

LINCOLN GOLF CLUB
CENTENARY 1891-1991

A HISTORY OF THE CLUB
BY
PAUL PUMFREY

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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 rackets; 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-neck 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, 1l. 1s.; Annual Subscription, 1l. 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>Reps.</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. 3mths } 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 } 1 3 5 ✓		41 @ £1.1. ✓	43 1
	41 6 0	5 @ 10p ✓	2 12 6
		Sundry Temporary	1 15 6
Fee to W. Park for inspecting } links & for the golf links } 4 4 0		By Fees for instruction from } Turnbull } 1 8 ✓	47 9
Printing Stationery &c	7 0 0	<u>Donations</u>	
Initiators 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 Feb. 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.



Carholme Clubhouse

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.

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:

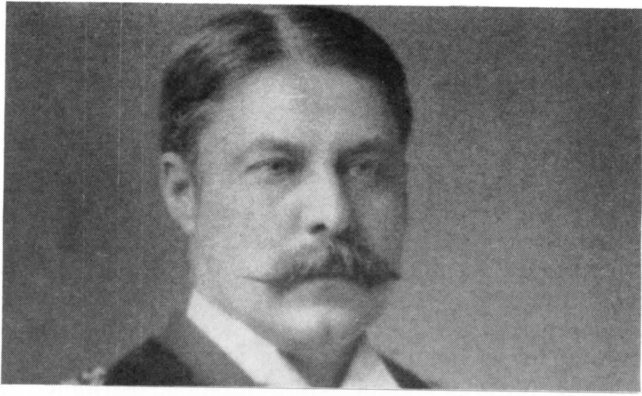
“That at this Special Meeting of Lincoln Golf club, it be resolved that the present links be abandoned and that a new course with club house be made at Torksey.”

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.

Chapter 2

Lincoln Golf Club at Torksey

Following the decision to move the Club to Torksey, the sub-committee met immediately after the Special Meeting and agreed to invite Mr. J. H. Taylor of Richmond to meet them at the site of the new course. J. H. Taylor was one of the most famous golf professionals in the land at that time, having won the Open Championship in the years 1894, 1895 and 1900. He was also engaged in laying out many new courses throughout the country.

On 20th July 1903, J. H. Taylor came up to Torksey and inspected the ground. He met the committee to explain his initial ideas for the new course. A few days later his written report was received and is recorded on page 137 in the club's minute book No. 2. Unfortunately, no copy of the original layout has survived. The report included the following:

“The ground at Torksey I consider eminently adapted for the game consisting as it does of stretches of sandy warren and fields. In fact the club is to be congratulated on acquiring such a tract of land as it is this kind of ground that one usually identifies with the best of the seaside courses, which lends itself naturally to the making of a really good sporting course.

“The subsoil of pure sand of which the course is composed is productive of the very finest kind of turf that can be wished for, and will have a great advantage over grassland that is usually found on the majority of inland courses in that it will not require to be kept continually mown in order to keep it playable. It is my opinion that when the course becomes playable, it will practically keep itself. The nine holes that I laid out on my plan, I consider will prove to be a course of good length holes of a very sporting character, and

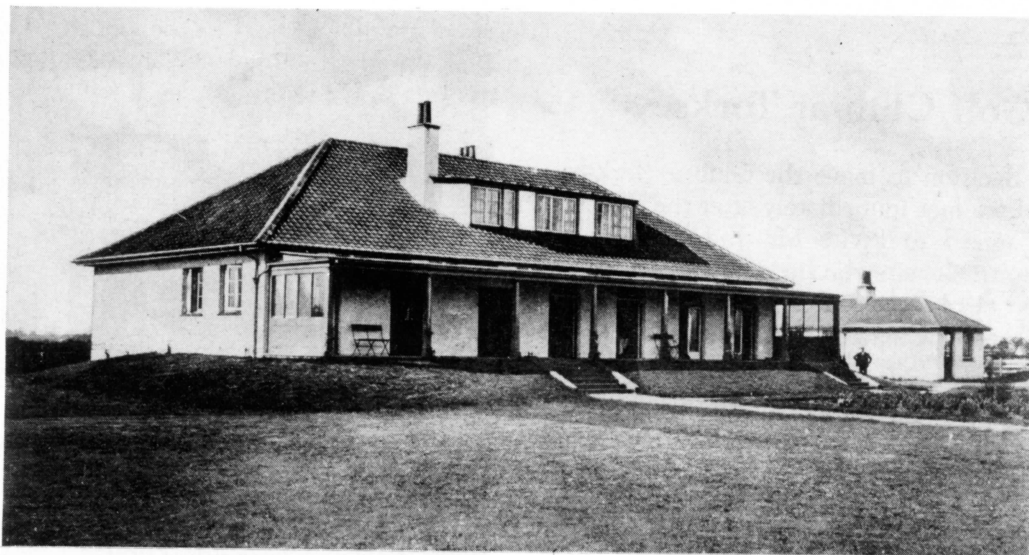
when the arable field in the centre is seeded down, I have no hesitation in saying that it will tax the skill of the finest players to play it well.”



J. H. Taylor

During September 1903, a meeting was held with the landlord's agent and the tenant farmer and arrangements were made to take over the land on 6th October. £5 was agreed to be paid to the farmer as compensation for the loss of the crop of turnips on the field.

