



# **History of Royal Cromer Golf Club established 1888**

**Information obtained from minute books, letters, members records, journals and periodicals.**

ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE.

The Captain,  
Royal Cromer Golf Club,  
Cromer.



15th June, 1901.

*Has Ind supra*

I have submitted to The King your letter of the 11th Instant, and, in reply, I am commanded to say that His Majesty is pleased to accede to the request contained in it to continue his patronage to the Royal Cromer Golf Links.

*J. H. P. R.*

# Royal Cromer Golf Club

## History

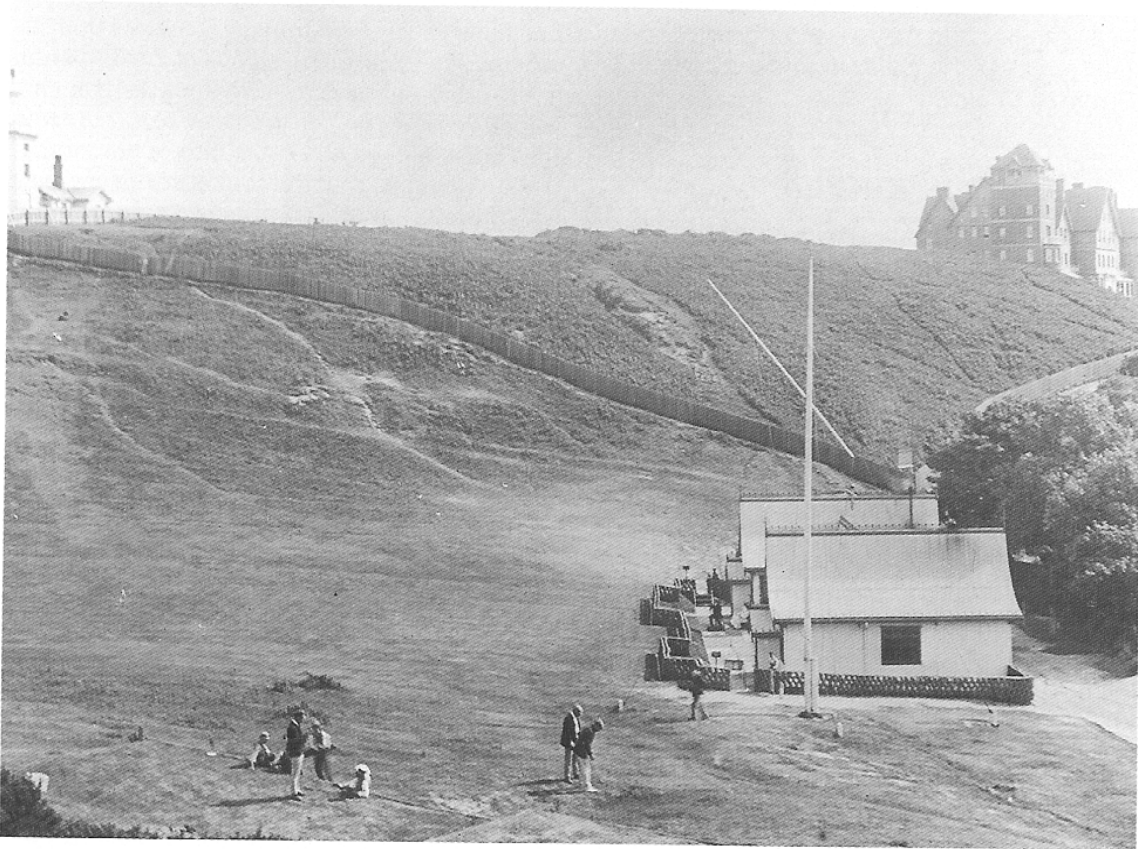
### Established 1888



Royal Cromer Golf Club owes its existence to the enthusiasm and love of the game of a Mr. Henry Broadhurst M.P., a Scot who lived at 19, Buckingham Street, The Strand, London. In the 1880's, whilst holidaying in Cromer, he recognised the potential of land to the seaward of the Lighthouse as a possible site for a Links Course. The popularity of North Norfolk at this time had been noted in the London City Press in a report dated 5th September 1886: "The public are greatly indebted to railway enterprise for the opening up of the East Coast. More bracing air and delightful sands are not to be found in any part of England. The only drawback is that the country is rather flat. This remark, however, does not apply to Cromer, which bids fair to become the most popular watering place, it being entirely free from objectionable features".

The site of the proposed golf course was owned by the then Lord Suffield KCB, who kindly consented to the request of Broadhurst and some twenty other enthusiasts to rent the land. The Club was instituted in the Autumn of 1887 with Lord Suffield as President. Doubtless it was his friendship and influence with the Prince of Wales which precipitated the Prince's gracious patronage of the infant club on 25th December 1887. Thus Cromer had a Royal Golf Club even before its official opening the following January. There are only 37 Royal Clubs in the British Isles, 18 of which are in England. Norfolk's Royal Clubs, Cromer, Norwich and West Norfolk were accorded that status in 1888, 1893 and 1891 respectively.

The original nine holes were laid out by Mr. Broadhurst assisted by Mr. George Fernie of the Great Yarmouth Club. Unfortunately no record exists in plan form, although from descriptions in the golfing annals of the time and close examination of the ground, a fair assessment of the layout is possible. The site of the 1st tee can still be seen below the lighthouse in Happy Valley.



*A spot of putting practice, early 1900's.*

The formal opening of the Club was on 2nd January 1888, the first ball struck from the tee by Benjamin Bond Cabbell. There were some ten or more scores recorded of this auspicious opening round, the best a 104 by a Mr. J. Robertson. Considering the course was confined to the most hilly parts, abounding in gorse and bracken with many pitfalls, that score would appear more than respectable with the then available equipment and bearing in mind the weather associated with North Norfolk at that time of the year.

Membership records of 1888 tell us of some 78 members whose annual subscription was one guinea, (£1.05p). Lady members numbered 12 and although Cromer is only the second oldest club in Norfolk it may well have the honour of being the oldest in having a Ladies Section at inception. The list of founding members makes interesting reading. Besides the Prince as Patron, there were the Earls of Fife and Rosebery, three Barons (Suffield, Cromer and Carrington), a bevy of Knights, several MPs and a good many of the local landed gentry. Interestingly, only 35 were residents of Cromer, others coming from Norwich, Dereham, London and as far away as Brighton, Newcastle and even Edinburgh.

The first captain of the Club was Rev. H. C. Rogers who graciously presented 7 silver medals for competitions held during his tenure of captaincy. He was clever enough to win the only medal to be retained by its winner.

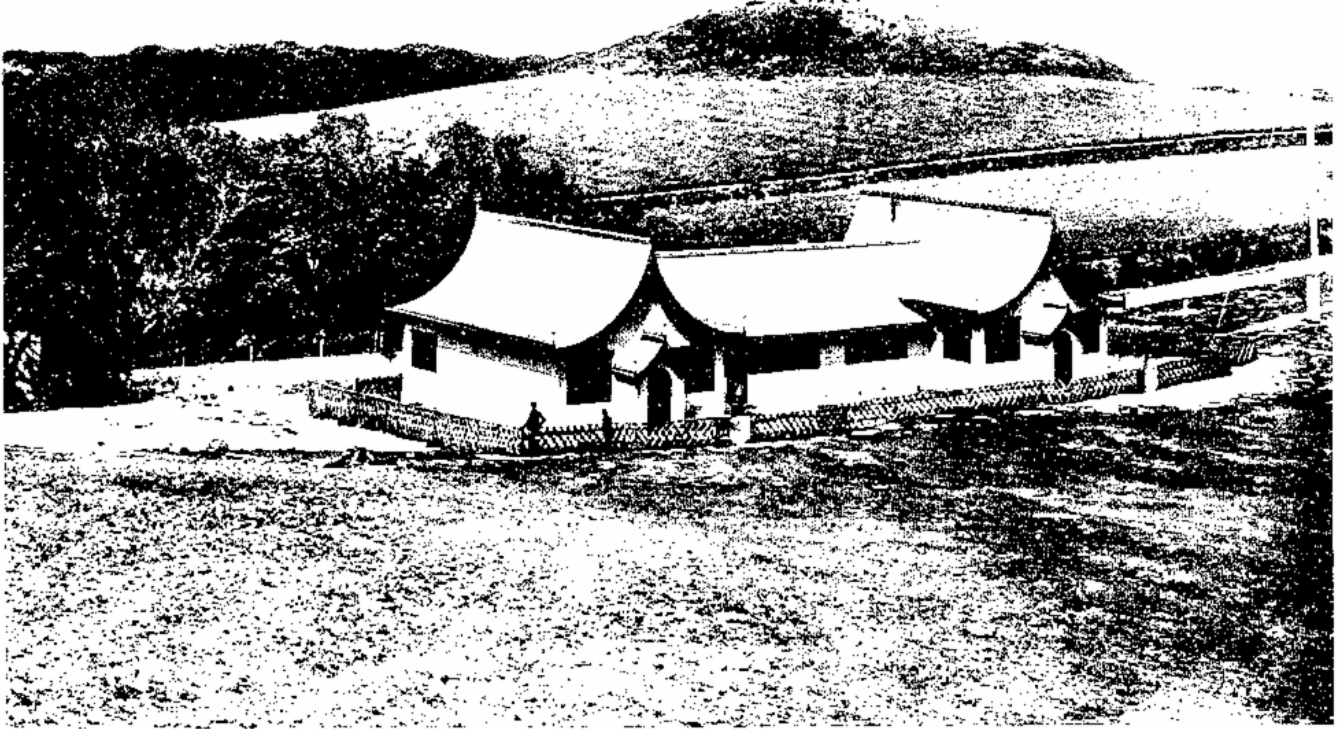
A number of notable figures played golf at Cromer in the early years. Four Royals played. The Prince of Wales apparently did not play, although the Princess, later Queen Alexandra did, as did the Prince's brother, Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught. The Duchess also played as did the Princess Victoria. Political figures included H.H. Asquith when Prime Minister and Arthur Balfour, a very keen golfer who did much to popularise the game. James Barrie from the literary world and Alfred Lord Tennyson also played. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle apparently wrote "The Hound of the Baskervilles" whilst staying nearby. He also played the course.

How different the game was in those days. The equipment was rudimentary, to say the least. The fairways and greens, even when cleared of sheep must have left a lot to be desired. It was not until August 1888 that one A.C. Jarvis had the illustrious honour of completing the nine holes twice with a score under 100. Subsequently he was listed as a scratch golfer.

These then were the first faltering steps of the infant Club, much depending upon the occasional appearances of its rich and aristocratic members. They used the Club for the odd sortie into the turf and bracken of the lighthouse hills. Tragically the first minute book covering meetings of the first committee was lost in the 1900's. However, minute book 2 resides at the clubhouse and gives invaluable documentation from 1891 onwards.

Very early photographs of the clubhouse portray one or two huts rather similar to bathing machines at the first tee. Later in 1890, a butchers shop constructed of wood and corrugated iron - which belonged to Mr. Robert Le Neve - was purchased. It was demolished and transported from its original site in Hamilton Road, converted and re-constructed beneath the lighthouse at the bottom of Happy Valley. Quite where the somewhat oriental architecture of the building originated is obscure, but it certainly made a unique home for the Club. In 1892 the clubhouse was extended to include room for a snooker table and extra WC's by local builder A. H. Fox, for the sum of £35.

## ORIGINAL CLUBHOUSE



*The clubhouse in 1891. The building was formerly a butcher's shop, having been dismantled and re-erected on this site in 1890.*

In October 1891 no less a personage than old Tom Morris surveyed the course by invitation of the committee. The alterations he advised would, in his view, make Royal Cromer the finest 9 hole golf course in the country. He also encouraged the club to be prepared to extend the course to 18 holes in due course.

The influence of the club's membership in 1890 was considerable, for not only did the Great Eastern Railway offer return tickets at single fare prices to gentlemen of Royal Cromer Golf Club, a special station called "Links Halt" was constructed to serve the Club. This station was on the Mundesley to Cromer Beach line and was situated on the inland side of the land once used as the practice ground.

