

Foreword

A history of golf at Lincoln Golf Club has been discussed by members over the last fifteen years or so. However it was not until the late Harry Cooper became Honorary Secretary in the seventies that a start was made. Harry carried out detailed research into the first decade of the club's existence, but due to ill health he was unable to make further progress. The project then remained dormant until around 1985 when I was encouraged to continue with Harry's work.

The task has been made easier as a complete set of Committee Meetings Minutes was found in the archives. These document in detail the trials and tribulations of running a Club like ours and highlight the many nearly fatal financial crises which regularly occurred in the early days. The one major omission in the records is a plan of the first nine hole layout at Torksey.

I would like to thank the many members who provided so much interesting information and photographs from the old days. We must also remember with gratitude those devoted members who have given so much ungrudging service to the Club over our first one hundred years. Without their efforts, this would be a very different and far less satisfactory history.

Paul Pumfrey



Centenary Year Captains—John Pumfrey and Anne Dickinson.

Chapter 1

The founding of Lincoln Golf Club

The beginning of golf in Lincolnshire dates from the early eighteen nineties. This was when the Great Golf Revival as it was known, swept south over the Scottish border and resulted in the formation of scores of new clubs in England and in the Colonies.

Lincolnshire is a county of contrasts with wold and dale, fen, marsh, moor and seashore all lying within its extensive borders. The twenty-five or so clubs formed over the last century have found homes in very varied surroundings. Naturally, the earliest established clubs sought the friendly shelter of parks and commons, but the sand dunes of the coast were soon amalgamated with indifferent ground to become fine courses.

The first club to be formed in Lincolnshire was the Belton Park Club at Grantham in 1890. In the same year, Burghley Park at Stamford was established, and a few months later in February 1891, Lincoln Golf Club was founded. Other clubs were also established in the county during the last years of the century, and by the early years of the next, Lincoln Golf Club had become the most influential in Lincolnshire.

The game of golf was already being played in Lincoln before the formal setting up of clubs. A course on South Park was in use, and there was golf on a primitive course of a few holes off Nettleham Road near to the Cathedral area of the city.

Several of Lincoln's leading citizens were not at all satisfied with the existing golfing facilities and they decided to take positive action.

They called an inaugural meeting on Thursday 12th February 1891 at the offices of Lincoln solicitors, Messrs. Danby. The leading organisers at that meeting included

Leslie Melville, N. Waldo Sibthorp, Robert Swan, Revd. W. Usher and A. Shuttleworth. They unanimously agreed to form a Lincoln Golf Club with an entrance fee of one guinea and an annual subscription also of one guinea. Those present were told that, following informal discussions with the Carholme Race Course Committee, it was clear that an area of land adjacent to the race course could be leased for use as a golf course.

Alfred Shuttleworth was elected President and Leslie Melville Chairman of meetings with W. B. Danby as temporary Secretary. The Secretary was asked to write immediately to Mr. William Park Junior of Musselborough requesting him to lay out the links at West Common in Lincoln.

THE MAN WHO CAN PUTT IS A MATCH FOR ANYBODY.

If you want to putt well, use

Park's SPECIAL PUTTING-CLEEK
(Patented) Price 7/6 each
AS USED BY
MR H. H. HILTON,
WINNER OF THE
OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP, 1897.

Mr Hilton writes in the "Sporting Chronicle" on 19th July 1898, as follows:

"If Willie Park, jun. did not succeed in winning the Open Championship, he at least had the satisfaction of knowing that the man who did succeed in beating him accomplished the feat with one of the Musselburgh man's putters; and the extraordinary run of success attained in the recent tournaments was probably more due to his deadly execution of his club than to any other department of his game. It is needful to go farther than to say that the winner used one of Park's patented putters, as, in truth, the first three to finish all used what I have heard of that wry-necked abortion of Park's. Wry-necked or not, there could be no shadow of doubt as to the popularity of this very putter. It has done away with the prejudice which patent tools are more or less subject to at first, and it is in general use from one end of the kingdom to the other. I have frequently been asked what advantage it enjoys compared with the ordinary straight-faced putter. I am afraid I have always had to plead ignorance on this point, and have referred the inquirer to the patentee for information, while I have attributed my personal liking for the putter to a mere matter of fancy. The first time I tried it I was eminently successful with the implement, and although I am a great believer in an occasional change of clubs, I always find that eventually I fall back on the original 'Park' putter. Whether the fact that the face is set back behind the perpendicular of the shaft gives a better sight of the ball I cannot say, but I know that it imbues me with a feeling of confidence when playing an approach putt."

Beware of Imitations.

See that every Cleek is stamped "PARK'S SPECIAL."
GOLF CLUB MAKERS.
WM. PARK & SON, Musselburgh

CHAMPION GOLFERS,

1860, 1863, 1866, 1875, 1887, 1889.

BRANCHES AT—115 CANNON STREET, LONDON;
6 SOUTH ST ANDREW STREET, EDINBURGH
and 118 WEST 23rd STREET, NEW YORK

Copy of W. Park
jun. advert 1895.



Alfred Shuttleworth



Montagu R. Waldo-Sibthorp

LINCOLN.

LINCOLN GOLF CLUB, INSTITUTED FEBRUARY 12TH, 1891.

Entrance Fee, 11. 1s.; Annual Subscription, 11. 1s.; Members residing more than five miles from Lincoln only one-half of these fees; *Number of Members, 53. President* A. Shuttleworth. *Captain* — M. R. Waldo-Sibthorp. *Hon. Treasurer*—C. G. M. Pym. *Committee*—C. Brook, A. H. Leslie-Melville, H. J. Sutton, H. N. Sutton, R. Swan, and Rev. W. N. Usher. *Hon. Secretary*—W. T. Toynbee, Atherstone House, Lincoln. *Green*—Carholme, Lincoln. *Greenkeeper*—J. Robson.

The green record is 76, by J. Tabor, professional; and the amateur record 80, by J. E. Pease.

The course is a nine hole one, on the far-famed Carholme, just outside the town, but there is ample room for extension.

Extract from "The Golfer's Annual" 1892.

William Park a professional champion golfer, must have worked extremely quickly as by 7th March 1891, the *Lincolnshire Chronicle* newspaper reported "a golf club has been formed for the city and neighbourhood and was formally opened on Thursday afternoon last. The links are on the West Common and consist of nine holes. Mr. Park, late champion reported to the Committee that the ground will be second to none in England. Some forty members joined the club."

Negotiations were concluded with the Carholme Committee, and a rental of £100 per annum was agreed for the lease of the land adjacent to the grandstand. So the few golf enthusiasts in Lincoln achieved a course remarkably speedily and were able to show off their creation to their friends in nearby counties. Hollinwell and Buxton High Peak courses were already established and Lindrick was at the planning stage.

The remainder of 1891 was largely a learning process for all concerned. No one in Lincoln had run a golf course before. Golf course management and development were new skills to be acquired by trial and error, and staff changes were frequent. A club room was in use in the grandstand and by the end of the first year, the nine holes were becoming established.

The first Annual General Meeting of the club was held in Bank Street Lincoln on 4th February 1892. Fourteen members were present and the Treasurer was pleased to be able to report a balance in hand of £34 1s. 7d. It was agreed that a Constitution and Club rules should be drawn up but unfortunately no copies of these early documents have been found.

The Royal & Ancient rules governed play, but unusual conditions made the introduction of local rules essential. There was much "offensive matter" on the common from the grazing animals and the Carholme Road was a part

of the course with its horse drawn traffic frequently interfering with play. Race meetings and agricultural shows sometimes meant that holes had to be realigned, and the very fact that the public had access to the area often made play most frustrating.

