# East Lothian. It's where it all began! Sure, there are some doubters, but we all know golf began in Scotland!

SCOTLAND's **GOLF COAST EAST LOTHIAN** 

The game's origins are likely to date back to the 12th or 13th century. But, there will always be debate about who invented it and where it was first played. A game that is beautifully simple, in principle, yet

frustratingly complex enough to keep us playing. There's bound to be debate. On Scotland's Golf Coast, there is history in abundance. There is a book's worth of history and more. So, where to start?

# Part 1: 1672 to 1850

**Documentary** evidence records golf being played on the Musselburgh Old course in 1672 (350 years ago this year). Mary, Queen of Scots reputedly played here in 1567.



**Golf in** North

The Old Club Cup at Royal

Musselburgh is the oldest

trophy still competitively

with the first competition

played for in the world,

recorded in 1774.

Berwick was first played in 1672 on the 'Toune Lands', not far from the East links (Glen Golf Club).



**Golf in Gullane** dates to 1650 when the weavers of

Dirleton played the weavers of **Aberlady annually on Old Hansel** Monday, the first Monday of the year.

In 1744, the Gentlemen **Golfers of Leith, later** named the Honourable **Company of Edinburgh Golfers** wrote the original rules of golf.



In 1794 the first golfing organization

is recorded when a body known as The **Dunbar Golfing Society set down its rules** and listed 27 members.

In 1832 the North was formed. The 'West' links was then only six three rounds.

**Berwick Golf Club** 



of Musselburgh in 1829, the golf hole is 4.25 inches wide. The width of a drainpipe, it was used to make the hole stable.

**Thanks to Robert Gay** 



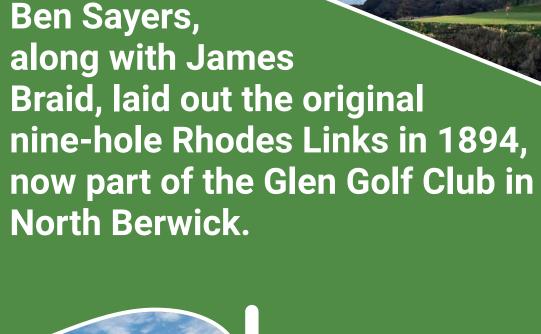
**Archerfield links was** laid out for family, friends, and staff of the Estate, known as the Dirleton Golf Club.



Part 2: 1874 to 1935



the three founding courses of the Open, holding the event six times between 1874 and 1889.





16 times, the first in 1892. Only St Andrews and Prestwick have hosted the event more.



Club' was played on land behind the **Gullane Hill until** 1894, now part of Gullane Golf Club.

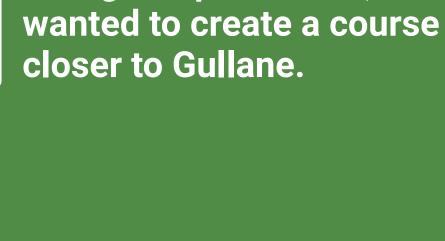
Golf at the original

'Luffness Golf



was created by landowner, George Hope in 1894, who closer to Gullane.

**Luffness New Golf Club** 









1902 to 1906, Arthur James Balfour was a member. **Dunbar Town** 

century many famous golfers

played at North Berwick Golf

**Club. Prime Minister from** 

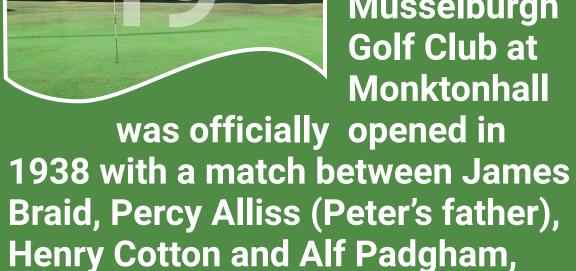


In 1921 at Longniddry, James Braid and Ted Ray played against JH

Taylor and Abe Mitchell in the club's

inaugural match. The man on top of





Catriona

Musselburgh

**Golf Club at** 

Monktonhall

who won 9 Open between them.

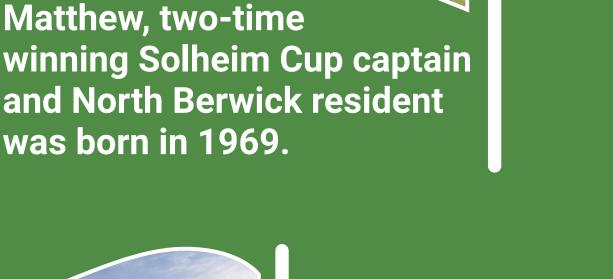


champion, James Braid. Braid died in 1950 having

**Royal Musselburgh** 

was designed by

five-time Open



2001, hosting the **Scottish Senior Open** in 2018 and 2019. **Archerfield opened the Fidra** golf course in 2004, named

Gifford

**Golf Club** 

celebrated

Craigielaw, designed

by Donald Steel, was

opened for play in





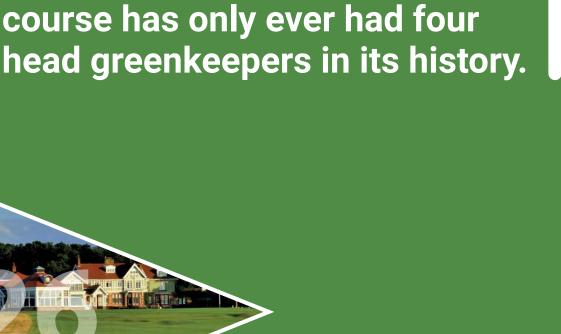
cousins, David and Charles designed the lighthouse on the island, and Fidra is reputed to have inspired Treasure Island. The Tom Doak designed Renaissance Club was opened in 2008. The Renaissance has

after an island off the coast.

**Robert Louis Stevenson's** 

hosted the Scottish Open from 2019 to 2022. 2022 is the first time the event is

its 100-year anniversary in 2004. The 9-hole parkland



**Honourable Company of** 

In 2013, Muirfield, the

In 2017 Kilspindie **Golf Club celebrated its** 150th anniversary. The club was

**Course and Prestwick has held the Open more times.** 

**Edinburgh Golfers, hosted the** 

Open for the 16th time. Only the Old

## originally formed as Luffness Golf Club in 1867, the 35th registered golf club in the world.

co-sanctioned with the DP

World Tour and the PGATour.



March 2022 marks the 350th anniversary of golf being played on the Musselburgh Old golf course. Musselburgh hosted the Open six

For the first time, the Genesis Scottish Open is a co-sanctioned event on the DP World **Tour and the PGA Tour. The Rolex Series** event will be held from 7th to 10th July 2022.

times in the 19th

century.





The AIG Women's Open will be held at Muirfield for the first

time in August 2022.