No golfer played without a caddie in those days, and Cromer had the luxury of having both first and second class caddies. First class caddies were generally men who had a rudimentary idea of the game and a good knowledge of the course and as a consequence, received no less than 6d (2.5p) a round whereas boys were second class caddies, receiving 3d per round.

In 1892 Oscar Wilde - who stayed in the area to write "Women of No Importance" - played golf with Lord Alfred Douglas and found Cromer excellent for writing and golf even better.

The same year, 1892, was quite eventful, the club adopting the "Rules of Golf" as laid down by The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews.

From January 1892 to June 1914 a record of all mens competitions was kept in an inscribed ledger, every result written in beautiful copperplate script.

Royal Cromer's first professional was W. Aveston, appointed February 1892 with a weekly wage of 10/- (50p). He was allowed to charge 2/- for a 9 hole lesson and 3/- for 18 holes. He had previously been a member of the Club and served as a professional until July 1906.

A small course was laid out in the spring of 1892 on ground rented for future course extensions. The area was that occupied by our present 1st and 18th holes. This was called the "Lady Links" and was reserved exclusively for lady members in order to relieve congestion on the course. In 1895 the committee received a complaint that the rules of golf were being disregarded by players on the "Lady Links". As there had also been complaints about the condition of this course, a sub-committee was formed, which duly reported various recommendations. A senior caddie was appointed "to be responsible for the preservation of order on the links", he being supplied with the names of those entitled to play. He was also allowed to instruct at a fee of 1s.6d. per 18 holes. (By this time a caddie was paid 1/- per round if his name was on the caddie master's list). No men were allowed to play on the "Lady Links" during August and September, except in after tea foursomes and they were not allowed to use wooden clubs or cleeks. No children under 12 would be allowed to play.

### **IN THE RED**

The success of the early and mid-nineties, financially speaking at any rate, was not to last. The AGM of 1897, the year of the Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, received the unwelcome news that the Club was in the red to the tune of £300. Some of this was due to capital outlay in the form of a Ladies Clubhouse and also renting more land. But another cause accounted for the greater part of the deficit. As now, a constant source of worry was the frequency of cliff falls, caused it was thought, by the continual erosion by the sea at the base of the cliffs. The recommended cure at that time was the erection of groynes to hold up the beach. A scheme was hatched in the late nineties for the defence of the "Lighthouse Hills" and it was proposed to obtain the services of the civil engineer Edward Case, who had considerable expertise in this field. Case duly reported with a scheme for building a number of short timber groynes of an economical type which he had himself developed. It was proposed the scheme would be financed by Lord Suffield and a few other subscribers, of whom the golf club would be one. The club's contribution to be £300, one fifth of the total. It was unfortunate that the committee, in agreeing with the proposals, had not sought the approval of club members, resulting in considerable ill feeling.

Matters came to a head at the AGM of 1899. At this very stormy meeting a motion of censure was brought against the committee by Mr. Broadhurst, who refused to withdraw it when asked by the Chairman. The motion was defeated by a narrow majority, but with feelings running so high the committee felt compelled to resign. The incoming Captain and Officers declined to accept office. The meeting was finally adjourned.

A few members of long standing were elected as a caretaker committee and after much "wheeling and dealing" behind the scenes and some acrimonious correspondence, the adjourned meeting was reconvened a few weeks later amid promises of greater involvement of the members. At this meeting the officers and committee were unanimously re-elected.

In 1901 temporary one-day memberships (green fees) were allowed for the first time, on payment of 2/6d (12.5p). This was not, however, permitted in August and September, during which months the course was reserved exclusively for the use of members and guests. By

1904 the financial position had improved so much that the Treasurer was able to deposit the magnificent sum of £500 with Barclays bank.

It is interesting to note that much scientific work has been done on the erosion of these cliffs since the turn of the century. While, as in many other fields, experts differ, it is now widely held that, owing to the unusual and complex geology of this coast, ground water within the cliffs is a major factor in causing land slips. This was indeed noted as long ago as 1929. A study in considerable depth was carried out in 1963, under the aegis of the department of Scientific and Industrial Research, following a large slip which carried away part of the then 17th fairway. The study concluded that the "Case Groynes" had helped to prevent slipping by about 25 years, by which time they had largely been destroyed.

The Coronation in 1902 of Edward VII was marked with great joy, and "entertainment" was provided for the caddies, each one also receiving 1/- (5p) from club funds.

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Home Office  
Whitehall.  
28 March 1901.

Sir,

I am commanded by the King to convey to you hereby His Majesty's thanks for the Loyal and Dutiful Message of the Members of the Royal Cromer Golf Club on the occasion of the lamented death of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria.

I am,

Sir

Your obedient Servant,

Geo. S. Ritchie

Replied to  
Revised



## THE BRITISH LADIES CHAMPIONSHIP

In the year 1905, the Ladies' British Open Championship was held at Royal Cromer, by invitation of the committee, the competitors and LGU officers being made honorary members for the occasion. A strong team of lady golfers

States for the event, including the sisters Margaret and Harriet Curtis. In the final, Miss Bertha Thompson (Beverley and East Riding) played Miss M. E. Stuart (Royal Portrush). Miss Stuart was bunkered at the 16th and failed to get out after four shots, resulting in a win for Miss Thompson by 3 and 2.

The championship was preceded by three days of formal international matches involving the ladies of England, Scotland, Ireland and the United States. It was after these matches that the Curtis sisters first offered to present a cup for future ladies internationals, although circumstances prevented acceptance of the offer until many years later. A full account of this meeting is given in the separate chapter entitled "The Ladies Showed the Way at Cromer".





The 1905 minutes also noted that the caddie-master would be reimbursed by the club for competitors who failed to pay their caddies and the same year a Mr. Callow was paid £10 to remove his sheep from the course, and not to let them return for a year.

In 1906 the club, to the intense disgust of all concerned, received a demand for payment of income tax in the sum of £2. However, strong letters to the inspector from some influential members caused the demand to be withdrawn. Ah! happy days!

July of that year saw the retirement, sadly through ill health, of the club professional Willy Aveston. His successor was W. J. Rush, with a starting salary of £40 per annum.

Later in 1906, selected Cromer residents of good character were allowed to play as short-term members for the winter months. These worthies had to be duly proposed, seconded and vetted and pay £1 for their membership. This was a fund raising effort thinly disguised as a gesture of good will to the town, as the club was now finding the membership too small to support the facilities offered. The very next year an overdraft was sought and economising became the order of the day. The Green Staff were reduced and the Assistant Professional laid off. The landlord, Lord Suffield, was informed that the club could not afford the proposed rent. Rabbit killing rights were sold to the highest bidder.

In June 1907 a letter was sent to Rear Admiral G. A. Callaghan, C.B. of H.M.S. Leviathan stating the club was pleased to offer honorary membership to the officers of the "Fifth Cruiser

Squadron" for the duration of their stay off Cromer. This set a precedent for many naval visits following their warm welcome at the club.

A scheme to pipe water to the greens was planned in the autumn of 1907 and although members were asked to subscribe, they raised only £200 of the £280 required. The work was put in hand. The Secretary requested permission to destroy many of the club's records and accumulated correspondence. Unfortunately for this record, the request was granted.

The AGM of 1908 shows the club made only £19 profit for the previous year, mainly due to Lord Suffield waiving £100 rent.

1909 saw the committee vote against the staging of the English Amateur Championship at Royal Cromer Golf Club, if it were to be managed by a committee from the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, St. Andrews.

The summers of the early 1900's were a busy time for the club. Many green fee payers wished to play and extra caddies and green keepers were employed on a temporary basis. Such was the crush at the first tee that in 1908 the caddie master was instructed to maintain a daily starting time sheet, ensuring every fourth time be reserved for members only.

The standard scratch score was slowly decreased. By 1908 it was fixed at 77.

Canon Lyttleton, a member with concern for the education of the workers, offered to start a free lending library for the caddies to further their knowledge of the game. The offer was accepted, but no records exist of how well it fared.

## **SUNDAY GOLF**

In the beginning, true to its Victorian origins, the rules of the club forbade golf to be played on the Sabbath. But by the early years of the twentieth century some members were beginning to find this restriction irksome and in 1907 a move was afoot to have the rule rescinded. This met strong opposition, both within the club and among local residents. A public meeting was called by the Cromer Ratepayers Association, which presented a petition to which the Vicar of Cromer added his voice. The matter was raised at that year's AGM where an amendment proposed a poll be taken of the members, which was carried. The poll came down heavily against Sunday golf and at the adjourned meeting the motion was defeated by a large majority. The question was raised again four years later, still failing to gain the necessary support. The resolution allowing Sunday play was finally passed in 1912, with a handsome majority and apparently little protest.

## **DEATH OF KING EDWARD**

In May 1910, King Edward VII died and the club went into mourning. As was fitting, the course and clubhouse closed for the day of the funeral and a letter of condolence was sent to Lord Suffield, to be conveyed to King George V. This was graciously acknowledged in due course. After a decent interval Lord Suffield was asked to approach the new King on the subject of his patronage, which was granted.



Home Office  
Whitehall,  
27 March 1901.

Sir,  
I am commanded by the King to convey to you hereby His Majesty's thanks for the Loyal and Dutiful Services of the Members of the Royal Household on the occasion of the lamented death of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria.

I am,  
Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,

Herbert Asquith

6628



Home Office,  
Whitehall,  
18 July 1910.

Sir

I am commanded by The King to convey to you hereby His Majesty's thanks for the Loyal and Dutiful Messages of the Captain and Committee of the Royal Household on the occasion of the lamented death of His late Majesty King Edward the Seventh.

I am,  
Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,

Herbert Asquith

The Captain  
Royal Household

## THE NEW COURSE

The year 1911 saw the beginning of plans for an extensive re-modelling of the links, following which it was to become substantially the course many present members knew before the most recent alterations completed in 1979. Advice was sought from H. S. Colt of Sunningdale as to the alterations to be made. Before his scheme could be carried out, however, lengthy and difficult negotiations had to be undertaken in order to obtain the necessary land. The club felt unable to pay the rent asked, and the committee, with the assent of the members called to a special general meeting, went so far as to give notice of termination of the lease in the hope of obtaining better terms. This apparently caused consternation among some of the more pessimistic members: perhaps they had a vision of their golf club disappearing in a cloud of dust! This hurdle was finally surmounted and the club obtained security of tenure with a 21 year lease.

The next problem was, of course finance. The amount of work needed would be prodigious, for not only were new holes to be constructed and others substantially altered, the clubhouse was also to be removed from its home in Happy Valley. A new clubhouse would be built on a site near the Roman Catholic Church on Overstrand Road, giving much easier access. Altogether the committee estimated £2000 would need to be raised, which they proposed to do by means of a debenture issue. An appeal was sent to all members to support the scheme. Debentures were to be issued in units of £10 in order that as many members as possible could participate. As an encouragement life membership was offered to any member subscribing £100. In the event the issue was oversubscribed by some £270; but it was still decided to limit it to £2000, as originally intended. As most subscribers offered sums of £100, the issue was made in units of that amount and those subscribers were duly elected life members.



*The steward's bungalow (left) was built in 1922. Between it and the clubhouse is the building which contained the secretary's office and ladies' changing room.*

J.H. Taylor was called in to advise on the work of laying out the new course which was carried out during the autumn and winter of 1912-1913. In order to give members somewhere to play whilst work progressed, a temporary nine hole course was arranged using some of the existing holes. By March 1913 the new course was so well advanced; it opened for play on the 17th of that month.

The building of the new clubhouse was under the supervision of G.B. Carvill, a member, acting in an honorary capacity. The walls of the building were to be carried out in Hy-Rib steel with stucco cladding, the roof to be of red tile. The interior character and decoration of the old clubhouse were to be retained as far as possible, old woodwork to be utilised where practicable.

It had been intended to site the clubhouse behind the Roman Catholic Church, presumably in the neighbourhood of the present first tee. J. H. Taylor on being shown the intended site, felt it would be too close to the home green. It was then decided to build on the higher ground across the roadway leading to the lighthouse, where the present clubhouse still stands.

The rebuilding work was sufficiently far advanced for a committee meeting on the new premises towards the end of February 1913. It would appear pilfering may have been a problem, a resolution was passed to appoint a night watchman. The Roman Catholic priest, Father Squirrel, was elected an honorary member, perhaps to forestall any complaints concerning golf balls sliced into the Presbytery garden.

