

A Treatise on Golf and Walking Norfolk's Historic 98-Year Old Golf Course

"Golf is the closest game to the game we call life. You get bad breaks from good shots; you get good breaks from bad shots - but you have to play the ball as it lies."

- Bobby Jones, 1950

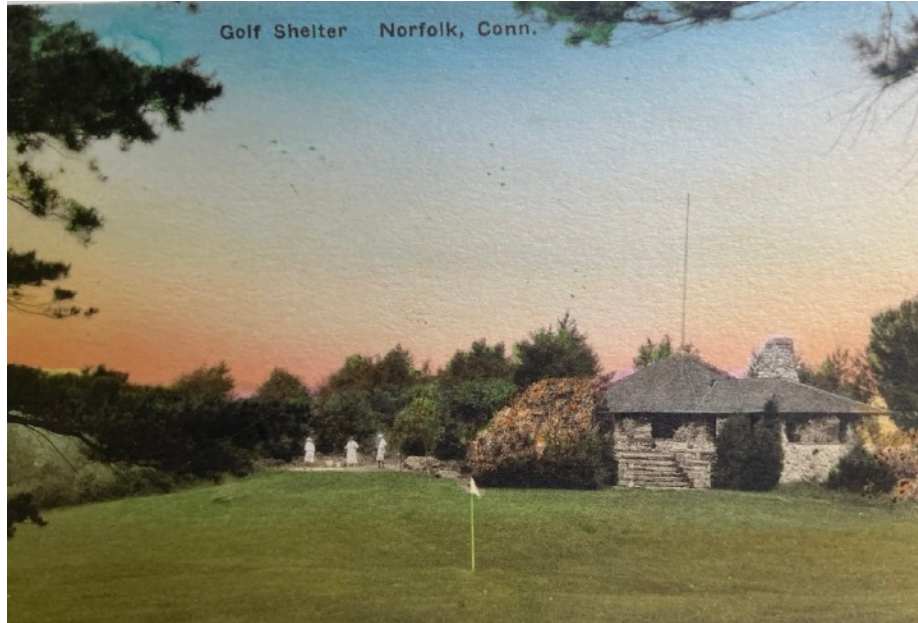
In July of 2028, the Norfolk Country Club golf course will mark it's 100th anniversary. Situated on 40 hilly acres where sheep once grazed on the Curtiss family farm, the pastoral, picturesque meadows were carved into a short but challenging 9-hole track in 1928 under the guidance of famed *World Golf Hall of Game* golf course architect, **A.W. Tillinghast** - who designed close to 270 golf courses in his storied career, including the universally celebrated courses: **Winged Foot**, **Baltusrol** and **Bethpage Black**.



Albert Warren Tillinghast (1876-1942)

It wasn't until 15 years after the Norfolk Country Club was founded in 1912, with its clubhouse located downtown on Maple Avenue in the **Eldridge Gymnasium** (now Norfolk's Town Hall),

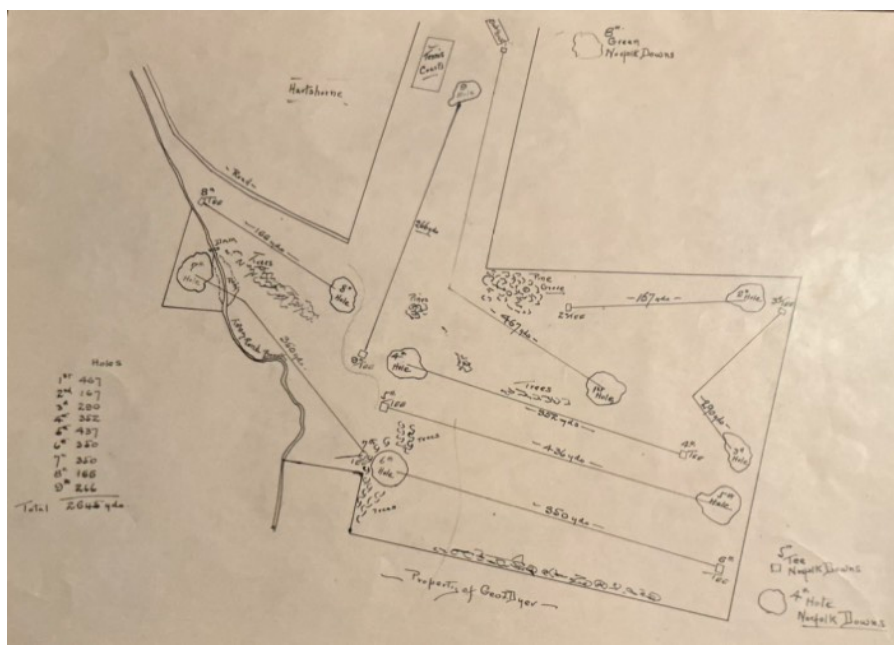
that the NCC members were able to acquire the necessary land to build their own course on Golf Drive. Prior to that, NCC members played at **The Norfolk Downs**, a 9-hole course (one of the first public golf courses in the country) overlooking Tobey Pond created in 1897 by **Isabella Eldridge**, benefactress and founder of the **Norfolk Library**.



