



# Shirley Park Golf Club

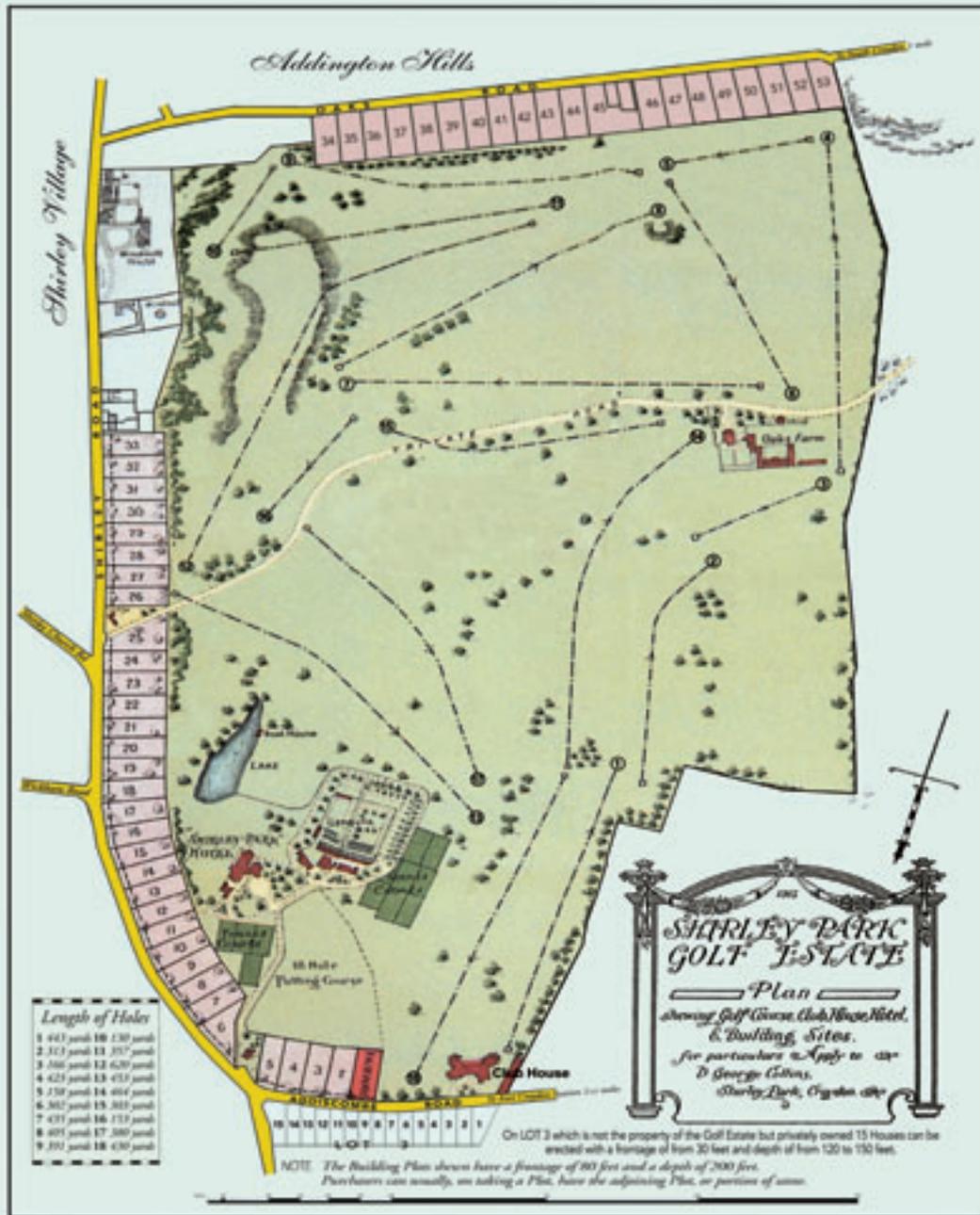
*The first one hundred years*





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This original layout is on display in the main lounge adjacent to the bar. One hole alone, the current ninth hole, cost £136,000 to construct, the high cost being due to the need to almost completely destroy a forest.



