

INTRODUCTION

We have been researching the issues around the history of Allestree Park golf club. It is the history of four different courses and two clubs rolled into one. We have access to maps of the original course layouts. Please click on the links that provide access to a satellite image of the current houses and buildings that have replaced the golf courses.

As Derby grew the courses were sacrificed in the name of progress and development. They still have a rich history and our thanks go to the proprietors of www.golfmissinglinks.com for permission to recreate them for our Derby audiences.

Please note that this information was sourced from an e-book published in 2013 by the Derbyshire Union of Golf Clubs. Its entire text is available online and has been since 2013.

Strangely, none of this information was included in the advertising of the golf course when offered recently for sale by its owners, Derby City Council.

We have created a series of historical notes regarding events that we hope are of interest to our followers many of whom have a real interest in Derby and its heritage. We also want to shed some light upon the incredible characters who are directly linked to the course and its history.

- We will tell the story of an amateur footballer who played for England as an international with professionals
- The story of the first military officer to land an aircraft on a ship
- International motorboat races
- How a golf course tipped the balance in a £700 million pound deal to create a car plant in the area, and the missed opportunities within this deal
- We will explain about a direct link between the golf course and Scott of the Antarctic expeditions involving the ship called Discovery
- How the golf course helped the war effort especially those involved in the North Atlantic convoys in WW2
- We will celebrate some of the local Council officials whose foresight and professionalism led to the creation of the golf course and brought Rolls Royce and other major industries to the area
- How Allestree Park produced Ryder Cup golfing stars
- How Allestree Park supported one of the UK's first female professional golfers despite being rejected for membership by the PGA
- How local residents prevented the building of 2,000 houses planned for the site and saved the trees for posterity.
- Having rebuffed this approach they were then told that trenches and barbed wire was to be used as the park was turned into a War Department training facility

If this material is of interest to you please follow our website at

www.saveallestreegolfcourse.co.uk

We are looking for your help as well as we are trying to locate the original golf course plans and we know that much of the construction work was undertaken by the firm of G F Tomlinson.

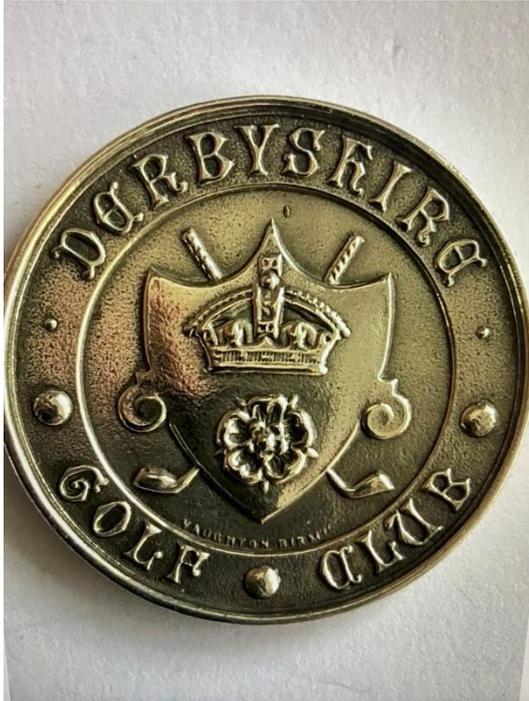
If any of your relatives had involvement in the golf course or its history please get in touch and let us know so we can add to the story.

contact@saveallestreegolfcourse.co.uk

DERBYSHIRE GOLF CLUB

History From 1892 – Part 1

DERBYSHIRE GOLF CLUB



Founded 1892; Closed c.1947. Represented at founding meeting. 18 holes, 6328 yards (1938); SSS 76.

The club was one of the prominent clubs in the county. The first course, of nine holes, was in Osmaston Park. Due to the expansion of the town in that area the club moved in 1898 to a site on Littleover Common.

This club had to close in 1907, again due to the expansion and development of the town and amalgamated with the existing Markeaton Golf Club on Kedleston Road. The two clubs split in 1909, with the Derbyshire Golf Club moving to a course at Humbleton Farm, Mackworth, off the Ashbourne Road, where Tom Williamson laid out 18 holes. As a result of this the Markeaton Golf Club was reformed whilst remaining at its same location.

The only clue nowadays to the location of the course at Mackworth, which was developed for housing in the early 1930's is Humbleton Drive, close to the modern A38 and named after the original farm.

On the death of Mrs Johnson of Allestree Hall the club moved again in 1930 as the lease on the Mackworth course was running out.

Harry Colt designed the new course of 6210 yards which opened on 31st May, 1930.