Archie Earl, who two years later was to become the Club's first Professional, had been employed as groundsman on the West Common course. In October 1903, he was asked to go out to Torksey as quickly as possible to start to prepare the new course. The committee agreed to pay Archie £1 for his expenses following the move to Torksey, plus a bonus of £1 per month during the preparation period.



The Clubhouse 1904

The move to the new course helped to increase the flow of new members including many prominent figures from the surrounding area. The Earl of Yarborough was elected a member in October 1903. By December, the committee were able to invite tenders for the new clubhouse. Shortly afterwards Wm. Wright & Sons of Lincoln were instructed to start work on the new building at a price of £1,195. Excellent progress was also made on the course as, by January 1904, the committee were informed that several holes would shortly be open for play.

A full programme of competitions was arranged for the 1904 summer to mark the opening of the new course. A number of bogey competitions were organised: the ladies on Monday 13th June, mixed foursomes the next day, followed by a mens' event on Wednesday. On Thursday a mens foursome tournament match play took place and the week's festivities were concluded, on Saturday, with a professional match between Open Champions J. H. Taylor and James Braid. These were the two giants of the game at this time and a large crowd

of members and guests turned out to watch. J. H. Taylor was the winner with 74-75, James Braid finished 75-78.

Such was the enthusiasm for the new course that, by September 1904, the committee considered extending the course to 18 holes. Unfortunately the income at that time was insufficient and the scheme had to be deferred.

The fixture list for 1906 included spring, summer and autumn meetings, the now regular custom. Matches were arranged to be played against Belton Park, Elsham, Lindrick, Newark, Woodhall and Grimsby. The Secretary was also asked to fix a home and away match with Hollinwell. So the pattern of the golfing season was well established during these early days and has continued in a similar form up to the present time.

Problems always arise even in the best organised of clubs. Torksey is no exception, and many are recorded in the minute books. One such occurred in April 1906 when the Vicar of Torksey was concerned about the chastity of young girl caddies from the village. He wrote to the

committee asking them to limit the employment of these girls to those under 14 years of age. The Secretary was asked to investigate but no action appears to have been taken.

Archie Earl was officially appointed Club Professional in November 1905. He was to remain as professional until 1951 and became a well respected coach throughout the county. Archie was a quiet, gentle and most courteous man who was much loved and admired by members and visitors over these many years.

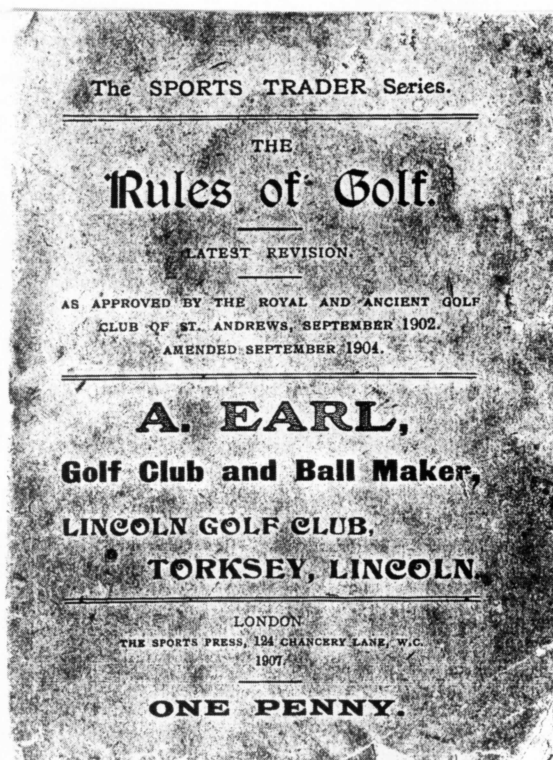


Archie Earl in 1950

In December 1906, the question of extending the course was again reviewed. The two great benefactors of the club Messrs. Shuttleworth and Sibthorp generously offered to contribute three quarters of the costs with the balance of £250 to be raised from members of the Club. This was agreed at a meeting in January 1907. By then the membership had grown to around 250.

During these early years, Lincoln Golf Club boasted several good players who were regular members of the County team. These included A. Wallace, W. J. Cannon, Revd. C. H. Lenton, P. Frankish, Revd. H. Ellison, H. T. Cannon, S. H. Lowe and Revd. Watney. The first County match was played against Nottinghamshire at Seacroft in 1904 which Lincolnshire won by 15 matches to 5. Lincoln Golf Club provided 8 players in that team.

Inter-club matches were being played regularly and Lincoln were County Team Champions in 1900, 1901, 1903 and 1906.



Extract from a Golfing Journal 1907

Amongst the many clerics who enjoyed their relaxation at Torksey was the vicar of Canwick, Revd. Watney. He was a fine player and one of the 'characters' of the club. He claimed to have hit a ball up into the oak tree to the right of the cross bunker on the 9th (then the 16th), and having reached the tree he shook it, and low and behold, 24 balls came down! Even then it was quite impossible to shake that tree which was of considerable girth. Another tale from the old days concerned a lady

member, Violet Peacock, who had great difficulty in driving over the bog in front of the 17th green (then the 13th). She desperately wanted to return a card for handicapping purposes, so decided to put the ball all the way from the tee across the causeway and up onto the green!

Minor problems also beset members in the clubhouse. Mr. Danby, who was one of the founding members, objected violently to being charged one penny for soda to go with his whisky. After numerous protestations the Steward insisted on continuing with the charge. However Mr. Danby got his own back by bringing with him on the train from Lincoln, a Gladstone bag containing his own soda syphon.