Shirley House in the 1860's

In the 18th century, John Claxon built Shirley House near where Trinity School is today. Lord Eldon, of public house fame in South Croydon, acquired Shirley House in the 1870's. In 1908 Shirley House and its estate became the property of Shirley Park Estate. George Collins developed the golf club, clubhouse and the Shirley

Park Hotel from the Estate. The hotel had spacious grounds boasting bowling greens, tennis courts and a boating lake. Work on the construction of Shirley Park golf course and Clubhouse, from the Estate, began in 1913. In the latter part of the 19th century, the house was owned by the 3rd Earl of Eldon. He was, famously, the father of Lady Margaret Scott, who won the first three British Ladies Championships in 1893, 1894 and 1895. She was the fourth of seven children and was only 19 at the time of winning her first Championship in 1893. Having won it for the third time in 1895, her father, who always made the winner's speech on her behalf, announced that it was now time for her to settle down, a euphemism for getting married.



Shirley House with golf course and tennis club

The golf course, set in 130 acres of rolling Surrey countryside, was designed by Tom Simpson and Herbert Fowler. The architects responsible for the clubhouse were Tubs, Messer and Poulter. The cost of both the golf course and clubhouse was, in current terms, around £1.2 million.

*Sir Thomas Vansittart Bowater  
Lord Mayor of London  
opens the course  
Saturday 18th July 1914*

In addition to the 18-hole golf course there was a 9 hole course in the grounds of Shirley Park Hotel, where Trinity School playing fields are today.

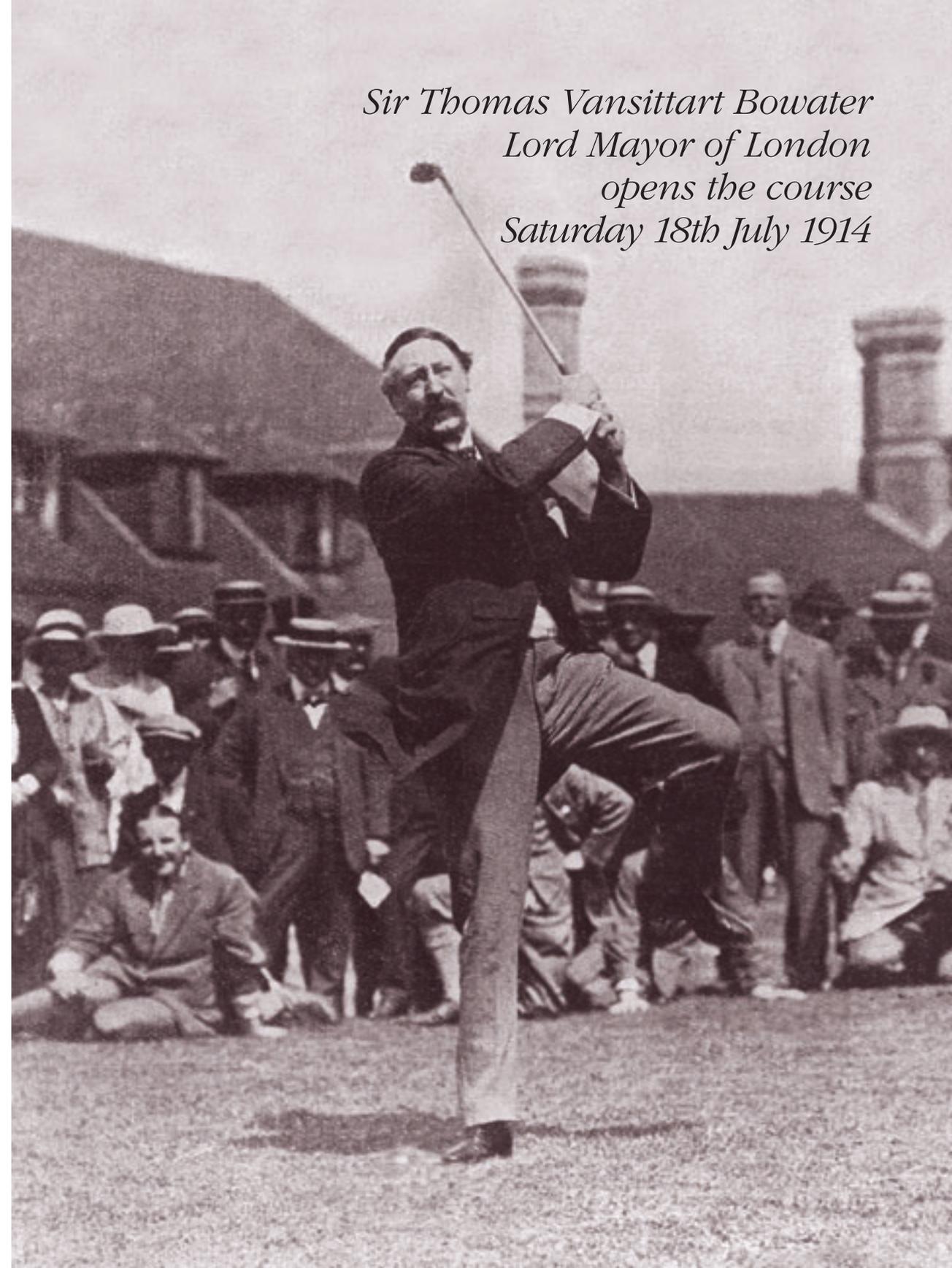
The original layout of the course was similar to that of today, except for three holes on the land behind the fifth green up to Oaks Road. A tee for one of these holes, then the fourth, can be seen as you leave the present third hole from the rear of the green down towards the new machinery barn.

