



**Championship Golf Meeting at Sandy Bay Links, Hobart 1906**

**Northern Ladies Team**

Back Row (left to right): Miss May Falkiner, Miss J Harrison, Miss Millie Falkiner, Miss E Burrowes  
 Front Row: Miss Agnes Archer, Miss L Arthur, Miss L Burrowes (captain) Miss E Falkiner, Mrs Bennett (absent)



**1899 - 1908 Longford Race Course**

The Longford Golf Club was established in 1899 and has had four locations since its formation.

In 1899 a committee of four keen local golf players drew up some guidelines for the formation of a golf club in Longford, and these were duly accepted at a meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> April, 1899.

The club was given permission to set out a course inside the local race course. Golf was a seasonal sport at that time with the season opening in late April and extending for six months. Some of the course extended into a paddock on the Northbury property across the road from the race course.

In these early years challenge matches against other clubs were held at frequent intervals, the first recorded one being played against St Leonards Club on 15<sup>th</sup> July 1899, which Longford won by two holes.

Later in that year, a motion was passed at the AGM to "change the weekly match of golf from Saturday to Monday" and the first Monday in each month was usually a mixed doubles competition.

There was also the establishment of separate ladies and a gentlemens match committees, thus giving the ladies their first official input into the management of the club.

In 1900, the Northern Tasmanian Golf Association was formed and Mr TC Archer was elected as Longford's delegate. Longford had the distinction of being one of the five foundation members of the NTGA, the others being Devonport, St Leonards, Sheffield and Mowbray.

Between 1901 and 1908 the Northern Tasmanian Championships were played at Woolmers links, at the invitation of Mr TC Archer, who also hosted a lot of inter club challenges, many of which were won by Longford.

**The formation Committee consisted of:**

- Mr Herbert Gatenby (Rhodes)
- Mrs Alfred Youl (Leighlands)
- Miss C Watson (Mount Ireh)
- Mr AM Mackinnon (Mountford)
- Mr N Gibson (Scone)
- Dr Anderson (Longford)
- Mr WD Archer (Brickendon)
- Miss Mary Dumaresq (Mount Ireh)
- Mr D Archer

**1902**

The Longford Club's ladies meeting was held on Monday in perfect weather, and before a large and appreciative audience, the only cause of regret being the absence of two staunch supporters and consistent players. The programme which was carried out under the auspices of the committee, with the kind assistance of Lieut. Brent, was as follows:—(1) Ladies' Club Championship, 27 holes, medal play, over the full club course, for trophies presented by Mrs. Alfred Youl and Miss Watson.—Miss Arthur, 164, first; Miss Youl, 188, second; Miss M. Falkiner, 199, third. The feature of this contest was a beautiful last round by the winner of 48, comprised as follows:—4, 7, 8, 2, 6, 4, 3, 6, 6. (2) Driving Competition (the aggregate of three drives), for a trophy presented by Mr. T. C. Archer, captain of the club

—Miss M. Falkiner, 344 yards, first; Miss Arthur, 330 yards, second; Miss Gatenby, 300 yards, third. The winner's first two drives were very good, but she did not get hold of her last so well, while Miss Gatenby drove a raking one of 167 yards, but unfortunately pulled it off the line. (3) Approaching and putting, three balls each from a tee 12ft. off a wire netting fence 7ft. high, over the race track, to a hole 70 yards from the tee, for a trophy presented by Dr. Haines:—Miss Alice Archer, 12 strokes, first; Miss Youl, 14 strokes, second; Miss Leary, 14 strokes, third. This was most interesting, and showed the improvement made under professional tuition, as only four out of 11 failed to clear the fence at their first attempt. The winner played very accurately, holing out in 3, 5, 4, and had bad luck not to be one less, as her fourth with her second ball lipped the tin and lay on the edge. The greens were true, but fiery, while the rest of the links was almost as hard as, and a good deal rougher than, the high road.

September 1901.

## Golf Gossip.

FOR ALL GOLF MATERIALS consult A. W. Birchall and Sons.

(BY NIBLICK.)