J. H. Taylor returned that autumn to inspect the new course. He made various suggestions as to the placing of bunkers and tees, but appeared satisfied with the work. The following year the site of the old clubhouse, with Happy Valley, was sub-let to Cromer Urban District Council for public recreation. It was let only on a yearly basis in case the club should need it again; this it never did and Happy Valley has been let to the town ever since. A large, and in our climate, much needed shelter stood on the old clubhouse site until 2003, when it was taken down following continued vandalism.

During the summer of 1914 the Beginners' Field was lent to a Mr. Simpson of the *Daily Mail* "for the purpose of aeroplane flight". The committee insisted on indemnification for any damage, which they thought would most likely result from the public trespassing on the golf course.

## THE GREAT WAR

August 1914, brought the outbreak of war against Germany. It was immediately realised financial difficulties would result for the club, which was still heavily indebted to the bank. The debenture issue had not been sufficient to cover the cost of the new course and clubhouse and it had been necessary to raise a large additional loan.

Many economies were proposed, the most important being the reduction of the course to nine holes which would enable some of the staff to be laid off. The debenture holders were asked to waive their interest to which all agreed and the new Lord Suffield agreed to a reduction in rent. (The fifth Baron, the Founder President, had died earlier that year.) The Secretary offered to reduce his salary to £100; later he waived it altogether. The club was, however, able to do its patriotic duty by contributing £75 to the Prince of Wales National Relief Fund.

A considerable number of members resigned owing to war service and quarterly meetings and monthly medals were suspended for the duration. The consequent loss of subscriptions and green fees served to aggravate the financial position, which remained at a low ebb throughout the war. Indeed, in September 1915 the outlook was so bleak that a special general meeting was held to consider whether the club should be wound up, the only time in its long history that such a drastic step had to be contemplated. At this meeting, E. M. Hansell from the chair explained debts were expected to amount to £2100 by the end of the year. Should the club be wound up, this would have to be repaid and as only £1600 was covered by guarantees, £500 would still have to be found. He felt that if the club were wound up, any new club formed would have little chance of success. He thought many of the old members would not rejoin and in the interim period the course would deteriorate. There would be a grave danger of the monies spent on reconstruction being wasted. On the other hand, with money given or promised by a few members in response to an appeal which hopefully would be increased by members yet to respond, the committee felt it would be possible to carry on for at least two years. He felt this to be the only course open to them. The meeting finally unanimously resolved that the club should continue, whilst spending as little as possible consistent with preventing the course from deteriorating to its original condition..

In 1917 the committee was approached by the Norfolk War Agricultural Committee, who wished to have part of the course ploughed up for cereals. This was at first resisted, arguing it would be against the best interests of the town of Cromer. They agreed, however, to take a hay crop off part of the links, which would, of course, have prevented play on that area for some months. Early the following year, some 13 acres at the Overstrand end of the course came under the plough. This must have eased the burden of the green staff, by now reduced to two. Also in 1918, The War Agricultural Committee took over and ploughed up the practice course. This had been in use by the military authorities who demanded other land in its place. The honorary secretary, W. Kerr, was deputed to meet the military with a view to persuading them to take land near the cliff edge. Unfortunately the minutes do not record whether he was successful.



156th BRIGADE ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY  
(1st CAMBERWELL).

ARTHUR C. ROGERS,  
Mayor,  
FRED HALL, M.P.,  
Major, Officer Commanding.  
TELEPHONE: NEW CROSS 976.

Headquarters:—

GROVE VALE DEPÔT,  
EAST DULWICH, S.E.,

Feb. 23rd 1915

Chas. Marriott, Esq.,  
Royal Cromer Golf Club,  
Cromer.

My dear Marriott,

By all means, I will be delighted to fall in with the suggestion that your Committee have made and forego interest on my Debentures for this year. I quite appreciate that you must have had a difficult task, as unfortunately the outbreak of hostilities coming just in the busy month of the year for Cromer, it must have played sad havoc with you, but nevertheless, with the Captain and Committee that the Club has and the guidance and advice of your good self, am sure they will eventually pull through all right.

Am feeling jolly rich to-day, because I have had £2/4/6 sent me which I did not know was coming and thanks to you, shall be able to stand myself a dinner some night during the week, notwithstanding all the vicissitudes I have had to face.

By the bye, joking apart, am sorry you should have had the trouble to send such a small amount and am taking the necessary steps to see that my Bankers do not cause you this bother in future.

Whoever told you that I had been out at the Front at the present had had a dream. I have not been, but am hoping to go and the sooner I can lick my new Brigade into shape, the better the

-2-

Chas. Marriott, Esq.

chance of getting it there.

I am now in my third regiment since the War started and suppose I ought to be satisfied, because I have had a step up every time, but want to stop where I am now, because they have made me Officer in Command of my Brigade and I shall look forward with pleasure to when the time comes to heading my men on the other side.

We have undoubtedly got a hell of a job, but are going to crush this Teutonic military spirit before we are done, in order that neither we, nor our children, nor our childrens' children shall have to face the troubles we are now passing through.

Kindest regards,

Yours very truly,



## BETWEEN THE WARS

With the end of the war the financial position of the club remained difficult and at the beginning of 1919 it was still heavily in debt. In spite of this it was decided not to raise the subscription for the time being. Lord Suffield was still remarkably generous over the rent owing him, but let it be known this could not continue indefinitely. A new secretary, Major Wellesley, was appointed without promise of any salary for the first year, though he later received a gratuity of £100. The following year it was considered advisable to raise the subscription to three guineas, which was agreed at the annual general meeting at Whitsun. As members had already paid subscriptions for that year, they were asked, "as an act of grace" to pay the difference.

It would seem the club's plight was noted in high places, for in March 1920 the secretary reported a gift of one of the "cream coloured horses" from the Royal Mews at Buckingham Palace, to be used for light duties on the course.

That same year the club for the first time decided to join the Ladies' Golf Union, on account of the growing number of lady members. A year or two later further recognition was granted to the ladies' section, when both the current and retiring lady captains became *ex officio* members of the club committee.

Although records of lady members of the time are sketchy, there must have been quite a competitive atmosphere, as several cups were presented for ladies competitions during the 1920's, and matches were played against Mundesley, Sheringham and Royal Norwich.

The Artisans' Club was formed in 1921, limited to 50 members with various restrictions on time of play. The artisans supported and assisted the club whenever possible during later difficult times and the section was finally wound up in 1979, with members being absorbed into the main club.

## COURSE REVISION

A large amount of work was carried out on the course during those years and compliments were passed at the 1924 AGM on its improved condition. Sad to say, at the following year's meeting the course was described as disgraceful by a well known member of long standing. The main complaint concerned the amount of long grass, due to taking a hay crop from the rough. The meeting resolved that this practice should be discontinued and the grass kept short.

Following this meeting it was decided to once again call in a golf architect to advise on improvements, and invited the now legendary James Braid, designer of two magnificent courses at Gleneagles. Braid's scheme consisted mainly of adding bunkers or re-positioning them, moving tees to lengthen some holes and creating two new greens. The work was carried out over the next two or three winters. In spite of the extensions, careful measurement showed the length to be 6300 yards, which appeared to be a matter of regret for the committee. This gave a scratch score of 74: under today's rules it would be only 70.

The increased amount of work on the course led in 1927 to the purchase of a motor-tractor, to replace the horses, a great innovation. Sadly the work seemed to have been too much for it, as it was "done for" and had to be replaced within a few years. At about the same time it

became necessary to provide for the "parking" of motors, (complete with inverted commas) on the auxiliary course.

With all this expenditure, it was fortunate the club's finances were now, in the late twenties, much healthier; even in 1930 the manager was congratulated on a most satisfactory balance sheet. But alas, this happy state of affairs was destined not to last. The great world depression took its toll and in 1931 the manager reported a grave situation. Receipts were down and the club appeared likely to end the year with an adverse balance of some £500. The usual economies were agreed: salary reductions all round, short time working for the green staff and so forth. Various members made donations and the long suffering landlord again agreed to a reduction in rent. An attempt was made to attract 50 new members by offering to admit them without entrance fee. Quite a few did, in fact join. The next year some help was forthcoming from Cromer townspeople, as some leading residents organised two dances at the Links Hotel to raise funds, realising the club was of considerable value to the town.

In September 1932 a special general meeting was called to discuss the club's position, particularly in view of the impending expiry of the lease. At the meeting it was announced that the captain, M. L. van Moppes (he being absent through illness), had promised to pay £200 of the next year's rent and would also guarantee a similar amount the following year. He would accept repayment, when possible, by quarterly instalments of £50. In response to an appeal, many members present promised sums large and small. Altogether the treasurer must have been greatly relieved by the outcome of the meeting.

### **DEATH OF KING GEORGE**

King George V died in January 1936. The following summer it appears an approach was made to Edward VII, for a letter was received from the Keeper of the Privy Purse regretting His majesty was unable to extend his patronage to Royal Cromer Golf Club. The next year, following King Edward's abdication and the succession of King George VI, a further approach was made. This time in addition to the formal reply from the Office of the Privy Purse, again in the negative, a letter came from the Home Secretary, Sir Samuel Hoare, whose father had been a prominent member of the club in earlier days. This explained that, although the King did not feel able to grant his patronage, the club would still be able to use its "Royal" title, which, once granted, continued automatically.

### **JUBILEE**

The fiftieth anniversary of the club occurred at the beginning of 1938. It seems a little surprising therefore that it was not until September 1937 that a sub committee was set up to consider the form celebrations should take. The principal suggestions were an open meeting and a dinner to be held in September 1938, and, a ladies competition in June. In the event a two day meeting was held on 2nd and 3rd of September. On the first day, a match was played between teams led by Lord Suffield and R.H. Oppenheimer respectively. The teams included Cyril Tolley, twice British Amateur Champion; E.P. Storey, runner-up in 1924; P.B. "Laddie" Lucas, who played for England many times and had made his first Walker Cup appearance in 1936; Henry C. Longhurst, golf writer and later the doyen of TV golf commentators; J.J.F. Pennick, the well known golf architect; W.D. Robinson, Norfolk County

Champion; G.A. Hill; R.W. Hartley and T.A. Bourne. On the second day there was an open amateur 36 hole competition for the President's Cup, awarded for the best scratch score. The Jubilee Dinner was held on the 9th September at the The Links Hotel. (Since destroyed by fire). The large company had its money's worth, at least as far as speeches were concerned. The speakers included the Captain, Sir Gordon Craig; E.M. Hansell and Dr. Fenner, both founder members of the club; the Captain of Great Yarmouth and Caister Golf Club, the only older club in Norfolk, and Lord Suffield, now the third of his line to be club President.

The following year, 1939, the ladies section asked to be allowed to hold their own annual meeting to elect the ladies' captain, in order that she could take office in time for the 1st. January each year. This was duly approved by the Annual General meeting.

## **THE SECOND WORLD WAR**

September 1939 saw Europe, and later the world, once again plunged into war. This was bound, of course, as in the Great War, to cause grave difficulties for the club. The "season" had been cut short and a deficiency in green fees was expected to cause a considerable loss on the year's activities. Economies were decided upon. The secretary would forego his salary and the steward's reduced, as would be the numbers of ground staff. Lord Suffield yet again offered to reduce his rent. The economies were set out in a circular sent to members in December, with a sentiment that all present members would continue to pay their subscriptions. The annual general meeting of 1940, with only 16 members present, resolved that the present captain and committee should remain in office for the duration. Members of the Artisans Club offered to help with work on the course during the evenings. History does not record whether this generous offer was taken up, but in 1941 congratulations were expressed to the much depleted ground staff on the good condition of the course.

The club continued to live from hand to mouth during the remainder of the war. In 1942 a further circular was sent to members asking for donations to keep the club going and Lord Suffield reduced the rent yet again, almost to the proverbial "peppercorn." This, with the response of the members, enabled the club to survive through to the end of the war.

The course, or rather what was left of it after the War Agricultural Committee had requisitioned 40 acres at the Overstrand end, was still playable and advertisements were placed in the hope of attracting visitors. The four lost holes, numbers 4 to 7 of the old course (now 5,6,10 and 11), were not returned to the club until 1949.

