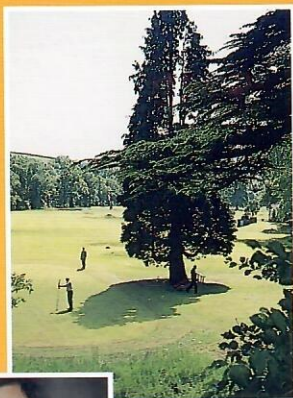




1895 - 1995
CENTENARY



PATRONS MESSAGE

Since it was opened by my great-grandmother in 1895, Torwoodlee Golf Course has provided enjoyment, sport and competition for many people, both locals and those from further afield.

The extension to eighteen holes enhances the reputation built up since then and promises to produce a greater challenge; one to which the Club, its members and staff are, I am sure, equal.

I am delighted to congratulate Torwoodlee Golf Club on reaching its Centenary and all the more so because it is a thriving Club with the prospect of, at least, another hundred years in view.

With best wishes for the future.

James Pringle of Torwoodlee
Patron



TORWOODLEE GOLF CLUB 1895 - 1995

The Centenary of Torwoodlee Golf Club is a momentous occasion in itself and when this is combined with the opening of the full eighteen hole course in 1995, it is a year for celebration.

A variety of special events have been arranged to mark the occasion and your committee hope that many members, their families and guests will support all these functions.

This small history is intended to give an insight into the early years of the Club. We cannot tell how history will view the present and for the future we can only wish our successors similar enjoyment in the second century.

In compiling this brochure your committee would like to thank McQueen Ltd and Morton Ward Associates for their help and sponsorship, Robert Horne Paper Co Ltd for their donation of paper and Mr Jock Sewell whose combined love of golf, photography and history has made him such a generous contributor.

Arthur F. Dorward

Arthur F. Dorward
Centenary Captain

1895 - 1995
CENTENARY

1930
W. Reid Welsh,
eleven times
club champion
1924-36



THE BEGINNING

The first Golf Club in Galashiels was founded in 1885. The moving spirit was Mr Wm Dunlop who became Captain, Secretary and Treasurer. They played over the Ladhope fields beside the Ladhope burn, but as the fields were used for grazing cattle in the summer they proved almost unplayable for golf.

Towards the close of the summer in 1895 Vice-Admiral Pringle of Torwoodlee offered the Club about 37 acres of ground, lying between the railway line and the river Gala on the Torwoodlee estate rent free for two years, a cottage on the course and timber to erect a footbridge over the river. He offered to graze the ground with 70 sheep to make it playable but could not guarantee that he would renew after the two years.



*the
original
Miller's
Cottage*

After much discussion, in view of the future uncertainty, the Galashiels Golf Club turned down the offer by a sizeable majority.

Whereupon the dissenting minority approached Vice-Admiral Pringle, as a breakaway group, asking if the same offer would be made to them. This was agreed and on 16th September 1895 Vice-Admiral Pringle was invited to become Honorary President of the new Club which would be known as the Torwoodlee Golf Club.

THE SURVEY



Willie Park

Mr Willie Park Jnr, Golf Professional at Musselburgh, was engaged to examine the ground and report on the suitability of such a project. His report, after praising the quality of the turf, the ample acreage for a nine hole course, the lie of the ground and its admirable natural hazards, went on to conclude that "a few artificial hazards at minimal expense would make the course a first class one". "Finally that any Golf Club situated in a populous town is exceedingly fortunate in being presented to them the opportunity of acquiring a course which in a short time and at comparatively small cost may be one of the best inland courses in Scotland. Further that, while the course is well supplied with hazards and suitable for gentlemen players, the absence of hilly ground makes it peculiarly suited to lady members". (24/9/1895)

THE OPENING

On 2nd October 1895, Provost James Dickson was appointed President of the Club with Dr William Doig elected the first Captain. The Lady President was Mrs H S Murray and the annual subscription was set:- Gentlemen 21/-, Ladies 7/6d.

The course was formally opened on Wednesday 30th October 1895. Mrs Pringle of Torwoodlee was afterwards presented with the cleek with which she drove the first ball.