By 1938 it had extended to 6328 yards but in 1947 the Derbyshire Golf Club disbanded and the Derby Borough took over the park. The course was reopened as a municipal course, Allestree Park in 1948.

ALLESTREE PARK GOLF CLUB

Allestree Hall, Allestree, Derby. Municipal course. Founded 1948. 18 holes, 5714 yards, SSS 68.

The Derbyshire Golf Club moved to the course, designed by H.S. Colt, in 1930 from a site in Mackworth. The Club disbanded in 1947 and the Derby Borough Council took over the course.

Source Derbyshire Union of Golf Clubs, Golf in the Dukeries by John E Moreton Published 2013

Book available online through a Google search of the words Allestree Park Golf Club or Derbyshire Golf Club

Source www.golfmissinglinks.com

- A 9-hole (originally planned to be 18) course was laid out on the Osmaston Hall Estate, with the Hall itself providing clubhouse facilities. Membership ranged from 120 at the outset, to 200 by 1898.
- The club moved to a new nine-hole course at Littleover in the late 1890s when the land was required for housing development.
- In 1908 the club moved to a new 18-hole course at Mackworth. It continued at this location until 1930 when the land was required for housing development.
- In 1930 the Derbyshire Golf Club moved to the new 18-hole course laid out by Harry Colt at Allestree Park. It continued as Derbyshire Golf Club until WW2.
- Following WW2 it became the council owned Allestree Park Golf Course.

Following is a report from the Derby Daily Telegraph dated Thursday 13 October 1892

“A meeting of gentlemen of the town, interested in golf, was held at the Derwent Hotel last Wednesday evening to consider the advisability of forming a Golf Club. Mr A Wilson occupied the chair. After some discussion it was resolved that the formation of such a club was in every way desirable, and it was accordingly agreed that one be constituted with the title of the Derbyshire Golf Club. As a provisional committee the following gentlemen were appointed, with power to add to their numbers; F K Booty, John Brunton, W Campion, F Coulthurst, Dr Laurie, P S McCallum, H Marsh, W T Morley, Dr Vaudrey, A Wilson, and (subject to their consent) J Eastwood, T C Eastwood and Dr Macphail. Mr A Wilson was unanimously appointed chairman of the committee. Mr William Campion, treasurer and Walter Bancroft, 14 Reginald Street, secretary. The headquarters of the club will be the Derwent Hotel, and William Chatterton is the appointed agent for the sale of requisites. A sub-committee, comprising seven members of the club, was formed for the purpose of inspecting and reporting upon the sites suggested as being suitable for the course, and their report will be considered at the next meeting. Ladies will be enabled to enjoy the privileges of the club. The question of the admission of youths was postponed.”

A meeting was held the following week and it was decided that the Osmaston Hall Estate would be the location of the first course, it was to be laid out forthwith. A sub-committee was appointed to engage a professional “to advise as to the best places for the teeing grounds, greens etc” A room had been secured at the Hall for the use of club members. It was decided to approach the Hon. W M Jervis and offer him the post of president. At this stage there was a list of fifty! vice-presidents.

The Ordnance Survey Map below shows the Osmaston Hall Estate in the late 1890s.



O.S Map Revised 1899 © Crown Copyright - Year of publication 1901

It was announced in November 1892 that George Davidson, the County cricket professional, had been appointed groundsman at the Derbyshire Golf Club. It was also stated that the club has “caught on” beyond all expectation.

A distinguished crowd was in attendance for the formal opening of the course which took place on Saturday 6 May 1893 with a match against the Notts Golf Club.

DERBYSHIRE GOLF CLUB

History From 1892 – Part 1

In his short opening speech the president, The Hon. W M Jervis, made reference to the growing popularity of the game and the initial success of the club, which now had about 170 members. He welcomed the Notts Club who had kindly accepted the invitation to play the opening match. He went on to say that Derby could hardly expect victory but hoped they could play a good game. No doubt, with patience, experience and matches against other clubs they would eventually improve their play. Mr Jervis then teed the ball up, drove it off, and declared the course open.

In 1898/9 the club moved to a new location at Littleover between the Burton and Uttoxeter roads, there was a new clubhouse, which was just a few minutes' walk from the Rowditch Inn and the bus terminus. A 9-hole course, holes varied in length from 93 to 370 yards with hedges being the major hazards. Owlter Lane ran through the course, with the new clubhouse just to the south of the lane. At the south end of Middleton Avenue, two cottages bear the name "Golf Links Cottages", which presumably indicates the extent of the course.