These were merely difficulties to be overcome and, indeed, helped to bind the club together and give it corporate strength. On 27th May 1891 it was agreed "that each Thursday afternoon between the hours of 2 and 7pm be considered the 'Club Day' and that members be requested to make a special effort to put in an appearance on the links sometime during the course of the afternoon."

On page 34 of the first Minute Book it is recorded "Resolved that the uniform of the Club be a Red Coat with Lincoln Green collar and brass buttons engraved with the Arms of the City and the words LINCOLN GOLF CLUB 1891." It is interesting to note that red jackets are still worn by past Presidents of the Lincolnshire Golf Union at their annual dinner at Woodhall.

Club facilities were naturally limited during those early days. However, a member Mr. C. Brook arranged the rental of a room in the grandstand for 2/6d. per week and six lockers were eventually provided.

The club was very much a masculine enterprise during the first three years apart from a Mrs. Bean who looked after the club room in the grandstand. Then, following a committee meeting held on 28th June 1894, a minute reads "that the Ladies Golf Club be at liberty to engage him (Ayton—on the green's staff) for two mornings each week on payment of 2/6d. per morning." This suggests that there was a Ladies Golf Club in existence somewhere other than on the Carholme.

Amioly Club. For year ending February 1892
Statement Receipts.

Disbursements		Receipts	£ s d
<u>Flags</u>		<u>Entrance Fees</u>	
Robson 29 weeks & a day @ } 10p a week } 14 11 ✓		47 @ £1.1. ✓	45 3
Bean by putting out } Flags @ 10p a month. ✓ } 3 ✓		6 @ 10p ✓	3 3
Turnbull Professional for } business @ 1.15 a week } 10 10 ✓		<u>Subscriptions</u>	
Tabor Professional with @ £1 } 1 week @ 1-5p } 13 5 ✓		41 @ £1.1. ✓	43 1
		5 @ 10p ✓	2 12 6
		Sundry Temporary	115 6
Fee to W. Park for inspecting } Limekiln for the polluting } 4 4 0		By Fees for instruction from } Turnbull } 18 ✓	47 9 ✓
Printing Stationery &c	7 0 0	<u>Donations</u>	
Initiator's expenses in forming } Club for buying implements & flags } 12 16 0		A. Shuttleworth	10 10 ✓
Fees &c of Professionals	2 2 0	Bank Interest	6 ✓
Rent of Club Room in } Grand Stand } 6 10 0			
Balance in hand of } Treasurer } 34 1 7			
	107 19 7		107 19 7

I have examined the above accounts, & find
the same correct.

3rd Febr. 1892

E. A. Smith

Two more references are made to the Ladies Golf Club and links regarding the hire of Lincoln Golf Club staff early in 1895. The first step towards a closer liaison with the lady golfers occurs in a letter from Lt. Col. Finch-Noyes which was read at a committee meeting on 5th February 1895. He proposed that "a member should be allowed to invite a lady member of the Ladies Golf Club to play with him on the Gentleman's Golf Course except on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons, or at other times as the committee should think fit." The committee decided that they had no power to deal with such a proposition involving such an important alteration to the Constitution of the Club without first having consulted all the members.

In April that year, Mr. R. Swan as President of the Ladies Club, was asked to consult with the ladies to see if they had any desire to become members of the club. This resulted in a Special General Meeting, attended by thirteen members, at which it was agreed that "Ladies should be admitted whether from the town, county or Ladies Golf Club, at a special subscription rate and subject to certain conditions regarding playing times." So the Club's four year life as a bastion of male only membership came to an end.

Members were still dissatisfied with the Club's facilities, there being just the one room available in the grandstand. In March 1896 the Captain, Revd. W. N. Usher, reported to committee that negotiations were in hand with Mr. Smith, a grocer, who owned a field at the south east corner of the West Common. This was considered to be the best site for a 'Golf Pavilion'. After protracted negotiations, two cottages were built for leasing to the club. One of these was adapted so as to provide proper facilities for a club house, and the first formal meeting took place there on 6th February 1897 when the AGM was held.