## **THE POST WAR YEARS**

Shortly after the end of the war in 1945 the club suffered the loss of its fourth president, the eighth Lord Suffield, who had succeeded his brother, the seventh baron, just two years earlier. The title, though not the estate, passed to a relative with no connection to the Cromer area. As a consequence it was decided to invite Lord Templewood, whose home was at Northrepps nearby, to become president. As Sir Samuel Hoare, Lord Templewood had been Foreign Secretary in Chamberlain's pre war government. The Hoare family had been prominent in the district for many years and Lord Templewood's father had been an early and active member of the club. For a variety of reasons Lord Templewood felt unable to accept the position and at the 1946 Annual General Meeting M. L. van Moppes, who had done so

much to help the club, was elected. The club's policy ever since has been to select its president from those of its members who have been of great service to the club.

Also in 1945 the secretary, John Barrow, died. He had served the club well over a number of years and throughout the war for no reward. Characteristically he bequeathed his clubs to the Artisan's Section.

In 1947 the club was approached by the Soldiers' Sailors' and Airman's families' Association, with a view to staging a professional exhibition match in aid of Association funds. The match was duly held on Sunday, 10th August, the players being Norman von Nida of Australia, Dai Rees, Bill Shankland and Royal Cromer's own Ernie Plummer.

Von Nida easily won the morning medal with a score of 66, four ahead of Rees who returned 70, followed by Plummer with 71. Bogey for the course at that time was 74 (this was in pre-war days).

During those post-war years repeated efforts were made to recover the land still under cultivation, but owing to the country's balance-of-payment difficulties food production was considered all important. At last, in 1949, the land was released. There was then the thorny problem of re-instatement, or rather, how to pay for it.

In the event, the Ministry of Agriculture paid a substantial sum, though not sufficient to cover the whole cost. It was again necessary to invite contributions from members. The club was still in financial difficulties and by 1957, as so often in the past, economies were called for. The steward had departed under a cloud, an unaccountable volatility having been discovered in both the bar takings and stocks of gin, (although in the latter case the deficiency had been made good with water). It was decided not to appoint a new steward until the following summer, and the unfortunate professional, besides helping with work on the course was expected to put in time behind the bar.

The work of re-instatement of the course, with the aid of volunteers from the members and some help from local farmers, took some time. Not until 1954 was it possible to celebrate the re-opening of the course with an exhibition match in August. The match was sponsored by the Forces Help Society; the players were Max Faulkner, Harry Weetman, Alf Padgham and local Ernie Plummer, who returned the magnificent score of 64.

## CONSOLIDATION

The fifties and early sixties were, generally speaking, years of quiet consolidation, although for some years the state of finances continued to be a cause for anxiety. Indeed, until comparatively recent years caution and economy were the watchwords. A captain of the late fifties, Alex Scott, put the position nicely when as reported by the lady secretary of the time, he likened Royal Cromer to "an auld sheep wallowin' oot therr' in the Nor' Sea", though he felt with the aid of the crew she would get back to port. Recovery, when it eventually came, was due in large part to the general increase in the popularity of sport, golf in particular.

The Queen's Coronation in 1953 was marked by the erection of a flagpole in front of the clubhouse; a gift from D.F. Burton, who had taken over as president from M.L. van Moppes.

Miss Aveston, daughter of the club's first professional, presented a silver cup which had been won by her father as the Captain's Prize in 1890. The matter of trophies caused the committee concern as, when the annual prize giving drew near, some of the holders could not be traced. One, a doctor, had gone to sea! Happily all were returned in time for the presentation.

Progress with a capital P arrived when, in 1955, electricity was laid on in the clubhouse. In these days of ubiquitous electric power, it is difficult to realise that at such a comparatively late date, the clubhouse was still lit by gas, a form of lighting many younger members may never have seen, except as portable camping equipment. Another innovation came two years later, when the bar was invaded by bandits, the one -armed variety. These "fruit machines" soon proved their worth, making a not inconsiderable contribution to finances.

In 1956 a lady was appointed for the first time as secretary. This lady, Mrs Leake, appeared to have a keen sense of humour judging from the committee minutes, which make very entertaining reading for the next few years. She was apparently much taken with Alex Scott's accent and dry humour. One quotation has already been given, but others appear in the minutes. Another time, "ad libbing" during a vote count at an AGM, Scott complimented the stewardess by saying that, if visitors acquired a healthy appetite in the Norfolk air, they would find a good meal waiting for them. "A ha' not sample' the stewardess' coo'in masel,' but a see some members ha'ea'en it; a'rready they've poot on weight". On another occasion the captain, still Scott, "reported his dire wrath at the perverseness of Wright (head greenkeeper). So vexed and enraged had he become that for some few hours he had forgotten he was an Elder of the Church".

Mrs Leake's successors had at least one reason to be grateful to her. Having endured spartan conditions for a couple of winters, she could stand it no longer and demanded "either a mink coat or a gas fire in the secretary's office before next winter". She got the gas fire!

With the recovery of the club's finances in 1962, improvements were set in motion including a new wooden floor in the bar, unfortunately coinciding with the fashion for stiletto heels.

Growing numbers of holidaymakers walking along the cliff tops necessitated the appointment of a "patrolman" on Sundays and competition days to ensure the safety of walkers and convenience of golfers.

The 1960s' and 70s' became the turning point for Royal Cromer as participation in sport, and golf in particular, increased. Membership increased until waiting lists had to be introduced. New equipment for the greenstaff became affordable and several new course layouts were tried with varying success.

## **LANDSLIPS**

On 17th May 1962 a great cliff fall occurred, carrying away a large part of the then 17th fairway. The landfall had been preceded by a smaller one the previous month and there was yet another later in the year. The committee was forced to consider what could be done if the hole had to be abandoned. No additional land was at that time available and for the time being players learned to cope with the hazard of a narrowed fairway, with a yawning chasm awaiting the sliced ball. In 1968 nearly 2000 trees were planted between what are now the 4th and 12th, and 5th and 11th holes. The trees were Corsican pine, recommended as being

the most suitable; but the cold, salt laden winds took their toll, and although a few still remain between the 5th and 11th, they have not made the growth that might have been expected in over 35 years. They do, however, relieve the bareness of that part of the course and in recent years have begun to grow well.

## EXHIBITION MATCHES



*In July 22nd, 1973 an exhibition match was played at Royal Cromer, again in aid of the Forces Help Society & Lord Roberts Workshops. The players were, left to right, our own professional Angus Mackenzie, Peter Alliss, Ken Bousfield and Dave Thomas.*

In 1967 an exhibition match was held in aid of the Forces help Society. The players were Dai Rees, Dave Thomas, Bernard Hunt and Malcolm Gregson. Although playing a fourball better-ball, cards were marked and Bernard Hunt set a new course record with a 65. On July 22<sup>nd</sup> 1973, Peter Alliss, Angus Mackenzie, Ken Bousfield and Dave Thomas took part in an exhibition match in aid of Forces Help Society and Lord Roberts workshops.

## SOCIAL GOLF

Cliff Vincent started social Golf in 1964. This originated when he and his wife, who was a novice, had been playing one Sunday afternoon and were in the clubhouse having tea and scones when another couple joined them. They then arranged to play the next Sunday and so it was Social Golf began. Others quickly joined them, some were novices and some had handicaps so they tried to pair a handicap golfer with a novice. At that time it cost five shillings (25p) to play and two shillings and sixpence (12.5p) for tea and scones. Later matches were arranged with an Ipswich Golf Club on a home and away basis.

In December 2003 76 people played in the Turkey Trot £3.50 entry fee, 85 had a Christmas lunch £7. Some money from each event is retained, mainly from the raffle, for this very popular pre Christmas scramble and because of this we do stipulate that each competitor has to play in at least 3 Social Golf events during the year. Christmas lunch is usually followed by Carols played by the Aylsham & District Silver Band or this year (2003) by T.Keeler on keyboard.

Social Golf 2004, forty years on, has gone from strength to strength, numbers had risen to above 76 and are still increasing. It is now recognised and welcomed by the Committee and monthly competitions can be found in the club diary.

Since 1984, Social golf has been organised and run by Pat Williamson and Margaret Stott, both having been Lady Captains and Lady Presidents, over 25 years. The Christmas Turkey trot, so called because the first prize was always turkeys, has over 100 competitors in 2009.

The club now play five mixed matches against other clubs, the teams are mainly made up from those members who also play 'social golf'.

### **ICICLE TROPHY**

In the late 1960's a Mr. Gray of Mundesley Golf Club, challenged Royal Cromer to a match to be played around the Christmas period, the winning team to hold the prestigious (plastic) Icicle Trophy. The matches were to be played on a Sunday morning, alternate years home and away and arranged by the visiting team getting in touch a week before the match, stating their numbers and always including the captain and professional. The competition at that time was a four ball better ball, the idea being to win individual matches quickly in order to retreat to the warmth of the clubhouse for ale and sandwiches. The current match format appears to have come into being during the eighties. Completing the full eighteen holes, playing two matches per year and totalling all holes won to find the winner. The competition now takes place on summer evenings, followed by a meal and good hospitality. As ever, few details are recorded and it has been said, on many occasions of late when coming in soaked to the skin, that perhaps these matches should revert to winter, giving a better chance of dry weather.

### **THE SEVENTIES**

The new decade ushered in a period of change and development. The perennial problem of water supply, so essential in this dry corner of England, was overcome by the sinking of a deep bore, leading, later in the decade to the provision of a "pop-up" sprinkler system for the tees and green, with highly beneficial results.

Early in the seventies it was felt that, with nearly 600 playing members, the club had reached saturation point. It was decided to call a halt, form a waiting list and allow the membership to fall to 500. A new category of "five-day" membership was introduced, to take the pressure off the course at weekends.

In 1976, after 88 years of being the tenant of the Harbord Estates, the opportunity arose to purchase the freehold of the course. Due largely to the generosity of the Hon. Doris Harbord, grand daughter of Lord Suffield, the Founder President, the area of some 116 acres was offered to the club for £35000. The 1976 AGM voted 93 to 1 to resolve to take advantage of these very good terms. The purchase was financed by a substantial grant from the Sports Council, a small levy on all members, a bank loan and voluntary loans from members. Within two years loans were repaid and the course belonged to its members. (Which included the condition that applicants for membership could no longer be black balled.)

To commemorate the long association of the Harbord family with Royal Cromer, the Hon. Doris Harbord presented a pair of cups, now known as the Harbord Cups, played for annually by men and ladies respectively.

## THE EIGHTIES

The present clubhouse, which is a combination of old and new buildings, was extended in January 1981. The sign incorporating the club's coat of arms affixed to the south front of the building was presented by Barnet Rugby Club Golf Society, which for many years has held an annual fixture with Royal Cromer.

Following the purchase of the course and rebuilding the clubhouse, Royal Cromer settled down to a period of comparative calm. The 1983 AGM approved the formation of the now large and flourishing Veterans' Section. The eighties saw the formation of new 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> greens, and the 5<sup>th</sup> green was relocated back to its original position away from the neighbouring bungalows, which were continually under threat of damage from stray golf balls.

## THE NINETIES CENTENARY CELEBRATION

After much planning, in June 1988 Royal Cromer celebrated its centenary with a week of celebrations. Guests were received from Royal Clubs across the world and many friendships made. Guests included W.C. Campbell, Captain of The Royal and Ancient Golf Club and Mr. P.B. "Laddie" Lucas, a distinguished war time fighter pilot. In 1943, as Wing Commander Lucas he commanded the fighter wing at RAF Coltishall. His father, P.M. Lucas, one of the finest players in the Club's history, was honorary secretary at Royal Cromer from 1892 to 1902.



Celebrations included competitions, outings and parties. The British and American Curtis Cup teams re-enacted a match, dressed in period costumes, to celebrate Royal Cromer's connection with the Curtis sisters, who after playing at Royal Cromer in 1905, offered to present a cup for future ladies international matches.

A further highlight of the week was the presentation to the Club of a silver cup, of similar design to the Curtis Cup, by Enid Wilson who won the trophy playing in open competition in America. Enid Wilson was one of the best lady players of her time, a great character and women's golf correspondent to the Daily Telegraph and Golf Illustrated.

