

GOLF IN COLWALL 1908-1921

Compiled by
Catherine & Tony Sear

Colwall Village Society
April 2001

“ There are golf widows who tell us that their husbands play golf all day and bridge all night and sometimes sleep in the clubhouse, and that they wish golf were made illegal and heavy penalties attached to playing it. We should be careful not to pay too much attention to these complaints, for golf is not to blame and the partners of these unfortunate ladies would, if golf were abolished, probably spend their time much less innocently”.....**World of Golf, 9th January, 1908.**

Golf in Colwall

At the end of the 19th Century golf in this district was becoming extremely popular, and the first mention of the game in Colwall was in the 1905 Barton Court Estate Sale Brochure :-

‘The Land ; could easily and satisfactorily be laid out as a First Class Golf Course with 18 holes and not interfere with racing in any way’.

The Malvern Gazette on October 4th 1907 announced a New Golf Course.....
It will interest the devotees of golf in Malvern and Worcestershire generally to learn that the agent of Barton Court Estate, Mr. F.B.Pottinger, is constructing an 18 hole golf course at Colwall. Mr.Hobley, the well known expert on golf courses under whose supervision the links are being laid out, is of the opinion that they will be amongst the finest private links in England. They will be in readiness for playing next spring.

The official announcement was made on November 1st 1907 at The Horse and Groom Hotel, now renamed Oddfellows, at the half yearly audit and dinner of The Colwall Park and Barton Court Estate. The Chairman, Mr. R.C.B.Cave, announced that directly after the races on Monday a new 18 hole golf course would be commenced. It would extend for three and three quarter miles. Experts had stated that it would be one of the finest golf courses in the kingdom and it would be laid out by two professionals, under the supervision of the professional of the Cheltenham Gentleman's Golf Club. It would start near Colwall railway station, across the racecourse to Evendine and Oldcastle, and back by Lower House Farm and Backshill, finishing close to the station. One of the great merits of the course would be that there would be no crossing, as there was plenty of room. Mr. Cave thanked the tenants for their ready consent and felt sure that the making of the golf course would be of material benefit to them as well as the whole of Colwall. To many intending members of the club he was indebted for their spontaneous promise of support¹.

With an opening planned for the following Easter it was anticipated that it would be exceedingly popular for weekend golf, as, apart from the excellence of the links, the neighbourhood was a very picturesque and healthy one. First class accommodation was available, and the first tee was to be within five minutes’ walk of the railway station.

It was to be called Colwall Park Golf Club and its first President, The Right Hon. The Earl of Chesterfield. A General Meeting of the above club was to be held at the Colwall Park Hotel, Colwall, on Friday, 20th March at 3 o'clock in the afternoon for the purpose of electing a committee and framing local rules, etc. Intending members were invited to attend. Full information as to membership, etc., could be obtained from the Secretary, Mr.A.V. Holman, the Estate Office, Colwall. The meeting was well attended and the Press reported that both the 1st tee and the 18th green were within a minute’s walk of the station².

1 Malvern Gazette November 8th 1907, p6.

2 Ledbury Free Press March 6th 1908 & Malvern Gazette March 27th 1908.

The club was entered in the Golfing Annual 1907-8 and Hobley, W.E. is recorded as its first professional golfer 1908-9.³

The first clubhouse was Stone Farm House, now Stone Holt, in which grounds the Colwall Park Hotel had been built.



Park Hotel with first clubhouse on its left

Public Announcements

**Opening of the
Colwall Park Golf Links
on Friday, April 24th 1908**

Exhibition Match

By James Braid and J. H. Taylor

Play commencing at 11.30 am.

**In the Afternoon the above Two Players
will**

play a Foursome with Messrs.

**A. J. Hobley and G. H. Cawsey
Cheltenham Malvern**

Admission to the Links 1/- Members Free

.....

G. W. R. will issue cheap tickets, see Bills.

**A Special Luncheon will be served at the
Colwall Park Hotel, adjoining the Links.**

Mr. A. V. Holman Hon. Sec.

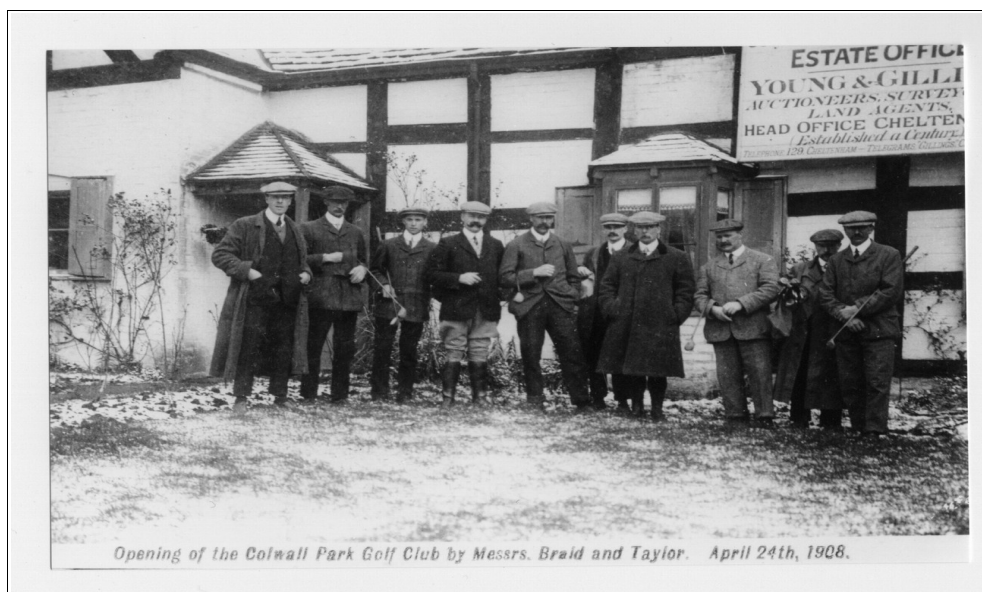
Advertisement Malvern Gazette April 10th 1908

Copy of Colwall Park Hotel Ledger Friday, 24th April 1908

	£	s	d		£	s	d	
Apartments	23	6	0	Burgundy	3	5	6	
Attendance		5	6	Madams				
Baths		5	9	Charles & Sant'				
Messengers				Negus				
Fires & Lights		3	6	Billiards	15	14	2	
Bar	246	0	0	Brandy		11	9	
Breakfasts	16	13	6	Whisky	3	9	11	
Luncheons	51	19	10	Gin & Hollands	2	16	0	
Dinners	29	3	6	Rum				
Dessert & Ice				Liqueurs	1	2	3	
Biscuits & Sweets		1	0	Races	4	0	6	
Teas & Coffee	17	19	1	Alc, Stout, etc	4	12	3	
Suppers		1	12	6	Aerated Water	2	11	2
Amuse & Gravel				Cigars	2	9	10	
Servants' Board	4	17	0	Stables	4	3	0	
Tip	357	11	8	Sundries	2	2	2	
Sherry		15	5	Stationery	1	10	2	
Champagne	15	7	6	Newspapers				
Claret	3	0	0	Paid out	3	9	9	
Post	4	4	4	Postage		1	0	
Marble		9	6	Washing Bill		11	1	
Hock		8	0	Account	23	15	8	
				Total	849	19	9	

3 British Professional Golfers 1887-1930: A Register

James Braid and John Henry Taylor (“JH”) were two of the “Great Triumvirate” rulers of golf, during the period 1894 - 1911, so their involvement in the opening match guaranteed a wide interest in the new course. G. H. Cawsey, the Professional to the Worcestershire Club at Malvern, and A. J. Hobley were in a group of first class players just below that of the stars.



Pictured above from left: A.J. Hobley, Hobley jun.?, Caddy ?, Rowland Cave-Browne-Cave, James Braid, Caddy ?, Not Known, J.H. Taylor, Caddy ?, G.H. Cawsey

Hobley junior was to be the Professional for the Colwall Park Golf Club and was described as a capital coach and a first rate hand at club making⁴. Both these attributes were considered essential qualities in expanding club membership.

Nobody has any serious objection to snow in moderation at Christmas but when it comes along in full force towards the end of April one fails to appreciate its beauty. Least of all do golf club officials, especially when the snow makes its appearance on such an occasion as the opening of a new course⁵. Neither the weather nor the condition of the course could be said to be ideal but golfers were interested to see how the ex-champions overcame, without effort, apparently insurmountable difficulties. Bad as were the "lies" through the green, the greens themselves were worse, and here even ex-champions found themselves at fault, short putts being systematically missed. Only one hole was affected by the snow which fell during the night, a delay in starting in the morning affording an opportunity for the thin layer on the course to almost entirely disappear. The course is situated amidst scenery of unsurpassed beauty, but much has yet to be done to induce golfers to forsake their favourite courses⁶.

A brief report of the matches was published in the national golfing magazines, ‘Golfing’, ‘The World of Golf’ and ‘Golf Illustrated’ but the full report in the ‘Malvern News’ and ‘Malvern Gazette’ gives detail and some help in the layout of the first course under the headline.....

4 Malvern Gazette April 24th 1908. p7.

5 Golfing Magazine April 30th 1908. p4.

6 Ledbury Free Press April 28th 1908.

EX-CHAMPIONS AT COLWALL

The new course at Colwall, laid out on the Barton Court and Colwall Park estates, was formally opened on Friday with an exhibition match between James Braid and J. H. Taylor, two ex-champions, in the morning, and a four-ball match in which these players were partnered respectively with Hobley (Cheltenham) and G. H. Cawsey (Malvern) in the afternoon. The course, which is about 5,500 yards in length, starts at a point a few minutes' walk from Colwall Station, and runs along in the direction of the Old Castle, skirting on the way back the British Camp. At the present time it is, as might be expected, in a rough state, and plenty of play and work is required on it.