Following the generosity of Messrs. Shuttleworth and Sibthorp, negotiations were commenced to acquire more land so that the course could be enlarged to 18 holes. Two fields to the north of the clubhouse were leased from Frank Dickinson, and Archie Earl was asked to

rearrange the course to provide 18 holes. The accounts for 1908 showed an increase in rents from £73 to £120 which covered the additional land for the extension to the course. To help with the extra work required, a horse was purchased for £18. The work was finished during that year, and arrangements were made for a grand opening of the 18 hole course. This occurred on 12th May 1909 when three leading professionals Messrs. Duncan, Robson and Skoples together with Archie Earl played an exhibition match.

The great majority of members came to play golf by train because, in the early days of the twentieth century, motor cars were a very rare sight. A committee member from Retford found great difficulty in attending meetings as trains from Retford to Lincoln only stopped at Torksey very occasionally. The club Secretary was asked to write to the Great Central Railway Company asking them to arrange for the 11.30 train from Retford to stop at Torksey to set down golfers. This was agreed by the Company—such was the influence of golfers in those days.



12 May 1909—Opening of the 18 hole course



12 May 1909—1st Tee



Detail of above—William Warrener (far left) and Archie Earl (with club on right)

The Ladies section of the club continued to grow and in order for them to play on Saturdays, a resolution was put forward in 1910 that "Ladies be allowed to play on Saturday afternoons after 2pm." The ladies were disappointed to hear that the resolution had to be withdrawn following strong objections from committee members.

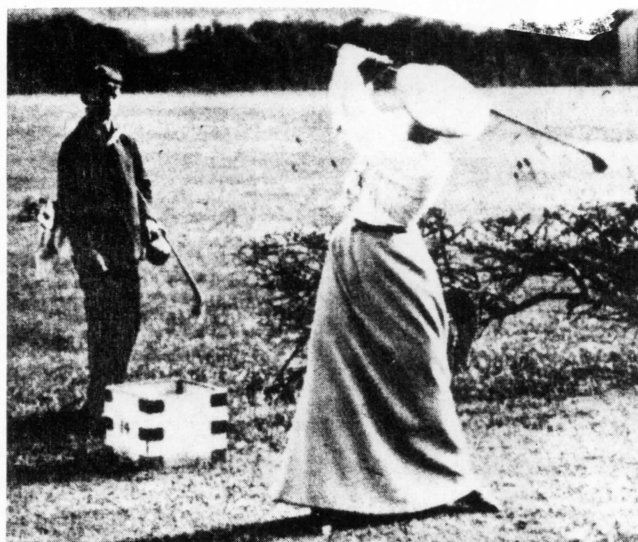
With the course extended to 18 holes and the steady flow of new members, the clubhouse was becoming cramped. Plans were drawn up for enlarging the building at an estimated cost of £800, a considerable sum at that time. Again Messrs. Shuttleworth and Waldo Sibthorp came to the rescue with offers of £500 and £100 respectively towards the cost on condition that "the balance be raised by members and that members' chauffeurs be allowed to play, while waiting, under proper guidance." This was approved and the extensions were completed. The facilities were thus improved to give more room for members and visitors. Visiting parties were rare at this time, but permission was given in September 1911 for the British Dental Association, Eastern Counties Branch, to hold a cup competition.

The earliest remaining annual report of the General Committee is for 1911. That season had been abnormally dry and had materially affected the course due to the nature of the turf and subsoil. In order to improve the course, John Hunter, a well known Scottish greenkeeper, was appointed. He had experience of St. Andrews, Lossiemouth and other noted courses. His efforts at Torksey were successful as a report in 1912 in a leading Golf Journal stated "it is a surprise to find an inland course having such a real seaside quality. Torksey is one of the six best inland courses in the country."

In August 1912, the rules of the Club were altered. It was agreed that the play of lady members should be under the direction of their own committee. This move was initiated in order to strengthen that section of the Club. That year, the total membership passed the 300 mark for the first time. Even with the new members,

funds were still desperately low. The income was barely sufficient for the efficient upkeep of the course and thus subscriptions would have to be raised to allow improvements to continue and for the building fund account debt to be reduced. Subscriptions were increased for men to £3 3s. and, for the ladies, £1 11s. 6d.

Following the formation of the ladies' committee, they elected as their Captain Miss E. C. Nevile, a member of one of the county's best known families. Elinor Nevile was one of the finest lady players in the country having twice reached the final of the English Ladies' Championship in 1898 and 1902. She represented England in international matches in 1903, '04, '05, '06, '08 and 1910. An article in *The Irish Golfer* of 1903 says "Her style is not a common one, but the results can not be quarrelled with. The peculiarity in Miss Nevile's style is that she stands so exceedingly upright, scarcely bending her body at all, and draws back the club very straight and rather slowly. Somehow or other she seems to have more power than the majority of players and is an exceptionally long driver."



Elinor Nevile on the 14th tee at Cromer in 1905

The list of the mens' Captains at this time contain many names that are still familiar to people living in the area. A. C. Newsum was Captain in 1906, J. S. Ruston in 1907, and C. H. Newsum followed F. C. Brogden in 1913. The Captain in 1914 and the subsequent years of the Great War was N. C. Cockburn. In April that year he sponsored an exhibition match between famous professionals Harry Vardon, Edward Ray and Robert Thompson together with Archie Earl. Great excitement occurred during the morning round as Ray tied the course record with a 71, with Vardon taking 72. In the afternoon match, Ray and Earl beat Vardon and Thompson 5 and 4.