The week opened with a fly past of Jaguar fighters from RAF Coltishall and ended with a Centenary Banquet, attended by some 600 people, during which prizes for the various competitions were presented. The celebrations were held in a marquee sited on the old practice ground.

../HISTORY DRAFT1/Centenary Banquet.doc



## TO THE MILLENNIUM

Following the celebrations of its hundred year history Royal Cromer settled down to a more straightforward routine. Within normal financial constraints, facilities continued to be improved. A workplace and storage area for the green keepers was built, followed by a new professionals shop alongside the first tee. Negotiations continued over the possible purchase of additional land alongside the fourth fairway.

The bar and clubhouse were refurbished, ladies changing rooms greatly improved and plans were afoot to update the gentlemen's changing rooms. The changing rooms were updated again in 2000. The Ladies changing facility was updated in 2008 and the dining room, lounge and bar refurbished in 2006.

First priority has always been given the course itself and continual additions and updates to machinery, together with the expertise of the greenkeepers, help to maintain Royal Cromer as a premier Norfolk club.

The buggy shed was also built at this time.

In 1999 the Blue course was established for junior players.

Royal Cromer celebrated the Millennium with a members week of various golf competitions, with prizes totaling £4000, presented at the end of the week at a Grand Millennium Ball, held in a marquee on the practice ground.

John and Mags Neil donated summer house alongside 18 green. This has been used for many years to record end of round scores and also to view the 18<sup>th</sup> fairway for those onward to the club house.



## FROM THE MILLENIUM TO 2010

The millennium celebrations were held in a marquee on the practice ground opposite the club on . The week of celebrations entailed golf and social events. Discussions were held into the erection of a steel trolley and buggy shed in early 2000. There was also an approach to the owners of the land used as the practice ground to purchase should all the land become available. However at this time it was proposed to continue with the leasing which was due to expire in 2003. The club bungalow was refurbished and offered as a rental property. There was a proposal to refurbish the gentlemen's facilities. There was a dispute over the land adjoining the 15<sup>th</sup> tee when the owner erected holiday property without permission. The new professional, Lee Patterson, had started to make a difference. There was a review in early 2001 of the course management detailing several areas of the course that could be improved. The club introduced swipe cards for members to purchase drinks from the bar at a discounted rate. The card would also be used to access the PSI system for club competitions.. UK Corpoarte games held 27-28<sup>th</sup> June 2002. Dress code continued to be raised as an issue, especially shorts in the clubhouse. The practice ground lease expired and was not renewed by the owners. Speed humps were introduced jointly by the club and trinity house on the road to the lighthouse. There had been two cliff falls to the right of the sixth fairway in 2002. The history committee was introduced under the chair of David Seago, the committee produced a book which was displayed in the clubhouse and a copy was placed on the new web site. The site of the new practice ground was discussed in Sept 2002. A new course toilet was proposed for the area between 5<sup>th</sup> green and 6<sup>th</sup> tee.

Difficulties with hang glider personnel using land adjacent to course at the 14<sup>th</sup>. Asbestos was found in greenkeepers shed. Issues with the use of mobile phones. The fruit machine was removed from the bar.

Practice ground opened in 2004. Smoking in the



clubhouse was a continual problem, eventually in 2006 a members ban was introduced, which within months was overturned at an extraordinary general meeting, eventually legislation was brought in by the Government and smoking was completely banned in the club..Disabled parking access and facilities were introduced. New chipping area opened in 2006 and the on course toilet was built in 2004. The club lounge, dining room and bar were refurbished in 2007 Marketing brochure introduced 2008

The refurbished clubhouse was opened by Ross Kemp in May 2007. Quiet lounge also closed in and refurbished. New TV's installed in lounge. The commencement of a program to fit astro turf to all the paths commenced in 2006. New periscope fitted to 7<sup>th</sup> tee .security shutters fitted to buggy shed following a fire. New plantations between a number of fairways following Donald Steeles review. New website as part of the marketing strategy.

## **LIST OF PRESIDENTS OF ROYAL CROMER GOLF CLUB**

1888 – 1945	The Lord Suffield
1945 – 1949	M. L. Van Moppes
1950 – 1955	D. F. Burton
1955 – 1956	J. H. Rounce
1956 – 1957	T. L. Randall
1957 – 1958	G. S. Rounce
1958 – 1959	J. E. Webster
1959 – 1960	H. R. Randall
1960 – 1961	L. J. Crouch
1961 – 1962	R. G. M. Coombes
1962 – 1967	J. Rounce
1967 – 1973	A. R. Churchyard
1973 – 1974	Maj. Gen. Sir J. H. Marriott
1974 – 1975	G. Eyre-Higgins
1975 – 1986	G. R. Spurrell
1987 – 1991	J. H. Neill
1991 – 1999	D. C. Seago
1999 – 2007	M. J. N. Stott
2007 -	M.T. Horner

## **LIST OF LADY PRESIDENTS OF ROYAL CROMER GOLF CLUB**

1986 – 1989	Mrs. S. Spurrell
1989 – 1992	Mrs. M. Woodcock
1992 – 1995	Mrs. J. Paske
1995 – 2000	Mrs. M. Macmillan
2000 – 2002	Mrs. A. M. Davies
2002 – 2004	Mrs. J. Mackinnon
2004 - 2006	Mrs. E. Holmes
2006 – 2008	Mrs P Williamson
2008 - 2010	Mrs M Stott
2010 -	Mrs M Neil

## LIST OF CAPTAINS OF ROYAL CROMER GOLF CLUB

- 1888 Revd. H. C. Rogers  
1953 G. S. Rounce
- 1889 R. W. Ketton
- 1954 J. E. Webster
- 1890 R. W. Ketton  
1955 H. R. Randall
- 1891 B. Bond-Cabbell  
1956 A. C. Scott
- 1892 B. Bond-Cabbell  
1957 A. C. Scott
- 1893 P. M. Lucas  
1958 W. C. Purdy
- 1894 R. N. Fenner  
1959 S. J. Crouch
- 1895 H. Wilson  
1960 R.G.M. Coombes
- 1896 Samuel Hoare M.P.  
1961 P.R. Churchyard
- 1897 Hon. C. W. Mills  
1962 A. J. Dent
- 1898 Prof. H. F. Pelham  
1963 R. J. Balls
- 1899 E. M. Hansell  
1964 G. R. Spurrell
- 1900 Sydney Peel  
1965 A. Watker
- 1901 Maj. Forbes Eden  
1966 C. J. Pike
- 1902 Maj. C.W Archdale  
1967 G. Eyre-Higgins
- 1903 John W. Scott  
1968 C. D. Rash D.F.C
- 1904 W.E.G. Wyrley-Birch  
1969 F. C. Bailey
- 1905 Lt. Col. H. B. Winter  
1970 R. H. James
- 1906 W. J. Kerr  
1971 G. R. Spurrell
- 1907 H. C. Dent  
1972 H. W. Peak
- 1908 Capt. N. McFarlane  
1973 R. H. James
- 1909 F. T. Simpson  
1974 D. C. Seago
- 1910 J. M. Richardson  
1975 P. E. Storey
- 1911 H. R. Burroughs  
1976 J. S. Roye

1912 H. G. Muskett  
1977 H. Teanby  
1913 H. G. Muskett  
1978 E. C. Bachelor  
1914  
1979 P. H. Reeves  
to Rev. H. H. Pellham  
1980 I. B. M. Stanford  
1919  
1981 W. W. Parrott  
1920 D. Davison O.B.E.  
1982 M. T. Horner  
1921 Sir Frederick MacMillian  
1983 R. W. Bushell  
1922 Capt. G. L. Palmes D.S.O.  
1984 W. E. Ratcliffe  
1923 J.P.O. Mead  
1985 A. C. Lawrie  
1924 G. Head  
1986 P. D. Williamson  
1925 Major S.W. Trafford  
1987 I. B. M. Stanford  
1926 E. H. Pelham O.B.  
1988 B. D. Woodcock  
1927 Brig. Gen. W. F. Clemson C.M.G.,D.S.O.  
1989 R. E. Eaton  
1928 Sir Geo. R. L. Hare Bart.  
1990 D. G. Boyce  
1929 Lt. Col. Sir Fredk. Hall Bart., M.P.  
1991 M. J. N. Stott  
1930 J. Barrow  
1992 J. M. Yarham  
1931 W. A. Clowes  
1993 P. G. Jarvis  
1932 M. L. Van Moppes  
1994 T. R. Bensley  
1933 M. L. Van Moppes  
1995 D. Gotts  
1934 W. J. Pearson D.S.O., M.C.  
1996 R. L. Holmes  
1935 W. J. Pearson D.S.O., M.C.  
1997 D. J. Ley  
1936 D. F. Burton  
1998 J. Milligan  
1937 E. H. Youngman  
1999 P. E. Remnant  
1938 Sir Gordon Graig  
2000 K. M. Taylor  
1939  
2001 P. Nicholls

to The Lord Suffield  
 2002 R. T. Mould  
 1944  
 2003 E. Lettington  
 1945 L. e. Van Moppes  
 2004 F. Margrove  
 1946 D. F. Burton  
 2005 A. Barraclough  
 1947 H. J. Foot  
 2006 A.T. Hill  
 1948 J. H. Rounce  
 2007 A. Keates  
 1949 A. H. F. Baldwin  
 2008 J Rodwell  
 1950 T. L. Randall  
 2009 M Hazard  
 1951 Lt. Col. P.G. Upcher D.S.O.  
 2010 A Malin  
 1952 D. F. Burton  
 2011 G. Wilton

#### **LIST OF LADY CAPTAINS OF ROYAL CROMER GOLF CLUB**

1920 Mrs. Besley  
 1971 Mrs. C. D. Rash  
 1921 Mrs. Besley  
 1972 Mrs. I. Glyn Jones  
 1922 Lady Betty Trafford  
 1973 Mrs. B. M. Brotherton  
 1923 Lady Betty Trafford  
 1974 Mrs. I. B. Parrott  
 1924 Mrs. A. Burton  
 1975 Mrs. I. P. Coman  
 1925 Mrs. H. Sparke  
 1976 Mrs. M. L. Woodcock  
 1926 Mrs. H. Palmes  
 1977 Miss. G. M. Gayner  
 1927 Mrs. R. G. Cross  
 1978 Mrs. M. Macmillan  
 1928 Mrs. P. Williamson  
 1979 Mrs. J. Paske  
 1929 Lady Betty Trafford  
 1980 Miss. E. Sheringham  
 1930 Lady Wigan  
 1981 Mrs. J. Mackinnon

1931 Miss. Burton  
1982 Mrs. G. Reeves  
1932 Miss. Lyttleton  
1983 Mrs. H. Fielding  
1933 Miss. Gray  
1984 Mrs. A. M. Davies  
1934 Miss. D. Lyttleton  
1985 Mrs. D. E. Bushell  
1935 Mrs. Van Moppes  
1986 Mrs. P. M. Williamson  
1936 Mrs. Hadley  
1987 Mrs. M. Stott  
1937 Mrs. Rump  
1988 Mrs. I. P. Larkins  
1938  
1989 Mrs. J. M. Brown  
to Miss. B. Van Moppes  
1990 Mrs. B. Rossi  
1946  
1991 Mrs. E. Holmes  
1947 Mrs. Hadley  
1992 Mrs. E. Crossfield  
1948 Mrs. Rump  
1993 Mrs. H. Lawrie  
1949 Mrs. Rump  
1994 Mrs. M. Neill  
1950 Miss. P. Rounce  
1995 Mrs. P. G. Cooke  
1951 Miss. N. Lyttleton  
1996 Mrs. D. Stewart  
1952 Mrs. W. F. Chapman  
1997 Mrs. E. Sands  
1953 Mrs. W. F. Chapman  
1998 Mrs. P. Harrison  
1954 Mrs. J. H. C. Thompson  
1999 Mrs. E. J. Bartman  
1955 Mrs. J. H. C. Thompson  
2000 Mrs. M. Nicholls  
1956 Mrs. J. E. Webster  
2001 Mrs. L. Fields  
1957 Mrs. G. R. Spurrell  
2002 Mrs. B. Riches  
1958 Mrs. R. G. M. Coombes  
2003 Mrs. J. Kemp  
1959 Mrs. M. L. Sumpter  
2004 Mrs. H. Campbell-Smith  
1960 Miss. D. A. Baker  
2005 Mrs. V. Tallowin  
1961 Mrs. G. R. Spurrell  
2006 Mrs. S. Driver