The lengths of the holes are as follows, the figures in parentheses being the approximate bogey

1. 440yards (5); **2.** 120 (3); **3.** 205 (4); **4.** 362 (5); **5.** 495 (5); **6.** 300 (4); **7.** 300 (4);
8. 250 (4); **9.** 420 (6); **10.** 180 (3); **11.** 360 (5); **12.** 200 (4); **13.** 330 (5); **14.** 264 (4);
15. 145 (3); **16.** 270 (4); **17.** 320 (4) **18.** 440 (5).

The match between Braid and Taylor was followed by a large crowd of spectators but the state of the course, which was partially covered with snow, deprived the contest of much of the interest that would have otherwise centred in it. Putting with any degree of accuracy was impossible. Braid opened with a win in 5, and he increased his lead to two at the third, where he laid his mashie shot dead from a distance of fully 100 yards, and was home in 3. Taylor, although he hooked his second, won the next hole by virtue of running down a four yard putt. The latter made amends with a magnificent mashie stroke but he took three putts, and Braid, down in 4, won the hole. The ninth, which was covered with snow, was halved in 7. Taylor missed a 2 yards putt for a win in 4 on the tenth green, and by way of contrast Braid ran down an eight yard putt on the eleventh and won the hole in 4. He now stood 3 up. At the next he laid Taylor a stymie when the latter looked like winning and a half in 4 was called, while at the thirteenth after being on the green in 2, Taylor missed a 2 foot putt for a half and Braid was 4 up. A half followed at the fourteenth and as Taylor only managed to halve the fifteenth in 3, he lipped the hole for a 2. The match went to Braid with 4 up and 3 to play. Braid won the sixteenth and Taylor the last two, Braid at the eighteenth slicing his drive into a ditch. Prior to the start of the afternoon round there was a heavy fall of snow, and as the course was affected, only eight holes were played, four out and four back. Taylor and Causey were partnered in a four ball match against Braid and Hobley. Play was even for five holes but Taylor won the sixth in 4 . The next was halved, but Braid squared on the last green.

Messrs. Luke Tilley & Son, Photographers & Publishers in their Illustrated Ledbury Almanack for 1909, which cost 1d., offered 24 Photographic Picture Post Cards of the opening event at a price of 2d. each or 7 for 1 shilling. These have become collectors' items, fetching a considerable sum, but many cannot be traced.



This newspaper cutting from the Malvern Gazette confirms the position of the first tee just inside the racecourse, the inner barrier holding back the spectators. Closer examination of the original suggests the large building in the background is the Colwall Park Hotel.

GOLF AT COLWALL, OPENING MATCH

BRAID V. TAYLOR



View of Course – Taylor Driving



9th Green, Braid at play Herefordshire Beacon in background



Taylor Driving from the 7th tee



The Foursome

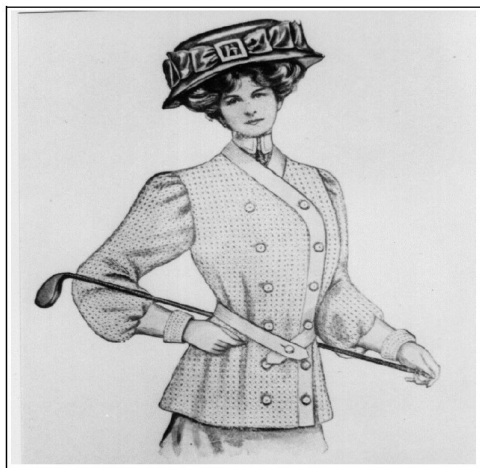


PHOTOS BY TILLEY & SON, LEDBURY

It is extremely difficult to accurately locate the exact position from which these photos were taken, as the changes in vegetation have been extensive over nearly a hundred years. The untitled one in the lower left corner appears to be Taylor driving from one of the tees on the racecourse, with the railway embankment as a background⁷.

⁷ Original copy in Malvern Library could only be photographed or copied in situ, hence the poor quality.

A general meeting of the club was to be held at the Colwall Park Hotel during the interval between the two matches on the opening day, and a captain and committee were to be elected to replace the temporary officers. Capt. C. M. Berrington became the Hon. Secretary and fees were by 1909 published as follows :- Entrance fee, £3. 3s.; Ladies, £1.11s.6d.; Annual subscription, £2. 2s.; Ladies, £1. 1s.; Visitors, 2s. a day, 7s. a week or £1. 1s. a month. Sunday play without caddies⁸. This last entry was clearly to pacify those who did not entirely approve of Sunday work. Use of the guinea was still popular as a charge.



To understand the subsequent history of golf in Colwall, one must refer to the enterprising character of its founder. He had appeared after the Barton Court Estate had taken on a very denuded appearance, very obvious from the hills. Every tree worth selling had been felled⁹. A very clear, and at times amusing, picture of him can be drawn from the reports published in the local press and which are copied in the Addendum.

Advertisement. Kendall & Co.'s Ladies Norfolk Golf Coat Price 12/11. Malvern Gazette, October 1st 1909.

The next match reported locally took place on March 10th 1910, and provides a little more description of the first course when Mr. W. W. Lowe (Captain of the Worcestershire Golf Club) and G. H. Cawsey met A. Lewis (Professional at Handsworth and Midland champion) and W. Lewis (Kings Norton) in a four ball foursome. A large number of spectators from Malvern, Worcester and elsewhere followed the match which was closely contested throughout. The amateur started well, winning the first hole over rather rough country with a faultless five (bogey), the three professionals each taking six.



At the second, a short hole, Lowe was over the green with his tee shot, but laid his second dead, and both the Lewises missing putts of about two feet, the Worcestershire pair became two up. A. Lewis topped his drive at the third, and had to negotiate a difficult mashie over a shed with his second, which left him very short. Cawsey was

The 2nd tee which was on the racecourse. The Box marked 2 confirms this and held the sand which was used to tee up the ball

⁸ The Golfing Annual Vol XXIII, 1909 – 1910.

⁹ A History of some of the people and Places in the parish of Colwall, Hereford Record Office. AW86\1-3.

also short with his second, but Lowe and W. Lewis were well up, the latter player halving the hole for four with a nice two yard putt. Cawsey was not having the best of luck, and it fell to Lowe again at the fourth to halve the hole with W. Lewis in five, A. Lewis putting his second into a hedge, and Cawsey taking six. The fifth, the longest hole on the course, was halved by Cawsey and A. Lewis in six, and at the sixth Lowe, who was the only one to place his second shot on the green, won the hole with a nice four, making the Worcestershire pair three up. A. Lewis missed a three-foot putt at the seventh for the hole, securing a half with Cawsey in five. A. Lewis, who had a long drive and a perfect approach, won the eighth in four, each of the other players taking five. At the ninth, which is one of the finest holes in the Midlands, both Lowe and Cawsey played perfect golf, each being on the green in three. The green, which is built up on the ridge of a hill near British Camp, is guarded on all sides by natural bunkers, and a faulty approach is heavily penalised. The two brothers, though doing the hole in bogey (6), were unable to secure a half, Lowe having a putt for four and an easy five. At the turn Lowe and Cawsey were three up. At the tenth Cawsey was over the bunker behind the green with his tee shot, but recovered with a beautiful mashie pitch, and, holing a difficult downhill putt for three, halved the hole with A. Lewis, who was nicely on the green with his first. The eleventh was won by Cawsey with a nice four, and the Worcestershire professional, who was playing perfect golf, halved the twelfth with W. Lewis in three, and the thirteenth with A. Lewis, who holed a difficult downhill putt in four. A. Lewis maintained interest in the match by winning the fourteenth in three, but a half in three at the fifteenth put the Worcestershire pair in the comfortable position of dormy three, and Lowe halving the sixteenth in four, made them winners by 3 and 2. The brothers were one up on the bye, the seventeenth being halved in four, and the eighteenth, a difficult hole, won by W. Lewis with a beautifully played four. The three professionals all gave good displays, but each made several mistakes. Cawsey's golf was on the whole the soundest, his short game being magnificent. The combination proved to be an excellent one, one of the pair being always well up. Mr. Lowe's play was most attractive to watch, his driving being quite as long and straight as the professionals'. On the outward journey, before Cawsey found his proper form, the amateur secured the lead, which he and his partner never lost, and repeatedly he completely outplayed the opposing pair. Coming home Cawsey bore the brunt of the work, but his partner was always at hand, and as will be seen by the score, the game was remarkably keen. The scores of the better- ball on each side were:-

Mr. W. W. Lowe and Mr. G. H. Cawsey : Out 534564555-42, Home 343443445-34 Total -76.

Mr. A. Lewis and Mr. W. Lewis : Out 644565546-45, Home 353433444-33 Total -78.

The course was much drier than had been expected, and except for the first two holes over the racecourse, was in excellent condition. The links are now wonderfully improved, and, though the greens are a little rough, provide some excellent and interesting golf. The fact that in the last nine holes, none of which are particularly easy, the winning ball was never more than four, says much for the work which has been put into the course since it was opened¹⁰.

Admission to the Links for spectators on this occasion was free and play began at 2 p.m.

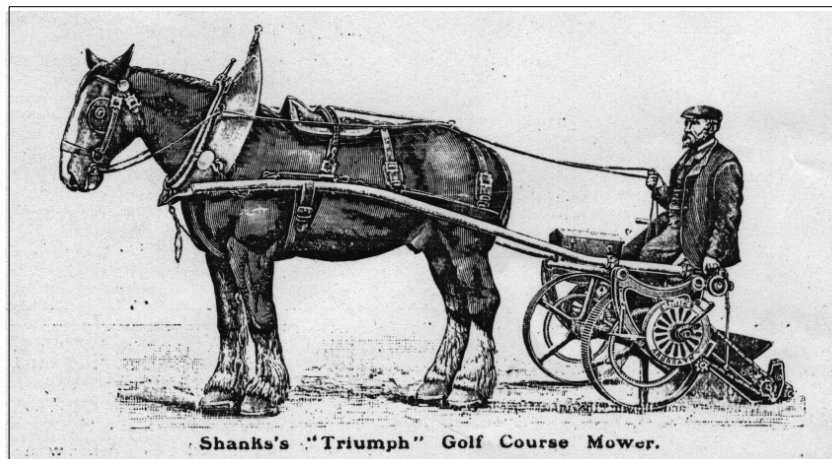
Commencing on Sunday March 20th, for the convenience of golfers wishing to play on the Colwall course on Sundays, the 10.15 a.m. train from Worcester was extended from Malvern Wells to Colwall, arriving at 10.45 a.m.¹¹ Clearly every effort was made by the G.W. R. to provide an excellent rail service to the public in this era.

