>2</sup>
- Total surrounds area – 18,782m<sup>2</sup>
- Total fairways area – 85,762m<sup>2</sup>
- Sand dredged from the River Tay is used for the 112 bunkers
- Toro equipment is mainly used on the course.

## Course preparations for Open Championship

- 83 out of the 112 bunkers were rebuilt using just over 2,500m<sup>2</sup> of turf
- New mounding has been added at the 8th green/12th green area which will provide excellent spectator vantage points, along with additional mounding that has happened over the last six years at various areas including 5th/6th and 9th/11th
- The course will not play any longer than in 2007 with no extra yardage needed

## Staff information

- 31 staff work from the Carnoustie greenkeeping sheds.
  - Championship – 12
  - Burnside – 7
  - Buddon – 7
  - There are also 4 mechanics and 1 handyman.

**Sandy Reid, Links Superintendent, comes from Blair Atholl.** Started greenkeeping at Letham Grange before coming to Carnoustie in 1997. Was made Links Superintendent in 2012.

**Craig Boath, Championship Head Greenkeeper, from Wellbank.** First started at Carnoustie in 1995 through school work experience working through Easter and Summer holidays. Then secured a job after leaving school early in 1996. Was made Head Greenkeeper in 2012.

Carnoustie Golf Links was recently awarded  
Environmental Golf Course of the Year 2018

[www.carnoustiegolflinks.co.uk/carnoustie-wins-environmental-golf-course-year-award/](http://www.carnoustiegolflinks.co.uk/carnoustie-wins-environmental-golf-course-year-award/)

# The History of The Open at Carnoustie

The Open has been played at Carnoustie on seven occasions. Each time, the mystique of the oldest Major has been embellished by those who have excelled across its testing links. The first, in 1931, was Tommy Armour - the last Scottish-born player to win The Open in Scotland until Paul Lawrie triumphed over the Angus links 68 years later.

In 1937, Henry Cotton produced one of the best final rounds at Carnoustie to win his second Open requiring only 26 putts to lift the Claret Jug. Ben Hogan followed suite in 1953 with a remarkable debut that culminated in the last of his nine Major wins.

Gary Player wasn't to be outdone when, in 1968, he hit one of his finest shots at the par-five fourteenth to eventually beat Bob Charles and Jack Nicklaus by two strokes. Tom Watson's name was added in 1975 when his remarkable induction established reciprocal reverence between the man from Kansas and Scotland's fabled links.

In 1999, Paul Lawrie birdied the 17th and 18th holes to win an intense playoff by three from Van de Velde and Justin Leonard in an unforgettable final day. And the drama reached a crescendo in 2007 when Pádraig Harrington endured in an enthralling play-off with Garcia to complete an Irish double after a young Rory McIlroy claimed the Silver Medal as leading amateur.

## **Carnoustie's roll of honour**

2007 - Pádraig Harrington

1999 - Paul Lawrie

1975 - Tom Watson

1968 - Gary Player

1953 - Ben Hogan

1937 - Henry Cotton

1931 - Tommy Armour