1962 Mrs. G. R. Spurrell  
 2007 Mrs S Steventon  
 1963 Miss. D. A. Baker  
 2008 Mrs M McRae  
 1964 Mrs. G. Eyre-Higgins  
 2009 Mrs D Brewer  
 1965 Mrs. G. Eyre-Higgins  
 2010 Mrs B Cook  
 1966 Mrs. G. R. Spurrell  
 2011 Mrs S Lettington  
 1967 Mrs. R. T. W. Fitt  
 1968 Miss. J. D. Gooch  
 1969 Mrs. M. D. New  
 1970 Mrs. E. C. L. Williams

COUNTY CHAMPIONS

GENTLEMEN

LADIES

			1962	Mary Rust	(A)
			1964	Mary Rust	(A)
			1974	Mary Davies	(A)
			1975	Mary Davies	(A)
			1978	Mary Davies	(A)
			1981	Mary Davies	(A)
			1983	Mary Davies	(A)
1984	Tim Hurrell	(A)			
1985	Tim Hurrell	(P)			
1997	Grant Price	(A)			
			1987	Mary Davies	(A)
			1989	Tracey Williamson	(A)
			1991	Tracey Williamson	(A)
			1992	Tracey Williamson	(A)
			1993	Tracey Williamson	(A)
			1997	Tracey Williamson	(A)
			1998	Tracey Williamson	(A)



### **COURSE RECORDS**

Gross	9 <sup>th</sup> August 1953	G. B. Wolstenholme	(A)	67 Net	68
	27 <sup>th</sup> July 1992	Nick Price	(P)	66(P)	
Gross	29 <sup>th</sup> August 1996	Mrs. Tracy Williamson	(A)	68 Net	69
	30 <sup>th</sup> July 2002	Ian Ellis	(P)	66 (P)	
	8 <sup>th</sup> June 2003	Ryan Pudney	(A)	64 Net	66 Gross
Gross	27 <sup>th</sup> July 2003	Steven Peet	(A)	64 Net	66

### **COUNTY PRESIDENTS**

George Spurrell	1980
John Neil	1994
Mike Stott	2004
Mike Stott	2008

### **LADY COUNTY PRESIDENTS**

Judith MacKinnon	2006
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### **COUNTY CAPTAINS**

Mark Williamson	1992, 1993 and 1994
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### **LADY COUNTY CAPTAINS**

Mary Cobb	1968 – 1969
Mary Davies	1986 – 1987
Judith MacKinnon	1991 – 1992
Tracey Williamson	1996 – 1997

## GREEN KEEPERS



The Clements family – Since the first days of the club there has been a Clements on the green-keeping staff, and for most of that time the head greenkeeper has borne that name.

John Clements was the first and served the club for over 30 years. His son Jimmy followed him on to the staff, although he chose never to become head greenkeeper. After John that post was held successively by his son-in-law Jimmy Baker, then Harry Thomson, then Frank Wright, then Jack Clements, Jimmy's brother.

The longest record of service to Royal Cromer Golf Club in any capacity is held by Jimmy Clements's son George. George was more often than not referred to by his father's first name of Jimmy. He joined the greenstaff as a boy of 12 in 1924 and retired in 1978, having been head greenkeeper for most of his career. He worked part time for a number of years.



In 2010 the head greenkeeper was Roger Plummer, grandson of the club's longest serving professional, Ernie Plummer. Roger left school at 16 becoming an assistant to his grandfather in the pro' shop. Sadly, the club could not support an assistant at that time but happily for Royal Cromer, he joined the green-keeping staff until 1975, when he joined Mundesley Golf Club. He returned to Royal Cromer in 1987 as Head Green-keeper where his talents were needed to bring the course up to scratch for the Centenary, one year later. His son Stuart joined his enthusiastic green staff in 1995 and hopefully the "Plummer connection" will continue for many years to come. Roger retired in August 2010 and has been succeeded by Mark Heveran, who was the deputy Head Greenkeeper at Royal Liverpool, having also worked at Loch Lomond.





In September 2010 Roger retired from Royal Cromer as head greenkeeper and was replaced by Mark Heveran. Mark was deputy head greenkeeper at Royal Liverpool and has worked at Loch Lomond and Vallentuna (Sweden). Mark has developed skills at Royal Birkdale (2008 Open Championship) and at other venues. In 2011 Mark has begun a development plan to make Royal Cromer one of the finest golf courses in the area.

## **SECRETARIES AND MANAGERS**

Nowadays golf club secretaries have a very important role within the club and are becoming increasingly termed as managers. In the early days of the club secretaries appeared to simply look after the paperwork on behalf of the committee.

The 1<sup>st</sup> official secretary appointed in 1892 with a salary of £25 p.a. was Alfred Burton. He was succeeded some 10 years later by W.J. Kerr. The post of Honorary Secretary continued, however, in the person of P.M. Lucas who served from 1892 until 1902. Major Beale became paid secretary with full executive powers over course, staff and clubhouse in 1904 whilst W J Kerr continued in an honorary capacity attending to some correspondence and committee minutes.

The system of both paid and honorary secretaries continued for many years with Major Beale being succeeded by Colonel Charles Marriott as paid secretary. Colonel Marriott steered the club through the difficult days of the First World War and in later years his son, General Sir John Marriott present the club with a large picture window in memory of his father. Following the war G S Clarke was appointed secretary/manager, whose duties included that of steward. It was not until 1932 that the more usual system of paid secretary and separate steward and stewardess was reintroduced when J. Barrow was installed as secretary. Mr. Barrow appeared to have great command of the English language and a copy of his now classic reprimand (below) to a member whose language was somewhat colourful, is displayed in the bar.

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In 1956 Mrs. Leake was appointed on a part time basis as the 1<sup>st</sup> lady secretary of the club. Her keen sense of humour is indicated not only by her “pithy remarks” in committee minutes, but also the request for “either a mink coat or a gas fire” to help survive the arctic conditions of her office. The gas fire won!

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The position of secretary was then held on a part time basis until 1968 with the appointment of Graham Eyre-Higgins as the first full time secretary for many years. He was followed in 1974 when Tom King held the office through to 1987. Tom was a member for 12 years prior to his appointment. During his wartime service as a navigator on Lancaster bombers, he was awarded the DFC whilst stationed with No. 635 (Pathfinder) Squadron.

TELEPHONE:  
CROMER 19.

ROYAL CROMER GOLF CLUB,  
CROMER,  
NORFOLK.

31st May 1936.

Dear Sir,

Lest the susceptibilities of our visitors, on whom we depend for support, be offended, the Committee asks me to request that your expressions of disapproval at a shot not wholly successful may be couched in more moderate language than heretofore.

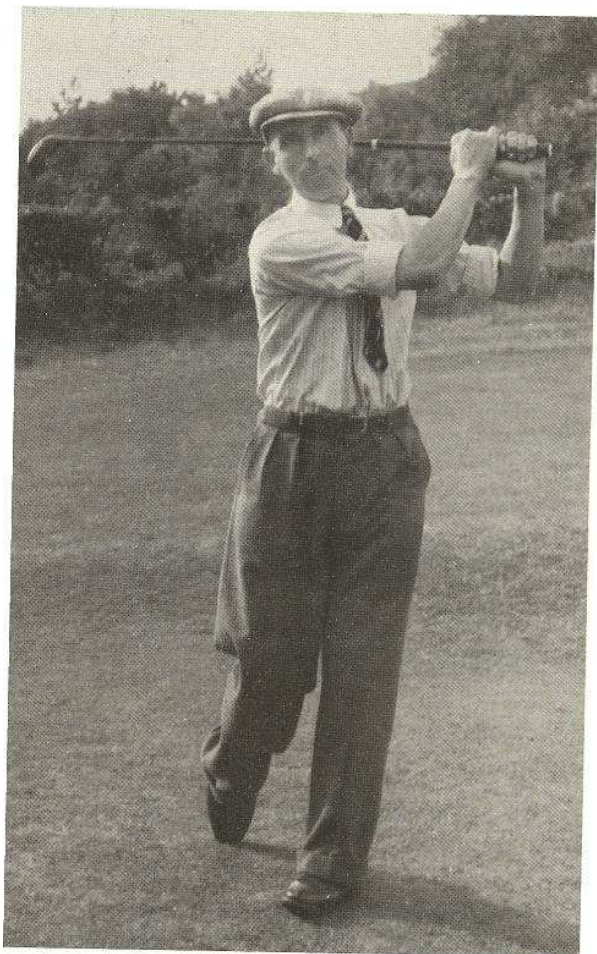
Yours truly,

*A. Barrow*  
Secretary.

Following his retirement the position was upgraded to that of Secretary/Manager, with the extra duties incurred with increased membership, staff, finance and ever growing legislation. From 1987 the post was held, with the exception of B. Howson, for relatively short periods by:-

1987 – 1988	E. Robertson
1989 – 1998	B. Howson
1999 – 2000	T. Duke
2000 – 2002	R. Fields
2002 – 2005	Mrs. D. Hopkins
2005 – 2006	Mr J Hoskins
2006 -	Mr G Richardson

## PROFESSIONALS



W. Aveston was appointed the first professional of Royal Cromer, on a wage of 10/= (50p) per week in 1892 until 1906. His tuition charges being 10d. for 9 holes and 15d. for 18 holes.

He was followed by W. J. Rush who, in 1922 took an assistant called Ernie Plummer who later became the professional and served the club until retirement at the age of 70 in 1968. His grandson, Roger Plummer is now our Head Greenkeeper.

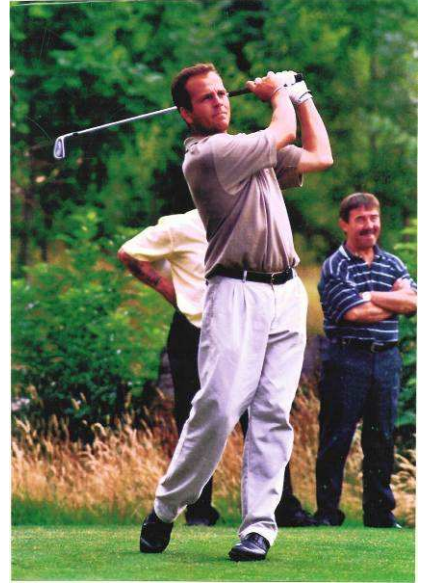
Ernie's shop was a far cry from the modern Pro's shop of today. A dark, dingy glorified shed smelling of dust, leather and wood glue. Most clubs displayed were reconditioned and second hand. His lessons were more concerned with advice such as "wood in rough – wood in head" than the finer points of swing technique. He was certainly one of Royal Cromer's great character.

Ernie was followed for a relatively short period by Angus Mackenzie, a young Scot who emigrated to Tasmania in 1974.

In June 1974 Robin Page took up the mantle. Born and bred in Kings Lynn he was the first ever winner of the Norfolk Boys' Championship at the age of 13 and won the title again 4 years later. Winner of the Norfolk Open Championship in 1982 he was twice Norfolk Alliance Champion in 1980 and 1986. Robin retired in 2000.



The current incumbent is Lee Patterson, past winner of the Suffolk Open and P.G.A. Championships, Norfolk Alliance Championship in 2000 and Norfolk Matchplay Champion in 2002. He was captain of the Norfolk P.G.A. in 2004. Lee's assistant for many years was Ryan Pudney.



Ryan first started playing golf at the age of 7 at Diss Golf Club. He was a member at the club for 15 years during which time he won their Club Championship twice whilst also breaking the course record on two occasions. The last record of 66 stood for 7 years up till the summer of 2009.