¹⁰ Malvern Gazette March 18th 1910.

¹¹ Malvern News March 19th 1910.

Colwall Park Golf Club records have not been found to date. It was a private club. Only speculation can be applied to the known facts which were recorded in the press.

The first course had been laid out at the expense of the owner of Barton and Colwall Park Estate, which was to maintain it. This must have involved a considerable sum which could not have been recouped from members' fees.



GOLFING April 2nd, 1908. Trade Notes :- ... a side wheel horse lawn mower, specially adapted for rough and very hilly courses.

This would have been the type of mower used to maintain the greens. They were usually protected from grazing sheep and cattle by being temporarily fenced off. To avoid damage to the turf during mowing it was necessary to fit shoes over the horses hooves, as is shown in the other advertisement below.

The Estate had been put up for sale in 1905, and about that time Mr. Rowland Cave-Browne-Cave moved to Cheltenham from Barton Court. By December 1909 he was in serious personal financial difficulty and the Public examination of his affairs was closed by the Official Receiver at Cheltenham Bankruptcy Court after a scheme of composition had been accepted.

These events and the ensuing publicity probably explain the entry in Nisbett's Golf Year Book for 1911 :-

**COLWALL (HEREFORDSHIRE):
Colwall Park Golf Club
CLOSED FOR THE PRESENT.**

THE WORLD OF GOLF.
Thursday, March 26, 1908

Pattisson's Golf Patents, &c.
As used by the Principal Clubs at Home and Abroad.

"Bogey" Hole Cutters,
"Bogey" Hole Tins,
"Anti-Mud" Tins,
New Notice Tablets,
Steel Spring Flagstuffs (anti-Cattle),
Flags and Staffs of all kinds,
Sand and Water Boxes,
Lawn Mowers,
Wood Rollers (Hollow & Solid),
Starting Ball Troughs,
Putting Green Renovators,
Worm-Cast Bamboo Rods,
Caddie Badges, &c., &c.

THE "SPECIAL" TEE MATS give a PERFECT STANCE, and prevent "wear and tear" of tees.

VERY DURABLE & ECONOMICAL.


 Water Ballast Wood Roller.

The "PATTISSON" Horse Boots.
SIMPLEST! STRONGEST! MOST ECONOMICAL!

Used by the Principal Clubs at Home and Abroad. Soles of the Best English Sole Leather (Waterproofed) and Motor-tyre Rubber, or Solid Rubber.

RUBBER SOLES STRONGLY RECOMMENDED
Fig. 1 can be RE-FITTED several times equal to New Boots.

Fig. 1. SILVER MEDAL—Royal Horticultural Society

HUNDREDS OF TESTIMONIALS.
The "FIELD" says:—"As good as anything that could be devised."
JAMES BRAID writes:—"Very pleased with them."
W. PARK writes:—"Nothing to approach them."
HARRY VARDON writes:—"The very best."
ALEX. WRIGHT (North Berwick G.C.) writes:—"They have lasted as long as three sets of the ordinary kind."

Fig. 2.



ILLUSTRATED LISTS FROM
H. PATTISSON & Co., 4, Greyhound Lane, Streatham, S.W.

Advertisement 'The World of Golf',
March 26th 1908

New Local Golf Course

An addition to the already numerous golf links of the Midlands is about to be made, which promises to provide an eighteen-hole course of excellent quality. The club will be known as the South Herefordshire Club, and the syndicate of well-known golfers, who are interesting themselves in it, have already obtained a thirty-five year lease of 150 acres of fine undulating land on the Barton Court Estate, at Colwall. The ground is said to be eminently suitable for the game, as the soil is sandy loam over gravel. The course has been planned by the amateur champion, Mr. Harold H. Hilton, under whose advice it will be laid out. The new scheme is no way connected with the old Colwall Park Golf Club, though some of the best parts of that Club's links will still be utilised. Mr. Hilton, in his report, says that he has not the slightest hesitation in saying that there should be no difficulty whatever in forming a first-class inland course. As the land is of a hilly, undulating character, he is of the opinion that anything approaching a long course would be a mistake, as tending to tire the player and make the round too difficult for the average golfer. He adds that he has avoided as much as possible placing holes where there would be a walk up a steep incline as, although such holes are often interesting and picturesque, on the other hand, they always prove very trying to even the most energetic. Lord Somers is the president¹², the Rev. H. Foster the vice-president, and Mr. Shirley Baldwin the captain, while a number of well-known members of the Worcestershire, Burhill, Stourbridge and Clevedon Clubs form the first committee. No entrance fee will be charged until the list of original members (200) is full. The secretary is Captain C. M. Berrington, Colwall¹³.

A file in The Public Record Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey. Ref : BT31-13668- 117011. revealed that the new club had been registered as a Limited Company with a Nominal Share Capital of £300- divided into 300 shares of £1 each.

Directors :

Mc Caul. Alexander Theodore,
The Cottage, Burhill Park,
Walton -on-Thames.
Late Capt. 2nd C.P.D.R.A.


Capon. Charles Eldred,
Cowl Barn, Colwall.
Gentleman.

Their signatures had been witnessed by :
R. Stuart Wilson M. A.
Headmaster of The Elms School.

On 26th July 1911 the two directors held 10 shares each, but there was no mention of any others. The number of members of the Company was not to exceed 50. (Exclusive of those in its employ.)

DUPLICATE FOR THE FILE.

No. 117011



Certificate of Incorporation

I Hereby Certify, That the
South Herefordshire Golf Club, Limited.

is this day Incorporated under the Companies (Consolidation) Act, 1908, and that the Company is **Limited**.

Given under my hand at London this *twenty-sixth* day of *July*
One Thousand Nine Hundred and *eleven*.

Fees and Deed Stamps £ *3-10-0*
Stamp Duty on Capital £ *— 15-0*

E. J. Lupton
Assistant Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.

Certificate received by *J. S. Wilson*
16 St. Helen's Place EC

Date *28th July 1911*

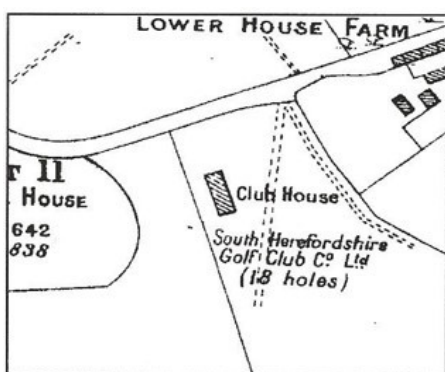
¹² James Hervey Bathurst did not think any relevant records remained at Eastnor Castle. 3/1/2000.

¹³ Malvern Gazette, June 23rd 1911.

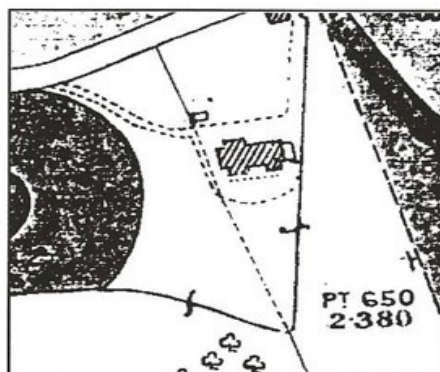
In the Register of the Particulars of Mortgages & Charges etc. of The South Herefordshire Golf Club Ltd. 2nd July, 1912. Total amount secured by Debentures : £5000.

In Sale Particulars of Messrs. J. W. Florence, Foster & Barber, 'The Old Stone Farm House', the original clubhouse, was to be sold on the 12th July 1912 together with 'The Colwall Park Hotel'. Also the comment *and the opening of the New Golf Course in September next will, it is confidently believed, be the means of golfers and their families from the Midlands, London and elsewhere frequenting the district.*

The new Golf Clubhouse in Evendine Lane was built by W. James, a well known local builder, who employed two of Mr. Walter Bishop's uncles, Harry Woodyatt, a bricklayer, and Ted Woodyatt, apprenticed to Frank Hayes, the carpenter. Apparently the roof was started on August Bank Holiday 1912.



*Clubhouse shape and position on map
1913 sale catalogue*



*Clubhouse shape and position on
1915 sale catalogue*

The discrepancy in the above two maps might indicate a draughtsman's simplification or the existence of an earlier basic clubhouse. No buildings were shown on this site on the large scale 1/2500 Ordnance Survey Revision of 1903. The larger outline corresponds to the existing building which has been added to, and the small buildings probably represent one for the Professional and a motor shelter.

Nisbett's Golf Year Book for 1912 repeated the entry that Colwall Park Golf Club was closed for the present.

Another item in the Company's Registration folder poses a problem. A hand written letter on red embossed Colwall Golf Club paper is dated at the top 3/11/12 and signed W. G. Betts, whose name occurs later. It has the Company Registration Office stamp on it dated 4 DEC 1914 and also a handwritten : *Noted 4/12*. It seems most likely that this was old paper being used up at a time when the First World War was foremost in everyone's mind. Perhaps the earlier date was already on the paper and left unchanged as an oversight. If not, then such a short memory of the South Herefordshire Golf Club's formation seems very strange. On the other hand, use of the name Colwall Golf Club crops up later and may have been a different group of players.

