

Royston Golf Club

History

Golf on Therfield Heath, first came into being in 1869, when two Cambridge Undergraduates thought this would be an excellent position for a Golf Links that could be used by fellow students. These two gentlemen were Lord Dunedin and George Gosset, both very keen golfers who came over with a bag of clubs each and set about arranging their golf course by establishing the holes by position and distance according to their striking of golf balls. A simple but effective basis which was helped by the fact that the heathland was all close cropped grass.

This course, unfortunately, only lasted about two years, when in 1871 it was felt that Royston was too far from Cambridge. However, in 1890 the idea of a golf course on the Heath came to the fore again. This time it was with the encouragement of the Conservators and the help of two gentlemen from the now formed Cambridge University Golf Club. The course that was designed, followed much of the original eighteen holes set out in 1869.



This was the prelude to the establishment of Royston Golf Club on 1st May 1892. There were 56 members at first, Viscount Hampden was President, John Phillips was Captain and W.H.T. Rowley was Secretary. The course today follows the original layout with a few major changes, the most significant of which was a Harry Vardon redesign in 1929. Other major change were

during 1971 when the 8th was totally re-orientated from East/West to West/East with the infamous 'key hole' green. The 9th then became a challenging par 5.

The latest changes came in 2003, with new 6th, 7th and 15th holes. The 6th being a completely new Par 3 hole in a valley by the roadside, the 7th extended to a Par 4 to the existing green and the 15th a dog-leg from the roadside. Every effort has been made to preserve the courses character, yet remaining challenging golfers of all levels with modern equipment. Established as a members club, it continues as such and has over 700 members.



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