

History

at Trentham Park

As the name would suggest, the Club is sited on the Trentham Park Estate, along-side Trentham Park and Gardens. The Gardens are currently being re-developed as an outdoor pursuits and specialist retail centre.

The famous gardens, designed by Capability Brown and Henry Holland in 1758, and latterly by Sir Charles Barry in the 1840's are being brought back to their former glory.

The Barry gardens and 4th Trentham Hall were the result of works commenced by the 2nd Duke of Sutherland, George Granville, who was also responsible for the private Golf Course, comprising 5 holes, created in an area then known as Fern Hills.

However with the ever growing Potteries and the nearby River Trent virtually an open sewer, in 1905 the Sutherlands abandoned the Hall and retreated to Scotland. The Hall was demolished after the County Council rejected it as a gift.

After the Duke's departure the Manager of the Estate decided to extend this course to 18 holes, by creating a further 13 holes on land to the west of Hargreaves Pool. This was completed in 1911 and opened to the general public. The following year it was made a members club, by members paying a yearly subscription direct to the Estate. However it was closed down in 1917-18, most members being in the trenches during the First World War.

When the club was restarted in 1936 and it was decided to leave Fernhill, the

new layout meant that some new ground had to be taken in and the course was constructed partly in Trentham Park itself, and partly on the new ground. It was decided to alter the 1st 13 holes to 12, by deleting one of the par 3 holes. This done, the Duke's 5 holes were retained, with a modification to the last of the 5 holes, and a new hole, the present 17th, was created which also allowed the 18th to become a Par 4, instead of a Par 3 from the side of the present 13th.



Henry Cotton

The man responsible for the restart was Mr. E B Sharpley, the then Town Clerk of Stoke-on-Trent. He came to an arrangement with the Duke of Sutherland, put up the money, and started the Club as a private venture. When he retired the lease was taken on by Mr Jack Hawthorn, the then Club Captain and later by Mr V Hopwood.



The Duke of Sutherland

During the second world war in 1940, General De Gaulle and the remnants of the defeated French Army were billeted in the woodlands adjacent to the golf course and the remains of their encampment can still be seen there today.

The Bank of England also relocated its Central Clearing House to the Ballroom in Trentham Gardens and many of the employees became members of the golf club. As a gesture of goodwill they donated a golf trophy "The Central Clearing House Cup" to the club and this is still played for annually by the members.

The members took over the lease in 1955 and thus was born Trentham Park Golf Club as we know it today. In 1980 the club was finally purchased from the Countess of Sutherland