There were two entries in Stevens Annual for 1913¹⁴:-

Under Residents:

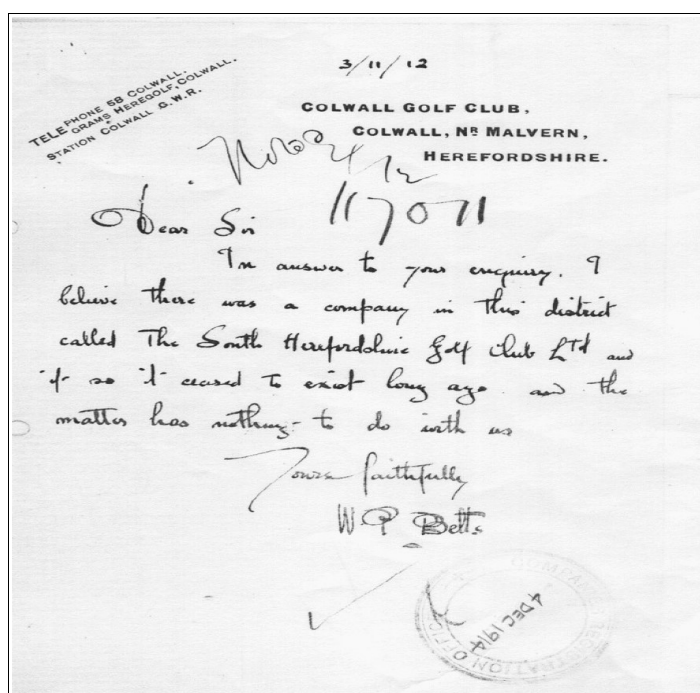
Berrington C., Northfields, Colwall. South Herefordshire Golf Club Tel. 58.

Under Clubs:

South Herefordshire Golf Club, Colwall Green. Telephone Colwall 65. Telegrams "Heregolf"
Steward A. Smith, Hon. Sec. Chas. E. Capon, Professional George Weager.

This local entry would tend to confirm the new club was established, had a new phone number, and that the new golf club house had been completed, with a steward possibly in residence. If this is the same Capt. C. Berrington who had been Hon. Sec. to the first club, he no doubt was continuing these duties in the interim. Another question is whether the first club called itself simply Colwall Golf

Club or is this the notepaper of a separate group of players using the same course?



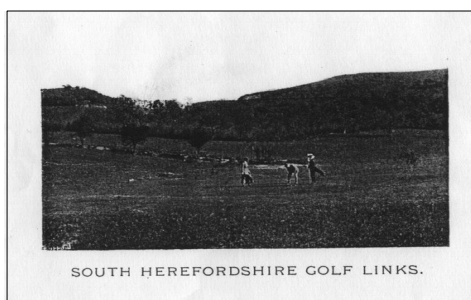
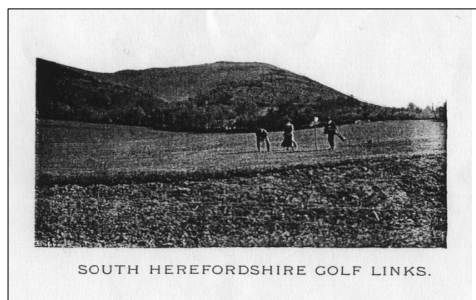
Dear Sir

In answer to your enquiry. I believe there was a company in this district called The South Herefordshire Golf Club Ltd and if so it ceased to exist long ago and the matter has nothing to do with us

Yours faithfully

W P Betts

The 1913 Sale of Barton Court Lots Catalogue, from which the golf course was excluded, had the following comment "Golfers will be interested to know that the South Herefordshire Golf Club have nearly completed a splendid eighteen-hole Course on the Estate, and the Malvern Golf Club have an excellent Course in the immediate neighbourhood." This last comment must be considered one of the factors in its eventual failure¹⁵. Other courses were also to be opened in the district at Ledbury, Upton-upon-Severn and Malvern Link.



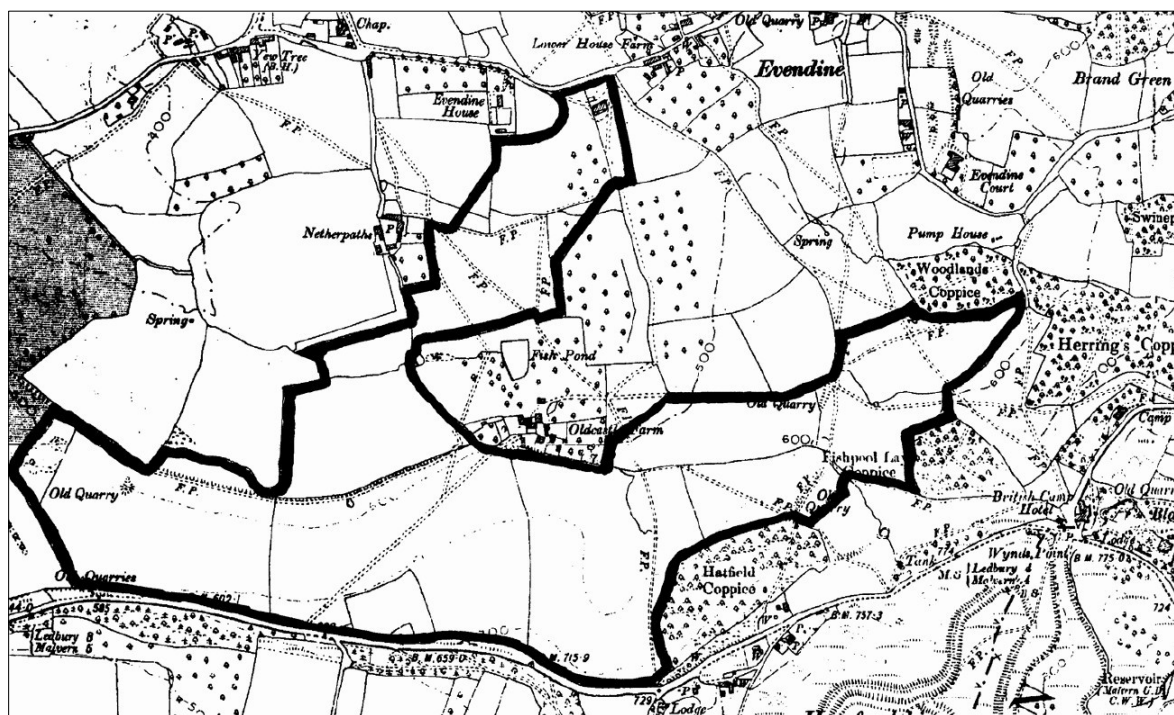
These two views were on the 1913 catalogue but could date from the first course, which included this area.

14 Malvern Library

15 Hereford Archive Office

Dated 6th January 1913 there are particulars of an issue of Debentures by the Company of £500.
Dated 10th January 1913 the total value secured is registered as £5000.
Secretary to the Company was on this document G. J. Strickland, 9 Southampton Street, Bloomsbury Square, W.C. (Items found in the Company file).

The area covered by the South Herefordshire Course was confirmed when it eventually came up for sale in 1915. In the meantime it was leased to J. C. Holt Esq. for a term of 5, 7, 14 or 21 years at the Lessee's option from the 24th June, 1913 at a rent of £225 per annum, with a further option of continuing for another 10 years at a rent of £285 5s per annum.



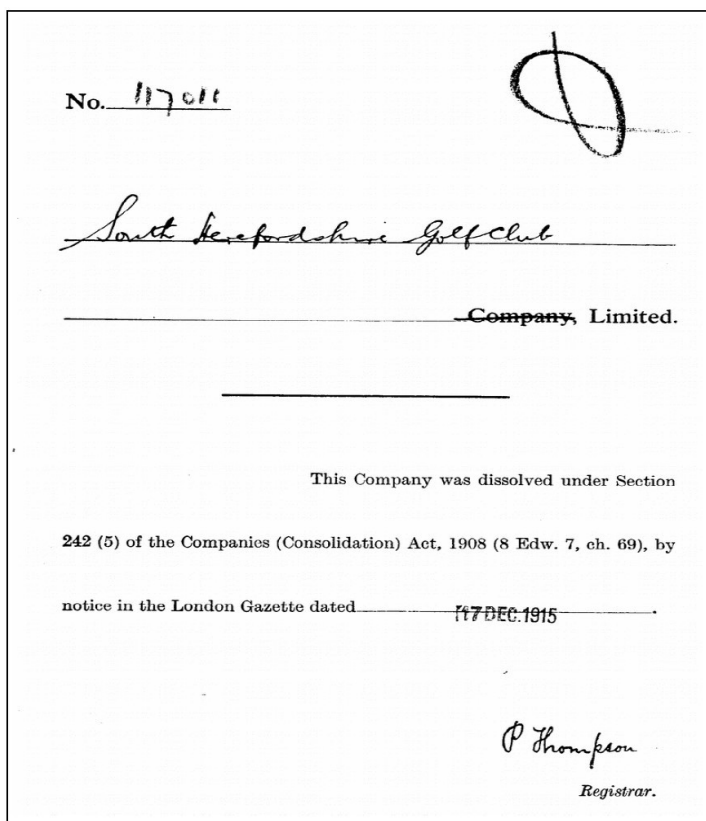
Black outline indicates the extent of the South Herefordshire Golf Course

Kelly's Directory 1913 states in the Colwall particulars :- Eighteen hole golf links were laid out on Old Castle Banks in 1912 and a club house erected in 1913. Barton Court was now the residence of Oliver Needham Holt Needham Esq. and Mrs. Cave Browne Cave was listed as one of the chief landowners, together with others¹⁶.