Teeing Off On The First Hole - Norfolk Downs, c. 1910

Perturbed by Miss Bella's prohibition of golf on Sunday, NCC members had been focused on building their own golf course at least since **Alfredo S.G. Taylor**'s Georgian Revival clubhouse was completed on Golf Drive in 1917. The new clubhouse was a mere chip shot away from the Norfolk Downs's 9th tee which was sited in what is now the parking lot of the Norfolk Curling Club. In 1926, attorney and NCC member, **Abel I. Smith**, under the tutelage of Tillinghast, drew up a map of the envisioned Norfolk Country Club course.

Sketch of Proposed NCC Golf Course - Abel I. Smith, c. 1926



“Walking is Man’s Best Medicine” - Hippocrates, c. 400 BC

The *Game of Golf* came to be in Scotland over 600 years ago, in the 15th century. Golf’s rules were formalized in 1744 (the *Thirteen Articles*, drafted by the Honorable Company of Edinburgh Golfers); and in 1764, the first 18-hole course was laid out on the North Sea at **St. Andrews**, Fife, Scotland.

From the beginning, golf was a walking sport mostly along the links (sandy coastal strips of land that *linked* the sea to the mainland) of Scotland, Ireland and England. Golfers carried their own primitive clubs, tying them together with rope or twine or engaged what came to be called caddies to ease the burden. It wasn’t until 1870 that golf bags were introduced to accommodate the heavier iron clubs that were then becoming popular.

“Where’s My Caddie?”

The word caddie is derived from the French word “*cadet*” which originally referred to a young military trainee. The Scots borrowed the word from the French in the 1630s. In the Scottish vernacular the word evolved into **caddie** and was used to describe errand boys who performed odd jobs. By the mid-1800s the word caddie was being used primarily to describe a person who assists a golfer by carrying his clubs and performing other duties that enabled golfers to concentrate on their games.

The Blackheath Golfer, 1790 - Lemuel Francis Abbott (1760-1802)



For years, The Norfolk Downs and The Norfolk Country Club had robust caddie programs. The Downs caddie shack was just down the hill from Golf Drive, where Tobey Pond Road dips into the woods. It was about 50 yards from Alfredo Taylor's 1907 rubble stone **Downs Shelter** adjacent to the Downs 1st tee. The NCC caddie shack was located where the putting green is today.

Twenty-two time NCC (golf) club champion, **Larry Hannafin**, who co-holds the NCC course record of **65** which he recorded in **1974** and former NCC Club President (and 3-time club champion) **Rod Perkins** both grew up in Norfolk. In their teens, they hitch-hiked to caddie at the NCC which was then a stronghold of White Anglo-Saxon Protestants (WASPs). These local lads ("townies") embraced the opportunity to learn about the game of golf (and play the course on Mondays), to observe and gain insights as to how the other half lived and to earn spending money (\$1.50 to carry one bag for 18 holes). The caddie program at the NCC was eliminated approximately 60 years ago in favor of renting out motorized carts to members.



**"Uptown" Larry Hannafin and Roderick "Rod" Perkins
From Caddies to Club Champions**

Employing a caddie to: *carry your bag and clubs, find balls resulting from errant shots, rake sand traps, calculate distances, help with club selection, replace divots, read greens, fix ball marks on the green, tend the pin, lend moral support, etc.*, was an intrinsic part of the game of golf for centuries - until the mid-1950s when electric golf carts were introduced, revolutionizing the ancient game forever.

A Walking Game Becomes a Riding Game

The golf cart was invented in 1932 by **Lyman Beecher** in Clearwater, Florida. An electrical engineer suffering from arthritis, Beecher created a 2-wheeled, battery-powered “rickshaw-style” cart pulled by 2 caddies. Because it proved to be too heavy for caddies to lug up steep hills, Beecher tinkered with his invention and came up with an individually-operated conveyance outfitted with 6 heavy-duty car batteries. For a couple of decades, these rudimentary golf carts were used primarily by golfers with disabilities.



