

A **Golfer** magazine supplement. April 1987

Durham City Golf Club Centenary



Inside: Well-wishers include Open Champion Henry Cotton, 80 this year who visited the city half a century ago.

*Let me turn the clock back, 50 years + I'll have
a go at playing the new course.
Best wishes to you all
Yr
Henry Cotton*

One of England's oldest inland clubs

English Golf Union

It is a very pleasant coincidence that, as an adopted North Easterner, one of my first official duties, on assuming national office is to offer congratulations to Durham City who have played such an important role in the history of golf in this region.

To start out as pioneers 100 years ago and continue non-stop throughout the upheavals of the late 19th and the whole of the 20th centuries, is a remarkable record by any standards.

I am sure clubs throughout the country will join me in wishing you all the best of fortune and good golfing in many prosperous years ahead.

George Logan
President



CITY OF DURHAM

The 100th anniversary of the founding of Durham City Golf Club marks a major achievement of which everyone with the City's well-being at heart will be immensely proud.

As the Club has gathered strength over the years, members have made an increasingly important contribution to the quality of life in the City which is renowned throughout the U.K. for its sporting traditions. Apart from fostering an ever-growing interest in the Ancient Game and providing a unique outdoor amenity in beautiful surroundings, the Golf Club has proved an invaluable asset to the City as a first-rank tourist attraction.

I am delighted to have this opportunity both to tee off the Club into its second century and to give an official civic send-off to the celebrations.

With warmest wishes on behalf of the City Council in particular and the citizens of Durham in general.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Durham
Councillor Robert Clewes



In its 100-year history, Durham City golf club has progressed from modest six-hole origins at Pinkerknowle, via Mount Oswald to its present permanent home at Littleburn. The number of visiting parties continues to grow each year. And small wonder when they are guaranteed the warmest of welcomes and a challenging round on one of the most attractive riverside courses in the North — designated as an area of Great Landscape Value.

City helped to pioneer golf in Durham, being one of only six inland courses recorded in the Victorian Counties Handbook of 1906.

The Golfer is proud to mark the centenary by choosing Durham City golf club as the subject of its first-ever special supplement. We reproduce some of the many messages of congratulations received by the club.

DURHAM COUNTY GOLF UNION

As golf goes from strength to strength in County Durham, with ever more new courses coming into play, the County Executive join me in saying "well done" to Durham City, one of our oldest clubs which is still helping to set the pace after 100 eventful years.

I personally have many happy memories of the splendid results they have achieved at Littleburn.

Hard work and dedication have produced a club which is a credit to our county capital as well as to the world of golf.

It forms a sound base on which to build an even more successful future — which is my wish for all the members, officials and staff.

Good golfing in 1987 — and the next hundred!

Len Doughton
County President



PENINA GOLF HOTEL

PENINA • ALGARVE • PORTUGAL

Congrats to the club in its 100th year. I guess there will not be many original members around now, but say "Well done" from me, if there are.

Also long life to the other old heroes. Let me turn the clock back, 50 years and I'll "have a go" at playing the new course.

Best wishes to you all.

Yours,

Henry Cotton



This 20-page special supplement produced by The Golfer Magazine is part of the service offered to clubs throughout the North and Midlands Counties.

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1987 A YEAR TO REMEMBER



Mr Arthur Parkin, elected club captain for the third time.

TWO OF Durham County's best-known golfing figures will lead Durham City during Centenary Year.

Retired businessman Arthur Parkin, chairman for the past decade and a member of the Durham County Golf Union Executive for five years, has been elected club captain for the third time in his 30-year membership.

And the 110-strong ladies' section will be captained for the second time by Mrs Mary Vine, long-time club and county official whose name appears on the honours board with a regularity that underlines her dedication to the game.

Both Arthur and his wife Eileen, and Mary and husband Fred live within five minutes' drive of the City's Littleburn course - an added asset considering the large number of official anniversary duties they will be performing.

Arthur, whose younger son Stephen is also a member, can remember seeing golfers in action as a child on the original Pinkerknowle fairways. He has been a member of the committee for 26 years and was club captain in 1965 and '66.

Among his many other golfing activities he is currently Chairman of the Northumberland and Durham Golf Alliance.

Mrs Vine, ex-captain and ladies champion had her services to the club recognised by being elected an honorary member some years ago.

She has been a golfer for 32 years - there were only twelve lady members when she first joined - and has held many prominent posts at county and club level.

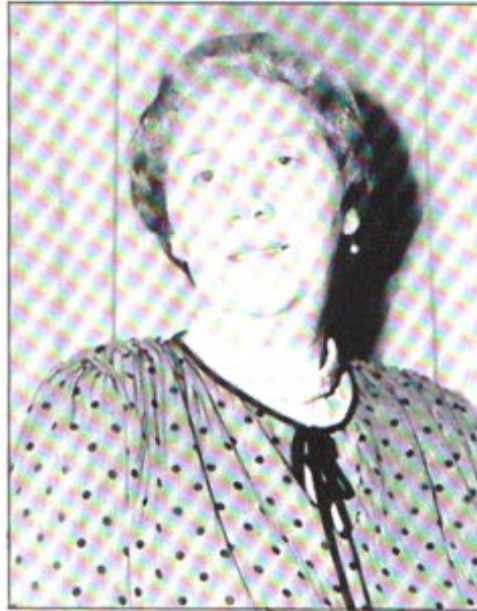
A past secretary and captain of both Durham County Captain's Society and Lady Veterans' Association, Mary is a county vice-captain and former county mixed foursomes champion.

She was treasurer of the City Ladies for 22 years and secretary and treasurer for fifteen.

She is also a member at nearby Brancepeth.

The family sporting tradition is maintained by husband Fred, also a golfer but still remembered as an ex-ice hockey player and referee.

In November another honour will come Mary's way when she takes on the mantle of County Ladies' Captain.



Mrs Mary Vine, who will lead the 110-strong ladies' section in 1987.



LADIES REACH FIRST 100

BY happy coincidence, centenary year sees Durham City ladies top the 100-membership mark for the first time.

And, having already raised a considerable sum in their special centenary fund, they stole a march on the men by getting the club celebrations off to a flying start long before the season opened.

They splashed out with a memorable anniversary dinner in the clubhouse with international golfing personality Miss Vivien Saunders as guest speaker.

Also among the other guests were Mrs Kath Ritch, of Wearside, past-president of the Durham County ladies and Mrs Francis Watson, of Tyneside, the captain.

Longest-serving member of the section, Mrs Nicky Brass responded to the main toast.

Miss Saunders, ex-Curtis Cup player and now coach to the English Ladies' Golf Association, stayed on to give a clinic at New College the next day. It turned into one of the best-supported public sessions she has ever held - more than 60 women golfers attended.

Durham City Ladies' section is one of the longest-established in the country, the old Pinkerknowle minutes recording that on February 3, 1894 at a general meeting it was agreed that "ladies be allowed to play the course under such regulations to be determined by the committee."