The course was officially opened on Saturday 18th July 1914 by the then Lord Mayor of London, Sir Thomas Vansittart Bowater.

A match then followed which featured two former Open Champions: five time winner J H Taylor and Sandy Herd. J H Taylor went round the course in 73 (39,34) and Sandy Herd went round in 77 (38,39). Remember these scores were achieved with hickory clubs.



*The course was officially opened on Saturday 18th July 1914 by Lord Mayor of London,  
Sir Thomas Vansittart Bowater.*



# Shirley Park Golf Club Professionals

Tom Trapp  
1914 – 1937

Jim Wallace  
1937 – 1944

Sid Parker  
1944 – 1982

Jim Husdpith  
1982 – 1985

Hogan Stott  
1985 – 1993

Nick Allen  
1993 – 1997

Paul Webb  
1997 – 1999

Wraith Grant  
1999 – 2002

Mick Taylor  
2002 – Present



*Tom Trapp*  
1914 – 1937

After their round of golf all the participating players, including Tom Trapp, were presented with commemorative silver backed hair brushes.

Two weeks after Shirley Park golf course was opened, the First World War was declared on 28th July 1914.

With the resultant 'distraction' of the war, the golf club developed fairly slowly as a Members Club until peace was declared in 1918. The adjacent Shirley Park Hotel



*Herd, Hezlet, Taylor and Macfarlane*

was used as accommodation for Australian troops and a hospital for the war wounded was built in the hotel grounds, later used as the Tennis Club Pavilion. When the Club was formally opened in July 1914 the first Professional appointed was Mr Tom Trapp who came from Croham Hurst Golf Club.

He proved to be a very popular asset to the Club and frequently gave lessons under an oak tree, then situated beside the 18th fairway opposite the pond. This tree was for many years identified as 'Tom Trapp's tree' until it became rotten



*Sid Parker was Shirley Park professional for 38 years*

and was removed for safety reasons due to storm damage after the Second World War. Tom Trapp committed suicide, for reasons unknown, in 1937 having served the Club for twenty-three years. He was replaced by Mr Jim Wallace who remained at the Club until 1944 when one of his

Assistant Professionals, Mr Sidney Parker, was appointed Club Professional. Sidney Parker served the Club with great distinction for 45 years until he retired in 1982.