Lyman Beecher's Original Golf Cart - 1932 Biltmore Forest Country Club, Asheville, NC

After World War II, **Bruce Williamson**, an engineer from Portland, Oregon cobbled together the first golf pull cart from aluminum tubing, a few springs and a couple of lawnmower wheels, a convenient alternative to carrying your golf bag or hiring a caddie. Williamson developed a company which evolved into the **Bag Boy** push cart brand, a global market leader today.

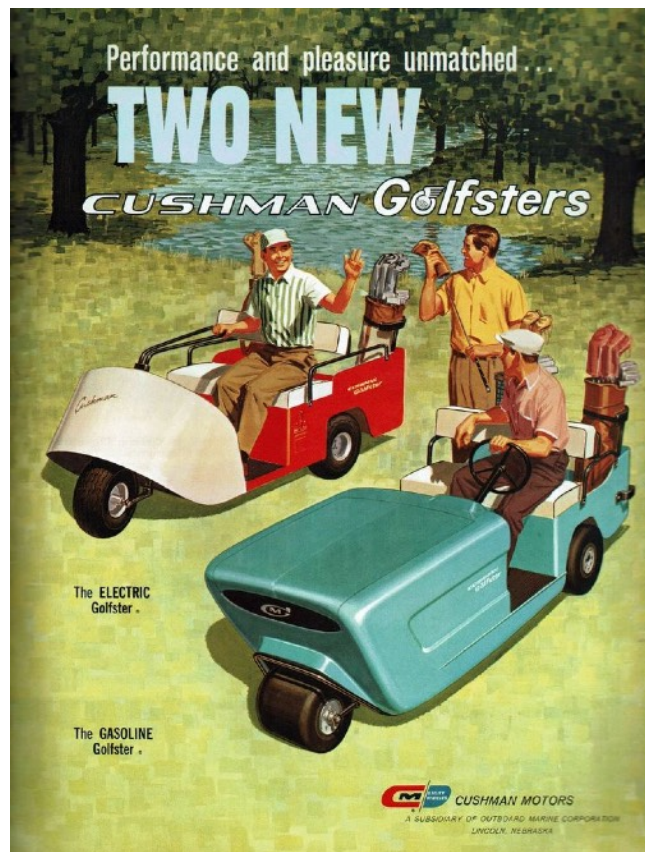
Bag Boy Pull Cart -1940s



“When golf carts came along, golf changed from a sport to a game.”

- Jack MacDonald
Peace Pipe Country Club, 1960s

In 1951, **Merle Williams** of Long Beach, CA introduced the first commercially successful electric golf cart under the **Marketeer** name. Early golf carts were steered with tillers rather than steering wheels and, depending on global energy machinations, electric or gas-powered golf carts have come in and out of favor for decades.



The Cushman Golfster - mid-1950s

By the late 1960s, when many golf clubs and country clubs realized that charging for golf carts could be a nice revenue stream, caddie programs were gradually phased out and riding in golf carts became the norm.

Country Clubs and Golf - Meant for Each Other

Country Clubs evolved in the late 1800s from elite, urban men's clubs whose members were seeking rural escapes from industrialized cities. Recreation at the earliest country clubs involved pastimes such as horse racing, cricket, hunting, etc. It was sheer kismet when golf became a cultural craze in the early 20th century, meshing beautifully with the burgeoning country club ethos and culture. Ever since, being a member of a private country club and playing golf have had a certain *Je ne sais quoi* cachet.

There are 16,000 golf courses in the United States. Four thousand (25%), including the Norfolk Country Club, are considered private. Of these, approximately 1,300 (9%) have caddies which can be found mostly at posh, private courses where initiation fees can reach as much as \$200,000.

Connecticut has 173 golf courses, far fewer than neighboring Massachusetts which has 370 courses. New York state boasts 830 courses, ranking it 4th in the country. Of Connecticut's 173 courses, 100 are public and 73 are private - and less than 20 are considered elite, private clubs that, existing in a bit of a time warp, still have strong caddie programs - including the #1-ranked golf and country club in the state, **The Stanwich Club** (1964), in Greenwich, **Wee Burn** (1896) in Darien, **Brooklawn** (1895) in Fairfield and **Hartford Golf Club** (1896) in West Hartford.