Harry Vardon wrote a regular column entitled "Views on Golf" in the *Daily Mail*, and following his visit to Torksey, reported, "It was a splendid course on which four of us played at Lincoln last week. I was really surprised at its excellent quality. Its subsoil is pure sand, and it seems to be the only sandy region for miles around. It has some fine holes too; the long ones are good and two of the short ones stand out particularly in my memory. The ninth is crowded with bunkers which would appear to have been made by the wind blowing the sand little by little to other parts."



Harry
Vardon

On another occasion, Harry Vardon was playing an exhibition match at Torksey against Horne, a South African professional, reputed at the time to be the longest driver in the world. After a good lunch they appeared on the first tee and Horne's drive finished a little short of the 300 yard hole. "Can't you drive further than that?" asked Vardon, who then proceeded to put his ball on the green. Vardon continued outdriving Horne at hole after hole and completely put him off his game.

The first World War naturally reduced golfing activity to a very low level. All competitions and matches were suspended until further notice. A resolution was passed by the committee in January 1915 "that any member who has joined the colours and is absent from home, shall on his request be excused from subscription during the period of his absence." During these war years, the committee had great difficulty in maintaining the course to any sort of acceptable standard and members were urgently requested to help with the general running of the Club in any way that they could. Membership was falling fast and during 1916 fifty seven members resigned with only fourteen new members elected. Due to the serious financial position, help in the clubhouse was reduced and all catering ceased. Fires were banned in the smoking room and the ladies' room and no tablecloths were to be provided. The most stringent economies were put into effect.

The professional Archie Earl was asked to try to obtain munitions work in Lincoln because it was felt desirable that, even apart from economic reasons, all available manpower should be used in the service of the country. In order to increase income, the first six holes were rented out to S. Dickinson in April 1917 for sheep grazing at £20 per annum and the rest of the course to Jacob Denby at 10 shillings per acre. On 5 March 1918 a formal notice was received from the Lincolnshire War

Agricultural Committee instructing the Club to plough up seven acres of the course adjacent to the railway station (the current 15th and 16th holes).

So by Armistice Day in November 1918 the fortunes of the Club had by necessity fallen to a very low ebb. The total membership had sunk to some 200, of whom 28 men and 5 lady members remained with a free sub-

scription due to their war service. Income was not much more than 50% of the level at the beginning of the war. However, golfers have always been keen and determined people, and Torksey's remaining members were no exception. So during the winter of 1918/19, plans were prepared to ensure that the very high standards which were the hallmark of Lincoln Golf Club, could be restored at the earliest possible moment.

Chapter 3

Between the Wars

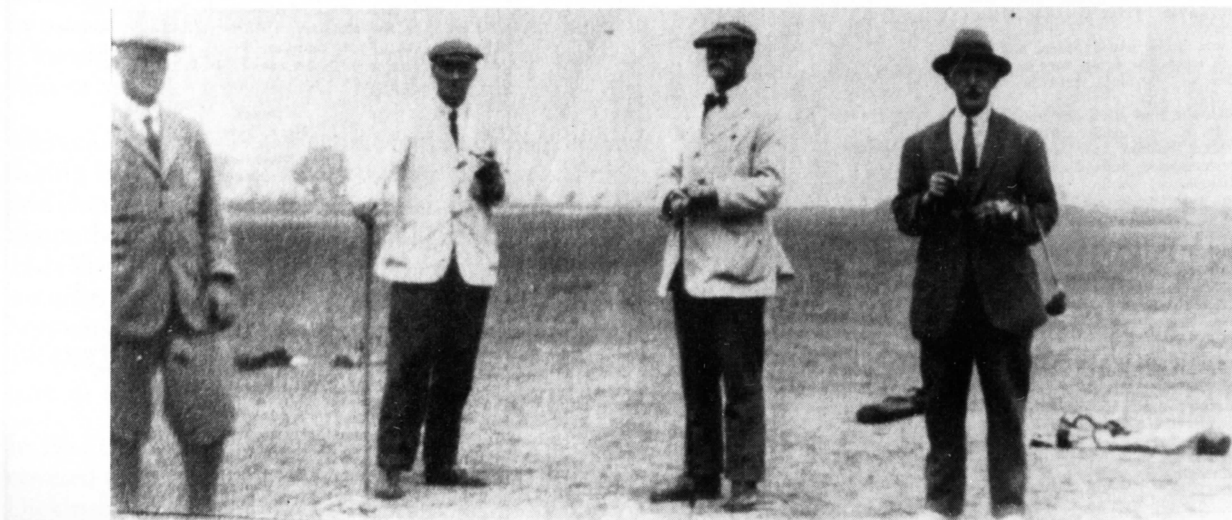
By 1919, with the appalling war behind them, Torksey members endeavoured to restore the club to its pre-war standard. The professional Archie Earl returned to resume his duties, and the committee hoped to reappoint Major Sutton Lowe as Secretary/Manager. From 1914, Major Sutton had carried out his duties at a salary of £100 per annum. Unfortunately because finances were now very low, the committee had no alternative but to write to thank him for the great services rendered, which included the improved condition of the course, and for his unfailing courtesy and tact, but to regret that they were unable to reappoint him.