During his final year at Diss Golf Club Ryan represented the Suffolk Men's 1st Team helping them to beat Lincolnshire in winning the Anglian League Title in 2002. During the Summer of 2002, after graduating with a BA(Hons) in Sports Management from Central Lancashire University, Ryan joined Royal Cromer Golf Club. Before entering into his PGA qualification Ryan helped Royal Cromer to win the Myhill Trophy in 2003. He also broke the long standing Amateur Course Record shooting 66 (6 under par) in the Gold Coast Cup. A record that although has been equalled still stands today. In 2007 Ryan reached final qualifying for the British Open at Carnoustie. He managed to come through regional qualifying at Hollinwell (Notts) Golf Club, before missing out at Montrose Links.

Ryan was Assistant Professional at Royal Cromer for almost seven years. Since turning professional in October 2003 Ryan has been a keen supporter of both the Norfolk and East Region PGAs, enjoying competing in both Pro-Ams and individual strokeplay events. In 2009 Ryan won his first Pro-Am at Fakenham (68), following it up with another victory in March 2010 at Barnham Broom (70). In 2010 Ryan has the honour of being Captain of the Norfolk PGA. Ryan is now the professional at Mundesley golf club.

## ARTISANS

In 1921, the committee considered the formation of an Artisan's club. Because this would need the assent of a general meeting, it was agreed to form such a club on a temporary basis, pending approval by the Annual General Meeting of 1922. This was duly forthcoming, but it was considered advisable to continue the temporary limit on membership of 50.

The section was eventually wound up in 1979. Three ex artisan's later became Captain's of the club.

## ROYAL AIR FORCE COLTISHALL

Royal Cromer first became associated with Royal Air Force Coltishall during the second world war. Distinguished fighter ace, Wing Commander Laddie Lucas, son of one of the Club's most prominent members, P.M. Lucas, (Honorary Secretary 1892 – 1902 and Club Captain 1893), was posted to command Coltishall's Spitfire wing in 1943. He later wrote, "Often in those times I would fly my aeroplane low over the course just to be satisfied that the holes I remembered from the halcyon days were still there.....and then there was that blessed sight of the Cromer cliffs, with the course nestling above them, as we returned – sometimes anxiously on a protesting Rolls-Royce Merlin engine – across 120 miles of swirling North Sea".



*On 10th July, 1986 Laddie Lucas was invited to make an official visit, with his wife Jill, to R.A.F. Coltishall, about 15 miles from Cromer. In 1943, as Wing Commander Lucas he commanded the fighter wing at Coltishall, and this visit was very much a sentimental journey. As a souvenir, Group Captain Mike French presented him with a framed photograph of a Hurricane and Spitfire flying over Royal Cromer golf course.*

The special relationship with the Club was ensured with membership made available to golfers from RAF Coltishall, the numbers varying over the years. Many of those players represented the Club in matches and County competitions. A match was played annually with the Club.

Coltishall has always been generous in helping the Club, loaning equipment, arranging a "Centenary Fly Past" and presenting a new flag to the Club, which has been flown at Royal Centenary celebrations around the world.

In 1993 the Club and R.A.F. Coltishall, represented in equal numbers, took part in a match versus U.S.A.F. Lakenheath. This home and away feature was known as the "Mini Ryder Cup", the home team hosting the meal, often at the Officers Club, U.S.A.F. Mildenhall. One match in progress at Cromer was halted midway, with all U.S.A.F. personnel ordered to return to base immediately. The date was the infamous 9/11. Matches continue to take place.

As R.A.F Coltishall comes close to closure, (due in 2007) a friendly and mutually beneficial relation unfortunately will come to an end. Royal Cromer wishes all personnel, past and present, "Happy Landings".



## **JUNIORS SECTION**

The junior section has maintained a good crop of youngsters in its history all of whom played off scratch or better, notably Tracey Williamson, Mark Williamson, Steven Peet, Kris Coop, Charlie Bright and more recently Amber Ratcliffe. The latter has represented England in a number of junior and ladies competitions and at age 15 years was off scratch.

The junior section was ably organised during the last 20 years by Bernie Peet, Alan Hill and Gill Bullimore.

In 2007 the club was the first in Norfolk to be awarded Golf Mark.

## **VETERANS SECTION**



As more leisure time is becoming available to those approaching retirement, Royal Cromer attracts many older members who wish to socialise and also compete with their contemporaries at other clubs.

As a result 1983 saw the formation of a veterans section. Membership cost £1 and is available to those aged over 55. The section has grown from strength to strength and in 2010 there are well over 200 members. The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was celebrated in 2008 with a dinner and competitions.

It is an active organisation with inter-club matches, monthly stableford competitions and lunches.

On 16<sup>th</sup> May 2008 the section held its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Members played a team stableford round, there then followed a dinner with a number of guests from the original membership, some of whom started the section.

## **BARNET RUGBY CLUB**

Since 1948 Royal Cromer has been pleased to welcome the above society who have been of great support to the Club over many years.

A golf fixture, the format of which is an annual Saturday match, in October, for the 'Cromer Bell', followed by dinner, in the early days at Cliff House Hotel. Barnet played their own competition on the Sunday morning, with heavy heads from the night before, for the 'Bolton Pot'. The 40<sup>th</sup> visit in 1987 was marked by a presentation to Royal Cromer with a bench for the 13<sup>th</sup> tee. In 1988 members of Barnet were guests and sponsors at the centenary. The 50<sup>th</sup> visit was marked by a presentation to the club of a weather station, situated in the lounge bar.

The 60<sup>th</sup> visit was marked by a presentation of a new flag pole.

# TRIVIA

## CROMER LIGHTHOUSE

The Cromer lighthouse overlooks the 14<sup>th</sup> hole – the club's signature hole.  
The present lighthouse is, in fact the third 'light' at Cromer.  
The first light, warning mariners of the dangers, was just a fire burning on a platform on the parish church's tower in the town.

In 1717, a brick lighthouse was built on high ground to the east of the town. Originally lit by a coal fired lantern, this was replaced in 1719 by a flashing light known as the 'will o the wisp'. This was lit by fifteen oil lamps with reflectors and rotated by clockwork machinery.

Two young women, the first lighthouse keepers received £1.00 as a weekly wage for both of them and reputedly, kept the place very 'neat and tidy'.



Landslips that still plagued the cliffs were ever present in those days and when in 1932, a particularly big cliff fall threatened the lighthouse, a new one was planned further inland.

Built in 1833, this then is the present lighthouse – an eighteen metre high octagonal tower, little altered as we move into 2010.

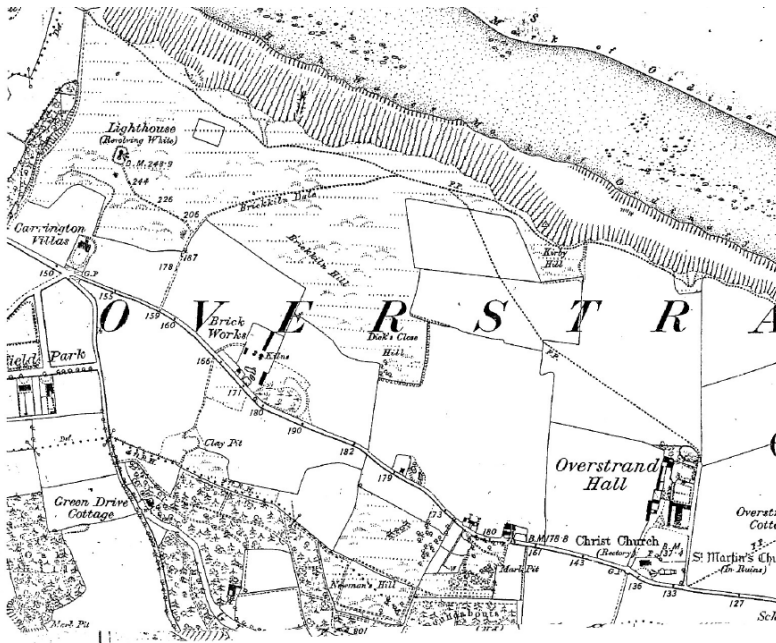
Originally powered by oil lamps, gas lighting was installed in 1905. This was converted to electricity in 1958 and automated in 1990. The light was converted to state of the art electronics in 2002.

A helipad was also built on a level piece of ground nearby.

The empty shell of the first lighthouse fell over the cliff some 22 years prior to the opening of Royal Cromer Golf Club.

The lighthouse dominates the fourteenth and is an ideal target line for the big hitters from the tee.

## BRICK KILN WORKS



The land on which the first and eighteenth fairways are situated was once part of a large brick kiln works. The large dips you can see from the first and eighteenth tees are where the four large brick ovens were situated. The gully to the right of the first was where the clay was extracted from. This stretched right across to the second tee and is generally known as 'The Osiers' in other words 'we can't use'.

## Management Committee Minutes - 1891 to 1942 Snippets from the old Minute Books

1891

5th October The Secretary instructed to write to Mr. Tom Morris of St. Andrews, to be asked to lay out the course and to ascertain his terms.

A member complained as to the press coverage of the Autumn Prize Meeting....."the Committee did not consider the matter sufficiently grave to call for their interference, further they failed to see anything objectionable in the remarks made in reference to his play".

27th October Mr. Morris, from St. Andrews had surveyed the course and suggested certain alterations, which would, if carried out, make it one of the finest 9 hole courses in England. Part of the suggestion stated "the opening between furze, that is to say the clear ground where a fair drive would land, should be 80 yards wide".

1892

12th January Mr. Alfred Burton appointed Secretary at a salary of £25 per year and Mr. P. M. Lucas appointed Hon Secretary.

- 16th February W. Aveston appointed to the office of Professional at a weekly salary of 10/- and that he be allowed to charge 2/- for a game and 3/- for a lesson of 18 holes, including a caddie.
- 10th March Correspondence from Henry Broadhurst, M. P. who felt slandered in a speech by a Mr. Hamilton, the subject matter being the prevention or not of Public Houses being open on a Sunday The inference appears to be that Mr. Broadhurst was against Sunday opening, but supported being able to have a drink himself on a Sunday at the Golf Club. He sought from the committee some "public satisfaction for this infamous calumny". The committee replied,...."that the duties, for the performance of which they exist and were elected, do not extend to taking such steps as proposed by you".
- 29th April Resolved to increase Clements wage to 16/- per week and to give him £1 for the use of his donkey on the course.
- 24th April Offer received to hire 22 acres of land at a rent of £42 p.a. re extension of course.
- Specimens of notepaper, stamped with a die as suggested by Lord Suffield, approved as Club notepaper.
- An enlarged picture of H.R.H. The Prince of Wales, finished in monochrome, had been sent to the Club on the directions of the Rt. Hon. Lord Suffield, to be hung in the Club Room. His Lordship would also send a similar portrait of himself for the same purpose.
- The Committee thanked his Lordship.
- Lord Battersea wrote asking the name of "Cyril Flower" be erased from the cup presented by him and that his name as now used be put in place.
- 21st July Willie Aveston's entrance fee for the Open Golf Championship at Prestwick, to be paid by the Club, together with £5.5.0d. for expenses.
- 1894
- 12th January Mr. J. W. Scott offered to present a gold medal to be called the "John Scott Gold Medal".
- May W. Aveston to be entered for the Open Golf Championship at Sandwich.
- Permission given for resident Light House Keepers to play the course after 5 o'clock in the afternoon. They would not be entitled to use the Clubhouse.
- Club donated £1.11.6d. towards expenses in connection with the formation of a County Championship Competition.
- 1895
- 13th July Formal opening of 18 hole course. Match to be arranged between J. H. Taylor (Champion) and another.

Letter from St. Andrews re proposed testimonial to Tom Morris. The Club to open a list and head it with a donation of £1.

Complaints received over the way Ladies had been disregarding the rules. Secretary to post a notice in the Clubhouse requesting players on the Ladies Course to strictly observe the rules of the game.

11th October "The School Attendance Committee of the Erpingham Union" wrote regarding the employment of boys as caddies and enclosing a copy of the Bye Laws under the Elementary Education Acts.

29th December Several names were submitted as candidates for election. ..."it having been decided that two blackballs should exclude". The names were separately submitted, Mr. Boardman elected.

1896

April A scruffy page, torn from a pocket book, is pinned in the Minutes Book and reads,..."The following report with reference to play on the Ladies Course was adopted".