Playgrounds of the Mind

“The tee box is a solitary stage, your shot a soliloquy: a merciless critique of the content of your character, a bitter commentary on how well you’ve chosen to live your life.”

- *Anonymous*

The tee box beckons, a carpet of grass where possibilities abound and magical thinking metastasizes. There is complete silence as the golfer commences a highly-individualized pre-shot routine. The ball is stationary as she or he addresses the little (1.68 inch diameter, 1.6 ounce) white ball. There is no chorus of catcalls from thousands of antagonist spectators. There are no 100-mile-an-hour fast balls to contend with. There are no opponents on defense, trying to interfere with the flight of the ball. There are no helmets, mouth guards or pads for protection.



A litany of swing thoughts flood the brain, the head twitches, jitters tighten the grip, the feet do a little dance. The hopeful golfer freezes for a moment, staring at the ball in quiet desperation, anticipating the imminent, gut-wrenching: **1-second** swing.

Whew! And after the shot is taken and assessments of its quality are expressed by the golfer and good-natured chirping percolates from the 3-member choir of playing partners - the golfer hops into a motorized buggy and drives to wherever the ball has come to rest, only to begin the agonizing ritual all over again. This is what avid golfers call *fun*; and what they'd rather do more than anything else in their lives.

USGA guidelines recommend an overall time limit of no more than **4 hours and 17 minutes** for a foursome to play 18 holes, which amounts to **257 minutes** of roving over the golf course. In this expanse of time, golfers spend an average of only **2 minutes** actually swinging the golf club and hitting the ball, including chips and putts. The other **255 minutes** of the 4+ hour round are expended riding in a cart, performing pre-shot routines, taking practice swings, filling divots, searching for balls, checking yardage, waiting for the green to clear, raking traps, reading greens, chit-chatting, etc. Whether this sort of activity rises to the level of sport depends on individual interpretation.

Walking a golf course defined by rugged terrain engages the core, back and legs and circumvents pinballing all over the course in a rambling, rambunctious cart. According to inveterate golf walker, **John Batten**, walking 18 holes at Norfolk is a 5-mile trek that totals 14,000 steps, burns 2,000 calories and maintains an average heart rate of 107 bpm - spiking to 135 bpm on steep hills. Riding in a cart for 18 holes amounts to 4,000 steps, 1,000 calories burned and an average heart rate of 80 bpm.

For the golf walker, the game can be an immersive zen-like experience - a relaxing, tranquil kinship with nature that enhances focus and connects to the historical roots and purest form of the game.

Strength of Body or Strength of Mind?

Physical fitness has never been a requirement for being a skilled golfer. Before **Tiger Woods**, **Rory McIlroy** and many other professional golfers started hitting the gym in the early 2000s, portly golfers like **Billy Casper** and **Julius Boros** were winning major championships. Not long ago, it was fairly common for professional golfers on the PGA tour to smoke cigarettes while competing in tournaments. Imagine **Michael Jordan** driving to the basket, or **Tom Brady** fading back to launch a 50-yard pass, or The Splendid Splinter, **Ted Williams**, swinging for the fences on his way to batting .406 - all with cigarettes poking out of their mouths.

And then we have the game of golf:



**Ben Hogan - Winner of Nine Major Championships
Considered by Many to be Best Ball-Striker of All Time**



**“Smoke ‘em if you got ‘em” - The Epitome of Cool
Ben Hogan and Arnold Palmer Waiting to Tee Off at the Masters, 1966**

While raw strength helps maximize driving distance, golf is primarily a game of skill, timing and precision. Solid technique, consistent practice and a steadfast mental approach are much more important than being in peak physical condition. Golf requires a very specific rotational coordination and rhythm rather than the explosive power found in sports like basketball, football or hockey.