After the ceremony the ladies retired to the golf house for a cup of tea, whereas the gentlemen had a refreshment on the green.



Dr Wm Doig

THE EARLY YEARS

*Vice
Admiral
Pringle*



By the end of 1896 the membership of the Club was 78 gentlemen and 36 ladies. The annual income had been £106 and they had borrowed a further £60 for development of the course. It was agreed there would be no entry fee until the membership reached 120.

In 1897 Vice-Admiral Pringle offered a lease of the land for a three year period, extended yearly with a years advice on either side, with a rent of about £2 per acre of the playable part of the course. The Club gladly accepted this as it would allow them to plan ahead.



A second hand clubhouse was available from the Dunfermline Golf Club. After much discussion this was acquired and erected on the high ground at the south of the course overlooking the 7th green.

It was also resolved to appoint a resident Greenkeeper. Mr Alexander Crombie, golf club maker was unanimously chosen for the post at £40 a year and a free house.

The original Galashiels Golf Club was dissolved in August 1897. They donated to Torwoodlee Club the Dickson Cup which had been gifted to them by Provost Dickson the first President of Torwoodlee. They also donated the Barclay Medal, the Monthly Medal, minute books and other papers as well as £7-18-2 in cash on condition Torwoodlee satisfied any outstanding claims.

The Autumn Competition of the Border Golfers Association was held over Torwoodlee for the first time on 24th September 1898. Mr Dunlop of Roxburgh Street School was approached to provide 30 boys as caddies to be paid 6d per round.

Seven matches had been played against other Clubs. Torwoodlee has scored 216 holes against 155 by the other clubs.



*Early
Members
& Caddies*

On 26th November 1898 a heavy flood had carried away the footbridge over the Gala Water at the south end of the course. It took many meetings before the site and type of construction of the new bridge was agreed. It was also decided to erect a new bicycle house with 50 stances at the entrance of the access path leading down to the footbridge. These two new constructions in 1899 were to last for the next 50 years.

At the end of the century the membership of the club stood at Gents 135, Ladies 53 and Youths 13.

EARLY

1900

The Border Tournament was again to be held at Torwoodlee in 1902. It was suggested the Club should buy their own horse to have the course in best order. However it was found hiring to be more satisfactory. In October 1902 the Secretary read a telegram from Sayers of North Berwick stating his terms for advising as to the extension of the course were £5 plus expenses. It was unanimously agreed not to employ him. However by arrangement with the Captain Mr Ben Sayers re-visited the course. This led to laying out of bunkers at the 4th, 5th, 7th and 9th holes but lack of funds prevented other improvements.

In December 1903 Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was elected a member of the Club. Although the membership had increased to 229, the Club was still in debt to the tune of £314. This was paid off by fifty members paying their subs for five years in advance.

In 1909 the lease of the course was extended to 10 years. It was agreed in 1911 to allow motor cycles in the bicycle shed at a charge of 20/- per annum on top of the 2/6 usually charged for each stance.



In October of that year the possibility of extending to 18 holes was discussed and a special committee formed to investigate but the tenant farmer was not prepared to give up the ground required. It was then decided in 1912 to extend both the first and ninth holes into the ground at the south end of the course near the footbridge as this had been cleaned of trees.

In 1914 the first parking enclosure for motor cars was constructed - twelve members each paying 15/- a year. A 30" motor grass cutter was tried in 1917 but with petrol restrictions this was not pursued.

With 35 members having joined H.M. Forces and others leaving the area for war work, further development at this time was not possible.

EXHIBITION

MATCHES

On 15th May 1896 Willie Park Jnr of Musselburgh and Ben Sayers of North Berwick played an exhibition match at Torwoodlee at the request of the Club who "wished to see the niceties of the sport illustrated by the highest experts in the country".

The report of the Scottish Border Record waxes lyrical with *"the charming surroundings of the green trees bursting into foliage and the singing of the river round the margin of the park"*.

Sayers was round in 36-40 for a 76 while Park was 39-36 for 75.

This was followed by a nine hole mixed foursome with two lady members of Torwoodlee. Mr Park played with Mrs Gibson and Mr Sayers with Mrs Murray, both couples scoring an admirable 42.