Sidney was very much a 'character' and a most competent golfer who played a number of exhibition matches at Shirley Park with several former Open Champions, including the legendary Bobby Locke.

Following his retirement in 1982 and as a mark of the affection and respect



*Hogan Stott, holder of eight course records*

with which he was held, the Club made Sidney an Honorary Member, a position he enjoyed until his death in 2001 at the age of 88 years.

Following Sidney Parker's retirement, there was a series of Professionals appointed, most of whom only stayed a few years.

The most notable of these was Hogan Stott, who was a very accomplished golfer who enjoyed considerable success in many professional events in South England and, at one stage, held course records for eight Golf Clubs. He was succeeded by Wraith Grant for a few years before he was appointed Club Professional at nearby Woodcote Park Golf Club. Our current Professional Mr Mick Taylor has been with Shirley Park since 2002 and is very highly thought of by all Club Members. Mick combines his undoubted golfing talents with a very pleasant personality. He always has time to take an interest in Club activities and to discuss golf equipment or the teaching needs of both Club Members and visitors.



*Club Professional Mick Taylor*



Until 1928 the Clubhouse had an open veranda, which was then 'glazed' and is now the main lounge facing the practice putting green. The original external wall now runs from the back of the present main bar to the dining room.

In early 1939, the owners of the club proposed building a housing estate on the land which created uproar in the community. Shirley Park Golf Club had a number of very influential members at that time, not least of whom was Mr John Gordon, who was then Editor of the Daily Express Newspaper. He was instrumental in organising the official opposition to the building plans. As a result of a successful public appeal the building plan did not receive the authority to proceed.

It was at this stage that the Shirley Park Golf Club logo was developed featuring the famous Shirley Poppy, three heraldic symbols called patee fitchée, the blue cross of Archbishop Whitgift and a white squirrel was featured in the logo as both then and regularly during the interim years, white squirrels have been seen on the golf course. The last sightings occurred as recently as 2011.



*The first club logo designed in 1939*

During the Second World War the Government of the day decreed that all open spaces be closed off and be made inaccessible. They expected the arrival of Nazi paratroopers together with a mass landing of a Glider Force as part of the commencement of Adolf Hitler's 'Operation Sealion' in the summer of 1940.

To obstruct such landing opportunities, the fairways of our golf club were strewn with various 'obstacles' and ditches were dug across the golf course. A machine gun site was dug on the (then) 15th Fairway, now the eighth. The promised machine gun for this position never arrived. The outline of this 'gun site' can still be seen as a crescent shaped ridge on the left-hand side of the start of the eighth fairway. One of our longest serving members Bertie Jansen (sadly now dead) responded to the call to join the Local Defence Volunteers. Such groups were later immortalised in the TV series Dad's Army. It was of no surprise to those who knew Bertie that he 'arranged' that the Headquarters of his No 1 Platoon Home Guard was located in the Sandrock Public House, just across the



*The outline of a gun site can still be seen when you walk down the fairway of the 8th*

road from the 7th tee. Thankfully this Platoon saw no hostile action but much 'preparation' took place in the Sandrock during the long hours of Guard Duty. The 59th Surrey Battalion of the Home Guard manned the 4.5 inch anti-aircraft gun mounted adjacent to the site of the present 2nd green and this unit saw considerable action during the early years of the war.

During and after the war, Shirley Park was a popular venue for many show business stars to play golf. Members Ted and Barbara Andrews were influential show business agents at that time. As Theatres were closed on Sundays during the war years, Mr & Mrs Andrews brought many of their famous clients to play and socialise. Their young daughter Julie spent many happy hours playing around the Clubhouse and she subsequently grew up to



*The anti-aircraft gun that downed a V1 flying bomb*

become the famous musical star Julie Andrews who appeared in the Sound of Music and many other popular films and shows. She still recalls those childhood days at Shirley Park Golf Club with much affection.