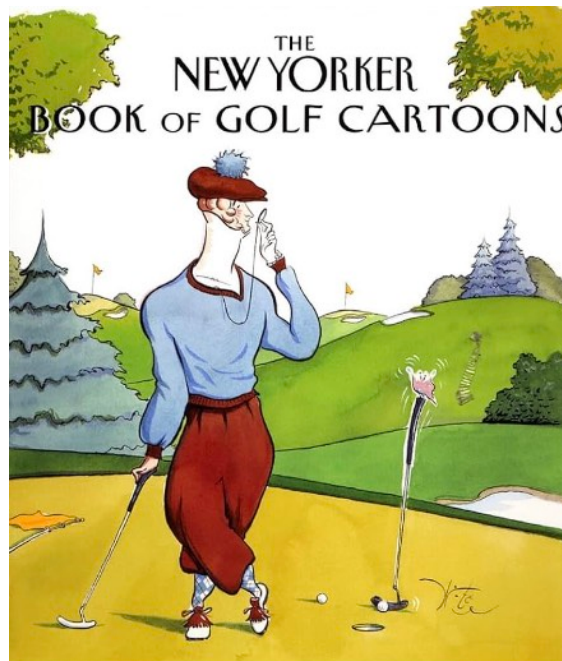
A primary difference between golf and other games is the field of play. Most sports are played in designated areas marked by strict boundaries. Football is played on a 100 by 50-yard field. Basketball is played on a hardwood floor 94-feet long by 50-feet wide with a basket that has been 10-feet high since 1891. Tennis courts are 78-feet long and 36-feet wide. Soccer pitches are 115-yards long by 75-yards wide. Baseball diamonds are identical in size, the outfields enclosed by fences.

But in golf, every course is completely different. The golfer must come to grips with a sizable, wide-open parcel of land comprising 18 pieces of a puzzle laid out on an expansive landscape of up to 6,000 yards. On a canvas of varying shades of green under a firmament of open sky, the golfer must stand alone (decked out in a pair of Bermuda shorts) and contend with the acute challenge of moving a little white ball forward dexterously with a slender stick attached to 2.5 by 4.5-inch piece of metal.

Anatomy of the Golf Swing - A Digression

It is not uncommon to hear skilled and unskilled golfers declare that “***golf is the hardest game***” For a game that appears to be simple, uncomplicated, and undemanding, golf is endlessly challenging, frustrating, maddening, humiliating and humbling - never to be mastered even by the top professional golfers in the world.

It would seem that those who are athletic, gifted with good coordination and proficient in other sports could easily pick up a game that involves hitting a stationary ball to a designated target. Ironically, people who have difficulty throwing or catching a ball, who could never make their little league or high school baseball teams or were too timid to play football, can become decent (even single-digit) golfers.



**Eustace Tilly Contemplates His Butterfly's Putt
(Apparently It's Not a Gimme)**

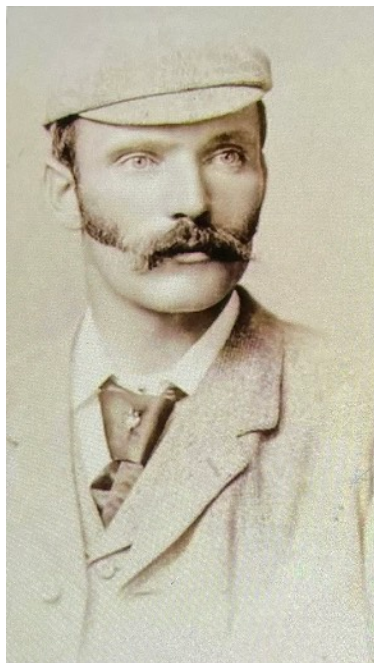
According to the **Encyclopedia Britannica**, “all sports are games, but not all games are sports. Sports require physical exertion, stamina and motor skills, while games can be primarily mental or mechanical.” And it's never about having the perfect swing. All manner of of uncoordinated, unorthodox, unsightly swings that are far from aesthetically pleasing, can be observed in professionals and accomplished amateur golfers.

Look no further than **Scottie Scheffler**, the World's Number One golfer, who shuffles and slides his feet awkwardly on every swing and the funky, blue-collar swing of New Zealand's **Ryan Fox**, winner of the 2026 **Open Championship** at **Royal Birkdale**. No PGA golf pro would ever teach such idiosyncratic swings, but somehow they work effectively and consistently for these premier professional golfers.

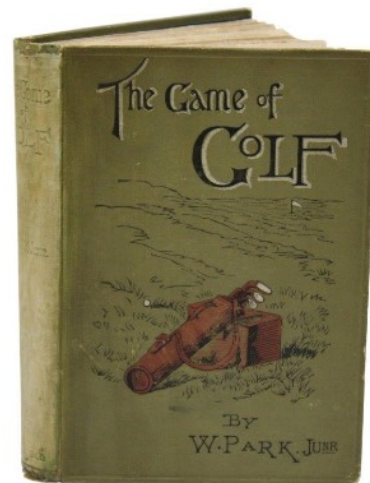
In Search of the Perfect Golf Swing - The Golfer's Lament

The first golf instruction book was written in 1896 by Scottish golfer, **Willie Park, Jr.**, who won *The Open Championship* twice (1887 and 1889). Park was also a successful golf equipment maker, golf writer and *World Hall of Fame* golf course architect who designed over 170 courses, including **Maidstone** in East Hampton, NY (where the initiation fee is over \$1 million), **Shuttle Meadow** in Kensington, CT and **New Haven Country Club**.

