



Suggested strategies to play the original 9 hole course (now the back 9), and the somewhat easier front 9.

A tip on tee placements. If you don't have one of the pin seeking distance devices it might pay to take note of later pin positions as you go round the course. The 9th from the first tee; the 6th and 8th from the 2nd tee and potentially most helpful the 16th from the 13th tee.

Distance markers are to the centre of the green. Red topped posts 150m and yellow topped posts 100m.

All descriptions based on the Blue Tees

Hole 1 Par 4 327m (Blue) Men's Index 11; 296m (Red) Ladies Index 5

A slight dogleg right with the best tee shot ending in the left half of the fairway. The trees on the right have claimed many a ball although long, high hitters can take them on leaving a short pitch to a large green guarded by two bunkers on the right. The green generally slopes left to right and back to front.

Hole 2 Par 4 342m (Blue) Men's Index 9; 298m (Red) Ladies Index 10

The peppercorn tree at the 150m marker denotes a corner of sorts for this gentlest of doglegs. Trees line all the right hand side of the fairway and can easily cost a shot or two. The left to right, front to back sloping green is guarded by a bunker left. If the pin is in the front the approach shot can easily roll off to the right. A steep drop off at the back of the green means a difficult up and down results if you are long when the pin is at the back.

Hole 3 Par 3 156m (Blue) Men's Index 15; 133m (Red) Ladies Index 15

The most difficult part of this hole is to hold the green especially when the pin is short. Even good tee shots will often roll off to the left leaving a tricky up and down. The ideal tee shot requires precision to place the ball between the right hand bunker and the pin and to get it drifting left to the hole. Relatively easy to score 4 but a Par 3 gives satisfaction.

Hole 4 Par 4 339m (Blue) Men's Index 10; 269m (Red) Ladies Index 13

A straight away Par 4 although the angle from the Blue tees can sometimes be deceptive. Real jungle from which there is no escape all the way down the right. It's better to find the fairway bunker on the right than be in the trees. Less trees on the left after about 100m but the lie is often bare and your swing or shot in may be restricted by overhanging branches. Bunkers left and right of the green.

Hole 5 Par 4 385m (Blue) Men's Index 4; 347m (Red) Ladies Index 3

Rated the hardest hole on the front nine a good tee shot is essential. A left turning dog leg rising up to a large back to front sloping green with a big welcoming bunker on the right and tricky run off areas left and back. Depending on the pin placement the green has plenty of turn left and right as well as up and down hill. A tee shot down the left shortens the hole but runs the risk of getting caught in the trees or having the second shot restricted if the ball is not far enough down. There is a small lateral water hazard about 100m from the green on the right.

Hole 6 Par 4 343m (Blue) Men's Index 13; 324m (Red) Ladies Index 7

A straightforward Par 4 with trees all the way down the right. A small rill runs across the fairway at the 150m mark and can lead to up hill and downhill lies even in the middle of the fairway. The green is guarded by a bunker left and slopes steeply to the right from the middle of the green. Many a shot has been played back up the green from the area between the green and the second tee.

Hole 7 Par 3 149m (Blue) Men's Index 18; 123m (Red) Ladies Index 17

The second Par 3 is rated the easiest hole on the men's card and has a huge green sloping back to front and right to left. Two bunkers catch wayward shots short and right. The bunker in the middle is not as close to the green as it looks.

Hole 8 Par 4 280m (Blue) Men's Index 16; 263m (Red) Ladies Index 14

Long hitters can sometimes drive this green especially with a north wind blowing. The fairway is wide and the right hand side makes for an easier shot in. The narrow green has a bunker left and steep drop offs at the back and back left. Easy to lose the ball right off the green trying to avoid the bunker and it is not a gimme up and down from there.

Hole 9 Par 5 467m (Blue) Men's Index 8; 417m (Red) Ladies Index 6

The first of the Par 5s is a dogleg left from about the 150m mark. The best drive is down the right hand side allowing the second shot to draw or fade around the corner opening up the green. This green is different to others on the course having been re-laid for the Presidents Cup in 2011. A large bunker protects the right hand side and two sizeable mounds make for a difficult up and down if you miss the green left.

Hole 10 Par 3 135m (Blue) Men's Index 17; 115m (Red) Ladies Index 18

The shortest Par 3 on the course. A long green sloping from back to front provides variety in pin position and shot selection. Bunkered on the left and protected short and right by a small valley the green also has a mound on the right side, which can be tricky to negotiate if you are on the opposite side of it to the pin.

Hole 11 Par 4 326m (Blue) Men's Index 7; 289m (Red) Ladies Index 12

It's all about the green! The hole takes a little right hand turn 50m from the green so the best tee shot is to the left half of the fairway. The green is long and slopes from right to left – sometimes gradually sometimes precipitously. There are some fiendish pin positions on the top of little rises in the green that make long lag putts (hard on this green in any case) very difficult. A bunker on the right catches wayward shots and getting your sand shot anywhere near the pin requires great skill and touch as the green slopes away from you. Going long through the green is definitely not where you want to be.