On the 2nd May 1914 the Companies Registration Office sent a 14 day warning letter, as the company had defaulted in sending the required 'Annual List of Members of the Company'. This was returned undelivered, 'Present address unknown'. This seems unlikely in a small village, particularly as an impressive golf clubhouse had recently been completed. The first World War broke out in August 1914, which might explain why a second letter sent on 29th October seems to have had no reply. This was followed by a letter on the 30th November, stating that if a reply had not been received within one month, the company would be struck off the register.

Stevens Annual for 1915 has the residents' entry as : The Golf House, Evendine : Proprietor J. G. Holt, Caretaker Mr Jopp. Telephone 65 Colwall.

¹⁶ Malvern Library, reference section.



The company was dissolved by notice in the London Gazette on the 17th December 1915.

It was not possible to find any reference to golf in this district in the war years in the local press, and all copies of the Ledbury newspapers appear to be missing for the years 1911, 1912 and 1913.

By 1915 the whole of the Barton Court Colwall Park Estate was up for sale including the South Herefordshire Golf Club. The Sale was at the Colwall Park Hotel on 25th and 26th November but bidding was low and many lots, including the golf club, were withdrawn¹⁷. Relating to the first course the Baxhill Farm was sold to Mr. J. F. Ballard for £975¹⁸.

Certificate of dissolution in Public Record Office File

Stevens Annual for 1916 shows the caretaker of the golf house has changed to Mr. Stone but in 1917 and 1918 the three local directories had the following entry :-

COLWALL GOLF CLUB : Hon. Sec. W. P. Betts. Professional George Weager.

This suggests that golf was still being played, and that after the demise of the club as a limited company, members continued to use the course. This may also explain the fact that one or two villagers thought there had been three different clubs over the years.

Col. G. M. Singleton, of 'Tustins', came to Colwall in 1916 and remembered when his father, who was the headmaster of The Elms School, played golf. He thought that the course then was all on the far side of Evendine Lane. He remembered a tale with some amusement that Mr. Betts, who was bald, had once been hit on the head by another player's ball.



Reproduction of an old comic postcard supplied by Mr. Tim Ward and his wife, of Ross-on-Wye, seemed an apt illustration of this story.

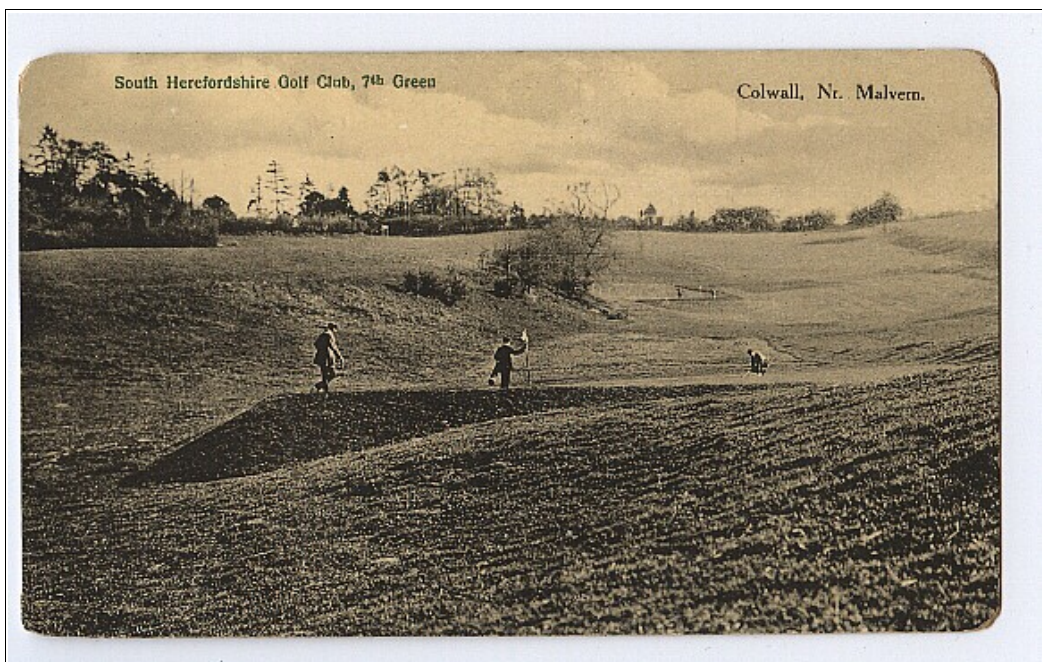
¹⁷ Hereford Archive Office AK/40/42/1-2 and report of sale in Malvern Gazette 3rd December 1915.

¹⁸ Extent of Baxhill Estate shown on plan in Hereford Archive Office AK40/41/1-3.

Some good photographs of the South Herefordshire Golf Club were published as postcards by Tilley & Son of Ledbury and can produce considerable conjecture as to the exact siting of the greens and tees. They look as if they were taken as a series, as several of the views seem to show the same players in action.



On the third tee



7th Green

Mr. Roger Fleetwood had been told that the players in the top postcard were the professional, Mr. George Weager and Mr. W. P. Betts.



View from the 8th green

This green was accurately located by Mr. Roger Fleetwood but is now in a dense pine wood. Another green or tee is visible in this view further down the valley on the left at 10 o'clock from the 8th green.



On the 13th tee

The white building on the horizon is thought to be The British Camp Hotel. Another green or tee is visible on the extreme right, just below the tree line. From the direction in which the player is looking and the next photo this cannot be the 13th green.

It was apparently usual to square off and level greens on these hills unlike the more varied slopes and shapes of modern courses. This may well have been to assist maintenance before the use of small motor mowers.



13th green

The first World War ended on 11th November 1918 and in Stevens Annual for 1919 and 1920 the Golf House entry showed that the caretaker's post was void.

On 3rd September 1919 The Barton Court and Colwall Park Estate including the Manor of Farley were for sale at The Star Hotel, Worcester. Lot 15 was The South Herefordshire Golf Links which included The Charming Club House¹⁹. the Estate was for sale as a whole but there was no offer in this respect. Lot 15 was withdrawn (it was still let to J. C. Holt Esq.), as was the racecourse for which £8500 had been offered²⁰.

Barton Court with the park like land surrounding it, Barton villas and Broadley cottages were purchased privately after the auction sale by Allan H. Bright of Liverpool, a member of the family, which for more than a century had been associated with Colwall. (He had been Liberal Member of Parliament for the Oswestry division of Shropshire). Barton Court sold for £14,000²¹.

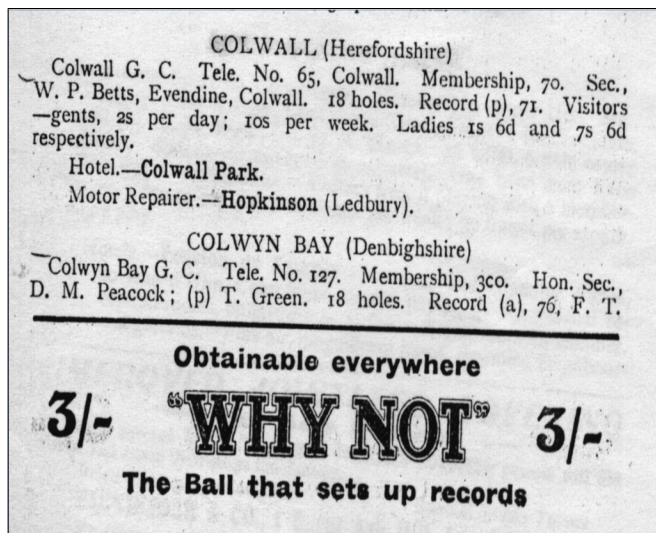
Under Local Items the Malvern Gazette announced that:- Messrs Pope & Smith will sell by auction at Colwall Park Golf Club on Monday 4th October at 1.30pm the superior furnishings and appointments therein, and the complete Golf Club equipment described in the catalogues which may be obtained from the Auctioneers, Ledbury.

19 Auctioneer's Booklet L333.335. In Malvern Reference Library.

20 Malvern Gazette 5th September 1919.

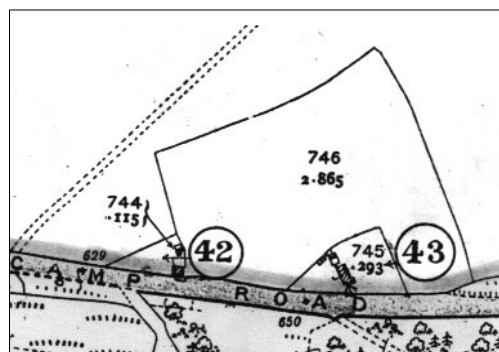
21 Malvern News and Advertiser 6th September 1919.

Messrs. Pope & Smith conducted a very successful furniture sale at the Colwall Park Golf Club on Monday last, Oct 4th (1920). The chief among the many high prices realised were - lounge chairs, upholstered in red Morocco up to £23.10s each, settees up to £33, gents' easy chairs up to £15.10s, knee-hole writing desk £12.10s etc²².



Entry in Golfers Handbook for 1921.

This entry is interesting because it confirms that an 18 hole course was still in play and the Colwall Golf Club title is in use with Mr. Betts as Secretary. The details may have been supplied in 1920 before the clubhouse fittings and furniture were sold.



Land and Cottages (see below)

In a Memorandum as to the Land and Cottages near Chances Pitch that had been bought by a Mr. Alfred Evans, it was noted that the property was included in a Lease to The Colwall Golf Links granted by Mrs. Cabrera, Countess de Morella (the predecessor in title to a Mr. Thompson, the vendor to Mr. Evans) to Mr. J. G. Holt from the 21st June 1913. Mr. Holt had assigned the Lease to a Mr. Boret who had then become by purchase from Mrs. Cabrera, the owner of the rest of her estate and in whose freehold the lease thus merged. The Property was said to be perfectly useless for the purpose of the Golf Links and Mr. Holt, Mr. Williamson and, it was believed Mr. Betts (Mr. Boret's Agents) had frequently told the owner so and that they had no objection to him fencing the land in²³.