Carholme Clubhouse

The erection of the Clubhouse and cottage for staff satisfied the immediate needs of the Club. However, the accommodation was rented, and the course was on common land, open to all. The enthusiasm and aspirations of the Club's 'founding fathers' were such that they would not tolerate these arrangements for long. They were also most concerned regarding the greatly increased number of smallpox cases in the Lincoln area. A new isolation camp was to be established on the West Common near to the course, and this news alarmed members considerably.

At a meeting held on 16th February 1899, the question of a private course was discussed. A sub-committee consisting of the Captain, W. T. Warrener, W. J. Cannon, C. Pym and the Secretary H. H. Dunn was formed to examine the possibility of acquiring land in the Boultham area of the city, and also to discuss with South Park Golf Club their ideas on finding suitable land near Lincoln for a private course.

A word here on William Warrener, one of the club's great characters. Captain in 1900 and golf enthusiast all his life, he was also a successful artist and some of his works are still on permanent exhibition at the Usher Gallery in Lincoln. Whilst studying art in Paris in the late nineteenth century, he became acquainted with Henri de Toulouse Lautrec who used him as a model in posters in 1895. On the death of his brother, just before the turn of the century, he was called home to take charge of the family coal merchant business.

William Warrener died in 1934 and his eccentric sister, with whom he had lived, was alarmed that his reputation might be ruined, and had his substantial collection of nude paintings burnt!



"The Englishman at the Moulin Rouge" by Toulouse Lautrec. (William Warrener as model).



"Nude in Garden" by William Warrener.

The initial attempts to acquire new land were unsuccessful, and no real progress was made until January 1903. At the AGM, Mr. Warrener reported that the possibility now existed of obtaining land for a course at either Hykeham or at Torksey. A new sub-committee was formed with instructions to make further enquiries without delay. They reported back at a Special General Meeting on 18th March with encouraging news and were asked to submit a full report at another Special General Meeting to be held in July.

This meeting was held at the Albion Hotel in Lincoln on 3rd July when this report was given:

"As the members are aware, there has long been a great desire among Lincoln golfers to find a new home for the game where it might be pursued under more favourable conditions than on either of the Lincoln Commons. A number of attempts have been made to

find suitable ground. The principle reason for the amalgamation of the two Lincoln clubs was the desire to be in a stronger financial position to make the new course a possibility in the near future.”

“The latest effort in the direction of seeking for better golfing country was initiated at the last general meeting when a sub-committee was appointed to report on possible sites at Hykeham and Torksey. The ground at Hykeham was found to be unsuitable, but that at Torksey proved to be well worthy of consideration. The committee first visited Mr. Gourley’s land on the south side of the railway at Torksey and found it fairly adequate but particularly liable to flood in wet season. The land on the north side of the station was next examined and was found to possess such advantages as to warrant the sub-committee most strongly to recommend it as an exceptional site for a new course for the club.”

“The area in question extends to 57 acres amply sufficient for a good long 9 hole course to which the shape of the ground lends itself particularly well. The turf is of fine seaside like character over undulating natural golfing country. The subsoil throughout is a light fine sand and there are a number of large natural sand bunkers as well as hedges and other hazards.”

“In the event of an 18 hole course being decided upon, equally suitable ground adjoins the selected area on two or three sides. The committee have gone into the question of renting the ground and have an offer from the landlord for a 21 year lease while provision will be made for a site for a club house.”

“The estimated cost of making a first rate 9 hole course and building a club house is about £1,200 (around £50,000 at 1990 prices). The committee believes that if work were commenced this autumn, it would be possible to begin play on the course next year.”