Hole 12 Par 4 368m (Blue) Men's Index 2; 314m (Red) Ladies Index 4

It's all about the tee shot! Well mostly. A very sharp dogleg to the left has more than half the hole hidden from the tee. Big hitters can take on the corner and with a little draw or fade, depending on which side of the ball you stand, can ensure themselves a comfortable shot in but the risk is there – either too little carry or too much draw/fade. A tee shot to the top of the hill is the safe play and opens up the green although many a golfer has gone too long with the wind behind into the tee tree on the hill. The green has a bunker left and a steep backstop and generally slopes back to front and right to left. The right hand side of the green is hard to hold especially if coming in from distance.

Hole 13 Par 3 194m (Blue) Men's Index 6; 157m (Red) Ladies Index 9

The longest Par 3 on the course. The left bunker is some 25m short of the green and there is another large bunker guarding the right hand side of the green. A low tee shot threading the needle between the bunkers and landing before the green can often run all the way through and down the steep slope at the back of the green. The green generally slopes from back to front and left to right with some variations on the bunker side. Small grassy tussocks short and left can make chipping and pitching difficult. Because of the slope of the fairway many

tee shots end up right of the bunker and the golfer is faced with a pitch over the sand onto the green. Hope for a favorable pin position!

Hole 14 Par 5 441m (Blue) Men's Index 14; 401m (Red) Ladies Index 11

Long hitters can get home in two on this the shortest of the Par 5s especially if they take the aggressive line over or around the trees on the left of the ladies tee. The fairway or more accurately the rough opens up to the left and usually provides a playable lie for the second. There is water down the right hand side protected (for the tee shot at least) by rolling mounds and a fairway bunker. The second part of the water hazard has no such protections and can catch a second shot that leaks right. The approach to the green is protected on the left by a chain of bunkers starting at about the 80m mark and ending at the green's edge. It is not unknown for a golfer to find 2 or even 3 of these on the way to the green. The green generally slopes back to front and left to right but plateaus towards the back.

Hole 15 Par 3 153m (Blue) Men's Index 13; 129m (Red) Ladies Index 12

The last Par 3 provides a challenge to first hold the green, and then, to ensure no more than two putts are taken. The large green is a teardrop shape with the narrow end to the left - naturally the smallest part of the green is protected by a large bunker front and left. Steep drop offs back and back right make up and downs occasions for high fives. Front right is a shallower entry to the green but once there the fun starts. For most of its length the green slopes severely left to right and back to front making for some knee knocking down hill putts and some Augusta type borrows when putting across the green.

Hole 16 Par 4 387m (Blue) Men's Index 3; 287m (Red) Ladies Index 2

The 16th starts a stretch of three tough holes to finish (3 of the 5 hardest holes on the Men's index). Of similar length to Holes 5 and 18 the hole is a straight away Par 4 whose business end is full of challenges. The fairway is wide but it is better to be in the right half than the left. There is a water hazard (very) wide right off the tee but it also creeps around to be in play just beyond the fairway bunker on the right about 160m out from the green. The approach to the green is uphill and narrows as trees close in on the right and a combination of a grassy knoll, a small tree and a bunker (generally with little sand) protect the left hand side. The green is long and narrow and almost needs no protection as it has often been called the elephant's graveyard for its humps and valleys. It slopes from back to front and depending on the pin position you may have to allow for 3 - 4 movements in the ball's path. The valleys and mounds continue on either side of the green. Par is an achievement for most golfers.

Hole 17 Par 5 470m (Blue) Men's Index 5; 426m (Red) Ladies Index 8

The last Par 5 a gentle dog leg to the right but is also a hole where every shot can potentially lead to a big score. Big hitters can take on the large pine tree on the right and hope to get to the top of the hill. Middle of the fairway is good for lesser players or golf strategists. The second shot will usually carry (or run) past the fairway bunker on the left leaving a downhill approach to a narrow green set on an angle to the fairway. The right hand side is protected by a bunker and most of the green is slightly elevated from its surrounds making up and downs difficult for those shots that don't hold the green. The green is at the lowest part of the course so a high shot in will not run much – take aim at the pin in wet conditions. The green slopes from front to back after the first few metres but also has plenty of sideways mysteries in it.

Hole 18 Par 4 387m (Blue) Men's Index 1; 341m (Red) Ladies Index 1

Rated the hardest hole on both the men's and women's index the 18th can leave a bitter taste or play the proverbial "bring you back next week" role. Uphill all the way – more steeply from about 100m out; the hole starts with a narrow driving chute. Trees line the left with some gaps and the hole widens to the right although the rough is bare and sandy making life difficult for those who find it. There are trees and bushes here too. The green is wider than it is deep and slopes from back to front. A deep bunker front left and another on the right protect the approach.