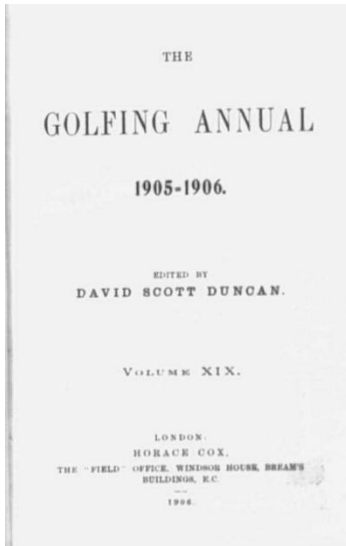


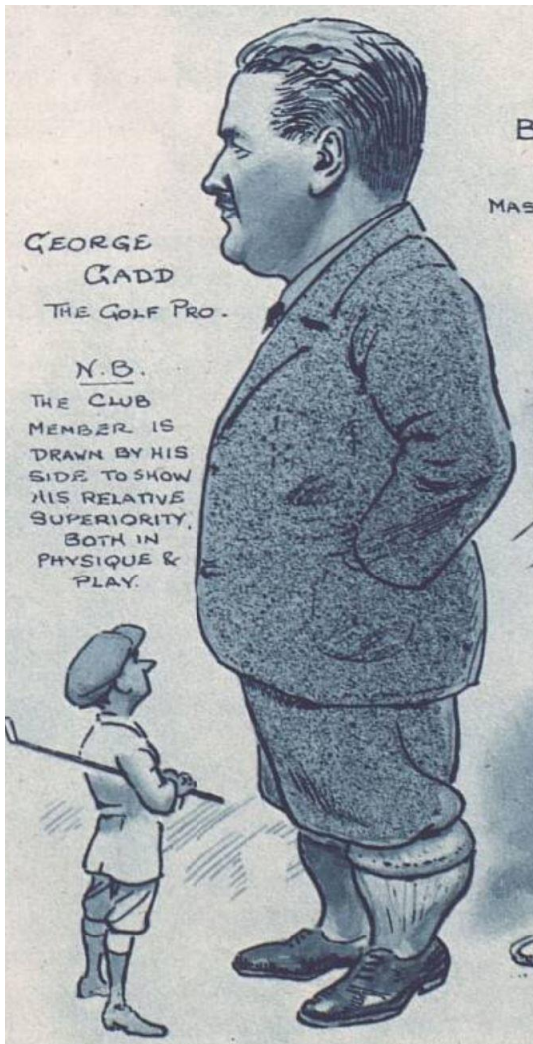
From the Archives

Golf in the early days at Roehampton Club in the British Newspaper Archives



With the recent reopening of the golf course, it seems a good time to look back at the beginnings of golf at Roehampton Club with those involved and the events that followed thereafter. The game of golf enjoyed an explosion of interest with new clubs opening up all around the country towards the end of the 19th century and the into the 1900's. It was during this time that a *Golfing Annual* was published from 1887 with individual entries for each club. The first entry for the 9-hole golf course at Roehampton Club appeared in the 1905-06 edition with the name of AC Monk as the Professional. In the 1908-09 edition, the Professional was shown as T Forrest who had also achieved the lowest score of 31 setting the course record at the time. These details remained unchanged until the last known publication of

the *Golfing Annual* in 1909-10. *The Centenary Book* by Elizabeth Hennessey published in 2001 mentions the opening of the course in 1904 with 80 members playing regularly by the following year.