In 1901 Harry Vardon and James Braid played an exhibition match over Torwoodlee for a fee of £7-10/- but despite charging admission the Club lost £4-10/-.

In 1960 Mr Fred Bullock gave a golf clinic to members and in 1961 Mr Dai Rees played over the course with the Centenary Captain and afterward gave a talk and golf clinic.

It is proposed that Mr John Garner who designed the new extension will play an exhibition match over the new course in 1995.

PERSONALITIES AND RECORDS



Wm 'Pop' Addison

Mr Wm (Pop) Addison was, after the founding members, the leading personality of the Club in its first 50 years. His name first appears as winner of the Dickson cup in 1898 and the Club Championship in 1904. He was first elected to committee at the AGM in 1902, became Secretary in 1904, a post he held until 1918 and in the last nine years he combined it with Treasurer. He relinquished office to become Vice-Captain in 1919 and Captain in the 1920-21 season. After a couple of years he was again back in harness, in 1924 as Green Ranger, a post he held for the next 30 years until his death in 1954. Mr Addison combined his administrative duties with a further Club Championship 29 years after his first in 1933 as well as the Dickson Cup in 1919 and 1931 and Pringle Cup in 1920, 1922 and 1931.

Mr W. Reid Welsh dominated the Club golf from 1924-36, winning the Championship on eleven occasions. He also brought the name of Torwoodlee Golf Club to the fore in Scottish circles by scoring the record number of threes, seven consecutive (6th - 12th) in a medal round over the Old Course St Andrews. In 1927 his handicap of 2 was the yardstick from which all other Club handicaps were measured. In 1947 Mr W. Dickson Smith of the Selkirk Golf Club won the BGA tournament at Torwoodlee setting a course record of 67. Mr Smith was later to become Scottish Amateur Champion and represent Great Britain in the Walker Cup.

In 1951 Mr J. A. Brown won the BGA Championship, he had won the Victory Cup in the Eden and by the time he retired from the Club he had equalled Reid Welsh's record of 11 Championship wins.

The same year Torwoodlee was also to the fore when Miss D. D. Little and Mr Ian Crowe won the Scottish Amateur mixed foursomes, promoted by the Daily Mail, at Haggs Castle. Ian Crowe was in the next year to reduce the course record to 66 before becoming a professional golfer in Canada and then the Bahamas.

In 1969 Mr Dick Livingstone reduced the record further to 65. In a very distinguished career he had won the last of his eight Championships in 1972.

In 1981 Mr R. V. Rutherford, who had won the National Long Driving Championship the year before, reduced the course record to 64.

In 1989, Mr Stanley Mayer, who had won the seventh of his Torwoodlee Championships in 1979, won the Scottish Seniors Title. In 1961 Mr Mayer started coaching the young members of the Club, producing many very talented youngsters who have done great credit to the Club in Border and National Competitions.

The course record of 64 was equalled by Mr A. Wilson (Torwoodlee) in 1984, Mr D. Ballantyne (Selkirk) in 1993 and Mr K. Simpson (Galashiels) in 1994 but remains standing as we move to an eighteen hole course.



S.S.S. 68		Par 68	
Player's Name and Handicap			
R. V. Rutherford (1)			
Date: 9.9.81 Competition: STABLEFORD			
Player's Signature: R. V. Rutherford			
Marker's Signature: J. Simpson			
Marker's Name	Hole No.	Score	Par
1	222	3	11
2	219	2	9
3	148	3	16
4	214	2	8
5	205	4	1
6	115	10	3
7	553	5	3
8	226	4	12
9	415	2	7
OUT		285	34
IN		286	34
Total Length of Course		5720	Yds
Bogey was 34 at these holes opposite which the Index Sign is placed 15 or less than the total Handicap Allowance			
BOGEY		MEDAL	
Hole Won	Out	33	
Hole Lost	In	31	
Hole Tied	Total Points	64	
Result	Handicap	1	
Hole Up	Net Result	63	
Hole Down			

BETWEEN THE WARS

In 1920 the lease of Torwoodlee was extended to 21 years but the rent had increased two-fold as had the entrance fees, annual subscriptions and green fees following the war.