Following the war years the Club continued to thrive and enjoyed a lengthy period of success both on and off the golf course. Shirley Park became famous for its well supported social scene, a reputation that remains to this day. Before the days of 'stringent' Licensing Laws and of course the 'breathalyser', the Club experienced numerous high spirited 'social events' that only ended when the golf course opened in the morning.



The first major catastrophe that befell the Club following the war was a major fire in June 1975 that destroyed the Men's Locker Room and the golf clubs of the Members. The cause of the blaze was never established but it took a long time for the locker room to be restored. During this period the Club Professional, at that time, Sidney Parker, did sterling work in contacting local Clubs for sets of clubs to borrow while replacements were ordered for those members who lost theirs. It is to the credit of all Members, past and present, that the clubhouse has remained predominately unchanged since

being built in 1913. The only major change is that the original open veranda has been enclosed to form the current main lounge which was recently extensively refurbished. Refurbishments have been undertaken from time to time, including major changes



*Covered and recently refurbished*

to the upper floor. Originally there were a number of bedrooms occupied by Members on a 'Dormy House' basis. As they became vacant, the upper floor of the Clubhouse was re-designed to incorporate the Board Room and the Administrative offices. In addition significant changes have been made to upgrade the facilities in both the Mens and Ladies locker rooms.

At the turn of the 21st Century it was becoming apparent that the golf course and the clubhouse would require substantial investment to continue providing first class facilities. A major factor that limited the confidence to inject significant capital investment into the Club was the fact that the current lease with Croydon Council had less than ten years to run. There was no guarantee that the Lease would be renewed, we had 5 year 'rental reviews' and the need to pay the Council 10% of all green fee income. During discussion with Council officials concerning the siting of a new Machinery Barn, it became apparent that Croydon Council might be 'receptive' to an offer to

purchase the golf course and clubhouse. The Board at that time pursued this possibility and, after some protracted negotiations that included a bidding process, the Club was successful in 2004 in securing a 150-year Lease on favourable



*Bedrooms were replaced with offices and a Board Room*

terms. As a result of this success the Club embarked upon a period during which substantial capital investment took place both within the clubhouse and on the golf course. Major re-furbishment took place in the main lounge area and Dining Room, followed by an upgrade to the Players Bar.

On the golf course many thousands of pounds were spent on new drainage systems and the reconstruction of many paths on the course. New tees and bunkers were constructed and this process continues to the present day.

The result of all of this investment is demonstrated by clubhouse facilities that are the envy of many visiting clubs and a golf course in excellent condition that is now regarded as one of the very best in the south east of England.