The Ordnance Survey Map below shows the clubhouse and course at Littleover.



In May 1898, it was reported that William P Lewis, the professional to the Derbyshire club (1893-1898), playing over the "new course" set a record score for the nine-holes, as follows; Beacon Hole, 4; Windy Know Hole, 3; Farm Hole, 3; Reservoir Hole, 3; Purgatory Hole, 4; Short Hole, 6; Magazine Hole, 4; Punch Bowl Hole, 3; Home Hole, 4 total 34. He had problems with the short hole, being off line with his tee shot.

William Hutchings took over as professional/green-keeper later in 1898, he continued at the club until 1930, his son, Henry William Hutchings, was assistant professional prior to WW1.

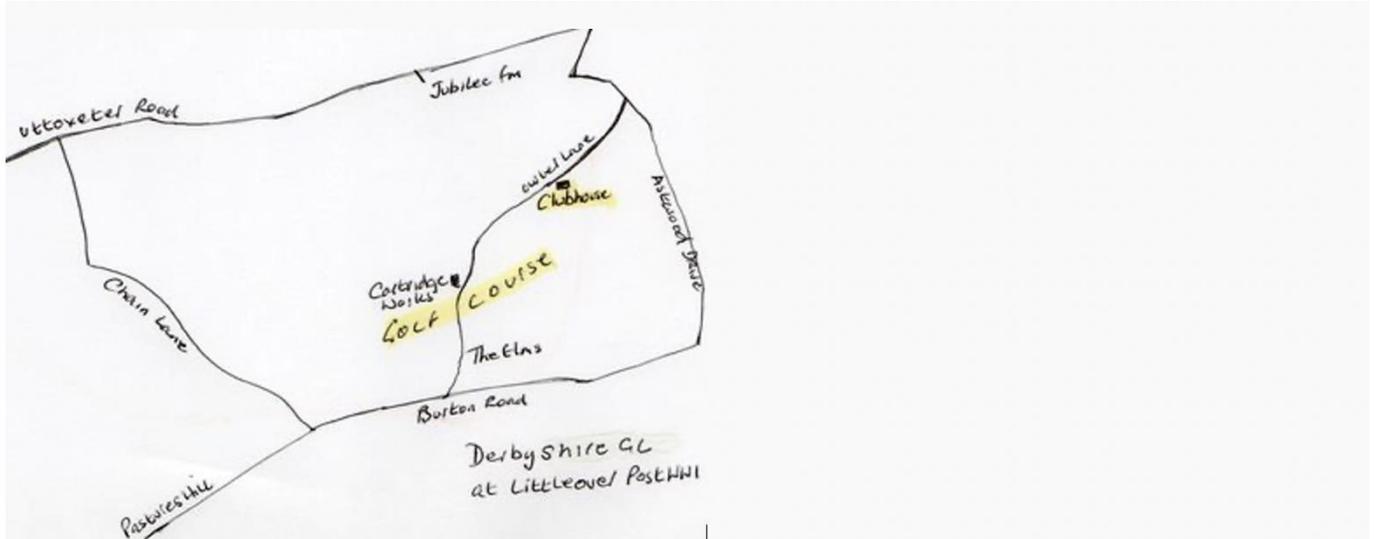
Tom Williamson set a Championship record for the Derbyshire Golf Club in 1900

The course underwent various changes in 1901 with the holes increasing to between 147 and 381 yards. Hazards at this time included ditches, hedges, ponds and of course Owlter Lane which was crossed twice. By 1906 the course had been extended to 18-holes, the longest being 470 yards. Because of the need for more extensive accommodation, plus the lack of the security of the tenure, it was decided in 1909 that the club would move to a new site at Humbleton Farm, Mackworth, from the 25th March 1910. However, there is evidence that play carried on at the Littleover course through to the 1920s.

DERBYSHIRE GOLF CLUB

History From 1892 – Part 1

There were no bunkers on the course as the livestock that grazed the area continually laid in the sand, squirming it all over the playing areas. Greens were protected by small roped areas preventing cattle running on them and these were the only areas that were cultivated and cared for. Interesting to note that many formed bunkers were also originally created by animals burrowing into peat and grassy hillocks to take shelter from the weather. As golf design developed the shallow bunkers were created in areas that had a lot of divots as these were easier to maintain.



The Derbyshire club second home at Littleover, with the Cartridge Works towards the centre. The site has now been taken over by The Derby Hospital and housing.

Clicking on this link will show the satellite image of how this area looks now. The club moved to a new course at Markeaton in September 1908.

<https://goo.gl/maps/FdUdAFVzJ4boKkcN7>