

"A Slice of History, Blackwood Golf Club 1930 – 1980"

A general public meeting was held in the Parish Hall, Blackwood on 12th May 1930 when it was resolved that a golf club be formed in the District and that it would be called the Blackwood Golf Club.

A Mr Lachlan McTaggart offered a 10 year lease on a section of his property about 1 mile south of Blackwood and a legal arrangement for a Peppercorn lease was drawn up and the Club was charged 1/- per year rental.

A second General Public meeting was held on 28/5/30 when the appointment of Office Bearers and Committee was confirmed. A grounds Committee was appointed and with the assistance of Kooyonga Golf Club Professional, Mr Rufus Stewart, a 9 hole golf course was formed using both sides of Coromandel Parade. A log cabin style clubhouse was erected during 1933-34.



Clubhouse at Mc Taggart's

McTaggart's course was closed in 1959 and the club moved to the National Park, Belair, for the start of the 1960 season, but it was apparent that it was only on a temporary basis, and that other land would have to be purchased. On 6/5/61 £300 was paid as a deposit for 100 acres at Cherry Gardens, purchased from Mr E Sanders for £7500.

Mr V Morcom, a Victorian Golf Architect, agreed to come over and plot out the course. The first working bee was held on 21/5/61 and, on 17/7/61, a special General Meeting was held in the Memorial Hall Blackwood to amend the Constitution followed by a Public Meeting attended by over 350 members and prospective members.

Working bees became the order of the day and these were followed by BBQ's and a great camaraderie was engendered.

In August 1961 two wood and iron buildings were purchased from the Royal Adelaide Hospital for £250 and re-erected at Cherry Gardens as the first clubhouse. The Chief Secretary, Sir Lyall McEwin was invited to open the Course on 2/3/63 and Dr W.D. Ackland-Horman drove the 1st ball.



Dr Ackland-Horman driving the first ball

Several bores were put down and good quality water was plentiful. Two main dams were formed.

In July 1968, a Special General Meeting approved the building of a new clubhouse at a cost of \$100,000 including furnishings and the Chief Secretary officially opened the new clubhouse on 2/5/70 as a Stage One project. The 2nd Stage building project of extensions at a cost of \$140,000 was officially opened on 2/5/78.



Artist's impression of first clubhouse at Cherry Gardens

The need for a more efficient watering scheme was quite apparent and the automatic course watering scheme was installed at a cost of \$258,000 and this was finalised in February 1985.

Due to increasing random acts of vandalism, a fencing scheme was completed by 1987 in order to protect the club environs more efficiently.

After several General and Special Meetings it was agreed that a Stage 3 building project of alterations and additions would be embarked on at a cost of \$870,000 and this was completed and officially opened by our Patron, Mr Clive Greves on 2/5/97. The Clubhouse had now become an imposing functional building to cover all operational needs for many years to come.

The Course playing side has always been the top priority and in 1992, the course was altered in order to incorporate 3 new holes, namely 11-13, in the Southern Side land which had been purchased in 1975 and they were planted with Windsor Couch WA. In 1999, the Committee decided to



Golfers tee off from the 9th towards the old clubhouse, with an uninhibited view embracing the 1st, 9th, 18th and 15th fairways.

poison 12½% fairways in October and replant them with Santa Anna Couch in November. The result of this project has been quite spectacular and there is no doubt that members will really appreciate playing conditions from 2001.

On the golfing side, the Club instituted an Easter Monday Vardon trophy event for low handicappers in 1965 and this has proved to be a prestigious and popular event.

Our Club Pennant team won the Simpson Cup in 1996 by defeating Grange at Royal Adelaide.

Blackwood Golf Club Inc has just celebrated its 50th Birthday and Members can be justly proud of its Course and playing conditions and the Clubhouse facilities available at Cherry Gardens.

Courtesy of Arch Willcott