The remaining portions of the Colwall Estate were to be sold on 23rd August 1921 at The Colwall Park Hotel by Norbury-Smith & Co. :-

Sale Lot 12 (coloured blue on plan.)
The Important and Desirable Residence and Agricultural Property known as
THE GOLF CLUB HOUSE
together with about 36a. or. 35p of Rich Meadow Land

²² Ledbury Guardian. 9th October 1920. p2.

²³ Copy of Memorandum found by a present day owner of one of the cottages.

The CLUB HOUSE, which has been used as a Pavilion, is approached by a short drive from the Evendine Road. It is well built in red brick and rough-cast, with red tiled roof, and has an exceedingly picturesque elevation, standing well up with southern aspect and enjoying delightful views. With a small expenditure, this property could easily be converted into a charming residence. The accommodation is arranged as follows:

On the first floor: **Well-lighted Bed Room**, fitted with radiator, **Front Bed and Dressing Room**, and large tank room under roof, **Large Back Bed Room**, 30-ft. by 18-ft. 6-in. having a large square bay window, brick fire-place with well grate, three cupboards, and approached from the landing by two doors.

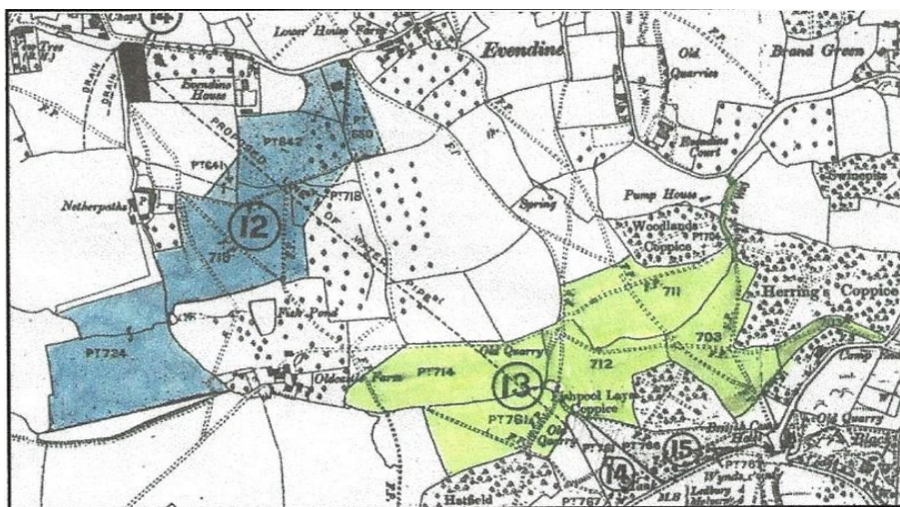
On the Ground Floor: **Veranda Entrance** with tiled floor and lift-up flaps to cellar; **Entrance Hall**, with well fire-place and oak mantel-piece; **Small Office**, with hatch window to dining room, **Serving Room**, with hatch to dining room; **Kitchen**, fitted "Albion" range; **Drying Room**, with cylindrical hot water cistern, radiator; **Back Kitchen**, with range, glazed sink (h. and c.); Larder, fitted shelves; W. C. in yard. *In the Cellars:* **Hot Water Cistern** with Beeston boiler and coke furnace; Petrol Engine for gas plant. **Dining Room**, 19-ft. 6-in. by 14-ft., a very well lighted apartment with double doors opening to verandah, rafted ceiling, and fitted brick fire-place with well grate; **Drawing Room**, 15-ft by 15-ft., prettily shaped, with angle bay window, rafted ceiling and double doors to verandah, brick fire-place with well grate, radiators; **Large Cloakroom**, 24-ft. 6-in. by 16-ft., fitted with three lavatory basins, rail and hat pegs, two radiators and door to garden, two pedestal w.c.'s and two urinals; **Ladies Cloak Room**, 21-ft. by 15-ft., fitted two lavatory basins (h. & c.), door to garden, two painted rails with hat pegs, pedestal w.c. Along the South front is a wide Verandah with red tiled paving, supported by four circular ship's mast columns. Petrol Gas installed. Main Drainage. Company's water laid on. The Grass lands, divided into convenient enclosures, have a southern slope and comprise some exceedingly rich meadows, and would be eminently suitable for Fruit growing.

Lot 13(coloured yellow on plan)

Several Capital Parcels of Land

(Originally forming the Eastern portions of the Golf Club), and having an area of about

42 a.	2r.	15p
(Acres	Roods	Poles, perches or rods.)



Lot 12 with the clubhouse was withdrawn at an offer of £2000. The final date of sale of the clubhouse was not found, but by 1922 it was entered in the name of J. W. Marchant and had been renamed Casa Blanca in Stevens Annual.

No further definite evidence of golf being played in Colwall after this date has yet been found. About ten or more years ago, The Rotary Club had the idea of holding a fund raising game around what was known of the old courses. Mr. Walter Bishop remembered as a boy, going down to wait outside the new clubhouse, hoping to be a caddie. Usually he carried two clubs while the player held the one he was about to use. A round would take all morning. They went off around Oldcastle Farm, then walked round to Narbridge Lane and then back via the old limekiln. He earned one penny a round, or twopence if lucky! Because of this first hand experience he, Mr. John Bishop and his father had walked round to try and locate the sites of tees and greens. Mr. Mike Ormerod had been involved in the scheme which unfortunately never came to fruition.



At around the same period, Mrs. Marion Percy found an old damaged golf ball in a ditch on the course. The circular imprint visible in the photo has the following N.B RUBBER Co • 1 • just discernible but on the opposite side only what looks like an H has survived. It is unlikely to be as old as 1908 but has a similar wound interior as the advertisement shows below

Thursday, April 2, 1908. THE WORLD OF GOLF.

IMPORTANT INVENTION!

THESE DRAWINGS ARE EXACTLY HALF SIZE.

THIS is the inner core of resilient construction ready for winding.

THIS is the wound core of the Ball ready for the cover to be put on.

THIS is the Ball wound with the above rubber and gutta tape ready to be placed in the vulcanizing dies.

THIS is the finished Ball, painted with the beautiful white Leadite paint.

THIS represents the exact quantity of best pure rubber tape used for winding on above inner core to form the core of the Ball.

THIS represents the exact quantity of the newly invented rubber and gutta tape to wind on to the above core and thus form a jointless and wonderfully resilient cover.

A New and Novel Method OF MAKING

Golf Balls.

THE —

“MARZO”

1/6 each.

MAGNIFICENT VALUE.

The CORE is of resilient construction made under Patent No. 12272 and gives the Ball that life which is so necessary for a long carry.

The Cover is made of the newly invented rubber and gutta tape wound on and then vulcanized.

NO JOINT TO SPLIT.

1,152 feet of tensioned rubber on the core of each Ball.

A Revelation in —

GOLF BALL MAKING

THE “MARZO” OF

WONDERFUL CARRY AND FLIGHT,

STEADY AND TRUE ON THE GREEN.

NOW READY of all Professionals or direct

MARTINS-BIRMINGHAM, LIMITED,

Golf Ball Makers,

BIRMINGHAM.

593

Advertisement. The World of Golf. April 2nd 1908.

Local advertisements also give some idea of the cost of equipment and a fashion flavour to this era:-

Ledbury Free Press, 17th March, 1908

GOLF REQUISITES
of every description
SPALDINGS MAKE
THE BEST ARE THE CHEAPEST
Clubs 5s. 6d.
Balls from 8d.
Caddy Bags 2s. 6d.
FOR THE BEST VALUE GO TO
J. DAVIES
GENERAL AND FURNISHING
IRONMONGER
8 HIGH ST. LEDBURY

Ledbury Reporter & Guardian, 5th November 1921, pictures a man in Plus Fours and Cap. Golf Suit:- Well cut Sports Coat and roomy Badminton Knickers, made of Homespun and Lovatt Mixture. Price the suit complete: 105/- 90/- 75/-.

When a new golf club was formed in Malvern Link in 1919, J. Weager was present at the inaugural meeting and offered his services for the first twelve months voluntarily and to assist in every way to promote the success of the club²⁴. The following year Harry Vardon, the third of the famous Triumvirate, visited for an Exhibition Match with J. Weager²⁵. Although the newspaper used a different initial, it seems possible that this is the Colwall professional, George Weager, having moved on at the demise of his old club.



Mr. George Stone and Emily his wife

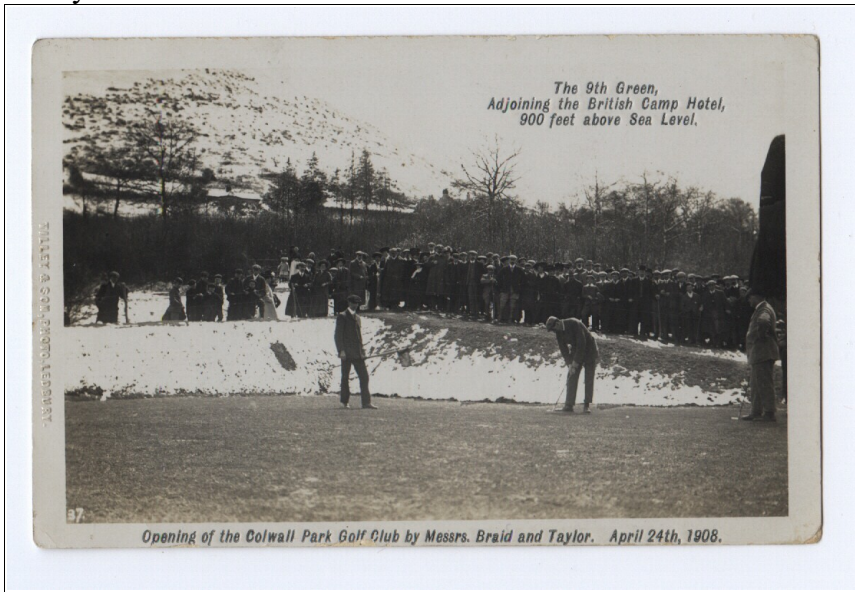
Mrs. Mary Whitehouse, granddaughter of Mr. Stone, supplied this photo taken in front of the verandah while he was Steward of the South Herefordshire Golf Club, between 1913 and 1917. See present day photo of the house on page 23

²⁴ Malvern Gazette 7th November 1919.