Since the move to Littleburn, membership has grown rapidly and in recent years they have won the County Bronze Team Championship and the Bronze Thomlinsons.

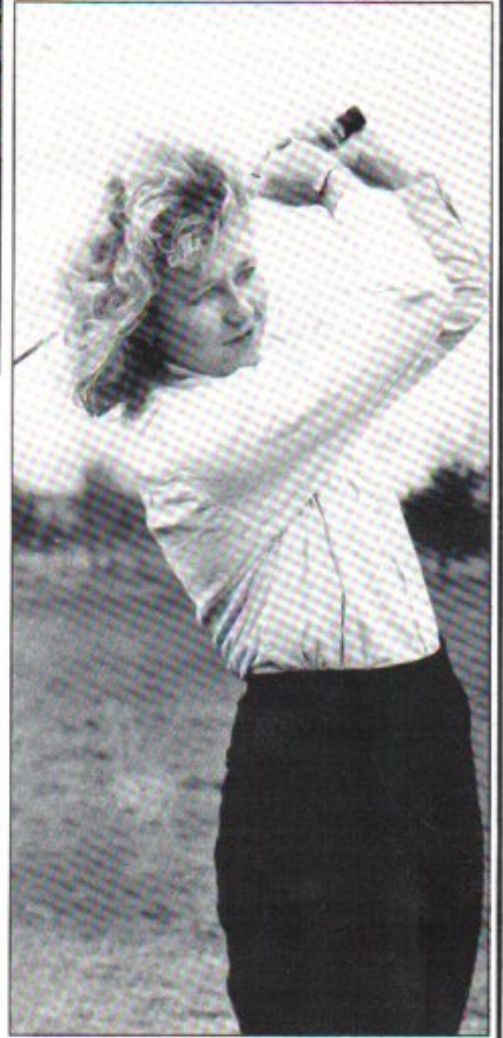
Says Captain Mary Vine: "It is particularly pleasing to see so many promising youngsters taking up the game which should bring significant benefits to the club in future years."

To commemorate the occasion, the ladies have bought a new centenary flag for the club. Afterwards it was presented to the 1986 and 1987 captains, Mr George Rennie and Mr Arthur Parkin.

Their 1987 match programme is: Laurels Bowl - April 19; Sadler Cup - May 10; Withinshaw Trophies - June 13; Ladies Open - July 18; Mayoress's Cup - August 2; Ladies' Captain's Prize - August 9; Parkin Bowl - August 13; Borkwood and Littleburn Salvagers - August 27; Autumn Salver - September 6.

Durham will host the Ladies County Journal Trophy on Wednesday, July 15. Their centenary competition will be on August 15.

Student Jane is champ



Jane Kilgariff - Ladies Champion.

ALTHOUGH her final exams may get in the way, 21-year-old student Jane Kilgariff expects to be defending her ladies' championship title this summer. She's been playing for only seven years - but has made the county junior side for three seasons and has seen her handicap drop to eight.

Which isn't surprising. She comes from a golfing family: father John is a former captain and Jane and mum Sheila at present hold seven City trophies between them.

Calendar of Events



A BIG calendar of events - both sporting and social - promises to make 1987 a year to remember for the 680 members of Durham City golf club.

A special Centenary Weekend, Saturday and Sunday, August 15 and 16, has been set aside for a series of anniversary tournaments and a big club-house get-together which will ensure that every member has the opportunity to share in the celebrations.

The attractive riverside course at Littleburn has been chosen for a number of regional tournaments to honour the Club's seniority.

Setting the pace will be one of the North's annual prestige golfing occasions, the Journal Champion of Champions, which will be played at the City for the first time on Sunday, June 7.

The Journal is rightly regarded as the top daily for golf coverage in the region and competition to host their annual sponsored event is extremely keen. It says a lot for the facilities at the City that they have been chosen to stage this top event.

It is a mouth-watering prospect with the champions of every club in Northumberland and Durham in action.

Another "first" will be the Durham County Matchplay championship with the opening and second rounds on Saturday, July 25 and the third and fourth the next day. The title will

be decided on Saturday, August 1, with the semis and final.

Another not-to-be-missed August diary date - with a full week to clear heads after the in-club activities a week earlier - is Sunday, 23 with the Championship of the 22-club North Durham Union.

There will be both team and individual titles at stake and the City will be going all out to improve on their league placing of last season when they finished as very creditable runners-up. It was certainly their finest overall team result since the move to Littleburn.

The competitive highlight of the Centenary Weekend will centre on a new cup to be played for by the men on Sunday, August 16, with the ladies having their own special competition the previous day.

The new season's main club events include the 36-hole Robson Cup, coupled with the President's Medal for the club championship - county player Stuart Neil is the current titleholder - on Sunday, June 14.

★ Captain's Weekend - June 27, 28 (juniors and ladies on the Saturday, men on the Sunday).

★ Men's Open (4-ball better ball) sponsored by Provident Personal Credit Ltd, May 23.

★ Middle Plant Construction Company sponsored Open (4-ball better ball stableford) August 30.

★ Open Mixed Greensome, sponsored by Colway Tyres - May 30.

★ Ladies Open - July 18.

The season opener is the annual Captain versus Secretary team match on Sunday, April 12. Then come the major events in the rest of the '87 club programme.

Calcutta Cup, first round.....May 3
Wood Cup.....May 10
Kinghorn, Deuchar and Twenties Cup.....May 24
Coronation Cup.....May 31
Terrans Trophy.....June 21
Jubilee Cup.....July 5
Parkin Cup.....July 12
Professional's Day.....September 13
Autumn Cup.....September 20
McKeag Mixed Foursomes.....October 4

The summer season closes on Sunday, October 11 with the traditional Captain's versus Secretary's match. The winter league begins on Sunday, October 18.

The seniors competitions will be played on the following Tuesdays:

Open Day.....May 19
Captain's Day.....June 2
Donkin Cup.....June 9
Club Captain's Prize and Seniors Shield.....June 23
Nevin Cup.....July 21
Withinshaw Trophy.....September 1

NEW STANDARDS IN CLUBHOUSE COMFORT

A £40,000 clubhouse face-lift is setting new standards in comfort for centenary year at Durham City. The first floor has taken on a complete new look following a four-week refurbishment which introduced all-modern decor in the dining room and bar, with new furniture, carpets and curtains.

The ceiling was lowered and new lighting installed; central heating was rearranged and the bar itself was totally rebuilt.

"We took professional advice on every aspect from colour schemes to design and quality of fabrics and furniture," said house chairman Tom Park.

"It was the most ambitious project to be undertaken since we first moved in 13 years ago and the contractors had a race against time to ensure that everything was exactly right well ahead of schedule for all the sporting and social events that are planned."

First of these was a special open night to inaugurate the new facilities. It was held on Tuesday, April 7, the committee invited all members to visit the clubhouse to see the improvements, and was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor and Mrs. Bob Clewes.