At the end of 1925 a series of improvements to the course, as suggested by Mr James Braid earlier in the year, were undertaken and completed in 1926. In 1928 the first motor tractor and triplex mower were purchased. In 1930 there was a problem of worms on the greens. The Galashiels Fire Brigade were summoned to deal with this problem!

With the extended lease investigations into a possible new Clubhouse and Greenkeeper's house were started in 1928. The committee put their recommendations and original plans before the members at the 1930 AGM. The cost of "£1,600 or thereby" was to be funded by loans from members of £50 each. £100 was to be paid off by ballot each year from club funds. The eventual cost was £1,850 and the sale of the old Clubhouse did little to augment the funds as it only realised £6-5/-.

The official opening of the Clubhouse on Saturday 23rd April 1932 by Captain Pringle was followed by a mixed doubles competition. With the new Clubhouse in place, the round which has previously started and ended at the south end of the course near the footbridge and old Clubhouse, now started beside the new Clubhouse. The course was re-measured in 1933 and the standard scratch score was reduced from 74 to 72. All members handicaps were raised by two strokes.



*J A Brown &
A T Cleghorn
putting on the
6th green*

GREENKEEPERS AND CLUBMASTERS

In 1938 Mr Alex Crombie retired after serving as Greenkeeper, Professional and Clubmaster for 41 years. He was made a life member of the Club and both Mr and Mrs Crombie were presented

with testimonials for their exceptional service. Mrs Crombie was especially appreciated by lady members for her afternoon teas with homemade jams and home baking.

Mr David Wright, an assistant Greenkeeper from Gullane was appointed to fill the post. His agreed duties included "entire charge of the course, the Clubhouse, teas and refreshment for members and visitors, collection of green fees, to keep a shop with the usual golf requisites

and to appoint and supervise suitable boys as caddies. Thereafter he was at liberty to teach after 5.00pm". After seven years with the Club, Mr Wright left with many regrets from



members to take up a very good offer which Torwoodlee Club could not match.

In December 1945 Mr & Mrs Davidson took over but Mrs Davidson's health deteriorated and in 1949 Mr Davidson resigned. Mr David Dunlop was in charge for the next five years until 1954 when he returned to his home course at Edzell. Mr Ian Colville was the next Greenkeeper from the East Renfrew Club with his parents Mr & Mrs George Colville looking after the Clubhouse until the end of 1958.

Mr & Mrs Victor Cathie began in 1959. In the same year ladies became full members in running the Club and with Mr & Mrs Cathie's willing co-operation, the social side of the club was quickly improved. The Torwoodlee Burns Supper, which has become a regular feature of the Club calendar was started at this time.

This was followed by an unsettled spell with Mr Peter Dodds until 1970, Mr & Mrs E. Small until 1972 and Mr & Mrs George Mutch until 1978. Two other couples were tried before Mr & Mrs Tom Nixon came in 1981 but left in 1984 to take over the Glen Club at North Berwick. Mr & Mrs Sibbald were in charge until March 1990, when the Club appointed Mr David Hogarth as Clubhouse Manager. The job was now completely separated from greenkeeping. Meantime, Alan Thomson, who had started as an apprentice greenkeeper in 1977, had gradually taken over the complete job as he gained experience and skill, until his tragic death in May 1992.

By August 1993 Mr Michael Williamson had settled in to his new job as Greenkeeper at Torwoodlee and we hope that he and Mr & Mrs Hogarth will have a long and happy stay with the Club.

**AFTER
THE
1939-45
WAR**

While another access to the Clubhouse had been discussed since 1932, it was only with the vastly increased popularity of motor cars after the war that Captain Pringle was persuaded in 1946 to allow access to the Club by Torwoodlee Drive. Before that Wm (Pop) Addison, as Green Ranger, had been the only Club member allowed down the drive.

The first licence was granted to the club in 1947. In 1948 the prices were:- 1/4d for Export, 11d for Small Ales, 2/3d for Whisky, Gin or Rum.