The weather was anything but favourable for golfers during last week, but the different clubs have managed to get most of their matches through. At the Longford links on Saturday the open handicap tournament was played. The course was not in the best condition, owing to so much rain, but a fairly good number of players turned up, and had an enjoyable day. The hospitality of the Longford club is a matter of history—they always have a lavish lunch and afternoon tea for the visitors, and Saturday last was quite up to the record. The Longford club is the oldest in the state, I believe.

The entries for the match on Saturday were not as satisfactory in regard to first-class players from other clubs as might have been expected. Only one man in "A" teams entered, and very few of the best players were among the competitors, which must have been a little discouraging to a club like the Longford, who are sufficiently keen on the sport to wish to have opponents not too easy to fight against. There were twelve entries for ladies, and twenty for men. Mrs. T. C. Archer (Woolmers) scored first honours, and Mrs. Alfred Youl (Leighlands) second place in the ladies' handicap.

**Ladies' Stroke Competition.**

	Gross.	Hp.	Net.
Mrs. T. C. Archer	134	5	129
Mrs. A. Youl	138	5	133
Miss E. Falkiner	151	18	133
Miss E. Youl	155	20	135
Miss A. Archer	142	6	136
Miss G. Youl	148	12	136
Mrs. Beveridge	—	sc	138
Miss Furlonge	140	2	138
Miss M. Falkiner	—	sc	146
Miss May Falkiner	182	25	157

The winner in the men's play was Raynor Arthur, a beginner with the cleek, with a score of 108—15—93. T. C. Archer, from scratch, came in second, with 94. The scores are as follow:—

Raynor Arthur	108	15	93
T. C. Archer	—	sc	94
V. Lovett	102	6	96
F. Dougharty	122	25	97
D. Archer	102	4	98
W. F. Archer	111	12	99
G. Cragg	114	15	99
H. R. Falkiner	111	12	99
Wm. Gibson	108	8	100
W. S. Johnstone	108	8	100
S. E. Wilmot	126	25	101
J. H. Anderson	—	sc	103
Dr. Anderson	125	20	105
C. D. Shew	132	25	107
H. W. Green	120	9	111
O. G. Douglas	120	6	114
W. Martin	131	15	116

The weather for the ladies' northern championship, played last Wednesday at Woolmers, was wretched. A bitterly cold wind, with occasional showers of rain, made the test a severe one for the players. As had been anticipated, Miss Arthur won easily, Miss Agnes Archer second, being no less than 16 strokes behind. There can be no question as to the quality of the winner's game. From the tie to the hole each stroke is firm and set, and she will probably put up a score at King's Meadows quite as good as many of the players in the men's division.

If Miss Whitesides is to win she will have to play at the very best of which she is capable; and even then it is doubtful if Miss Arthur will be beaten. In any case, these two ladies will be most able representatives for Tasmania, and it is quite probable that the title gained by Miss Whitesides last year will still hold in the island.

The northern ladies' championship is being played to-day at Woolmers, and Miss L. Arthur should retain the title without much trouble. If available, the scores will be given in this column, but comment must wait until next week.

1907

## GOLF.

### LADIES' CHAMPIONSHIP.

The ladies' northern championship was held on Woolmers links, kindly lent by Mr. Archer. The day was rather showery, the links being wet. Miss Arthur, with three good rounds, proved the winner. Scores:—Miss Arthur, 129; Miss A. Archer, 145; Miss Millie Falkiner, 153; Miss Burrowes, 162; Miss May Falkiner, 165; Mrs. Archer, 169. The above were the only ones to finish.

The following is Miss Arthur's card:—

First round	456545654	44
Second round	446554553	41
Third round	457554473	44

There is understood to be a probability of Miss L. Arthur also representing Tasmania in the Ladies' Championship of Australia at Sandringham next month, and playing with Miss Whitesides in the doubles. If these two ladies are in form, we may feel sure, if the title does not come back to Tasmania, that anyone else winning it will have to put up a remarkably good score.