Co-inciding with the big changes was the arrival of new steward Philip Wilkinson and his wife Alison. They took over just as the refit began - but they soldiered on through it all and are looking forward to playing a special part in the celebrations - providing first-class catering for the expected record influx of visitors as well as members.

They have an expert background: Philip was previously senior assistant catering manager at Sunderland General Hospital - responsible for 2,700 meals a day - while Alison ran her own small restaurant in the town.





**First ever match —
cutting from Newcastle
Daily Journal 19 May 1888**

DURHAM GOLF CLUB

The ancient city of Durham entered into a new phase of its history yesterday. In the past it has been the *Alma Mater* of many celebrities in the world of athletics, whether in rowing, cricket, or kindred pastimes and sports which are part and parcel of the out-door life of this great age of competition. The local golf fever, the seeds of which were first sown at Alnmouth some twenty years ago, only to find fruitful soil at Ryton, Seaton Carew, Newbigin, and Redcar, have at last found an inland growth in the neighbourhood of the cathedral city of the Wear. To be matter of fact, it may be stated that last November the initial meeting of the Durham Golf Club was held, the leading spirit being Dr E. S. Robson, who in his younger days, before he became a neophyte to the hickory and the gutta, had distinguished himself as one of "Guyles Twenty." Mr G. P. Blagdon was elected hon. secretary, and Mr H. E. Ferens hon. treasurer, and the committee constituted were Captain Roberts, Dr E. S. Robson, Mr A. McKinlay, and J. H. Bramwell. Sir Hedworth Williamson, Bart., was the first president, and Mr Thomas Milvain the vice-president. We mention those names particularly in the hope that those who may hereafter participate in the most fascinating game that can be played may not forget to give honour to the pioneers of what may prove of great benefit to the city. The establishing of a golf course, especially in an inland neighbourhood such as Durham, amounts to a most difficult enterprise, and we are glad to record that the inaugural meeting of the Durham Club at Pinker Knowle yesterday has proved in a remarkable manner that the golfing spirit is vigorous and prosperous. The course, which occupies about sixty acres of ground, lies about two miles from Durham Market Place. It is the property of Durham University, and is farmed by Mr Furness, who has evinced a praiseworthy sympathy with the objects of the club. The undulating and broken features of the country fully test the golfer's judgment, skill, and temper, and Tom Park, who had laid out the course, has exercised great ingenuity in his plans. The club has 42 members, and though yet in the early stages of infancy, it can boast of a club house, with well laid out putting and teeing grounds, which only require time and play to make them all that could be desired on an inland green. The course is limited to six holes, each being of a highly sporting character, and furnished with a sufficiency of hazards to test the eye, hand, and nerve of the experienced golfer. When funds admit, it is intended to increase the number of holes to 9, and probably to 18, as there is ample country at command to afford the full regulation course. But, acting on a wise, economical principle, the club has resolved to creep before it walks. Therefore, they decided to begin with a course of six holes, which cover an extent of something like fifty acres. "Time and play, as we have said, will do a lot for the course; yet we are bound to heartily congratulate the members of the club, after having been involved in considerable outlay, upon having made a most promising inauguration. In response to the warm invitation of the committee, several visiting members from the Alnmouth, Ryton, and Seaton Carew Golf Clubs assisted at the inaugural proceedings, and the charming weather which prevailed rendered the outing in a beautiful country most enjoyable. It was arranged to hold a handicap sweepstakes amongst the players, the Durham executive agreeing to Mr F. Charlton, the hon. secretary to the Tyneside Golf Club, to act as handicapper. It was resolved to play three rounds or eighteen holes. Dr Robson despatched a field of nine couples, and most of the players being strangers to the course, they were indebted to that worthy doctor for his guidance in the contest; indeed it was more than probable that the duties of his office quite eclipsed his chance of success in the competition. Mr J. K. Radcliffe, as the return will show, had the lightest card and won from scratch, beating Mr R. T. Thomson by one stroke. After completing two rounds Mr Thomson led Mr Radcliffe no less than nine strokes, but he had very bad luck afterwards, and was not beaten on his merits. Dr W. G. Ridley was a creditable third, with Mr J. W. Wood, Mr T. Tate, and J. B. Dale close up. The visitors were hospitably entertained by Dr Robson and the members of the club. Detailed scores:—

	1st rd.	2nd rd.	3rd rd.	Gross.	Hand.	Nett.
Mr J. K. Radcliffe	39	39	34	112	Sc	112
Mr R. T. Thomson	31	35	44	110	Sc	110
Dr W. G. Ridley	38	43	28	109	4	113
Mr J. W. Wood	38	44	26	108	6	114
Mr T. Tate	39	42	27	108	7	115
Mr J. B. Dale	37	40	30	107	16	123
Mr G. F. Charlton	51	27	40	118	3	125
Mr D. E. Kent	64	44	42	150	15	135
Mr A. L. Robinson	45	57	45	147	18	129
Dr E. S. Robson	47	51	52	150	19	132

Eight players retired.



CITY STILL SET THE PACE... 100 YEARS ON

THE YEAR IS 1887. On hill tops from the Orkneys to Land's End, bonfires have signalled a spectacular celebration of Queen Victoria's golden jubilee.

As Christmas draws near, shoppers in Durham's cobbled market place pause under the gas lights to read a festive notice in the window of the Rose and Crown: Landlord William Macfarlane has whisky on offer at 18 shillings a gallon.

For those seeking adventure in the colonies, the local paper advertised a passage on the Lusitania to Australia, via Naples and Suez, for 13 guineas — "with cuisine of the first order, electric lighting and hot and cold baths."

And in a room in the County Hotel in Old Elvet, a group of City notables led by the MP, Mr Thomas Milvain, and baronet Sir Hedworth Williamson form Durham City Golf Club. The date: December 3.

After enthusiastic discussions about the fashionable game that had made a formidable Northern impact at Alnmouth, Newbigin and Seaton, they decide to embark on one of England's first inland courses on University land about two miles away, at Pinkerknowle.

That's how it all started — with 30 pioneer members. They were modest beginnings with only six holes: No. 1 Wood hole, No. 2 Hill hole, No. 3 Gill hole, No. 4 Corner hole, No. 5 Cross hole, No. 6 Home hole.

The committee nominated "Messrs McKinlay, Robson and Blagdon to amend and make rules suitable to the golf track."

It was reported that the course was laid out by Tom Park — no relation to his namesake the present House Chairman.

Whether he was a member of the famous Park family of golf professionals and course architects from Musselburgh is not so certain. Early minutes record that on February 14, 1888 it was agreed to "buy the Postal Telegraph shed from the Durham Racecourse Committee for a price not exceeding £8-10s." for use as the first club house. Due to astute bargaining it actually changed hands for £5-5s.

