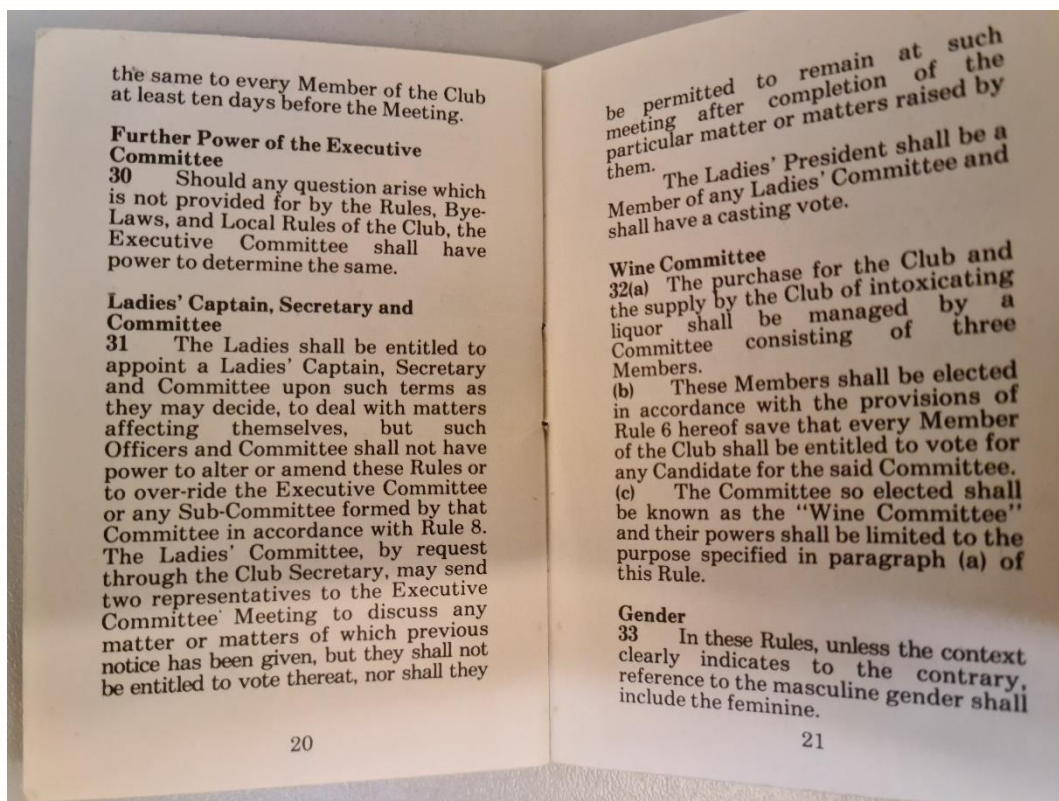


Kenilworth Golf Club

CR4350

August's Document of the Month is a collection of documents relating to The Kenilworth Golf Club, giving a good insight of what club life was like, including rule books, minute books and fixtures.



The History of Kenilworth Golf Club

The Kenilworth Golf Club was founded around 1889 by Henry Smith-Turberville,^[1] the local parson at the time (name unknown) and Hugh Kirkaldy, one of the famous golfing brothers. These three men created the original 9-hole course on land rented from Harry Gee, who farmed Castle Farm. It was a barebones course with no bunkers, very few hazards and no club house, with members getting changed in a room in the farmhouse. ^[1] ^[6] There is a popular belief that the original course went around the castle which, sadly, is untrue; instead, it was laid out across the hills of Castle Farm and what is now known as Fishponds

Road. This land was originally rented for £5, about £410.25 in modern day currency, according to The National Archives, with the initial annual subscription starting out as 1 Guinea (£86.15 today) and the same for the joining fee. ^[1] ^[4] ^[5]

Rather unusual for the time, the club was fully open to men and women, with the same fees and course. There were even two female members of the club management committee. After the Second World War this changed, with female members losing the right to vote and not being considered full members of the club; this lasted until 1995 when they were again allowed to vote in committee elections. ^[1]

Henry Smith-Turberville

Henry Smith-Turberville was born in 1848 in Westminster, London, to a wealthy family. He moved to Warwickshire around 1888-9, where he then helped to set up the golf club. He was an avid golfer, having a handicap of 7 in 1912, and an accomplished cricketer, having toured the West Indies with an amateur side and, at some point, becoming the captain of Kenilworth Cricket Club. He was made Mayor of Warwick in 1912. Smith-Turberville continued to play golf throughout his life, becoming the captain of three other golf clubs: Warwickshire County Golf Club, Leamington & County Golfclub and Brighton & Hove Golf Club, when he moved to Brighton after the First World War. He died in Brighton in 1923 at the age of 75. ^[1] ^[2] ^[3]

The Kenilworth Golf Club Rules

The club has always been governed by a set of rules., Members were issued with tiny rule books, updated each year. These books are the size of your palm and include the date of the edition and the foundation date of the club. They list all current rules, such as Rule 9 which outlines who can become the secretary and treasurer of the club and the duties of these two posts. In 1986 there were 34 rules with multiple sub-clauses, all of which helped to govern the club. These covered the name and the membership of the club, the rules of golf followed by the club, the election, and duties of the executive committee and more, with a fun one being Rule 32 -The wine committee.

1. 'Kenilworth Golf Club 1889-2009 The First 120 Years' by Walter Hogarth CR4350 Box 8
2. Information gathered from Ancestry
3. Information gathered from Find My Past
4. Coventry Evening Telegraph - Tuesday 22 September 1936 Accessed via British Newspaper Archive

5. Coventry Evening Telegraph- Wednesday 02 September 1953 Accessed via British Newspaper Archive
6. Leamington Spa Courier- Friday 16 November 1945 Accessed via British Newspaper Archive