Ladies tees were first made in 1950 and it took from 1949-51 to install electricity in the Clubhouse. The Clubhouse debentures were finally paid off in 1952 and the last sheep were cleared from the course in 1955.

1965-66 saw some further alterations to the Clubhouse and in 1969 tarmac was laid on the entrance road and car park. New discussions on future expansion in 1972 led to the Club purchasing the existing nine holes for £8,500 with the help of a grant from the Sports Council and in 1977 water was laid on the greens.



*Ian
Crowe
and
Dorothy
Little*

Over 1977-78-79 many internal improvements were made in the Stewards house, locker rooms, shower facilities and removing trees to extend the car park, while in 1982-83 a considerable programme of tree planting was started not only to replace the older trees which were being lost but also to preserve the challenge and beauty that gives Torwoodlee its unique character.

In 1985 a new Clubhouse extension was opened and in 1991 a putting green was laid out in front of the Clubhouse.

LADIES SECTION

The ladies of Torwoodlee have been involved with golf since Mrs Pringle opened the course on 30th October 1895 and nobody present on that occasion could have envisaged the degree of popularity the game has achieved among the fairer sex.

In 1899 a ladies committee was formed comprising Mrs Pringle, Honorary President, Mrs Murray, President, Miss Sanderson, Secretary. Although three other ladies completed the committee, there was no mention at this time of a Lady Captain. The President, Mrs Murray, presented a trophy which is still played for today - The Murray Rose Bowl.

The ladies held their first match in 1901 in which they beat Hawick by one hole.

After the First World War in 1919 a cup now known as The Victory Trophy was presented and over the years more "Silver Ware" has been added which makes competition very keen as everyone would like the honour of having their name in the record book.

In 1959, under the new constitution, both the Lady Captain and Lady Secretary were appointed to the General Committee. This was later extended to include the Vice-Captain. Other ladies could be proposed at the Annual General Meeting and over the years this has been done successfully so that the ladies have always been well represented.

Mixed Foursomes have always been a part of the Club and an Open Competition is held annually with large entries from a wide radius of Clubs taking part. During the season members battle it out in a Knock-Out Competition.

A Ladies Foursomes Knock-Out Competition was first played in 1961. The event grew in popularity and in 1966 the Committee donated a Cup. The winning couple go forward every year to play in a similar event run by the Daily Mail and although no winners have emerged from Torwoodlee some very successful results have been achieved.

A highlight in the fixture card since 1969 has been the annual outing and over the years the ladies have visited many courses around the area both links and parkland.



*The
Pringle
Cleek*

County golf was introduced to the Borders in 1972 and since then Torwoodlee has produced players worthy of selection to the District Team along with representatives to the administrative side on numerous occasions.

Open tournaments are very popular with lady golfers and 1985 saw the first to be held on Torwoodlee. The entries have increased so much over the years that it has become impossible to accommodate everyone and the prospect of 18 holes in the near future is looked forward to with great delight by the organisers.

In 1991 two new events were introduced. The Sportswise Competition which is played over Torwoodlee and Ladhope with cups being presented for the best combined scores both scratch and handicap. An Invitation Greensome was also arranged and both are well supported each year.

Lady golfers are very socially minded and this Club is no exception. Matches against other Borders Clubs are thoroughly enjoyed as are visits to Open Tournaments far and near. One might even say it is a question of "Have clubs - will travel".

From 1895 the name of Pringle has been linked to the Club and since 1957 Mrs Dorothy Pringle has been associated with the ladies section, first as Honorary Lady President and in 1960 as Lady President, a position she still holds today. Her visits, several times a year, are looked forward to and thoroughly enjoyed by all members.



Mrs
Dorothy
Pringle

In 1963 Mrs Pringle presented back to the club the cleek with which her predecessor had hit the first ball at the opening. In appreciation this was called the Pringle Cleek and was mounted on a base. In the same year the ladies decided to hold a championship and this trophy is presented each year to the winner. As the number of competitors increased a "B" Championship was introduced in 1985.

When the course becomes fully operational over 18 holes it is hoped that the number of Lady members will increase to ensure that the second century is as memorable as the first.