The following Whitsuntide, play on

the Pinkerknowle course was inaugurated. On May 18, 1888, several visiting golfers from Alnmouth, Ryton and Seaton Carew were invited to play 18 holes — three rounds — alongside some of the 42 Durham members.

The next day, the Newcastle Daily Journal hailed the occasion in some style.

"The ancient city of Durham entered into a new phase of its history yesterday. In the past it has been the Alma Mater of many celebrities in the world of athletics, whether in rowing, cricket or kindred pastimes and sports which are part and parcel of the out-door life of this great age of competition. The local golf fever, the seeds of which were first sown at Alnmouth some twenty years ago only to find fruitful soil at Ryton, Seaton Carew, Newbigin and Redcar have at last found an inland growth in the neighbourhood of the cathedral city of the Wear."

"The undulating and broken features of the country fully test the golfer's judgement, skill and temper and Tom Park who has laid out the course, has exercised great ingenuity in his plans."

The first pro, David Brown, was engaged in 1889, for the months of May and June. His wage: £1 per week and eight pence a round.

In October 1892, a greenkeeper, Mr Macdonald, was employed at 7s a week. By 1893 membership totalled 90.

On May 24, 1893, the course was extended to nine holes.

On February 3, 1894, it was agreed at a general meeting that ladies could play "under such regulations to be determined by the committee."

In December 1894, playing members' subscriptions were doubled from 10s 6d to a guinea.

In 1900 it was agreed that "the new rules of St. Andrews" be adopted in place of the club's own rules.

At Pinkerknowle the club prospered steadily until it literally outgrew itself by 1927.

On October 27, the committee decided to move a few hundred yards across the road to a new 18-hole.

They sought a lease on a 90-acre site



Historic picture of players in action at Pinkerknowle. The early course had only six holes and the club was supported by 30 playing members.

at Mount Oswald owned by the North Brancepeth Coal Company and the Weardale Steel, Coal and Coke Company.

The old club ceased on January 31, 1927 and a new company, Durham City Golf Club Ltd., started on January 1, 1928, each member being required to hold at least one share.

The Durham County Advertiser's reaction to the new move: "This interesting decision will be hailed with delight by golfers in and around the ancient city."

Their report continued: "The site of the course is none other than the spacious and admirably situated Mount Oswald Estate, for so long associated with the Rogerson family. The lease also embraces that commodious residence and other buildings on the site."

At a members' meeting in the Town Hall in October 1927, the club captain Mr Tom Colpitts, said the Hexham Club's professional — "an expert in the laying out of golf courses" — had reported most favourably on the possibilities of the new site.

In April 1928, a 25-year lease was obtained and in 1929 Mr Ross was appointed as professional at £2-10s a week. Three years later, the club sought to secure an option to buy, but were unable to agree terms.

That was the start of protracted and indeterminate negotiations over course ownership. Happily, the agonising over lease renewals with various owners, and frustrated attempts to buy the freehold are all now part of past history. However, many still recall happy days on the old course, with great affection.

The memories are of league victories and grand celebrations at the 19th hole; of visits by golfing stars of the day like Henry Cotton, Peter Alliss, Ken Bousfield, Dai Rees and Dave Thomas.

Some still recall the somewhat longer stay of the East Surrey Regiment during World War II. In September 1939, they requisitioned the clubhouse and the 18th hole was captured by the military to house prisoners of war.

The gatehouse was turned into a makeshift clubhouse. The greens were

fenced and cattle grazed the course to keep the grass down.

After the War, the club were still without a lease and the feeling of insecurity continued to grow.

Outside factors fed that feeling. The course was not included in the new Durham City green belt which surrounded Mount Oswald on three sides and rumours about university expansion or housing developments persisted.

In September 1969, the committee gave consideration to an imaginative proposal to amalgamate with Brancepeth Castle. Both clubs, it was thought, potentially had much to gain. Durham had significant financial resources and a big membership waiting list but were without secure tenure. Brancepeth with only about 100 members owned their course. After first giving a 74 per cent approval in October 1969, Durham members were asked at an annual meeting the following March to make a formal decision on an amalgamation — and voted closely to turn it down.

On October 13, 1970 the committee inspected the 100-acre Littleburn Farm for which the owner, a social member, was asking £27,500. The next four days leading to an annual meeting saw intense activity as the committee, led by chairman Professor Charles Baker — now an honorary member — gathered a wide range of information on costs of development, loans and grants.

Financial reserves topped £12,000 and loans from the Sports Council, brewery and bank helped substantially finance the project while a significant amount came from members — through interest-free loans, special fund-raising efforts and increased subscriptions.

It says a lot for the foresight of members that they backed the project almost unanimously and after 83 years of uncertainty Durham City Golf Club at last secured a home of its own.

Construction of the course took place in the summer of 1972 and the greens were seeded later that year. The total cost: £10,000. Money was hard to come by and architects were briefed to produce a clubhouse design of

Young-at-heart veterans turn back the clock



IT WAS a trip down memory lane for five old-timers — with 224 years of club membership among them — when they walked the course again... at Pinkerknowle.

For (l to r) Tom Robertson, 68, Norman Fleming, 78, Tom Young, 81, Leon Stanton, 73, and Dick Collinson, 73, it was their first return for more than sixty years. But they still recognised the layout.

"It certainly brings back a lot of memories" said Mr Young, former Seniors Captain who still plays off 16 — and had just knocked off 16 holes on the present course in 73 gross! Tom, son of a builder of horse-drawn carriages and a golfer to be reckoned with for over half a century, remembers racing with his pals to pick up extra pocket money as a caddy on a Sunday morning after singing in St. Oswald's Church choir.

They didn't make their fortunes. A club by-law instructed: "The fee for a caddy is ninepence per round of 18 holes or sixpence for a round of 9 holes, which includes cleaning of clubs." No hope of a bob or two on the side either. The same by-law warned: "Members shall not buy balls from caddies."

Tom Robertson, 57 years a member who played off six when he was still a teenager, and ex-captain Dick Collinson, the present Seniors' captain, have both had their stalwart services to the club recognised by being awarded honorary membership. Tom a member since he was eleven, remembers Pinkerknowle with a lot of affection. His father Tom was a member there.

Former City captain Norman, thirty five years a member, and Leon who joined thirty two years ago, are old City die-hards from Mount Oswald days but they also recall matches being played at Pinkerknowle. Leon's father John was a member then.

Their nostalgic stroll back in time has had one present-day development — there's another topic of conversation at the regular clubhouse domino sessions on Sunday lunchtimes.

maximum space and capable of easily extending at some future date. They came up with a hexagonal module with an aluminium space frame.

A brewery loan of £18,000 was secured. The clubhouse was completed in time for the move to Littleburn in November 1984.

In the first years there, the going was tough, but as course and clubhouse facilities gradually improved the move received the best support possible — from the golfers themselves.

Membership increased rapidly to the present total of 680 — 500 men, 110 ladies, 30 seniors and 40 juniors.

