



BLACK GOLF HISTORY IN BERMUDA: BARRIERS & BUILDING LEGACY; FROM EXCLUSION TO EXCELLENCE

Golf has been played in Bermuda for over a century, but for much of that time, Black Bermudians were excluded from the sport. The early golf courses, like Mid Ocean Club (1913) and Riddell's Bay (1922), were private and reserved for white members and international visitors. Black Bermudians were allowed on the courses, but only as caddies.

Yet, those same caddies were quietly studying the game, developing their skills, and growing a deep love for golf. Despite the barriers, they found ways to play, compete, and eventually change the game in Bermuda forever.

THE FIGHT FOR ACCESS

By the 1950s, Black Bermudians were still not allowed to play at most golf clubs, so they created spaces of their own. The Ocean View Golf Club became a crucial part of this movement, giving Black golfers a place to develop their talent and build a community around the sport.

Things started to change in 1967 when the Bermuda Government built Port Royal Golf Course, a public course open to all Bermudians, regardless of race. This was a major moment in the desegregation of golf in Bermuda and allowed Black golfers to play on one of the best courses in the world.

BERMUDA'S BLACK GOLF PIONEERS

Bermuda has produced many talented Black golfers who helped pave the way for future generations. Just to name a few:

Louis Raphael "Kid" Corbin – A standout golfer in Bermuda's early days, Corbin was known for his skill and determination at a time when opportunities were limited.

Keith Smith – A talented competitor who helped break down barriers and make way for Black golfers in Bermuda.

Walter King – A legendary golfer and mentor to many young Black players, King played a huge role in growing the sport in Bermuda.

Brian Morris – A beloved golf pro at Ocean View who inspired many with his dedication to the game and his efforts to make golf more accessible.

A LASTING LEGACY

Today, Black golfers in Bermuda can play anywhere, from Port Royal to Mid Ocean, a reality that would have been impossible just a few generations ago. Bermuda now hosts the PGA Tour's Bermuda Championship, putting the island's golf scene on the world stage.

The fight for access to golf in Bermuda was long, but thanks to the resilience of those early Black golfers, the sport is now open to everyone. Their legacy lives on, not just in the tournaments and championships, but in every young Black Bermudian picking up a club for the first time.