The eclectic competition just closed at the Tasmanian Club was not such a success as last year. There seems something needed in the rules to make it more popular. Mr. Meredith (13 1-3 handicap) just beat Mr. Douglas (scratch) by 1 1-3 strokes. The handicapping was good. The next competition now runs until September 30.

1902

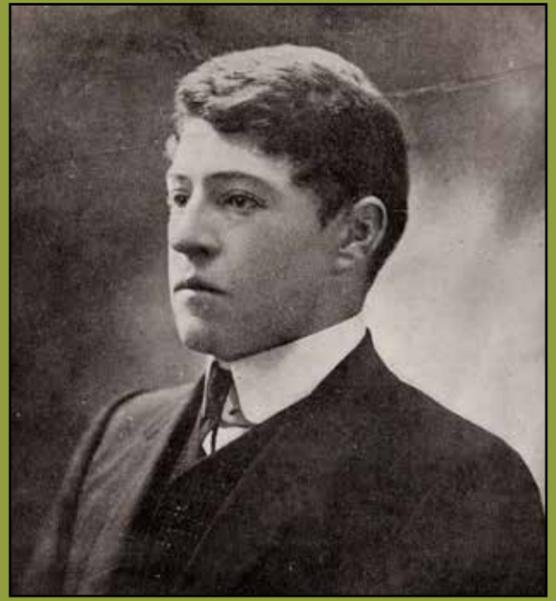


Mrs A. Youl in 1902.

*Champion Ship 1902.*

Information has just reached me of the result of the Northern Tasmanian ladies' championship meeting, held on Wednesday, in perfect golfing weather, at the Tasmanian club's links at King's Meadows. Miss L. Burrowes, of the Tasmanian club, after a splendid tussle with the runner-up, Miss M. Falkiner (Longford), succeeded in winning the honour with a score of 228, the runner-up scoring 231, while Miss Roberts (West Devonport) came third with 239. The contest between the first two was a most exciting one, the game being carried to the last green, where the winner took possession by holing a perfect three, as against her opponent's six. I congratulate Miss Burrowes upon her performance, the more especially as she has had to struggle against both ill-health and a long period of indifferent form. I congratulate Miss M. Falkiner also upon her great fight, realising how close she was to winning by carrying the game to the last hole. I hope to comment more fully next week, as space and time will not now permit. The following are the scores:—

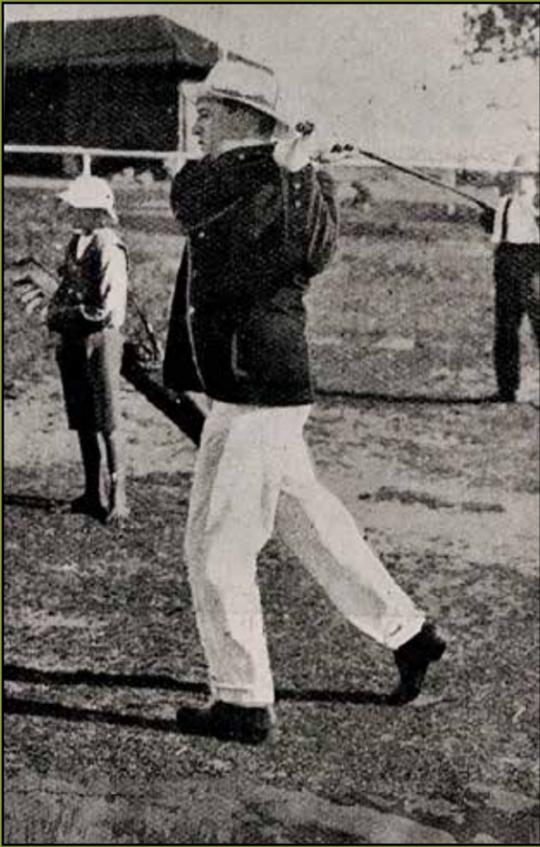
Miss L. Burrowes (Tasmanian) ....	228
Miss M. Falkiner (Longford) .....	231
Miss Roberts (W. Devonport) .....	239
Miss K. Falkiner (Longford) ....	240
Miss K. Richardson (Tasmanian) ..	242
Mrs. T. C. Archer (Longford) .....	243
Mrs. Simson (St. Leonards) .....	247
Miss E. Burrowes (Tasmanian) ....	253
Miss A. Archer (Longford) .....	254
Mrs. Beveridge (Longford) .....	256
Mrs. Youl (Longford) .....	259



Mr A. O'Connor 1905.