Plans for future developments on and off the course will ensure the City's reputation as a most attractive golfing venue. And deservedly so — even if things have changed dramatically since those heady Victorian days of 1887...

Whisky now costs slightly more than 90 new pence a gallon... Winter wheat grows on the once-bustling Pinkerknowle fairways... And the return air fare to Australia will set you back approximately £794.

Time flies... Like a well-struck golf ball, it's gone before you'd notice.



CENTENARY

By John Ross, club secretary



Roy pays tribute — and I add my own — to the excellent work done by the greens staff, the professional and his assistant and the steward and his wife. And he points out that Durham City is becoming known as a good place to visit by societies.

IMPORTANT course changes will herald the start of the 1987 competition season with the standard scratch being increased.

Six new back tees are being brought into play at the start of the season, at the 2nd, 6th, 7th, 9th, 12th and 13th, adding 93 yards and increasing the course length to 6,211 yards.

The extra yardage making the holes more challenging will increase the standard scratch score from 69 to 70, the par remaining at 71. The shorter (yellow) course is also being lengthened by 101 yards to 5,885 but the S.S.S. will remain at 68.

I imagine the decision to remove the copse stroke penalties will generally be welcomed. It will affect the inside of the doglegs on the 9th, 16th and 17th, and the 12th and 13th along the railway line. The penalties, previously imposed to protect the young trees, will come off for the start of competitions.

The number of visiting parties during centenary year is expected to be a record and they will again provide a substantial source of extra income — taking went up by £2,083 to £6,755 last year.

Liaison officer Roy West's report reveals that 71 parties booked the tee, eight up on the previous year.

On a similar theme, we are to have a visit from internationally-famous coach John Jacobs in July. Club member Martin Miles has informed us that the great man will present a trophy on behalf of the NSPCC to the Provident Personal Credit North Golfing Society who raised the largest amount for the charity in the UK last year. He will spend the day with society members and give a clinic on the practice ground.

A cautionary note as the new season gets under way. Please don't venture into Peter's Pond by the ninth green. It may look inviting to step in to try to retrieve lost balls, but DON'T DO IT. It's deep and it's certainly dangerous. So be warned...

No excuses in Centenary Year for losing your way to the club: the local authority have at last agreed to erect a direction sign on the main road through Langley Moor.

The City Council are also paying their own tribute to our anniversary by designing a special roadside flower bed display in the shape of the club badge. It will take 7,500 plants, so it should be blooming good.

Something similar should also be appearing nearer home... near the first tee, in fact. A member who's an expert in floral arrangements of this sort has promised to plant out a commemorative message which should prove to be quite a colourful attraction to members and visitors alike.

It's still not too late to turn

out the attic and search through the old photograph albums for Chris Stanton's centenary exhibition contributions. It is to be held in the clubhouse and he'll still welcome any suggestions or ideas.

One of the regional finals in the La Manga Club Golfer of the Year competition will be hosted by the City this year. Clubs will nominate eight of the current competitions as qualifying rounds for which points will be awarded to the top 25 and the player with the best four finishes will enter the regional finals in October.

The winners will compete in the national finals at the La Manga Club next January along with their club pro. City's present holders of Golfer of the Year titles are Gary March and Gill Birkby.

A yardage chart has been prepared for the course and a copy will be given to each member, courtesy of members George and Joyce Blamire who run a printing firm in Ferryhill.

The chart was measured by team player Gerry Jones and drawn up by greens chairman Chris Stanton — it was decided to do the job accurately and not to use Chris's pace measurements when even the par threes came out at over 500 yards!

This season's North Durham Union matches begin on Tuesday, May 5, with an away game against Beamish. The first home match is a week later against Heworth.

Tees will be reserved between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. Last year, the team came within four points of the championship and I'd like to appeal for more members to turn out and support the players during the new campaign. It will do morale a world of good as they go all out to win the title in Centenary Year.

Social footnote: An informal dinner dance is planned as

part of the anniversary celebrations. It will probably take place in one of the colleges this autumn, on similar lines to Joe Schofield's annual fund-raising event for the juniors.

Ninety-four years is a long time to wait for a re-match, but one's on the cards this summer when City have a home-and-away friendly challenge with Cleveland. The reason: they're 100 years old, too.

The last time it happened was in 1892 and 1893. Cleveland won the first match — decided on total scores over both legs — but Durham evened it up with a win the following year. It's all to play for this time: At home on June 6 and the return at Cleveland on July 25 with a special trophy on offer. A Cleveland member who's a collector of golfing memorabilia, has donated an old but much revered putter, inscribed with the name of H.C. (Harry) Ross, the first professional and greenkeeper at Mount Oswald.

It's a wonderful gesture which is much appreciated by the City, and it will certainly be reflected in the spirit of this much-awaited fixture.

*Congratulations
to Durham
City Golf Club
on their
Centenary from*



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JOTTINGS



By Tom Bell, club treasurer

He traces the transition from the difficult years just after the Mount Oswald move - to the present day when improvements to course and clubhouse can at last be undertaken.

THE club is entering Centenary Year in better financial shape than at any time since the move to Littleburn 13 years ago.

While by no stretch of the imagination could we be termed "well off", it is significant that a record annual turnover of about £150,000 is anticipated in 1987/88 — a situation undreamt of during the extensive belt-tightening period which dominated our affairs in the first few years after the departure from Mount Oswald.

Dedication

Some credit for the turnaround goes to astute management. Much is due to the dedication and determination of the staff.

But the main reason by far for our gradually-improving position has been — and still is — the tolerance and goodwill of the members themselves.

There is no doubt at all that without wholehearted support

in a wide variety of different ways, the committee could never have got within a one iron of breaking even.

After picking up the pieces — and the tabs — following the most traumatic upset in the club's long history, not even the most wide-eyed optimist could have predicted such a change in our fortunes which is now permitting fairly extensive course and clubhouse improvements to be undertaken.

While members had prepared over a number of years for the transition by setting aside special funds, it would be an understatement to say that the first five years at Littleburn were hard.

Subsidised

To purchase the assets, the club had to borrow around £60,000 — at that time a very considerable sum of money and it was a decision not entered into lightly. Loans were provided by Barclays Bank and Vaux Brewery, the latter at a subsidised rate of interest.

During the first three years, outside influences seriously affected the balance sheet. Inflation was rampant, running at 20/25%; interest rates reached unprecedented levels.

With high borrowings, and overdrafts of £20,000, the club was hard hit, facing interest charges of up to 19%. During 1976, about £13,000 went on loan repayments, interest and bank charges — out of a net income of £35,000.

Stringent control

A typical annual report read: "While the club has made a small surplus in this financial year, the cash position remains critical and stringent control over expenditure is vital..."

In effect, we were holding our own on trading. Care and maintenance and various repair costs were being met but no spare cash was available for any significant course development.

During this period, fairly severe rises in subscriptions kept the club afloat until interest rates fell and inflation returned to more reasonable levels.