Chairman of Committee during the war was Lincoln coal merchant William Warrener whose office was used for meetings. He was able to report to the January 1920 AGM that there had been a substantial improvement in Club finances. Also, the railway service from Lincoln,

Retford and Gainsborough, had dramatically improved with a reduction in fares promised later—splendid news for members as they nearly all came to Torksey by train.

Club matches were resumed during 1920 against Hollinwell, Woodhall, Carholme, Rauceby and Lindrick. Many members of the Club were local clergy, and so it was a particular pleasure to welcome the Bishop of Lincoln when he joined Torksey in February 1920. By the end of that year finances strengthened further and the committee was delighted to reappoint Major Lowe to his former position.

The major event during 1920 was that approximately half the area of the course, indeed the part that was first leased in 1903, came up for sale. The committee and members were determined to make every effort to acquire the 55 acres. After protracted negotiations, the land was bought for £1,500. A motion was passed on 6th September 1920 to send “a hearty vote of thanks to Messrs Shuttleworth, Sibthorp, Cockburn and J. D. Sandars for their kind assistance towards raising the funds for this purchase.



Torksey 17th Tee 1921—from left: J. Keaveney (Cap. 1922), E. A. Loeffler (Treas.), E. T. Foster (Cap. 1924) and Major Sutton Lowe (Sec.)

LINCOLN GOLF CLUB.

SUMMER MEETING.—FIRST DAY.

This meeting, which extends over the week, opened at Torksey, on Monday, with a ladies' Bogey Competition for a prize given by Mr. W. T. Warrener. The course was in fine trim, and there was a good field, considering the weather conditions. The rough wind, however, made low scoring very difficult, and the best cards read as follow:—

Handicap.		
Mrs. Uttley	20	5 down.
Mrs. Watson	10	5 "
Mrs. Wormald	8	8 "
Miss Young	17	8 "

—X— SECOND DAY.

The mixed foursomes competition under handicap against bogey was played at Torksey on Tuesday, for prizes given by the Club. There was a good field, but the weather conditions were again somewhat difficult. In spite of this, however, a very fine return of one up on bogey was made by the winners, Mrs. E. White and Mr. P. J. Bridges, who were both playing very good and consistent golf, and were always on terms with bogey. Winning the first two holes, they turned one up, and halved the incoming nine—an excellent performance on the day. The best cards read as follows:—

Mrs. E. White and Mr. P. Hicap.		
J. Bridges	15	1 Up
Mr. and Mrs. A. Wormald	11	6 Down
Miss E. Foster and Mr. J. Keaveney	8	7 "
Mrs. Uttley and Dr. E. S. Winter	11	7 "
Miss J. and Mr. E. T. Foster	9	8 "

THIRD DAY'S PLAY.

On Wednesday, the third day of the Lincoln Golf Club's summer meeting at Torksey, saw the decision of the Bogey competition, under handicap, for two very handsome prizes given by the President (Mr. A. Shuttleworth), and the qualifying round for the Victor Cup, given by the Captain (Major N. C. Cockburn).

The course was in beautiful order, and although the high wind was again very troublesome a number of excellent returns were made.

The winner in the first division (limit of 9 strokes) was Mr. E. A. Loeffler, who played brilliant golf, and finished "all square," a very fine performance indeed under the weather conditions.

Mr. R. Epton won the second division prize with the excellent return of 2 down, a fine recovery of form after an indifferent start being a feature of a sterling display. Mr. A. B. Porter and Mr. J. H. Burgess had very good scores of 3 down, both playing very consistent golf.

The return of the eight leading players who qualify for the match play tournament for the Victory Cup read as follows:—

Hicap.		
Mr. E. A. Loeffler	3	All square.
Mr. R. Epton	11	2 down.
Mr. A. B. Porter	11	3 "
Mr. J. H. Burgess	14	3 "
Mr. E. White	7	5 "
Major Wormald	14	5 "
Mr. A. E. Collis	6	6 "
Mr. E. E. Tweed	9	8 "

LINCOLN GOLF CLUB SUMMER MEETING.

THE SHUTTLEWORTH CUP AND SWAN GOLD MEDAL.

This meeting was continued on Saturday with the competition over 36 holes under medal rules for two of the club's most important trophies, viz., the Shuttleworth Cup and the Swan gold medal. The weather was favourable, and the course in excellent trim. The competition was very close, and a number of excellent cards were returned.

At the conclusion of the first round Mr. P. J. Bridges led the field with a fine 78; there were three 79's and two 80's, the details being as follows:—

	Grose Hicap	Nett
*Mr. B. J. Bridge	95	18 ... 78
†Mr. E. A. Loeffler	81	2 ... 79
†Mr. A. E. Collis	87	8 ... 79
Mr. A. B. Porter	93	14 ... 79
Mr. W. T. Warrener	88	8 ... 80
Mr. J. Brown	90	10 ... 80
Mr. W. F. Brogden	92	8 ... 84
Mr. E. White	93	9 ... 84
Mr. C. Pym	89	4 ... 85
Mr. O. S. Bennett	97	12 ... 85
Mr. E. Tweed	97	12 ... 85
Mr. J. H. Burgess	101	14 ... 87
Mr. J. Keaveney	93	3 ... 90

* Winner of first sweepstakes.
† Winners of 2nd sweepstakes.