²⁵ Malvern Gazette 18th June 1920.

Visible remains of the courses in the year 2000.

The main problem in sorting out exactly where each of the eighteen holes of the two courses were situated is the absence of any contemporary plans, such as are usually found on score cards today. Further confusion is caused by the South Herefordshire Golf Links being laid out over part of the original land south of Evendine Lane. We know that a less exhausting course was planned but some of the established greens and tees may well have been utilised. Although accurate distances were recorded for the first course, with some description, there was no mention of where the players crossed from the racecourse to go round Oldcastle Farm nor which way they returned from the ninth green, '*adjoining the British Camp Hotel, 900 feet above sea level*', to reach Baxhill Farm and finally the station.



Two buildings are just visible in this postcard but not clearly enough to be sure that the one on the right is the hotel. There have been many changes in this area, loss of a swimming bath and new houses built. Snow has blurred the outline of the hills.

Lot 13 in the 1921 Colwall Estate Sale means this green could well have been situated close to the hotel though not on land subsequently used by the second course. A suggested site has been put on the map at the end but no earthworks have yet been found.

Most destruction of these greens and tees has probably taken place during both world wars when there was pressure to plough up land that had previously only been used for grazing, and this certainly accounts for those on the racecourse. Two others have suffered a similar fate in living memory.



Figure 9 on map

Although the railway and the Schweppes factory are below this green to the west it is certainly more than a minute's walk to the station, which makes for doubt in thinking it was the 18th hole of the original course. The view below (Fig.9.) shows its position looking north west.



Green marked Fig.9 on map



Green marked Fig.8 on map



Green marked Fig.7 on map

The green shown above is clearly visible in winter from the track that is at the east edge of Penn Coppice, showing in the background. In summer it tends to encourage more tall weeds than the surrounding meadow.



This is not thought to be a tee at the north west corner of Hanway's Coppice but more likely old quarry workings, which are marked on maps further south in the wood.

The South Herefordshire Golf Club House was turned into a very attractive private residence as the original sale particulars suggested and has been extended in matching style. The ship's masts are visible supporting the verandah on the south side of the original building. A wooden shed on the extreme right is in the same position as a building on the map, possibly for the Professional.



Natural hazards were described as being incorporated in the courses. The picture below is close to an old quarry and very rough ground at the extreme western limit of the South Herefordshire Links.



This was believed to be a green, but the earthwork was not as clear as one would have liked. The evergreen trees are planted over the rough ground marked on the old map.

Shown as Fig.1 on map



Fig.3 on map

This appearance near Oldcastle Farm is very similar to a green in the old postcards, but there may be other reasons why it has been levelled .



Fig.2 on map

This green is very clearly visible from the clubhouse (The red roof in the middle distance on the right.). It can also be identified from the dip in the road between the end of Colwall Green and Barton Court. The view from it covers most of the land used for both courses.



Fig.4 on map

There is no doubt that this shows the 8th green of the South Herefordshire Golf Club. It is in the same position on the old postcard and has a much clearer shape than this photo in the wood suggests. Identification was helped by the contours of the valley. The roof of Oldcastle Farm can just be seen with Evendine House on the extreme left above it on the postcard. There is no sign of the clubhouse yet, which dates the postcard to 1911-12.(See page 15).

This green is just southwest of the old quarry and limekiln which were situated behind the trees on the bank. Mr. John Bishop's Landrover and trailer are parked on the levelled square now overgrown with coarse grass. An 18 hole round over this terrain, even with a caddie and on the easier second course, must have been very good exercise.



Fig.6 on map

This is one of the most clearly cut and banked of the remaining greens. It must have required an accurate approach shot to avoid the steep slopes on all sides.



Fig.5 on map

The same green in winter and looking in the opposite direction, north east. The site of the old quarry and limekiln are just beyond and below the trees in the centre.



Fig.5 on map



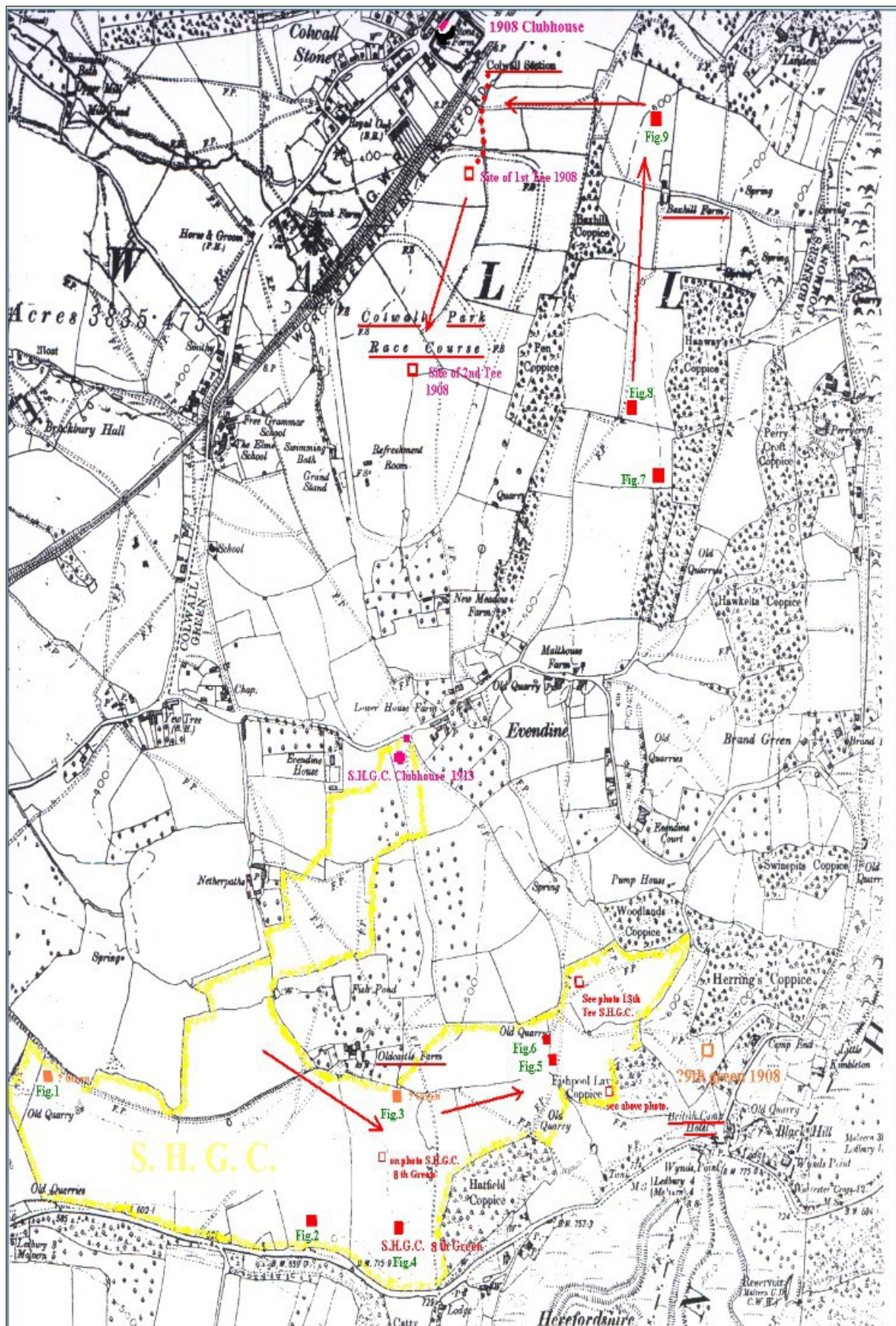
View towards British Camp Hotel, hidden by trees, left of centre.

Two of the greens or tees that have been ploughed up within living memory. Their approximate position drawn on the photo. The green in the corner could be the one shown in the postcard of S.H.G.C., on the 13th Tee. (See page 15).

The map opposite is based on a copy of the Ordnance Survey Second Edition, 1905. Scale— Six Inches to One Statute Mile.

Several minor defects may be found due to damage and poor copying. It was necessary to obliterate some detail and cover imperfect joints to obtain coverage of the area required.

- Solid Red Squares have been used to indicate visible outlines of Greens or Tees.
- Hollow Red Squares indicate the approximate sites which have been deduced from photo's, or remembered by residents.
- Solid Orange Squares indicate where earthworks have suggestive appearances.
- Red Arrows show the direction of play on the first 1908 course as described in newspaper reports. It is not known which paths or tracks were used to cross Evendine Lane.
- Green Figure Numbers refer to illustrations of these sites.
- The Yellow Outline is the limit of the South Herefordshire Golf Links.



Map showing location of existing greens / tees

Addendum

Mr. Rowland Cave-Browne-Cave was born on 14th April, 1865 and was educated at Magdalen College, Oxford. He went to sea and in his spare time went back to continue his study in college. He was in the merchant service, and captained the first four-masted ship, which ever went out of the port of London. He left the sea service 18 years ago, (1881) and then became the proprietor of the Junior Travellers' Club in London. This failed, (circa 1895) and he afterwards married (1st June 1895) a very charming lady (Honora Fowler, widowed in 1893) and went to live on her father's estate at Colwall. There he used his capabilities - such as they were - in developing the estate, into which his wife came upon her father's death seven years ago (1900). He was the means of laying out over £80,000 in cash on that estate, the income of which was £8,900 a year. There he lived until he came to Cheltenham four years ago (1905). His father-in-law was Mr. Benjamin Bright, a well-known man, after whom a room in the British Museum was named. About 15 years ago the Junior Travellers' Club failed. The rent of it was £6000 a year. The receiving order was on his own petition; there were practically no assets and no dividend. He received his discharge in due course, suspended for 2 years¹.