But after five years the course began to show some signs of improvement and more visitors came, coinciding with a growth in the popularity of golf, particularly at local level.

During 1980 the committee decided that an injection of cash was urgently required. They decided to reduce the admission fee to a nominal sum to encourage more applications for membership.

It worked. In 1980 and 1981, male membership soared from 360 to 525 and the club had the luxury of a waiting list to draw from. There were also welcome increases in other membership categories.

Financial base

The result: a marked effect on the club's finances. Income went up from £75,000 to over £100,000 during that period and the overdraft was dramatically reduced.

By 1982, a sound financial base was at last being established on which to plan future developments. Attention was given to the course, with new trees appearing and new bunkers constructed. Machinery was bought to help improve the greens.

But, as members know only too well, our financial worries were far from over. Between 1983 and 1985, around £45,000 went in legal and repair costs — but they were

met with a minimal of new borrowing. Indeed, by switching to Scottish and Newcastle Breweries, we were able to renegotiate all loans to a subsidised base, with a reduction in loan charges.

Last year, JCBs and bulldozers became a familiar sight as they trundled over the course — firm evidence that new developments could be afforded at long last.

Atmosphere

And only in the past couple of months, the clubhouse has taken on a new look; bar, dining area and the front entrance have been refurbished. New furnishings have added to the total change in atmosphere — all confirming the advances made in the past decade.

The debt which the club owes to past and present members, staff, Barclay's Bank, Scottish and Newcastle Breweries and Vaux Brewery cannot be over-emphasised. The same can be said for the patience and understanding of numerous local businessmen and traders.

Thanks to them all, Durham City Golf Club embarks on its second century with its financial status having reached a level which even the most hard-headed banker would at long last probably class as a reasonable risk.

Which isn't bad going, all things considered...



ON-COURSE REVIEW by Chris Stanton

THE course was laid out to make the fullest use of all the existing natural features to create golfing and visual interest — the low lying riverside plain, the upper plateau and the linking slopes — while seeking to avoid steep climbs and promoting safety on a small 100-acre site.

The original restricted financial situation demanded many compromises in construction, not least in the formation of the greens which were made simply by building up with topsoil to improve the natural drainage. Few bunkers were built initially and a number of back tees were omitted.

However, as finances improved, some development

work was possible. In 1979, a comprehensive tree-planting programme was started, helped by contributions from members and a Countryside Commission grant. Initially, only small whips were used as a basic structure but more recently, larger trees have gone into more prominent locations. Indigenous species such as oak, beech, lime, ash and maple have largely been chosen to create a traditional Durham parkland landscape character. Scott's pine and silver birch were also used to integrate the other species where they border the course. As elements influencing play, the trees —

more than 18,000 have been planted in the past eight years — have largely been used as strategic hazards and also to improve safety. In the past two years, members have helped to add colour by donating rhododendrons.



The view back down the sixth with the new tree-lined seventh on the right.



Development of the north eastern edge of the course began two years ago with the clearance of a large number of silver birch trees, retaining as many as possible. Major earthworks, involving the removal of about 5,000 tonnes of clay sub-soil was carried out last summer, together with comprehensive drainage. The new greens have a full drainage carpet of gravel. Part of the area has already been topsoiled and seeded but to complete the work, considerable quantities of topsoil are still needed. It is hoped play should be possible in 1989.



Chris Stanton and head greenkeeper Stan Shotton check over plans for the sixth (background right) and seventh holes.

A further 25 bunkers have been added to sharpen the challenge, back tees have been added on seven holes and larger teeing grounds on a further three. By far the most ambitious project, however, has been the development of an area of land at the northern edge of the course, to lengthen the sixth hole by a hundred yards and to create a completely new par three of 140 yards which will eventually replace

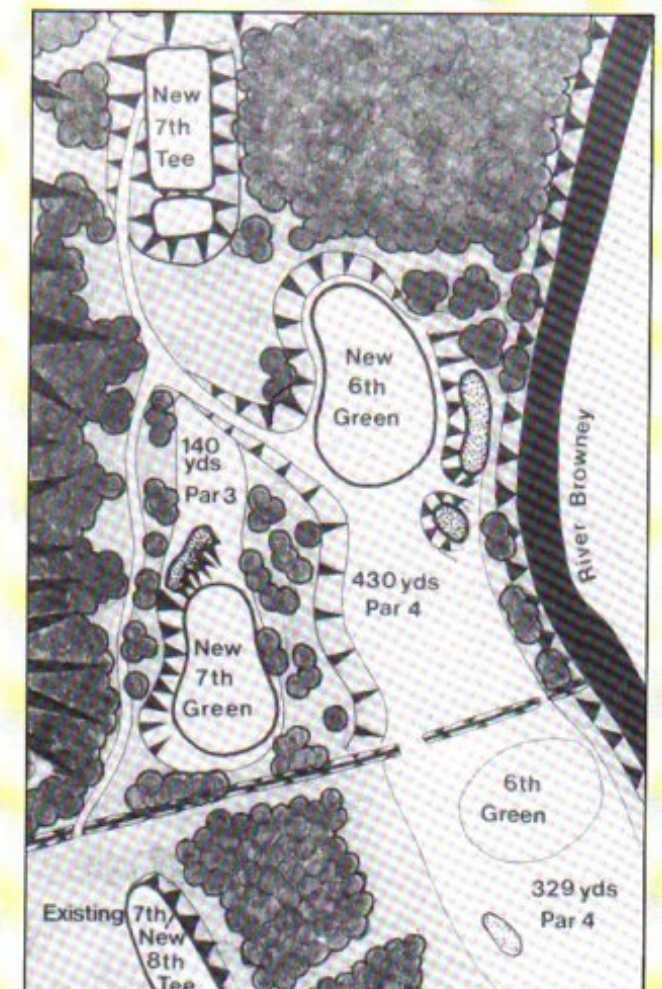
the present eleventh. In the meantime, the extra hole will afford the opportunity to reconstruct a number of unsatisfactory greens — but with a minimum of inconvenience to play.

Although the course has improved greatly in recent years, considerable scope for further improvement still remains. A new tee at the ninth will ease the sharpness of the dogleg. Additional bunkers in a few

situations will be beneficial, as will the reshaping of some existing ones. Some bunkers need draining, as do a few general trouble-spots. Where appropriate, teeing areas will be enlarged to allow year-round play from grass. Approaches will be improved where necessary by further overseeding.

The course committee are committed to a maintenance policy recommended by head

greenkeeper Stan Shotton and the Turf Research Institute (Bingley), which includes the minimal use of watering and fertilizer to encourage the spread of desirable grasses — fescue and bent — at the expense of the annual meadowgrass which predominates at present. Regular aeration to prevent compaction and promote natural drainage, together with scarification form a central part of the strategy.



SPOTLIGHT . . . ON THE TEAM

DURHAM CITY is noted for its competitive streak, and this year will be no exception as the team set out to try to capture the North Durham Union championship with Centenary Year as an added incentive.