LINCOLN GOLF CLUB

FORMED 1891

President
Mr. A. SHUTTLEWORTH.

Vice-Presidents
Mr. A. H. LESLIE MELVILLE, Mr. W. SWAN,
Mr. W. T. WARRENER, Mr. C. PYM,
Mr. M. R. WALDO SIBTHORP, Mr. W. J. CANNON,
Mr. A. C. NEWSUM, Rev. H. J. WATNEY, Col. J. S. RUSTON,
Mr. P. T. BRIDGES, Mr. C. H. NEWSUM,
Major N. C. COCKBURN, Mr. H. H. DUNN,
Mr. A. WALLACE.

Captain
Mr. E. WHITE.

Vice-Captain
Mr. J. KEAVENY.

Treasurer
Mr. E. A. LOEFFLER.

Secretary
Major SUTTON H. LOWE.

Committee
Mr. F. E. BOVILL, Mr. R. G. BRADSHAW,
Mr. F. C. BROGDEN, Mr. H. T. CANNON,
Mr. A. E. COLLIS, Mr. R. EPTON, Mr. E. T. FOSTER,
Mr. W. J. NEWSUM, Major W. M. PHILLIPS,
Mr. E. E. TWEED.

LINKS AND CLUB HOUSE AT TORKSEY
(Great Central Railway) near Lincoln

FEBRUARY, 1921.

Early Post-War Competitions.

A year later, in November 1921, Frederick Hawtree the chairman of the Greenkeepers Association was called in to advise on the greens. He reported "May I be permitted to say that it is very rarely one comes across an inland course with such natural advantages as the one at Torksey. Its undulating surface, its sandy soil, its excellent turf together with its natural looking bunkers combine to make it equal in many respects to the first class seaside courses."

Until 1922, the course did not have an official scratch or par. To rectify this matter, a sub-committee was appointed to submit their suggestions to the Royal & Ancient for approval. This was obtained later that year and the official scratch score of 76 was agreed. Competitions for the ladies and the men followed the pattern set in earlier days in that they were held during three annual meetings of one week each in the spring, summer and autumn.

The first summer dance took place in the clubhouse in 1922. The Captain J. Keavney reported: "A delightful innovation in the Club's programme was a most successful dance held on 30th June, and brilliantly carried through by a committee of ladies." The event was so popular that it became an annual one, held in June with the exception of years of the second World War.

Inter-club matches became more and more popular and during 1923 games took place against Sherwood Forest and Doncaster for the first time. Possibly the first formal match between Torksey ladies and gents was held on 12th May the result of which is unrecorded. Later that summer, a long standing member, Sir William Tritton, honoured for his design of the first tank used in the 1914-18 war, generously financed Archie Earl, to compete in the Open Championship in Scotland.

In 1923 the Club purchased the land to the North which covered the first six holes. 19 acres were sold by Frank Dickinson at £40 per acre, 13 acres by Jacob Denby for £450 and further land was bought from Mrs. Haslam

for £1,030. So, in just three years, enormous steps had been made to acquire the freehold of most of the ground. These acquisitions were funded by issuing equitable mortgages to members at £25 each with interest at 5%, all to be repaid from revenue within ten years. The Club was much indebted to Ernest Tweed, Captain in 1923, who provided a loan to take up 60 of the new debentures. This greatly relieved the pressure on other members and prevented delays in these transactions.

Over the years, controversy has raged over the vexed question of whether ladies should be allowed to play on Saturdays. (Indeed the point recurred at a committee meeting in 1988.) At the AGM in 1924, the Bishop of Lincoln proposed that a ballot be held to decide the matter. A decision was deferred until the view of the ladies section was known. Mrs. Edward-White, the ladies' secretary, received approval and finance to erect a much needed honours board. As a result she wrote: "The ladies are extremely grateful for the treatment they have received and do not wish to put forward any request for further facilities to play." It is debatable whether a ladies' committee of today would be quite so compliant.

Revised prices of liquors-

The Secretary placed before the Committee the current charges for liquors-

It was decided to reduce the charges per glass of the following liquors:-

<i>Cherry Brandy & Cherry Whiskey</i>	<i>from 11^s to 10^d</i>
<i>Vermouth French & Italian</i>	<i>" 10^d to 8^d</i>
<i>Beer & Stout</i>	<i>" 9^d to 8^d</i>
<i>Dry Ginger</i>	<i>" 6^d to 4^d</i>
<i>Stone Ginger</i>	<i>" 6^d to 5^d</i>
<i>Cydes</i>	<i>" 6^d to 4^d</i>
<i>Tonic Waters</i>	<i>" 6^d to 4^d</i>

Feb 25th 1924

E. M. White

Bar Price Notice 1924 (note reductions!)



circa 1930—Mrs. Swayne, the Bishop of Lincoln, Claude Pym (President) and Irene Griffith.

The Bishop of Lincoln's wife, Mrs. Swayne was also a keen golfer but was not a long hitter of the ball. Archie Earl did her a great personal kindness when he had a small tee constructed for her on the right of the then causeway to the 13th (now 17th) green. This reduced the length of the carry by some 30 yards.