Mr Ray O'Connor, Northern Champion 1905.



**Mr. R. O'Connor at the Australian Golf Championship in Sydney in 1906.**

### **1908 - 1919 Woolmers Course**

In 1908, the club officially moved its home to the Woolmers course because of the difficulty it was having maintaining the racecourse course. Mr Thomas Archer did all the maintenance of the course and was the club secretary for many years.

The Woolmers course was “a splendid course and one had to play real golf or get beaten every time.”



**The Tasmanian Team who played Victoria in 1909.**

*Back:* Bruce Pearce, Roy O'Connor, TC Archer  
*Front:* L.A. Cuff, Clyde Pearce, TC Archer Snr



**Woolmers Golf Course 3<sup>rd</sup> Tee**

### **1919 - 1924 Longford Race Course**

The years of the World War I saw a decline in membership and the abandonment of pennant matches, and eventually a decision was made in 1919 to return the club back to the racecourse site, but this only lasted for five years, before the club accepted the offer of land to build a golf course on, from Mr CR MacKinnon at Mountford.

1924 - 1940s  
Mountford Course



Members outside the club house at Mountford 1924.

PENNANTS

For years, going right back to the early days of the pennant in Northern Tasmania, the Longford club has been a potent factor in pennant golf, and their record far eclipses the record of any other club. In those days, with T. C. Archer, T. E. C. Archer, better known at that time as young Tommy, Roy and Arthur O'Connor, and others, they had a good side which was rarely defeated. During the last few seasons they have also seldom been out of the picture, winning last year in a play off against Launceston. This year they appear to have fallen on evil times, as they have lost their first three matches, and only won 3 games out of 21 played. They will doubtless do better during the remainder of the season, but it looks as though their chance of retaining the pennant has now gone. To date the record of senior pennants played shows:—Launceston, 2 won, none lost; Seabrook, 2 won none lost; Devonport, 1 won 1 lost; Riverside, 1 lost; Longford, none won 3 lost.

The Mountford course was designed by Mr LA Cuff and the turf was considered to be "second to none in Tasmania" and over the following 20 years a lot of work was done to improve the greens and fairways. Alterations were made to the course in 1928 and 1929 by Mr Young, the Launceston club professional, with five new greens and fairways being made.

Until 1939, the course also had a Par 6, a rarity, of 616 yards (563 metres) for the 4<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> holes.

Interclub matches were recommenced with much enthusiasm, in 1924.

Membership numbers were gradually increasing, in 1925 there being 45 members and 50 associates. By 1929 there were 74 members and 45 associates and congestion on the course led to the closure of the membership list! Throughout the 1930s, competitions were well patronised and pennant matches keenly contested, and Opening Days regularly had up to 136 players competing, but with the onset of World War II, there were labour shortages and petrol rationing.

In the early 1940s, the RAAF acquired the land for emergency landings and as a training field for trainee pilots and navigators stationed at Western Junction airport. This led to the club accepting an invitation from then club President Mr NG Gatenby to move the course to his farm, Cressy House, where a private six hole course already existed.

LONGFORD CLUB

1937

On Saturday afternoon the Longford Club conducted a women's stroke competition, the leading scores being:—Mrs. N. G. Gatenby, 95, 25—70; Miss P. Harrison, 89, 18—71; Mrs. K. Gatenby, 101, 28—73; Miss E. Falkiner, 96, 18—78.

The men's competition was won by R. R. Field, 77, 7—70; next being C. R. Hawker, 84, 10—74; N. G. Gatenby, 89, 15—74; R. A. Gregory, 95, 20—75.

The "A" pennant team to play against Launceston next Saturday at Launceston is—G. A. Grown (captain), A. F. Brown, R. R. Field, G. B. Grubb, C. R. Hawker, C. Mills, and J. E. Rae.