1. The numbers playing over the Links be limited at the discretion of the Committee.
2. The kind attention of the Green Committee be called to the upkeep of the course.
3. No men be allowed to play on the course during July, August and September, unless in after tea foursomes. Use of wooden clubs and cleeks to be disallowed.

1897

April Erection of a Ladies Club House approved, with the exception that Ladies be not admitted to the General Dining Room.

May Approval to expend the sum of £2 in the hire of flags etc. for decorating the Clubhouse on the occasion of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebration.

1903

15th April Resolution passed allowing daughters of members the same privileges as sons of members - to be allowed to play over the green for 10/- per annum.

3rd June Agreed that "no gentleman's servant be allowed to play on the Golf Course at any time"

1904

20th May Steward instructed not to cash cheques for visitors  
Newspapers - resolved to take "The King" newspaper and discontinue "Land and Water"  
Ladies Golf Union accepted the invitation to hold the 1905 Ladies Open Championship at Royal Cromer, week commencing 29th May.

22nd June Resolved the Steward and Mrs. Small each be allowed 2 tons of coal during the year.

6th December Gratuities - John Clements £1 and 1 ton of coal, others £1 each. 3 boys 5/- each

1905

10 June For 3 days prior to Easter and Whitsuntide and in July, August and September, ladies will be allowed to play before 9.30, between 11.30 and 12.00 and afternoon between 3.30 and 4.00. Otherwise, except for competition days, at any time.

25th July Mr. Callow to be offered £5 to remove his sheep from the links for 12 months.

14th August Children of visitors and lady beginners be allowed to play over the new field for 2/6d per week.

1907

17th January Club agreed to pay £10 for the grazing rights of the links.

31st January W. Aveston resigned his appointment as Professional

23rd May Proposal for playing Sunday Golf defeated.

24th June Letter sent to Rear Admiral George A. Callaghan C.B., H.M.S. LEVIATHAN. The Committee would be very pleased if the Officers of the "Fifth Cruiser Squadron" consider themselves Honorary Members during their stay at Cromer. (Though not on Sundays)

25 September Permission renewed for LOCAL RESIDENTS to play during winter months on payment of £1.

17th October Committee would not oppose formation of Norfolk Golf Union - but were not strongly in favour.

1908

17 September Extra men to be taken on in October to weed the putting greens.

17th November John and Jas. Clements, employed for a number of years, to be paid additional 1/6d per week

1909

10th April Committee replied they were not in favour of the Amateur Championship being managed by St. Andrews Golf Club.

18th May Officers of the "Kings Own Royal Regiment Norfolk Yeomanry" and "Sixth Battalion Norfolk Regiment" be made Honorary Members during their stay in camp at Northrepps.

1910

30th March Home and Home Matches to be arranged with Royal Norwich Golf Club.

7th May In consequence of the lamentable death of His Majesty King Edward VI the Clubhouse and Links would be closed on the day of his funeral - Notice to be sent to all members. Mourning paper and envelopes ordered.

9th May The Whitsuntide Meeting of the Royal Cromer Golf Club will be abandoned.

1911

5th June Committee resolution to A.G.M. for play to be allowed on Sundays defeated.

1912

27th May Resolution allowing play on Sundays carried.

1913

8th November Changes to be made to the course (extension and improvements), as advised by J. H. Taylor listed in detail.

1914

11th April Happy Valley to be let on annual tenancy to Cromer Urban District Council.

30th May Death minuted of Lord Suffield, Club President.

20th June A letter from Mr. Simpson of the Daily Mail asking for loan of the Beginners Field for 2 days for the purposes of Aeroplane Flight. Granted

20th August Letter from the Golfers Club London asking if the committee would be willing to offer the Clubhouse as a hospital during the war. Reply stated "would be given serious consideration, in the event of real necessity, on application from the proper authority.

1914 (cont) £75 forwarded to Buckingham Palace as the first donation to the Prince of Wales National Relief Fund.

9th September The mother of A. R. Thompson, greenman, be allowed 10/- per week during his absence - his having joined Kitcheners Army

11 December Heavy reduction in expenditure required. - such as maintaining a 9 hole course only, selling the horse, reducing Mrs. Thompson's allowance, reducing rents paid, reducing secretary's salary etc.

1915

5th March Resolved no Golf Meetings during duration of the war.

4th May Allowance to Mrs. Thompson discontinued.

September The Club was in serious financial difficulties. An E.G.M. held as to continuing or winding up the Club. A resolution for the Committee to

continue their efforts with a view to carrying on the Club was carried unanimously.

1919

14th January Decided to sell one stack of hay, keep the other in case they purchased another horse.

Boundaries of land sub-let to the Cromer Council agreed. (Happy Valley)

Resolved to make application to the military for the release of Jack and James Clement for re-employment on the course.

1st August It was decided to allow Ladies to play at the same hours as Gentlemen on paying the same Green Fees.

Ladies Medal Day changed from Saturday to Wednesday.

W.D. Land Agent had agreed to pay £12 for relaying the 8th green.

24th October The Honorary Secretary of Sheringham Golf Club to be an Honorary Member of this Club.

1920

15th January 4 or 5 boys to be employed at 15/- per week to weed the greens. Any fees earned caddying to go to the Club.

Greenkeepers to be paid new agricultural rate of 42/- per week.

15th March Club to join the Ladies Golf Union.

Secretary reported he had received the gift of one of the Cream Coloured horses from the Royal Mews at Buckingham Palace.

24th Sept Greens staff requested increase to new agricultural rate of 46/- per week. To be told should they insist on the increase, the staff would be reduced to 5.

1921

2nd Sept Temporary formation of an Artisan Golf Club agreed. Subsequently formally approved at AGM in June 1922.

1922

19th June The Club had been approached to hold a competition in aid of the Sunshine Home, entrance fees to go to the Charity. Refused.

The same meeting agreed to hold a Boxing Day competition for the Overstrand Hotel Challenge Cup. The Hotel to give a prize and the Club a prize for the best scratch score.

1923



- 12th January Agreed to build a house for the Steward, accepting Bullen's price of £695 inclusive.
- 28th May Mens wages to remain the same at £2.2.0d. and they should not be paid the £3 in lieu of harvest money as in previous years.
- 30th July Notice to be placed in the Club Room asking players, particularly those without caddies, to do their utmost to keep their places and when failing to do so, should at once signal the following players on.
- 1924
- 10th June AGM - Proposed and seconded Lord Suffield be asked to succeed his father in the Presidency of the Club.
- 31st March Reported the Ch:Cob purchased six years ago for £25 was done. Decided to try to purchase 1 horse for £30 or 2 for £50.
- Subscription list opened for Jack Clements, who was about to be married.
- 1925
- 15th July James Braid to advise on course alterations, terms £9. 9. 0d. per day plus expenses.
- 1st. Sept Decided to play a match against the Artisans on 12th September.
- 1926
- 2nd February The course had been carefully measured by chain and in spite of recent alterations, was still only 6300 yards, making a scratch score of 74. The Secretary was deputed to see the Secretary of the County Union with a view of getting a scratch score of at least 76.
- 7th April Decided to postpone any alterations to handicaps till the scratch score was fixed by the Golf Unions Joint Advisory Committee of the British Isles.
- Position of Head Green Man instigated, giving him control over all the men and horses.
- 5th May The scratch score confirmed as reduced from 77 to 76.
- 1927
- 19 April Authorised purchase of a Motor Tractor, 2 Mowers and a Tip Cart at a cost of £243.
- Owing to the increased number of motors U.D.C., to be approached to prepare a "Parking Ground" on the practice links.
- 4th June AGM - Members attention drawn to the decrease in Visitors Fees, which was the same all over the Country owing to the Coal Strike last year.
- 1928

- 29th August Insurance taken out with London Liverpool and Globe Insurance Co. to cover the Club, Members and Artisans third party risks in case of pedestrians being hit on the course. Cost 3d per head per member.
- 3rd December Decided to purchase a Motor Mower. Major Trafford recommended an "Auto Motor Pusher", made by the firm of Randels.
- It was decided to sell the horse and harness.
- 1929
- 7th January A subscription be offered of £3. 3. 0d. towards the establishment of a Board of Research for the Scientific Investigation of Greenkeeping Problems. Guaranteed payable for 5 years to Norfolk County Golf Union.
- 1930
- 19th June Telephone to placed in the Secretary's Office.
- 1931
- 23rd May AGM - Suggested "that Artisans be allowed to join the Club".
- 5 Sept Gold Coast Challenge Cup presented to the Club.
- Agreed in future a man going on the "Sick List" will be paid his wages for 2 weeks. Health Insurance and Club monies to be refunded to the Club. No pay after 2 weeks.
- 1932
- 17th May Ladies to be allowed to use the Mens' Club Room, except during the time of the mens meetings.
- 30th July Town dances to assist Club - Committee member had met several of the leading towns people who realised the value of the Club to the town. They had agreed to give two dances to assist the Club. The Links Hotel had given the use of the hall for the dances. A vote of thanks was recorded "to the people of Cromer".
- 1932
- 27th August The Club was in financial difficulties. - Two committee members told of a discussion with Lord Suffield who told them "he intended to run the Club himself as soon as the lease terminated and suitable arrangements could be made with the Debenture Holders". The Committee strongly felt this to be detrimental to the Club and they were unable to put into effect proposals to meet any overdraft, because of the uncertainty created by his Lordships suggestion. Would he grant them a new lease from year to year and what was the lowest possible rent he would accept under the present financial position?.
- 6th September Mr. Van Moppes (Captain) would pay Lord Suffield's agent £200 in cash and would guarantee the rent for the following year. The Club to pay him back quarterly. A hearty vote of thanks extended to Mr. Van Moppes.

7th September At an Extraordinary General Meeting, called to consider the position of the Club. The meeting informed of the above plus the fact that Lord Suffield had reduced the rent by £75 for the year and also matched the Captain's donation of £50. Members then pledged various donations allowing the Club to carry on.

24 September Mens wages to be same as at Sheringham. Hours 39 four winter months, 50 remainder of year. Head Greenkeeper £2. 6. 0d., remainder £1.17.6d. weekly.

1933

22 September Steward and Stewardess given 2 months notice.

18th November It was decided the notice be withdrawn.

1934

3rd March Looking for new Steward, but notice to current Steward not to be given until after Easter by which time, hopefully, a successor would be found.

1935

Request from Col. W.H. Besart enquiring whether the Club would present to the Norfolk Regiment the stuffed wheatear in the case over the bar?.  
Declined.

1936

1st June Notice to be given to the Steward and Stewardess.

11 September A proposition made to play the final round of the Muskett Cup over 36 holes.

A letter was read from the Keeper of the Privy Purse expressing His Majesty's regret at being unable to extend the privilege of his Patronage to the Royal Cromer Golf Club.

3rd October As the Steward was occupied with a crowded bar, it was decided to adjourn this meeting till October 10th for the purpose of giving him notice.

1936

10th October Notice duly given. It then transpired this would involve losing the services of Doris Griffin, who had decided not to remain under a new Steward. The Steward then asked if the Committee would consider dispensing with the services of his wife and allowing Doris and himself to continue in charge. He added he would do his utmost to give satisfaction. The Committee had no wish to lose the valuable services of Doris. The Committee to write to absent Committee members to obtain their views as to a six month trial.

1937

10th April On the proposition of Lord Suffield the Steward given a months notice, use of the bungalow might be required at the end of two weeks. Doris was given a months holiday with full pay.

Lord Suffield reported he hoped to hear shortly the His Majesty King George V1 had consented to become Patron of the Club.

1938

22nd January Letter received from the Privy Purse Office intimating that the Patronage of King George V1 could not be granted to the Club.

16th April A letter from Sir Samuel Hoare Bart. (Home Secretary) saying it was not possible for His Majesty King George to be come Patron, but added that the absence of this Patronage does not affect the title "Royal", which, once granted, continues automatically.

1940

11th May Resolution at AGM that for the duration of the war the present Captain and Committee continue in office.

A.T.S. Army green fees to be 2/- per day for officers, 1/- for other ranks including

The Artisans offered their help on the course in the evenings, if required. Gratefully acknowledged.

1942

Clubs rented reduced by Lord Suffield to nominal £5 pa.

**AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS 2012**