E. A. Loeffler was a member between 1912 and 1947, and served as Treasurer and Auditor between 1918 and 1934. His son, Philip, recalled one of his father's anecdotes. During the twenties a few more members travelled to Torksey by car, but the majority still came by train. Those who drove to the course had to negotiate the notorious hump-back bridge at Torksey. The approach to this was completely blind and the danger was increased by the narrow carriageway that was little more than a dirt track. The driver had to continually blow his bulb horn and pray that nothing was coming in the opposite direction. Later, members were surprised that

roads in the Torksey area were amongst the first to be tarred in the district. It just so happened that Col. A. E. Bradshaw, the Lindsey County Surveyor, was an enthusiastic golfer and member of the club.

Edward Mason, a Lincoln solicitor, remembered Torksey stories told to him by his father, Richard, who joined the club around the time of the first World War. Of the few members who owned cars, a handful had chauffeurs to drive them. These chauffeurs sometimes caddied for their employers and placed side bets on the result of the game. On one occasion a Dr. Barlow's chauffeur, named Adkin, became so exasperated with the doctor's play, that he gave voice to his feelings. On a distant hole, after a particularly offensive comment, Dr. Barlow at once dismissed the impudent fellow from his service. Adkin had to walk back to the clubhouse in disgrace. However, the doctor later relented on condition that Adkin was never allowed to caddy again.

Richard Mason was considered to have been an eccentric golfer as he always played with one club. This was called a 'paddy', a type of mid-iron, made by Cawsey the Seacroft professional. He won the Cannon Cup using just this one club. Some of the other competitors took a pretty dim view of this.

In 1925, the Clubhouse was, from the exterior, very much as it looks today. Inside things were very different and there was no bar. The main entrance, off the verandah, led into a hall with the dining room on the left and the Gentlemen's Club room on the right. This was furnished with large basket-work arm chairs with a recess on the right arm to take a glass. The Gents' locker room was much as today though lockers in the centre have been removed. The lavatories and showers were in what is now the Gents' bar. Drinks were ordered through a hatch at the end of the hallway. The ladies had to get their drinks through another hatch off the dining room, with their lounge and changing-rooms virtually unchanged until the 1990 improvements.

1925 was marked by the death of the first President, Alfred Shuttleworth. From earlier chapters of this history, it can be seen what a major role Mr. Shuttleworth had played during the difficult early days when finances were so low. Whilst there had been an improvement during the twenties, money was still short and approval was given to members of adjoining clubs including South Park, Retford, Thonock, Blankney and Carholme, to play at Torksey at a reduced green fee of 2/6d.

The second President, Montagu Waldo Sibthorp, was elected at the AGM in January 1926. At the same time, the long serving Secretary, Major Sutton Lowe, resigned to be replaced by Percy Bridges the Captain that year. Mr. Bridges was very much an authoritarian and stickler for etiquette and behaviour.

Nora Watson became Lady Captain in 1927, her sister Norma was Honorary Secretary, and her mother on the ladies' committee. The Watson family were a force very much to be reckoned with for many years. That year the Ladies' Golfers Union informed the Club that unless the course was extended by 95 yards, their scratch score would have to be reduced to 75. Nora Watson soon obtained permission from the Management Committee to increase the length by putting back certain trees, thus the scratch of 76 was retained. A new 18th green was opened that year (see the chapter on the Course for details). Communications arrived at Torksey in 1927 when a telephone was installed for the first time at the Club.

The finances of the Club continued to be under great strain in the late twenties, following the General Strike of 1926 and the subsequent depression. At the 1928 AGM, the Chairman stressed the importance of bringing in new members because the rate of increase had been poor of late. This campaign met with some success and, at the next committee meeting, 25 new members were elected with a steady flow to continue during the year.

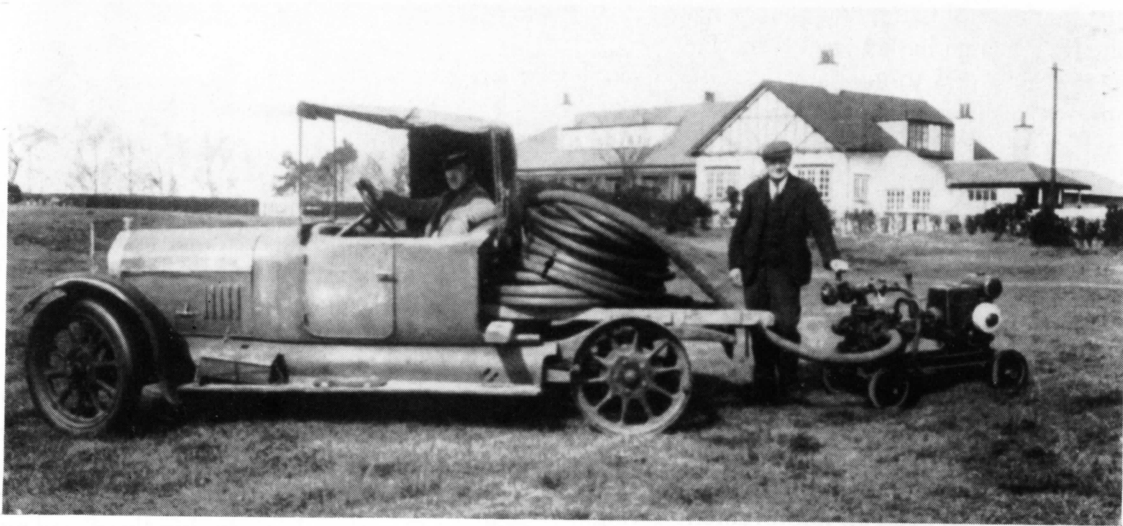
Since the founding of the Club, equipment for mowing the fairways and trimming the rough had always been horse-drawn. New type Triplex mowers had been introduced during the 1920s but these were still pulled by horses. In 1930, George Gilbert, the proprietor of Gilberts Garage in Lincoln, kindly offered a motor car to draw the mower. This offer was much appreciated, and by June, the three horses were no longer needed.