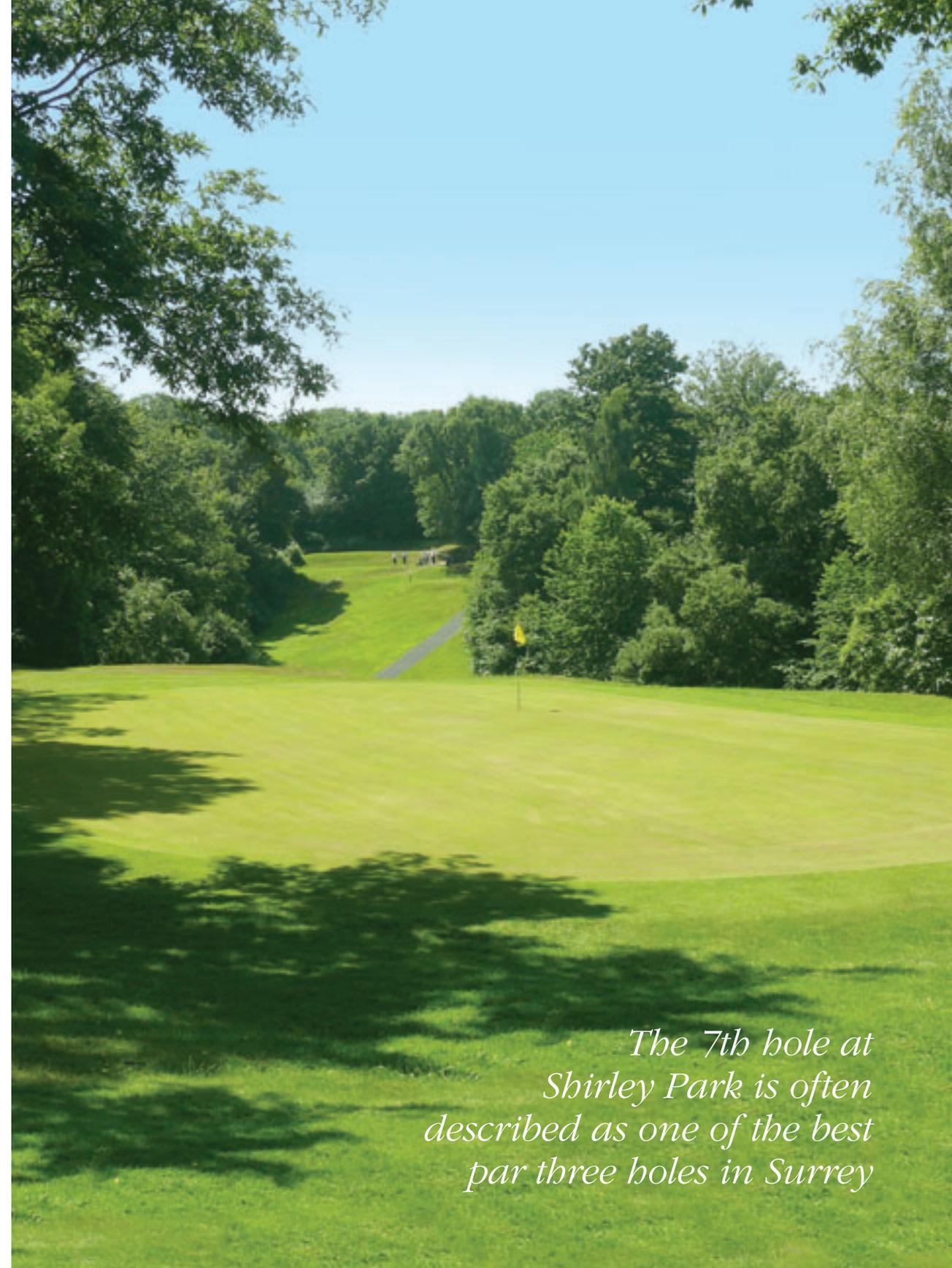


*The course at Shirley Park Golf Club produces top quality golfers*

Within a few years of opening, Shirley Park entered the inaugural Surrey Fives championship in 1927 and were the runners-up to Sunningdale. The roles were reversed in 1928 with Shirley Park being the winners. Since then a number of our members have achieved success at both county and international level. The Club has won the London Foursomes, Hilliard League, is three times winner of The Selsdon Trophy and winner of the prestigious Surrey Scratch Inter Club Knockout in 2013. Ten members have represented the county, some more than once; John Franks (15), Mark Side (14), Jonathan Good (9) and Richard Latham (8). Jonathan Good and John Franks also won the Surrey Amateur Golf Championship in 1990 and 2000 respectively and Richard Latham was the runner-up to Jose Maria Olazabal in the British Youths Open Amateur Championship in 1985.

Mark Side won the Brabazon Trophy (English Strokeplay Championship) in 1999 and also represented England at International level.

Shirley Park Ladies won the Inter Club Scratch Foursomes in 1992, Libby Bodill and Amy Olding have played for Surrey, Amy was the Junior County Champion in 2002 and went on to represent England. Kaylin Screene is Surrey under 10's Champion and her sister Canice is Rookie of the Year 2013.