Indeed, they almost pulled it off a year early, ending runners-up last season with 107 points - only four short of the title.

It was their best result since the move to Littleburn 13 years ago. City last won the league while at Mount Oswald in 1971 and although it is regarded as one of the toughest competitions in the region, the squad are determined to do it in style this year. Battle gets under way in May.

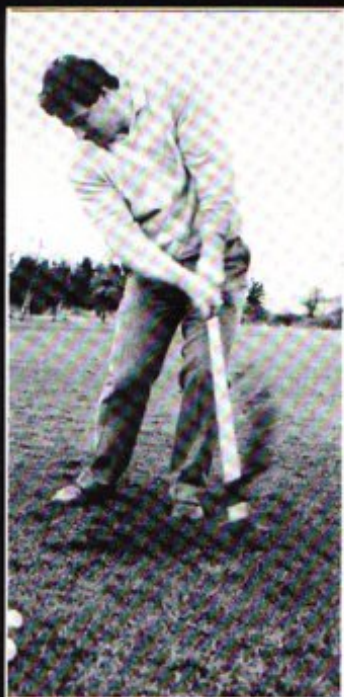


Stuart Neil

ONE-TIME junior who has brought many golfing honours to the City is county player Stuart Neil. Once off scratch, now off three, this 22-year-old has been golfing since he was 15: a county regular for the past three years and three times club champion. He's the current titleholder, having picked up several other trophies along the way.



Alan Ramshaw



Kevin Cheseldine

JOINT holders of the course record at Durham City, big-hitters Alan Ramshaw (left) and "Ches" - Kevin Cheseldine - returned cards of 66 gross against standard scratch of 69.

Both came up through the junior ranks to become regular team players. Alan, off four, has also played for the county. A 23-year-old bank clerk at Longbenton, Newcastle upon Tyne, he won last year's Barclay's Bank national championship at Hunstanton. Also holds the city's Winter League knock-out cup.

Ches, five handicapper with a 50-inch chest and an awesome striker of the ball, has been playing only eight years yet set something of a precedent by winning the club championship and the 36-hole Robson Cup on the same day, Works for the University as a joiner.

FIXTURES

May 5.....Beamish (a)	June 23.....Beamish (h)
May 12.....Heworth (h)	June 30.....Heworth (a)
May 19.....Whitburn (a)	July 7.....Whitburn (h)
May 26.....Whickham (h)	July 14.....Whickham (a)
June 2.....South Moor (a)	July 21.....South Moor (h)
June 9.....Wearside (a)	July 28.....Wearside (h)
June 16.....Brancepeth (h)	August 4.....Brancepeth (a)



Left to right: Chris Brown, Herbert Tolley, John Carter.

A WINNING combination: experience in the presence of Herbert Tolley, together with up-and-coming youngsters Chris Brown (left) and John Carter.

Herbert's a legendary golfing character, not only at Durham City but in many other clubs in the county. Still off six after 38 golfing years, he's the only current team member who was also in the last championship side 16 years ago. Hardly any golfing prize has eluded him at club level: champion four times in 20 years; captain in 1976; five holes in one; three Calcutta and three Mayor's Cup triumphs; 17 mentions on honours boards at Mount Oswald and Littleburn; Daily Mail cup winning teams 1950 and 56 etc, etc. And it's all down to regular practice, he says.

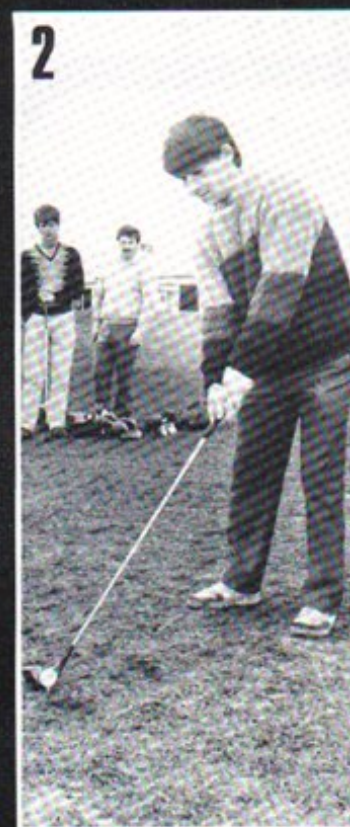
Which is good advice for six handicappers Chris and John, both introduced fairly recently to the team squad. Chris, 20-year-old civil servant, has been hooked on golf since he was eight. Currently junior section captain and their champion for the past three years; ex-county schools representative. He was runner-up in the men's club championship last year but went on to win the Robson Cup.



Left to right: Ex-Captain George Rennie, Gerry Jones, Tom Bell.

LAST YEAR'S captain George Rennie tends the flag while Tom Bell and Gerry Jones get in some putting practice. Tom, off five, has been a team regular for 12 years. He's been down to one - and took the club championship in 1980 and 81 playing off two. An accountant, he's looked after the finances as club treasurer for the past nine years. Past winner of, among others, the Jubilee, Wood and McKeag cups.

Seven handicapper Gerry Jones has been in five finals at Durham since moving from his native Scotland.



1. Calcutta Cup holder Geoff Charlton, 25, is also a member at Darlington. He played for the county juniors and is reputed to have been the first domestic City player to reach scratch after the Littleburn move. Now off six and takes a lot of beating.

2. Ask them about Vic and they'll tell you he's just about the most "natural" golfer in the club. Steve Vickers, off five and hard to beat when he was off one not so long ago, won the club championship as a teenager. He holds the Mayor's and McKeag cups.

3. Ex-sailor Derek Graham is one of the sheet anchors of the side. A single handicapper for many years, he now plays off five and has been in the team squad non-stop for 11 years. A familiar figure on most Durham County courses.



Twins Andrea and Chris Myers are rapidly making a name for themselves in the junior ranks.

Andrea set the pace last year when her handicap tumbled by ten shots between June and October. Now off 20, she was runner up in the Captain's prize event, fourth in the Lady Captain's prize and played to fifteen in a junior medal. She's already on the county junior team.

Not to be outdone, Chris won the junior patrons' trophy. And they're only 14 years old!



SECOND SPELL FOR STEVE

DURHAM holds special attractions for Steve Corbally - he's on his second spell as the City's club professional. "Everyone is so friendly here," said the 34-year-old Yorkshireman who has built up a reputation not only for keeping a well-stocked shop but as a master craftsman in club repair.

Putting into good use the knowledge he has gathered over 18 years as a full time pro, Steve has extended his activities into taking on repairs for several other pros in the region.

Leeds born, he started playing golf at 14, was down to six handicap within two years and turned pro at 16 immediately on leaving St Michael's College.

He worked at Sandmoor, South Leeds - his original club - and at Scarcroft where he was assistant for four years to Jim Pape, then Yorks PGA secretary and now their tournament organiser.