The minutes of committee meetings in the early thirties record a steady improvement in finances. Credit balances of a few hundred pounds were achieved most years after the repayment of around four of the equitable mortgages each year. The total membership was fairly constant being in the mid three hundreds most of the time. In 1932, the Dunham Bridge Company were to grant a special concession "Those members who reside on the

west side of the Trent and cross the bridge in their motor cars en-route for Torksey golf links and pay the one shilling toll for each car, no toll will be made for the car re-crossing the bridge on the same day." Unfortunately, this was short lived and was withdrawn the next year.

As has been the case over the years, members have been generous with their help in a variety of ways. In 1933, S. A. Cox of R. M. Wrights in Lincoln, presented the Club with a Wolsley car to pull the new Triplex mowing machine and G. R. Wildsmith made special rims for

Archie Earl's assistant, from 1932 to 1938, was Neil McLeod. His family, which included some distinguished golfers, originated in North Berwick. His father became the professional at Carholme in 1908, and his uncle, Fred McLeod, who emigrated to America, won the US Open Championship in 1908. Neil McLeod has vivid memories of the Club. The course was virtually deserted every morning except for Tuesdays. Though, during the school holidays, a handful of juniors played. One young man, Geoffrey Lane the son of a Lincoln Bank Manager, was destined to become Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice.



the rear wheels to take the large tyres. One of the major concerns out on the course was the problem of maintaining the greens during hot spells in the summer. The question of providing a portable engine and pump for watering greens was examined. In 1934, it was decided to experiment by deepening the wells at the 3rd and 17th greens. Ruston & Hornsby, successfully tendered and supplied the hand pump apparatus and the work commenced and proved to be so satisfactory that further wells were sunk at the 9th, 10th, 13th and between the 8th and 15th greens.

Saturday afternoons and Sundays were the only times that the course was really busy. Thursday afternoon was the regular time for members of the medical profession to play, and one of their number was notorious for his atrocious language. Ground staff vied with one another to position themselves so as to overhear the latest expletives. Torksey had the reputation of being not only the 'up-market' Club in the area, but also the most expensive. Subscriptions were just double those of nearby Carholme.



Ladies Spring Meeting, May 1934

Archie Earl and his assistant made their own woods for sale at £1 each, and irons available at 17/6d. There were three types of wood; driver, brassie and spoon which were roughly equivalent to today's 1, 2 and 3 woods. The forerunner of a 4 wood, a baffie, was soon added to these. A full set of irons included a driving iron (1 iron), mid iron (2-3), mashie iron (4), mashie (5), spade mashie (6), mashie niblick (7), niblick (8), and a putter. Most members carried seven or eight clubs.

One annual occasion, which the staff eagerly awaited, was the match against the members. Archie's team consisted of his Head Greenkeeper and any member of his staff who could wield a club. In addition, a few of his professional colleagues were invited; these included George Johnson (later to become Torksey's pro) and the well established Arthur Lees. The day was concluded by more than a few beers and much revelry in the bar.

Trouble arose in June 1933 when the railway porter who lived in the cottage next to the 15th green, complained that seeds and plants in his garden had been trampled by players and caddies in their efforts to retrieve balls. He also stated that several of his chickens had been killed after being struck by balls. The committee decided to make a 'without prejudice' payment of ten shillings to the porter and agreed to erect a notice prohibiting players from climbing the fence and trespassing on his property.

Many things are taken for granted these days, so it is interesting to note that the provision of electric light in the Clubhouse did not occur until 1935. Then twenty five lights were installed at a cost of 15/- per point. As a result, members wished to obtain more use from the Clubhouse facilities. Several male and female members were keen to alter the inside of the building so that a

mixed lounge could be provided. Mr. Gamble, a leading local architect, drew up plans, but the committee felt that the financial state of the Club was just not strong enough to cover these costs, particularly as there were sizeable loans still to be repaid. This was an extremely disappointing decision, and many years were to elapse before these alterations could be started.

The President during the mid thirties was Claude Pym a relative of Montagu Waldo Sibthorp. Mr. Pym served on many local committees including the Diocesan Patronage committee. A new vicar had been appointed to Torksey, and several villagers had expressed concern to him "of the deterioration which had taken place in village life since the children had been allowed to carry clubs on Sundays." This was reported to Mr. Pym who took the matter up with the Golf Club committee. They, in their canny way, were concerned that a reduction in caddies would mean fewer players and visitors on Sundays, and consequently less green fee takings. The Secretary adopted the usual stance in such matters with a vague reply saying that the problem would be examined. Of course no action was taken.



Claude Pym



Ladies Open Meeting, May 1938.

The incoming Captain for 1938 was J. H. (Bertie) Ruddock of the family printing business in Lincoln. An exceptionally keen golfer who played on over 400 different courses during his career and a real and ardent supporter of Lincoln Golf Club, Bertie Ruddock also agreed to accept the role of Honorary Secretary, a position he was to hold for fifteen years.