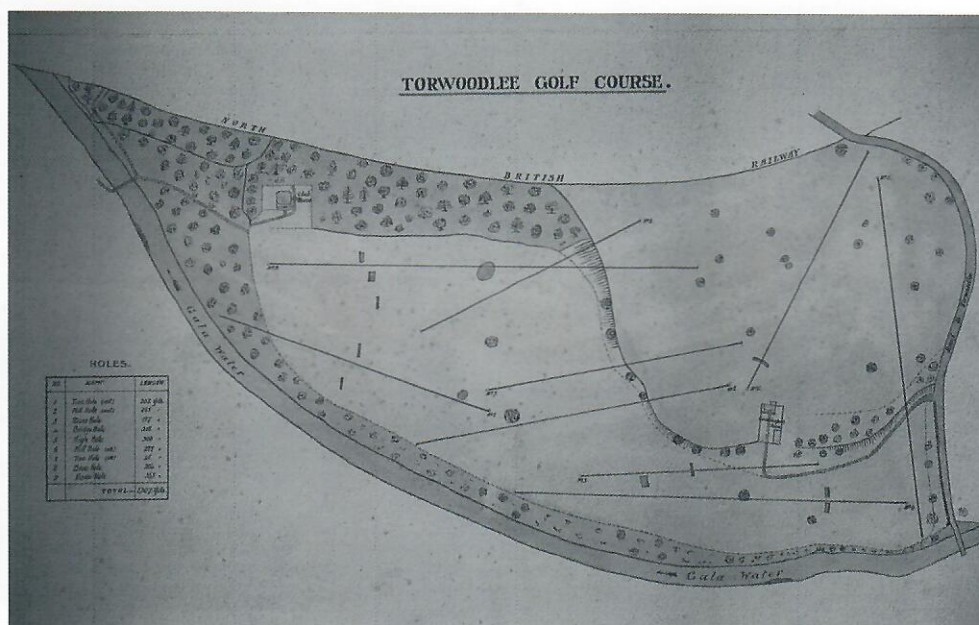
On a more personal note the Lady Captain for Centenary Year would like to express her delight at the honour of being invited to lead the Ladies Section during this important time in the history of the Club and to wish it continued success over the next 100 years.