Willie Park, Jr. (1864-1925)



Park's Seminal Instruction Book, 1896



Thousands of golf instruction books have been written since Park wrote his in 1896. Since 1931, when legendary Grand Slam winner, **Bobby Jones** created the first golf instruction films, a masterclass, 18-part series titled *How I Play Golf*, millions of golf instruction videos have been produced and a billion golf instruction videos have been uploaded online. Every year, **18 billion** golf videos are viewed globally on **YouTube**.

And yet, despite all these “fixes” for the golf swing, all the contradictory swing thoughts, the introduction of (oxymoronic) metal woods, forgiving cavity-back irons, graphite shafts, \$500 Scotty Cameron putters (with covers, of course), Trackman launch monitors, golf simulators, FlightScopes, golf balls that fly farther and spin more, etc., the average 18-hole score for amateur golfers hovers between 94 and 100 - *right where it was in 1928 when the NCC course first opened.*

Longtime NCC PGA golf pro, **Ronnie Pfaefflin**, is an excellent teacher, as was his predecessor **Joe Bunk**, who dedicated 48 years to the Norfolk Country Club as PGA pro and golf course superintendent. Like all teaching pros, these accomplished teachers developed their own methods of instruction that differ from other golf professionals, all of whom teach the golf swing with their own teaching philosophies, visual styles and mechanical concepts. The keys to becoming a good golfer have always been: *start young, find a good teaching pro and play a lot of golf.*

Golf is notoriously counterintuitive, fraught with contradictions conflicting with what seems natural. In golf what *feels* right very often results in poor shot-making. For example:

- *to get the ball up in the air, hit down*
- *to hit with power, swing easy*
- *to hit a draw, aim right (inside/out)*
- *to hit a slice, aim left (outside/in)*
- *hitting the ball farther requires a softer grip*
- *out of the rough, a club with more loft goes farther*
- *hit the sand before the ball to get out of a bunker*
- *into the wind, take more club and swing easy*
- *precision beats power, timing beats speed*
- *when putting and chipping, always accelerate through the shot - no tentative “stabbing”*
- *standing over the ball, it’s best to let your subconscious take over*
- *trying harder makes you worse at golf (“the paradox of effort”) - swing 80%*

Because golf is proactive rather than reactive and there’s so much down time between shots, it leaves time and room in one’s brain (the six inches between the ears) to over analyze the upcoming swing. Called by many, “paralysis by analysis” - overthinking often impedes the fluid, subconscious muscle memory needed to hit a good shot. **Albert Einstein** famously said that he didn’t play golf because “it’s too complicated”.

Foothills of the Berkshires

*“Success [in golf] depends almost entirely on how effectively you learn to manage the games two ultimate adversaries: **the course and yourself**”.*

- Jack Nicklaus

By far, the most notable feature of the Norfolk Country Club golf course is the number of hills (mostly unseen from the clubhouse) that billow like waves from the flatlands which encompass holes #7 and #8, the only holes on the course with no hills.

According to ***Wikipedia***, “the [Norfolk] course sits on an ancient, highly folded metamorphic and igneous bedrock, veneered by glacial till, primarily underlain by crystalline rocks, created by continental plate collisions hundreds of millions of years ago that formed the ancient **Appalachian Mountains**”. Something to keep in mind the next time you’re teeing it up on hole #3 looking to fly your drive over that deep, steep (let’s call it **Death Valley**) hollow.

When Norfolk golfers who ride in carts are asked how many hills there are on the Norfolk course, the conventional answer is two - on the first and fifth holes. Upon closer inspection, when a golfer walks the course, no less than 30 hills (60 for 18 holes) emerge that are readily identifiable based on the fundamental parameters of: the golfer’s heart beating faster, breathing becoming labored and the legs feeling the strain when the golfer walks up these hills.