On Thursday a team will meet a team from the Royal Hobart Club on the Longford links. Play will commence at 12.30. The Longford team is—A. F. Brown, F. V. Youl, G. Arthur, W. F. Archer, N. G. Gatenby, E. Scott Young, C. R. Field, S. Nichols, R. A. Gregory, and F. S. Taylor.

A mixed foursome will be played at Longford next Saturday.

1937

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LONGFORD CLUB

A mixed foursome was played on the Longford links on Saturday afternoon. The winners were W. F. Archer and Mrs. P. A. Harrison.

Next week-end Longford A will play Devonport at Seabrook and Seabrook at Seabrook. Longford A will be: A. F. Brown, G. A. Brown, R. R. Field, C. R. Hawker, J. Melrose, C. Mills, and J. E. Rae.

Longford B play Launceston B at Launceston next Saturday. Longford team will be: C. Bennett (capt.), W. F. Archer, G. Arthur, A. Pride, C. K. Stackhouse, B. Wall, F. V. Youl. Emergency: N. G. Gatenby.

Examiner Newspaper clippings courtesy of Mr R Harrison.

"Longford would again be a force to reckon with. Strangely enough, Longford appears to be taking a leading position on the golfing map, exactly as it did in the past."  
(The Examiner)

LONGFORD.—Opening day, mixed foursomes, Event 1: T. Bishop-Mrs. Bond (10) 27; R. Green-Miss M. Falkiner (10) 29; F. Youl-Mrs. K. Gatenby (9), E. Anderson-Miss V. Hayler (12), G. Wymond-Mrs. Wymond (12) 32; A. Keach-Mrs. Jones (8) 33; W. Manson-Mrs. Henri (8), K. Davis-Mrs. Littlechild (9), A. T. Mitchell-Mrs. Mitchell (10), G. B. Wise-Mrs. Alexander (10), H. von Stieglitz-Mrs. von Stieglitz (11) 34. Event 2: T. Bishop-Mrs. Bond (10) 32; A. T. Mitchell-Mrs. Mitchell (10), A. B. Bailey-Miss M. Smith (14) 33; K. Davis-Mrs. Littlechild (9), A. T. Jones-Mrs. Jones (8) 34. Approaching competition, C. Evans. Putting competition: Men: W. F. Archer; women: Mrs. P. A. Harrison.

Longford

President's day was held by the Longford Golf Club on Saturday, when an open mixed foursomes was played, for which trophies were given by the president (Mr. S. Nichols). Scores: A. G. Mackinnon-Miss M. Falkiner (29) 71; R. M. Gunn-Mrs. Gunn (28) 72; T. R. Lee-Mrs. Abbott (10), N. G. Gatenby-Mrs. Gatenby (21), H. von Stieglitz-Mrs. von Stieglitz (22), J. L. Abbott-Miss Walters (23) 73; C. A. Harrison-Mrs. B. Wall (20) 74; G. Grubb-Mrs. Hughes (20), F. L. von Stieglitz-Mrs. Perry (22) 75; B. Wall-Miss P. Harrison (12), W. D. Phillips-Miss Hurst (20) 76; C. Mills-Mrs. Dowling (11) 77; W. H. Bayles-Mrs. Archer (20), G. Arthur-Mrs. White (25), C. Holmes-Miss L. Stewart (29) 78; R. Goyne-Miss M. Scott (18) 79.



C. L. Gilmour, Miss P. Harrison, Mrs. P. A. Harrison, J. Savigny



An imposing view of the picturesque Longford Links at "Mountford", showing the town of Longford and the Western Tiers in the distance.

### 1940s - 1975 Cressy House

The Cressy House Course was extended to a nine hole course and the Mountford club house was relocated to Cressy House.

Throughout the fifties many improvements to both club house and the golf course were implemented including watering the greens for the first time after a pumping system was installed thus helping minimise the time spent on the greens upkeep.