*The 7th hole at Shirley Park is often described as one of the best par three holes in Surrey*

*We are always improving the golf facilities and social activities for Members of Shirley Park Golf Club*



MONTHLY MEDALS • MIDWEEK MEDALS • FOURSOMES MEDAL • SHIRLEY VASE • CAPTAIN'S PRIZE • GOLD SPOON • DIRECTORS CUP  
PRESIDENT'S DAY • MEMBERS & GUESTS • GOLDEN JUBILEE • THE INTERNATIONAL • TIGBITS • CALCUTTA CUP • CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Members of Shirley Park Golf Club enjoy a club that's full of activity both on and off the course. Members participate in over 50 Club competitions, golf events, monthly and midweek medals, matches, league golf and when they're not playing golf we have a full programme of Social Events for them and their partners.

If that's not enough we also have a reciprocal arrangement with eight other clubs to play golf at their club without having to pay the full green fee (if any).

Unlike other clubs we don't operate a tee booking system for Members with the exception of the first two hours of Sunday mornings. Our Members just turn up and play whenever they like.

We hold regular social events with a meal or buffet and live entertainment. We have quiz and race nights, parties, two snooker tables, a giant screen in our main lounge and a large screen TV in our Players Bar for golf, cricket, tennis, Ryder Cup, Champions League and World Cup.

We've spent over £2 million in the last ten years on the clubhouse and course in addition to buying a new 150 year lease. We can do all that because the Club is owned by its Members, not by a remote commercial enterprise. If you'd like to become a member give us a call or go to [www.shirleyparkgolfclub.co.uk](http://www.shirleyparkgolfclub.co.uk) and check out subscription fees.



*Entertainment all year round*

NEW MEMBERS MASTERS • SILVER JUBILEE CUP • CAPTAIN'S CHALLENGE • MITCHELL MEMORIAL • CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP • BERTIE JANSEN  
CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS • BOXING DAY SCRAMBLE • SUMMER FOURBALL • MIDWEEK FOURBALL • WINTER FOURBALL • NIGHT GOLF

We welcome green fee paying golfers and we are more than happy to help you arrange your Society Golf Days at Shirley Park Golf Club. Our generous fairways accommodate all levels of handicap golfer and our undulating greens are commented on very favourably by amateur golfers and professionals alike as being amongst the best maintained in Surrey. Why not come along and try them out for yourself. We're easy to find and we're only a few minutes drive from Croydon town centre.

Our Pro Shop is well stocked and we have no less than three PGA Professionals to improve your game or advise you on what you're buying. Call 020 8654 8767 to make your booking or go to [www.shirleyparkgolfclub.co.uk](http://www.shirleyparkgolfclub.co.uk) to take a 'hole by hole' look around the course. You can check out our Tariff, Menu Options and our Dress Code online or if you simply send us an email with your contact



*Enjoy lunch or dinner in pleasant surroundings*

details, we'll give you a call. Societies can choose from several golfing packages like a full day's golf of 28 holes or half-day golf of 18 holes with breakfast, lunch and dinner to suit your needs.

After your game, you can chill-out in our Players Bar and watch some golf, cricket or football before you take a shower and



*Relax in the players bar, main lounge or on the patio*

relax in our main lounge or even on the patio where you can watch other golfers as they complete the 18th hole.



*Our fairways accommodate all levels of society and green fee golfer and our greens are amongst the best in Surrey*

*Our Golf Academy is helping to create a whole new generation of golfers for the next one hundred years*



The Shirley Park Golf Club Academy is for those who want to learn how to play golf or simply improve the golf they already play.



You'll get one-to-one tuition with our PGA trained club professionals and learn all about the game, its rules and the etiquette. Eventually you will be offered a membership of Shirley Park Golf Club, having acquired an official golf club handicap (CONGU), acceptable at all golf clubs.

*All year round – all weather Golf Simulator*

The Academy is run by PGA Professionals with 20 years' experience in playing and teaching. It offers a

structured programme of tuition on a one-to-one basis, as well as access to play the course on five days of the week including Sunday afternoons.