After two years at Temple Newsam with David Bulmer - current secretary of Yorks PGA

- he took his first full-time pro's job at Mapperley, Notts, where he stayed for three years.

In 1977 he came to Durham City for the first time, moving on to Otley after three years. But before long he was back on his old City stamping ground where he now runs a busy shop and teaching schedule with his assistant, 17-year-old Jason Moncur, cousin of ex-Newcastle United and Scotland soccer star Bobby Moncur.

Steve lives with his wife Sheila and their family within a mile of the course - so summertime golfers can look forward to the shop being open 12 hours a day, seven days a week. "All part of the service," said Steve.



Joe's Juniors making a big impact

UNDER the watchful eye of liaison officer Joe Schofield, Durham City has built up one of the strongest junior squads in the county.

"The club goes out of its way to encourage youngsters to take an active part in the game and this attitude has paid dividends over the years," said Joe. "Several first-class players have come up through the junior ranks and have made a big impact on the men's team."

Joe, a member of the Durham County Junior Golfing Society executive committee, has been the City liaison officer for the past 12 years. There are 45 youngsters in the section, led by captain and junior champion Chris Brown - seen here illustrating how to get-out-and-get-home from the practice bunker.

As expected, several promising young players have been spotted this year and are receiving regular six-at-a-time fortnightly county coaching sessions at Aycliffe.

City will host this year's Nat West regional junior finals.

Pinkerknowle: where it all began

Pinker-where?

Pinkerknowle

Never heard of it!

MOST people can be forgiven for their reaction to a mention of the first home of golf in the City.

As a local place name it long ago passed out of everyday use, of interest only to those researching the historical associations of the game.

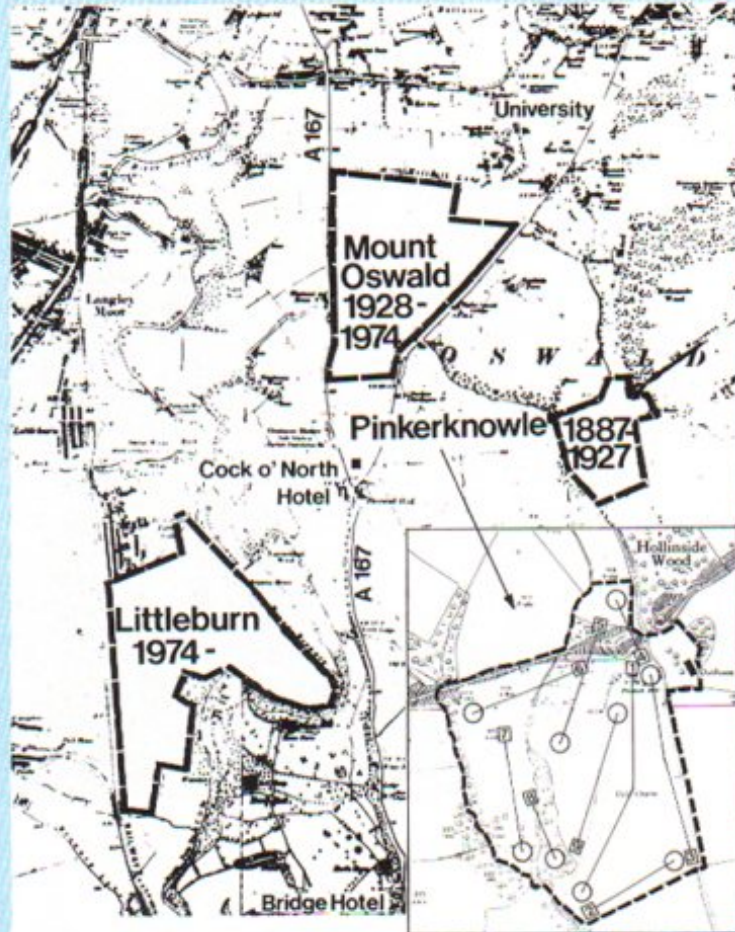
Which is a pity, because the lovely acres of rolling countryside bounded by the winding, tree-lined banks of the River Wear on the southern edge of the city is well worth a visit.

The easiest way to get there is take the A1050 from the Cock of the North roundabout down the South road, past Mount Oswald as far as the University complex of Van Mildert, Collingwood and Grey colleges.

Just past Collingwood, turn right into the narrow Hollingside Lane. Drive on past the Varsity Gardens, skirt the Bluebell Woods on the left and keep going until the road runs out.

Straight ahead is a five-barred gate: Pinkerknowle starts here.

A few yards on, in a grassy hollow with a backcloth of trees and the re-



mains of an old colliery waggonway fading into the distance towards Houghall is the site of the old wooden clubhouse.

On a quiet, sunlit afternoon it's easy to dream up pictures of the old-time golfing pioneers who began it all one hundred years ago, heading down the first - with five more to go before completing the round.

But such was the popularity of the new-fangled sport that members quickly outgrew the six-holer. The course was re-designed and extended by three more holes with a total yardage of 1895 and a par of 33 strokes.

The score card read:

Hole	Name	Yardage	Par
1	Gill	325	4
2	Butterby	154	3
3	Houghall	310	4
4	Hollingside	110	3
5	Waggon-way	200	4
6	Magazine	220	4
7	Wood	206	4
8	Hog's Back	120	3
9	Home	250	4
Totals		1895	33

The earliest match on record was won by Mr J.B. Radcliffe who "had the lightest card", beating Mr R.T. Thomson by one stroke.

They both played off scratch and grossed 112 and 113 respectively over three rounds.

The first six players all had nett scores of less than 120, despite the rough terrain. Pinkerknowle had its bandits too!

DOWN MEMORY LANE



Most important visitor over the past 100 years? Many would say, without hesitation, that it is recorded for posterity in this photograph which holds pride of place in the City's committee room.

Open champion Henry Cotton is seen outside the clubhouse with fellow pro Alf Padgham in the days when megaphones were more familiar than microphones for crowd control. Old minutes reveal that income from the visit on Saturday, May 29, 1937, totalled £110, mostly in gate receipts.

Henry's fee was £42 and Alf's £26 — not a bad day's work back in the Thirties!



Star names gave an exhibition round in 1966 for the Lord Roberts Workshops Charity. Left to right: Arthur Parkin, Matt Nevin, Peter Allis, Ken Boustfield, Dai Hees, Dave Thomas. (In the pic Peter Allis demonstrates the bad habit of putting the ball in his mouth . . . perhaps no one had told him about greens being fertilized!)



CITY last won the North Durham Union championship in 1971. Picture shows captain Tom Warriner holding the cup, with several well-known players who include Hywel Morgan (vice captain), Jim Bircham, Bobby Green, Herbert Tolley, Matt Nevin, Martin Sexton, Eric Bygate, Brian Hall, Alan Doxford, Neil Scott, Tom Craggs and the pro Bill Sutherland.