

DERBYSHIRE GOLF CLUB MOVES TO ALLESTREE (1930)

Derby Daily Telegraph. Thursday 29 August 1929

NEW DERBY GOLF COURSE PLANNED TREES FELLED ALLESTREE

Trees are being felled at Allestree Park to make way for the new course of the Derbyshire Club. This course will rank among the best in the county. Messrs. Graham and Bennett, Derwent Street, the purchasers of the timber, told a "Derby Daily Telegraph" representative today that the trees ranged from 35 to 200 years age. They included cypress, acacia, thorn, ash, elm, oak, poplar, sycamore, spruce, beech, lime, and alder.

Mr. E. Bell, a representative of the firm, who is also a golfer, said the park contained the largest thorn had seen in his life. There were various types of specimen trees, grown for their appearance and not worth much in the way of timber. "It is going to be a very charming course" he said. "It will offer broader reach of fairway, and there will not be the hitting into banks which occurs on some local courses. There will be considerably more run on the ball. the ground is sandier and the turf of better texture than found elsewhere. Greens are being constructed on quite the latest plan and are of the ear shaped type."

The picture below shows workers preparing the new (present) course at Allestree in January 1930.



*Derby Daily Telegraph Wednesday 22 January 1930. Image © Reach plc.
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Derbyshire Advertiser August 5, 1928 which was the weekly county newspaper of the time explains the formation of the **Derbyshire Golf Club** after the death of Mrs Johnson at Allestree Hall.

The park and hall were bought by the Commercial Construction Company. Members of Derbyshire Golf club were nearing the end of the lease of the links on Ashbourne Road and they accepted the offer made by Mr AF Farnsworth to transfer the club to Allestree. It was agreed that when the course moved there should be laid out in a suitable pavilion.

Mr H S Colt was asked to design the course and Messrs GF Tomlinson and Sons Derby contractor carried out its construction.

The course was opened by the President of the club Brigadier General ECWD Walthall CMG DSO on the 21st of May 1930 before an assembly of golfers from all parts of the Midlands.

The membership continued to increase until 1938 when it is almost full.

Allestree course to open on Saturday 31 May 1930.



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Report on the opening and a description of the course in June 1930.

NEW GOLF LINKS.

Derbyshire Club's Magnificent Course Opened

AT ALLESTREE PARK.

Derby golfers will have one of the most attractive courses in the county near at hand, now the new Allestree Park course of the Derbyshire Golf Club has been opened. The official ceremony took place on Saturday and was performed by Brig.-Gen. E. C. Walthall who drove the first ball from the pavilion tee. A description of the course appears below.

Generally acknowledged to be the most attractive golf course in the county, the Allestree Park links were formally opened by Brigadier-General E. C. Walthall, president of the Derbyshire Golf Club, on Saturday. The club have transferred their headquarters from Ashbourne-road to Allestree Park, the estate of the late Col. Johnson. There were over two hundred members and friends at the opening, including the Mayor and Mayoress (Coun. and Mrs. J. Ferguson Bell), Mr. W. R. Searle, Mr. F. Tomlinson, J.P., Mr. H. T. Attwood, Mr. F. S. Linnell, Miss Bennett, Dr. C. R. C. Moon, and Mr. K. C. Butler. The new professional, Mr. Tom Barber, the well-known Buxton golfer, was also present.

The opening took the form of the driving of a ball from the first tee.

Prior to the opening ceremony, the members gathered on the terrace of the hall where Brig.-General Walthall, in a short address, paid a tribute to the engineers' of the course. He told the members that he began his own golfing career at a small

nine hole course in North Wales when the game was in its infancy. He was one of the original members of the club. The "club-house" was a loft over a stable. Since those early pre-war days golf had made great strides. It was not so long ago that it was regarded as "an old man's game."

Mr. W. R. Searle also spoke. A feature of the opening was the scrambling for the first ball by the caddies of the club. The competition was won by Herbert Hunt.

The members of the club then took part in driving, approaching and putting competitions. The prizewinners were: D. Cunningham, W. R. Searle, F. S. Linnell, K. C. Butler, Mrs. Goodman, Miss Bennett, Miss Hartopp and Miss Saunders.

ROUND THE COURSE.

The first hole is 455 yards long. The fairway descends into the valley past the hall to the opposite hill, from which a magnificent view is obtained of the park and beautifully wooded lake shores. The bogey for this hole is five. The second tee descends again to the valley, across a bunker and over the road to the opposite slopes. The

length of the hole is 370 yards with the bogey four. The next hole is "The Pitcher," the shortest hole of the course. This fairway crosses the road to the green, which is exactly 150 yards from the tee. Bogey is three. From the fourth tee the course ascends the opposite slopes again in an extremely difficult "dog leg." Some idea of this hole may be ascertained from the fact that although the hole is only 340 yards in length, bogey is five. The fifth skirts the back of the hall and is practically surrounded by woods. This again has a slight dog-leg formation. Known as "the Black Nob," it is 390 yards long and difficult at the turn. Bogey is four. The sixth is 473 yards long and is known somewhat aptly as "The Slogger." This again skirts the hall. The seventh returns to the north side of the park in another dog leg curve and is known as the "Quarndon Hill." The length is 353 yards with bogey four. The eighth is a straight hole, skirting the side of the park for 220 yards with bogey three. The ninth, with a dog-leg bend, returns to the club house. The length is 435 yards, bogey is five.

and this, of course, is half way. The length of the half-course is 3,096 yards, and bogey 38. The boathouse hole descends 360 yards to the lake (bogey 4) and this again is slightly dog-leg. The eleventh is the lake hole and might almost have been called the "lost ball" hole. The hole includes two "wings" of the lake. The slightest pull on the drive will send the ball into the water, and the next wing is practically as difficult. A topped drive spells disaster. The entire length of the hole is 424 yards and the bogey is five. This is probably the most difficult hole on the course. The twelfth dips down by the woods for 180 yards, bogey 3. The course then ascends the hill over the difficult "hog's back" hole. The length of the thirteenth is 440 yards, bogey 5. The other holes are Beech Wood, 285 yards, bogey 4, The Bluff, 190 yards, bogey 3, the Twin, 330 yards, bogey 4, "the Long" (longest hole of the course), 540 yards, bogey five, and the home green 423 yards, also bogey 5. The entire length of the course is 6,268 yards, or nearly 3½ miles. The bogey for the entire course is 76.

The pavilion is still in course of erection, but it is understood that the work will not take long to complete. Members may rest assured that the "nineteenth hole" will be as palatial and comfortable as any in Derby.

Derbyshire Advertiser and Journal Friday 6 June 1930.



Picture taken on opening day on 31 May 1930. Image courtesy of Andrew Picken

A new professional was appointed in May 1933.