The tuition takes place indoors on the 'state of the art' Golf Simulator, which can analyse all aspects of the swing and can be used to improve all standards of players. Academy members will also benefit from lessons given on our large practice ground, on-course lessons, and short game and putting techniques on the practice putting green.

The team have very flexible hours to suit all players and they can assist with custom club fitting to make sure equipment suits the individual. The Golfing Academy will teach you how to avoid slow play, how better to understand the rules of golf and even how to complete your scorecard correctly. In fact you'll learn



everything you need to know to become a member of a Golf Club, make new friends and acquire your first officially recognised golf club handicap.

*Shirley Park has a lively social membership with facilities for private parties and business meetings with breakfast, lunch or dinner*



Shirley Park Golf Club is only one mile from the busy business centre of Croydon and has great facilities for its social members as well as business and social functions.

Our dining room is spacious with a very high ceiling and can comfortably seat over 120 people for lunch, dinner or breakfast.

*You don't have to pay pub or hotel prices*

The perfect venue for your celebration or

party, ideal for a birthday, anniversary, wedding reception or for business lunches or breakfasts as well as lectures and dinner presentations. We have a dance floor in the centre of the dining room and the whole area is covered by our own free WiFi system.

We cater for all needs in our dining room and lounge from celebrations using the whole of the dining room and most of the lounge or we can section off part of the lounge with purpose built, floor to ceiling partitions. We also have a card room available for hire at very competitive rates or our Board Room which can be used for smaller, more formal meetings.

We have a wide choice of menus from three, four or five-course lunches or dinners to finger buffets and carveries. Our beers and spirits are priced below pub prices (not to mention hotels) and we have an extensive choice of wines at very economical prices.



If you would like to know more about our function facilities or you would like to come and look around, give us a call on 020 8654 1143 and we'll arrange an appointment or send us an email with your contact details and we'll call you.

**MOTHERS DAY LUNCH & ENTERTAINMENT • ST PATRICK'S DAY PARTY • ST GEORGE'S DAY DINNER • SUMMER PARTY • DIWALI NIGHT  
100 CLUB DISCO • CAPTAIN'S FUN DAY • FORMAL BLACK TIE DINNER DANCE • CHRISTMAS CAROLS • NEW YEARS EVE BLACK TIE BALL**

**CAPTAIN'S DRIVE IN ENTERTAINMENT • VALENTINES DAY LUNCH • LADY CAPTAIN'S PARTY • CASINO OR RACE NIGHT • QUIZ NIGHT  
NUMEROUS TRIBUTE BANDS • SNOOKER SINGLES & PAIRS • MAJOR SPORTS ON THE BIG SCREEN • DAILY SPORT ON THE PLASMA TV**

Shirley Park Golf Club has a licence to perform Marriage & Civil Partnerships, a spacious dining room with a high domed ceiling and our lounge has floor to ceiling windows that look out over the course so your ceremony, wedding breakfast and evening function can be held in one place.

The club is just over one mile from East Croydon station and is set in the Surrey countryside flanked on one side by parkland and the wooded Shirley Hills on the other. Our lounge opens onto the patio with parasol covered circular tables and benches so you can sit and enjoy the view.

Our dining room can seat up to 120 wedding guests with a variety of first class menus and 150 guests with a finger buffet in the evening and our bar prices are lower than local public houses (not to mention the hotels).

We have produced a pdf brochure with price list which you can download from our website, it has suggested menus but we are equally happy to sit down with you and our chef to create your perfect wedding breakfast. Our kitchen can undertake most types of cuisine, and our chefs take pleasure in variety so you can serve your

guests a fantastic meal, which can be as traditional as Roast Beef & Yorkshire Pudding or as exotic as an Oriental Buffet. We cater for all dietary requirements, including vegetarian, vegan or gluten-free and have special children's menus.



[shirleyparkgolfclub.co.uk/weddings](http://shirleyparkgolfclub.co.uk/weddings)

*“It really was the perfect day for us and the wedding breakfast was superb”*





## **Shirley Park Golf Club Limited**

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