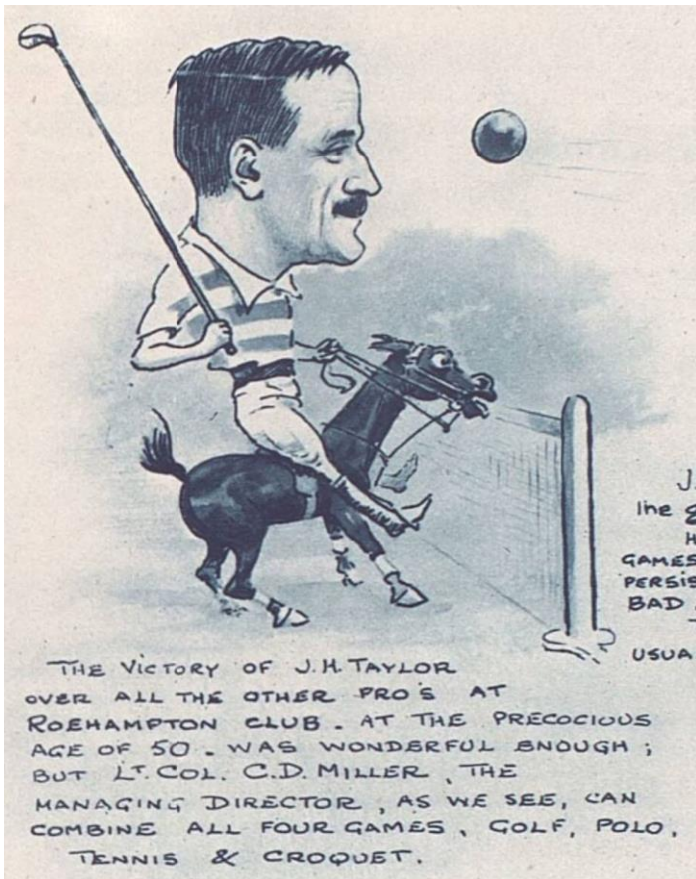


ROEHAMPTON GOLF CLUB.

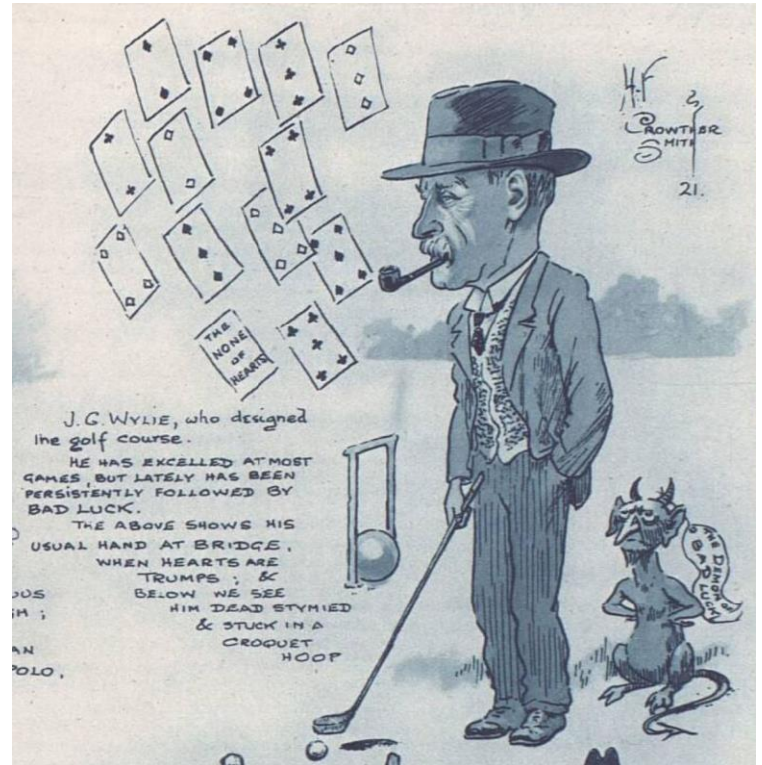
Annual Subscription, 5l. 5s. ; Number of Members playing Golf, 140. Secretary—C. D. Miller, Audley Lodge, Putney Park Avenue, S.W. Professional—A. C. Monk.

The course consists of nine holes, and there are plenty of natural and artificial hazards. The Club grounds adjoin Barnes Station (L. & S.W. Ry.), to which trains run frequently from Waterloo, Vauxhall, and Clapham Junction. Visitors (introduced), 1s. a day, Saturdays or Sundays 2s.