The Fool on the Hill

An Unassuming Assessment of a Hidden Gem

Indeed, a perfunctory look at the short 2,755-yard (5510-yard/18 holes) NCC course, particularly from the vantage point of a cart that by its nature eliminates the difficulty of climbing its hills, can lead to a fairly benign perception of the course. But when a golfer takes a pull/push cart laden with a bag and clubs that can weigh up to 40-pounds, a much different concept of the course is discernible. As such:

- the demanding par-5, 490-yard dog-leg **1st Hole** is actually two distinct holes. The golfer tees it up on a dramatic promontory in front of the clubhouse. A well-struck drive will soar on a rising trajectory over the broad fairway for 200+ yards then settle gently on manicured grass before coming to rest on a slight incline.

From there, the fairway takes a sharp 90° left turn and the golfer is faced with a 260 daunting yards to the green, this time up and over a sea of wave-like hills and swales. From this perspective, three distinct hills rise dramatically on an 11° slope to where the golfer can just see the flag peeking over the last hill. Yes, the golfer can fly his next shot safely beyond these hills, but the walking golfer must then push or pull 40-pounds of cart and clubs up and over the physically taxing hills.



Shadows and Undulations - 260-yards to the Pin - Hole #1

If the golfer on hole #1 happens to flub the second shot into the deep, uninviting basin to the left (let's call it **Devils Den**), beneath the original location of the 1st green, a blind shot over a 20° rise to the green 150-yards away awaits - and if the golfer is walking, it's another tough haul with the heavy cart up and out of the abyss.



“Gentleman” Joe Kelly Skirts the Ridgeline Atop Devil’s Den - Hole #1
(the original location of the 1st green is to his right)

[For reference, it's worth noting that 3 to 6 degrees of incline on a hill is considered a gentle, moderate walk causing gradual fatigue over long periods; a 6° to 9° incline (10 to 15% grade, rise over run) is considered strenuous, requiring vigorous cardiovascular effort that significantly elevates the heart rate and shifts the biomechanics of your movements into higher gear; and 10 to 12% of incline (15 to 20% grade) becomes arduous and painful for most people to maintain over a sustained distance]

- on the par-3, 170-yard **2nd Hole**, the green sits on a plateau above ribbons of hills that ripple on angles of 10° from the tee. The hole plays 10-yards longer due to the hills and is no picnic for the golf walker because some of the hills reach 15° on the clinometer.

- the **3rd Hole** is a short 250-yard par-4 but the golfer must clear the deep gully (let's call it **Death Valley**) in front of the tee to reach the fairway which is only 110 yards away, but seems farther due to the ball-ravenous pit. A golfer who dumps his drive into the pit is left with a 200-yard blind shot over a 20° rise. When the golfer hits a solid drive clearing the pit, the ball is usually driven into the hill that shields the green, knocking several yards off the length of a good tee shot. This hill which begins on the cart path is surprisingly strenuous for the walking golfer as it rises gradually on a 7° angle.



“Death Valley” - The Pit on Hole #3

- the par-4, 350-yard **4th Hole** features a captivating view of **Haystack Mountain** and offers relief for the walking golfer because it slopes dramatically downhill on a 20° angle. Golfers on 4 can hammer the same drive they hit on the 3rd hole which might have gone 180-yards; but on 4, if the drive catches the hill around the 150-yard mark (180-yards from the tee) it will take off down the steep hill and settle in the valley for an impressive 260-yard drive.

- on the par-5, 425-yard **5th Hole**, the walking golfer's one hole respite, having ambled easily down the 4th hole, turns into the biggest climbing challenge on the course. Holes 1,2,3,4,5 and 6 are all part of the same 400-yard long, 300-yard wide massive hill formation. Walking up the same steep hill just walked down on 4, the golf walker is confronted with a hole that rises purposefully from the tee to the peak of the mountainous hill about 300 yards away (let's call it "**Little Mountain**"). The 5th hole consists of five distinct hills, all on at least a 10° incline. Maneuvering your cart up these unrelenting inclines is a formidable endurance test, especially when you're playing 18 and #5 is your 14th hole.



"Little Mountain" - Hole #5

Having survived the hike up five, the walking golfer gets a 3-hole respite.

- on the par-4, 360-yard **6th Hole**, the golfer goes back down the side of Little Mountain on a hole similar to #4, albeit with a lurking out-of-bounds on the left that stretches almost all the way to the green tucked beneath a nasty little pitch. As on the 4th hole, a golfer hitting a good drive that catches the hill on 6 can be rewarded with another 260-yard drive.