Margo D. Watt

Margo D. Watt
Lady Captain

**THE
NEW
18 HOLE
COURSE**

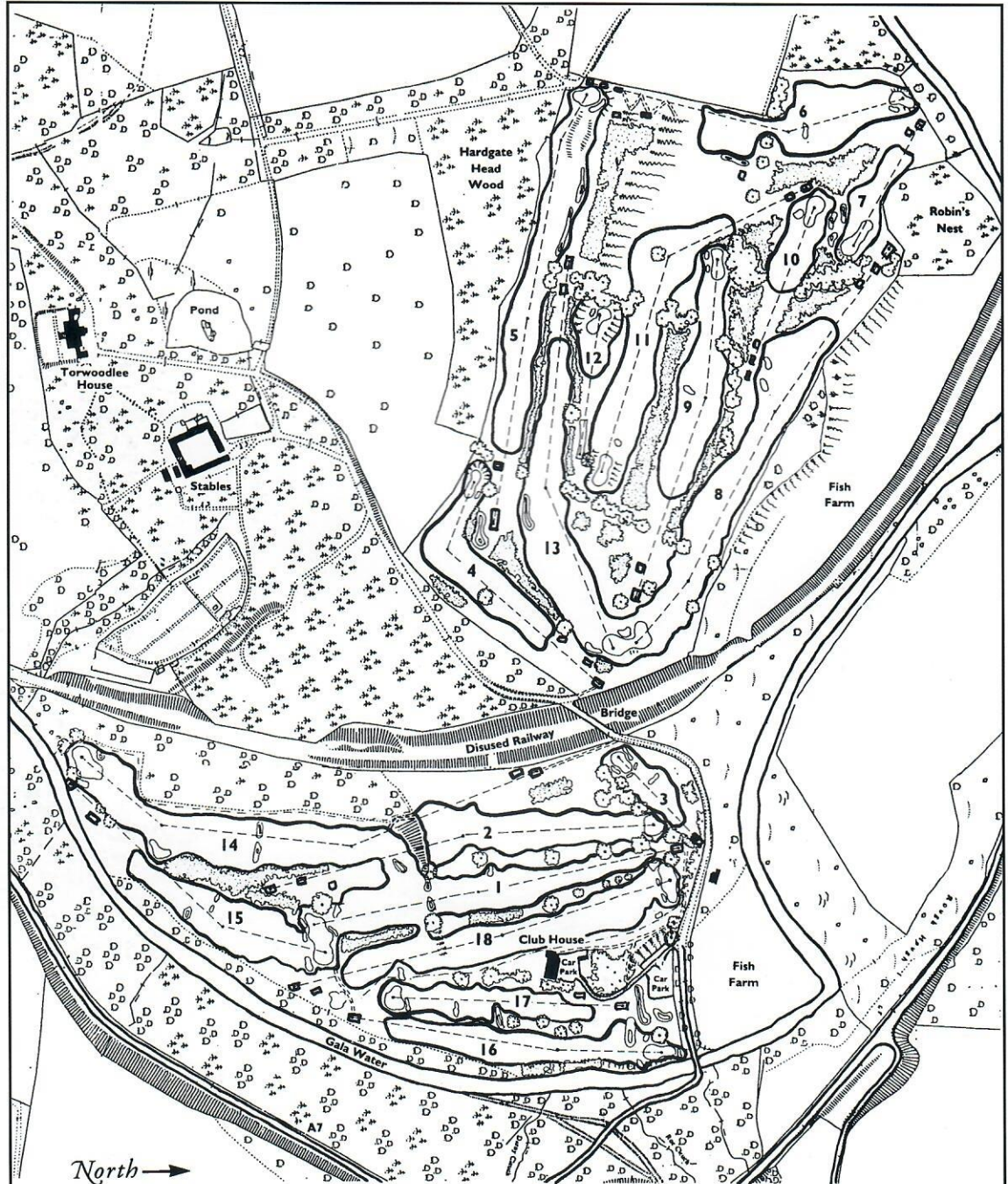
In late 1991 discussions again took place about expanding to 18 holes. A sub-committee was set up with Captain M. Halls the chairman, ex-Captain D. Marshall (architect), ex-Captain J. Dobson (accountant) and D. Kilshaw (solicitor). This committee worked very hard to put before the members, at a special meeting in March 1992, detailed proposals to outline the legal position, design, contracting and financial projects to lease and convert a further 45 acres of the Torwoodlee Estate into an extension of the golf course. 189 members attended the meeting and by large majorities passed all resolutions.



*plan of
the
original
course*

Further negotiations with Torwoodlee Estate delayed starting the project until August 1992 but most greens and tees were laid and seeded before the winter weather stopped work. The contractors finished their work by August 1993 but were called back in Spring 1994 to resolve a drainage problem. 2,000 deciduous trees were planted on the extension at the beginning of 1994 and with favourable weather to help growth and all the remaining work to progress satisfactory, it is proposed to hold the official opening on 6th May 1995.

LAYOUT
OF
18 HOLES

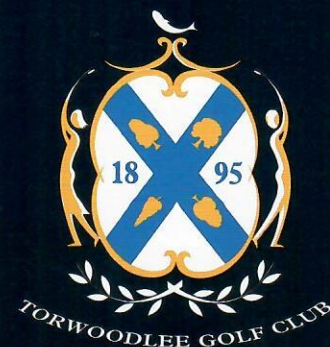


North →


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Associates

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CHARTERED ARCHITECTS



It is impossible in a small brochure to mention all the people who, over the last 100 years, have given many hours to the running of the Club as Secretaries, Treasurers, Green Rangers, House Rangers, Match Secretaries, Competition Secretaries, Membership Secretaries, members of committees and special sub-committees. Without their work the club could not function and there would be no golf at Torwoodlee as we know it. We can only thank them for what they have done in our interest and hope that the Club will have as devoted workers in the next century to promote the enjoyment of its members.

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