Mr. and Mrs. R. Cave-Browne-Cave

MALVERN GAZETTE December 10th 1909

Mr. R. C. B. Cave's Affairs

Creditors Meeting at Cheltenham

A meeting of the creditors of Rowland Cave Brown Cave, of Auvergne, Cheltenham, gentleman, was held at the County Court, Cheltenham, on Saturday, under the presidency of the Official Receiver (Mr. Chas. Scott). Mr. E. Harrison, solicitor, of Worcester, appeared for the petitioning creditor (Mr. Percy Smith of Worcester), Mr. Robinson (Fowler & Co., London), for the debtor, and the only other creditor present was Mr. T. G. Dobbs, solicitor of Worcester. The following creditors had proved: E. W. Blake (for taxes), £5 and £7. 8s. 9d; T. G. Dobbs, £200; H. P. Smith, £137. 6s. 10d. Kendall and Co. (Worcester), £4. 6s. Referring to Mr. Smith's proof, the Receiver said that it was made up of commission at 2½ per cent, on £2,628, and at 5 per cent on £3000. The question was whether the full commission of 5 per cent, being charged on the £3000, the commission on the £2628 must come off. From simply reading the bill it seemed to him as if £100

¹ Mr. R.C.B Cave's reported words in italics at Public Examination. Ledbury Guardian, 1st January 1910.

ought to come off, but he was aware that there might be a good deal said to the contrary. It was quite possible that the whole of the £2628 plans were thrown aside and made no use of, and the £3000 plan prepared afterwards and was all independent of the first plan. He had it, however, that the Registrar had passed the whole of the bill, things having taken place, which precluded the debtor from criticising the bill. These things were lapse of time, payment on account, and so forth. For the present he would admit the account. If any creditor considered that he had admitted it for too much it was open for him to appeal. Mr. Harrison said the charges in question were framed upon the scale authorised by the Institute of Architects.

The Receiver: I have had some experience, and have never recognised more than 2½ per cent, if the work is not done, and 5 per cent if the whole work is done.

Mr. Robinson applied for an adjournment to give him time to complete pending negotiations and prepare a scheme.

The Receiver: I suppose the object of an adjournment is to prevent me obtaining adjudication.

Mr. Robinson: Yes.

The Receiver: In a case like this, where I am distinctly told that negotiations are pending with a view to a scheme, I should not feel myself justified in snatching an adjudication, especially as there is no particular hurry. I cannot find that there is any property for me to hold on. We can save the bother for an adjournment and I will not apply for an adjudication until January 7th. Mr. Cave Brown Cave, for very good reasons does not wish to be adjudged bankrupt; no man does, I suppose. There were social reasons in his case, independent of his debts or anything of that sort, and one did not want to kick a man when he was down, added the Receiver.

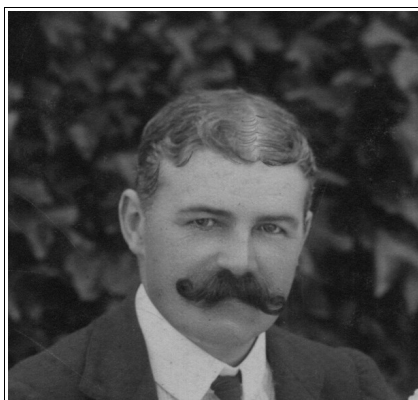
LEDBURY GUARDIAN Saturday January 1st 1910

Mr. R. C. B. Cave's Affairs. Public Examination.

At the Cheltenham County Court on Thursday Mr. Rowland Henry Cave-Brown-Cave Gentleman of St. Auvergne, Cheltenham, attended for examination. Bankrupt's gross liabilities (to 12 unsecured creditors) totalled £418.3s.5d and assets returned as nil.

The Receiver: You contracted debts without having at the time good reason for anticipating you would be able to pay the same. You were also guilty of "rash and hazardous speculations and unjustifiable extravagance".

Debtor: (Smiling) Those are the usual reasons and I got the customary suspension, there being no opposition to the discharge.



The Receiver, having elicited since that bankruptcy the debtor had had no assets, questioned him about various accounts not entered by him in his statement of affairs, including an amount owing to the Assets Corporation, London. His reply was that the Corporation and the whole bankruptcy was a d----d shame.

The Registrar: You must not use that expression here.

The Debtor: Well, a thundering shame that I should be called upon to pay, and they absolutely refuse to make any claim whatever. Asked why he had sent in such an imperfect list of creditors, bankrupt said he had been so busy.

The Receiver: And didn't go home where your dunning letters were?

Debtor: I am afraid they are in the fire.

Asked whether he did not keep a list of his debts and the judgements against him, debtor said "They are too many sometimes. It is only fair to say that I have been paying huge sums all along, and the amount for which I am bankrupt is, by comparison, a mere trifle. Harrison (solicitor for the petitioning creditor) has done this sort of thing before too often. Not only has he spoilt his own

client's claim, but those of others”.

The Registrar: I held that you were responsible, and the Divisional Court and Court of Appeal have upheld my decision. It was an absolutely undisputed claim on your part, and you had sent the creditor in question large cheques on account.

The Receiver: I shall have to ask for a deficiency account. What have you done with all your bills and receipts?I am afraid if I kept them all I should have to keep a new house. (Laughter).

You say you have no jewelry; have you not a watch and rings?.....Yes.

Well, they are jewelry; where are they?.....Here.

Then you may as well hand them over.....

Bankrupt handed the Receiver a gun-metal watch, which he said was perhaps worth 5s....

The ring was his father-in-law's.

The Receiver said: if they were family things, debtor's wife was quite welcome to them upon payment, and he allowed debtor to take them back on that understanding. Asked whether he had any interest under a deceased aunt's will, debtor said the lady in question left £80,000, but it all went to the Church Army. (Laughter, in which debtor joined).

The Receiver: I don't wish to be uncomplimentary, but I dare say it will be in better hands. (Laughter).

Debtor: I don't know. I should have made good use of it. We objected to the will, but we were advised that our case was not good enough to fight. She only altered her will a week before her death, so it was rough luck.

Certain other transactions caused the Colwall Park Racecourse to be mentioned and debtor said he laid this out himself on his wife's estate and had been advised to turn it into a Company. He was glad this had not been done, for it still belonged to the estate and was one of the most successful little meetings in the Midlands.

By the Registrar: Since his marriage the only money he had was in connection with the estate of his wife. He had been offered a definite allowance, but he would not take it. His wife, who was "the best wife I ever had" had given him what he wanted, whether it was £50 or £500. He started the Colwall Hotel and the Colwall Granite Quarries, but he had no interest in either now. The law costs of the case they won against the Malvern Hills Conservators over the quarries amounted to £2,800.

The Receiver: You have suggested the possibility of making a definite offer of composition with your creditors? --Yes; it can be done in 5 minutes; the money is forthcoming, if it were four times as much; but it depends whether anybody wants to be nasty,

Registrar: But if anybody wants to be nasty, you won't pay?Yes.

From past experience, you have felt sure your wife would pay your debts?.....Yes; or my relations or friends.

You have not the slightest idea how much you have spent on yourself?.....No.

When you wanted money, you merely went to your wife, got it, and spent it?.....Yes.

Some questions were then asked debtor as to the debt due to the petitioning creditor, Mr. H.P. Smith, viz £137.0s.10d, balance of account of £237.6s.10d for preparing architectural plans. Questioned as to whether he had not borrowed money at 6% and raised a sum on real estate at 13%, debtor assailed his questioner with great contempt until he was pulled up by the Registrar, who told him that if he could not behave himself and answer questions properly, he would stop the hearing, in which case he would have to come again, and if he would not come, he would have him arrested. The Official Receiver asked that the examination be adjourned and that meanwhile debtor be directed to file an amended statement of affairs. The examination was adjourned to 27th January.

MALVERN GAZETTE 28th January 1910

Mr. Rowland Cave-Browne-Cave², Cheltenham and Colwall, appeared at Cheltenham Bankruptcy Court, yesterday.

Mr. Robinson solicitor for the debtor said £4000 entered by the debtor as due to the Assets company was a mistake, the Company making no claim, he was not a party to the deal concerned. The Official Receiver said he had received a scheme of composition, the debtor offering 7/6 in the pound. The examination was closed.

He died on the 21st December 1943, his wife having predeceased him on 17th May 1924.

2 In Burke's Peerage and Baronetage, he later became the 14th Baronet Sir Rowland Cave-Browne-Cave, with the family motto 'Gardez' (Beware)!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many thanks are due to the following people, who have kindly lent postcards, photographs and documents, given advice, verbal information and local knowledge.

Mr. James Hervey-Bathurst	Mr. John Bishop	Mr. Walter Bishop
Gen. Scott Bowden	Mr. Arthur Dalley	Mr. John Davis
Mr. Roger Fleetwood	Miss Mary Godsell	Mr. Richard Holbrook
Miss Suzanne Keen	Mr. Noey Lewis	Mrs. Elizabeth Lloyd
Mr. Rod Lovgreen	Mr. Mike Ormerod	Mrs. Marion Percy
Mr. & Mrs. David Rushton	Mr. Garnet Scott	Col. G. Singleton
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Stallard	Mr. J. C. Smith	Mr. Clive Sturman
Mr. Don Taylour	Mr. Tim Ward	Mr. M. Van Rossum
Miss Margid Verbist	Mr. Maurice Widdows	

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Ms. Kathryn H. Baker, Curator of The British Golf Museum St. Andrews