- it's not until the number 2 handicap, 350-yard, par-4 **7th Hole**, that the golfer finally encounters a truly flat hole. The only water hole on the course features 3 ponds that can be unnerving. A nice drive to the right of the first pond leaves a narrow 20-yard wide approach to the green between the other two ponds. A high iron shot to the putting surface is optimal but the slightest miss-hit and your ball will disappear into one of the twin ponds. In the original 1926 proposed layout of the course, the 7th green was located on a dogleg left across the second pond which would have made for an intriguing, more difficult hole. Flooding problems from Tobey Pond Brook most likely led to the set-up encountered today.

- the flat par- 3, 150-yard **8th Hole** appears easy enough though there is plenty of trouble if the golfer yanks the ball left into the swampy, thick, scrubby brush. Wind is often a factor and the

wise golfer will always going down one club on the tee. Once on the green, the circumspect golfer must deal with the flinty 10° slope, back to front green.

- the closing 250-yard, par- 4 **9th Hole**, with its view of **Alfredo Taylor's** 109-year old clubhouse perched regally on its hilltop pedestal, is drivable for some. But because of the small, elevated green, it's prudent to hit a 200-yard drive and leave a relatively simple 50-yard pitching wedge to the sharply pitched top-to-bottom putting surface. Like on the 3rd hole, a good drive hit into the deceptively steep hill will get little roll and shave several yards off the drive.

For the walking golfer, the 9th hole can be an exhausting “**Heartbreak Hill**”, especially if it's the 18th hole of a sweltering 90° round. There's an 8° climb just to get to the elevated tee box. From 150-yards to the green, the incline is 16+° and from 120-yards the hike is 13° up. And once you putt out on 9, it's a 12° slog up another hill to the pro shop and the conclusion of a character-building, gym-worthy workout. But alas, **85%** of Norfolk golfers always take a cart. In Scotland, golf carts (“buggies”) are not allowed without a medical exemption.



“Alfredo” - Hole # 9

A Walk on the Mild Side

For two and a half centuries, the most revered golf course in the world, ***The Old Course at St. Andrews*** in Scotland has been open to the public for strolling the grounds everyday while golfers are playing. Unlike private courses in the United States which are off-limits to anyone but club members, as long as visitors to St. Andrews stay on designated pathways and out of the way of golfer's shots, they are welcome to meander all over the ancient course at any time of

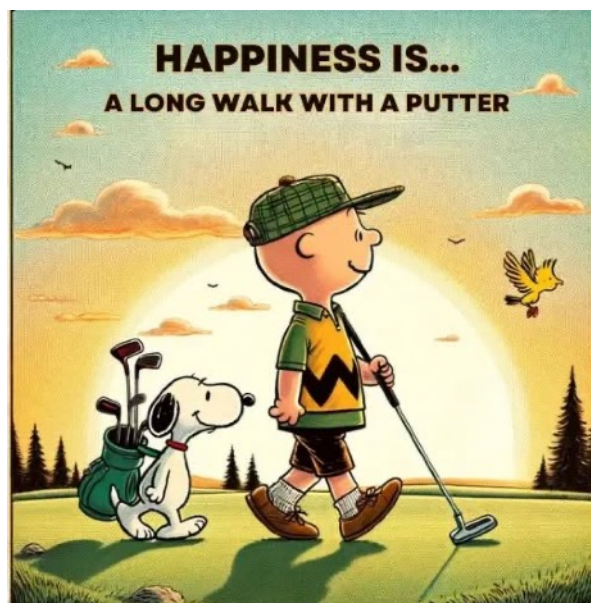
the day. On Sundays, the course is closed to golfers and everyone is free to roam the grounds, have a picnic and bring the dog.

An interesting idea would be to close the underplayed Norfolk Country Club golf course for a few hours every month, giving all club members the opportunity to walk around the course at their leisure to enjoy the spectacular views, get a little exercise and bring their dogs to play with **Moses**, NCC golf course superintendent **Mark Mansur's** 2-year old black Labrador retriever who has been busy all summer keeping those pesky Canada Geese from hanging out on the 7th hole and fouling the fairways.



Moses on the Job - 7th Hole

After all, the NCC course is regarded as a parkland course, an inland layout characterized by lush, tree-lined fairways and open vistas. Traipsing the NCC course while not playing golf is a pleasing, soul-satisfying walk over rolling countryside on hilly former sheep-grazing pastures - so hilly that, had the course been built when the club was founded in 1912, the members might well have called their haven in the country: ***The Norfolk Hills Country Club*** - which does have a nice ring to it...



The End

Míchaél Owen Cummings “Kell” Kelly
aka Níck Knickers
Club Historian
September 2, 2026