After a very successful dance was run in 1950, some of the proceeds were used to erect a lockable cupboard in the member's refreshment room for the purpose of storing liquor. The installation of this cupboard over ruled the previous ruling that all liquor must be off the premises by 5pm!

In the 1960s, Saturday became members (men) only competition day and Wednesday was designated as associates only competition day. The sixties saw a period of consolidation for the club's finances, with social events organised to add to the club's coffers.

In the 1970s, summer competitions were introduced, highlighted by the Summer Cup played over 2 days in February, 27 holes played each day.

After Mr Norman Gatenby's death in 1973, the club was given notice that it would need to vacate the Cressy House property within seven years. A sub committee was formed to explore the club's alternatives and it was overwhelmingly decided that the best course of action would be to acquire a suitable site on which to re-establish the club.

### 1975 - Sweaborg

In 1975, the club purchased, 110 acres known as Sweaborg, from Cressy House for \$32,000. It was estimated that another \$18,000 was needed to put in a water supply from the river.

To help raise funds for the purchase, it was decided to issue \$100 debentures to all members and associates and this was enthusiastically taken up by all members.

Purchase of the land, Incorporation, course development, finance, irrigation and the erection of a suitable club house and implement sheds became the focus of the club committee.

Major Al Howard from Sydney was engaged to design the course and he drew up plans for an 18 hole course, with plans to firstly commence the construction of a 9 hole course.

In the interim, for the next two years, a barley crop was planted on the area not required for development, and this proved to be an excellent fund raiser. Water access from the Lake River was granted with an easement through Mr JW Paterson's Homevale property and water rights granted.

The original 9 tees from Cressy House were cut up and transported to the new course.

Using a loan purchased under the State Loans and Loan Guarantee Act in 1978, the new club house was built, while the implement shed was also constructed.



The club house (looking south), 9th green on the right, 1970s.



Looking across the 6th and 7th fairways towards the clubhouse, 5th green on the right.



**The club house before the extensions were built.**



**The 5th green in front of the 1st fairway.**

The official opening of the new course took place on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March, 1979 and was followed by a mixed foursome competition to celebrate the occasion.

“The course provides a good test with sloping fairways and undulating greens, and must rate as one of the best nine hole courses in the state, if not the best.”

*(The Examiner)*



**The 2nd and 3rd fairways.**

Automatic watering to all greens was completed in 1985 and this was further updated to computerised watering in 1992. Drainage was improved, machinery replaced, a computer purchased during the eighties and in 1985, the first green keeper was employed (Harold Lockett). In 1989, a green keeper/ caretaker cottage was built, largely with volunteer assistance and completed below budget!

In 1994, again with a lot of volunteer help, 1200 metres of PVC underground water pipe was installed, and in 1997, the club house was extended and enhanced, again using a lot of volunteer labour. Since 2000, there has been further renewing of underground irrigation piping from the river and on the course.

In 2024, the Club reviewed and modernised the tee locations and playing distances, so there are now three gender neutral courses available for play, the White/Blue Back tees, the Red/Yellow Front tees and the Orange Tees (for beginners and children). This has modernised the club and made play more enjoyable and accessible for all members and visitors. It allows players to choose a level of challenge that best suits their abilities.

The course is now played as a Par 72 for all players.

Longford Golf Club has produced some fine players over the years, the most notable being Mrs P A Harrison who won the Australian Ladies Amateur Championship in 1913. She also won numerous Northern Tasmanian, Longford and Launceston Club Championships in a period stretching from 1903 to 1939. She has been inducted into the Tasmanian Sporting Hall of Fame.

Other players who represented the State at mainland State Championships in the early 1900s included Tom Archer Snr, Tom Archer Jnr, Roy O'Connor and Arthur O'Connor.

With such a rich history, the Longford Golf Club continues to thrive. The course, which is now an eleven hole course, is maintained in an excellent condition through the tireless work done by the dedicated volunteers who do all the mowing, maintenance, cleaning, catering and hospitality.

History taken from *The Origins of Golf at Longford* by Jack Kerr (2000).

*Examiner Newspaper* clippings courtesy of Mr R Harrison.