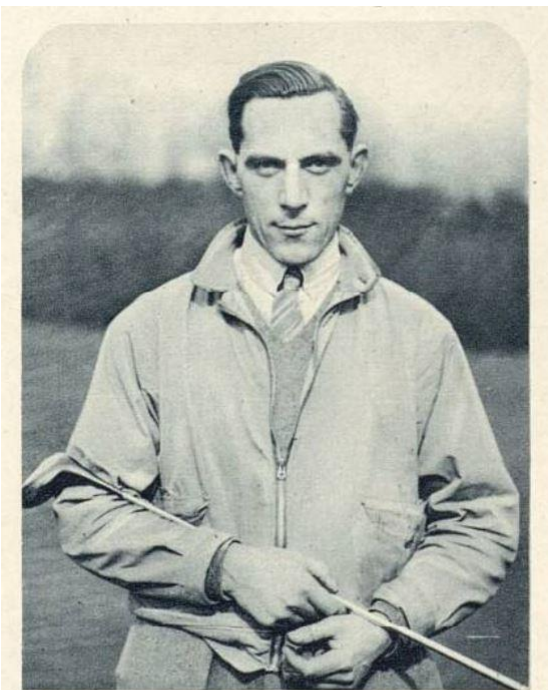
The course was extended to 18 holes following the acquisition of extra land and a new lease of 14 years in 1911. In 1921, the *Sketch* publication featured a selection of characters at Roehampton Club under the title of 'A Playground of Outdoor Sporting Activity'. These individuals were caricatured by cartoonist HF Crowther-Smith and included JG Wylie, who had designed the golf course, George Gadd who had taken over the role of Professional in 1919 and an interesting image of Lt Colonel CD Miller showing his abilities across a number of sports. In 1932, one of the regional newspapers reported the first day performances of the leading golf professionals who had assembled at Roehampton to compete for the Roehampton Cup and £200 in Prize Money.



The competition involved 36 holes of stroke play to qualify 16 players to play in the match play stages. While Braid, Taylor and Vardon were absentees, the field included all last year's British Ryder Cup team.



The scores for the first day confirm that George Gadd qualified for the match play stages alongside Henry Cotton and other



SAM KING (KNOLE PARK)

Who put up some excellent scores in the Professional Golf Competition at Roehampton. He did two rounds of 68, the first one a record for the course in its latest stage of improvement. In the morning he went from the sixth to the fourteenth hole in 29

notable players of the day. The *Tatler* publication carried regular features for both men's and women's golf and it was journalist Henry Longhurst in his column, 'Concerning Golf' who covered the Professional Golf Competition at Roehampton Club in 1934 with an accompanying picture of Sam King from the Knowle Park Golf Club who had just achieved two rounds of golf in 68 shots – the first being a record score for the course. The article goes on to congratulate the winner of the tournament, Reg Whitcombe together with a glowing compliment to the quality of the Greens at Roehampton that have improved beyond recognition.

Meanwhile, Eleanor E Helme writing in the *Tatler* under the name of 'Eve at Golf' talks about the Ladies Foursomes event at Roehampton Club won by Miss J Lashmore and Miss South beating Miss Lampson and Mrs Bushman 3&2 in the Final. The Roehampton Club Gold Cup for Ladies was also featured in the *Tatler* by the same journalist in 1932 when she introduced her article by asking if anything could be more suitable than a player named Gold should win the Gold Cup at Roehampton Club Open Meeting but not before there were all kinds of excitements before the Cup was really hers for she had to win a play-off with Doris Chambers and Diana Fishwick (mother to former BBC golf pundit Bruce Critchley). It seems that Mrs Gold's golf was a delight to watch.

Steve Riedlinger | Club Archivist



Miss J. Lashmore and Miss South, the new holders of the Roehampton Foursomes. They beat Miss Lampson and Mrs. Bushman 3 and 2 in the final