Announcing that the President Alfred Shuttleworth had promised to defray half the cost of making the links and building the club house, the Captain proposed:

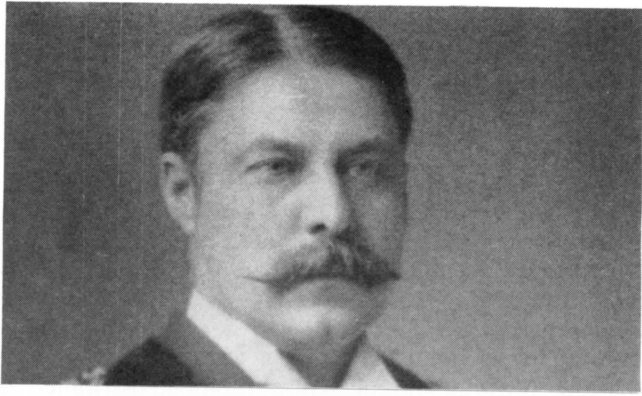
“That at this Special Meeting of Lincoln Golf club, it be resolved that the present links be abandoned and that a new course with club house be made at Torksey.”

This resolution, vital to the future of the club, was passed unanimously.

Special mention must be made of Torksey’s two founding fathers. Without the substantial financial assistance of Alfred Shuttleworth and Montagu Waldo Sibthorp, it is very doubtful that the move to the new course would have occurred. Alfred Shuttleworth was one of Lincoln’s leading citizens, being the proprietor of the large engineering company Clayton & Shuttleworth, and lived in some style at Eastgate House now part of the Eastgate Hotel in Lincoln. Waldo Sibthorp was a member of the local landed gentry and lived at Canwick Hall.

Several families have played an important part in the life of the Club since the early days. The Brogden family claim the longest continuing membership, 98 out of the first 100 years! Frederick Brogden, a Lincoln solicitor and Official Receiver, joined in 1893 and was Captain in 1912, his son Wilfred was a playing member, his grandson Tony was Captain in 1973 and President in 1983. Tony’s son Guy is a current member.

Frederick Brogden’s daughter Elizabeth married Walter Newsum and became one of the Club’s keenest and most formidable members. Her children in their turn became stalwarts of the Club. The eldest, George, was Captain in 1949, Fred was Captain in 1951, Joyce, Lady Captain in 1952 and married to Jack Pumfrey who was Captain in 1951—their son John is Captain in 1991. Monica was Lady Captain and President—1956 and 1982, and married to Max Howard who was Captain in 1958. Quite some record!



Frederick Charles Brogden



Wilfred Brogden



Tony Brogden

GOLF.

LINCOLN G.C. SPRING MEETING.

On Thursday, the third day of this meeting, a medal handicap was played, in fine, spring-like weather, for a handsome prize given by Mr. P. Frankish. Archie Earl, the club's professional, again had the course and greens in perfect order, and an excellent field of some twenty odd players turned out. An exceptionally large number of meritorious scores were made, and a very keen competition saw the first eight men separated only by four strokes. Mr. W. G. Watkins, a very improving player, proved the winner with the excellent nett score of 77, the result of a very steady round, with only a couple of indifferent holes. Mr. H. T. Cannon, who played a particularly fine game, practically reaching every green in two, won the sweepstakes, finishing a stroke behind the winner. The Rev. H. J. Watney had a capital 78. Messrs. A. C. Ingram and H. T. Griffith had 80's, and there were three 81's. The eleven best returns, all within seven strokes, were as follows:

	Gross. H'cap. Nett.		
Mr. W. G. Watkins (winner of prize)	106	29	77
Mr. H. T. Cannon (winner of sweepstakes)	89	11	78
Rev. H. J. Watney	89	10	79
Dr. A. C. Ingram	98	18	80
Mr. H. T. Griffith	98	18	80
Mr. W. T. Warremer	91	10	81
Mr. W. P. Costobadie	93	12	81
Mr. C. G. Ward	93	12	81
Mr. A. Wallace	85	1	82
Mr. T. P. Stokoe	93	10	83
Mr. G. Ponsford	99	15	84

On Saturday, the concluding day of the meeting, the competition is under handicap against bogey for the Ponsford Cup.

Last Spring Meeting at the Carholme 1903.