

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



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 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.



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

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.



The Old Club Cup at Royal Musselburgh is the oldest trophy still competitively played for in the world, with the first competition recorded in 1774.

In 1832 the North Berwick Golf Club was formed. The 'West' links was then only six holes, so medals were played over three rounds.



Thanks to Robert Gay 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.



Mid-19th century, the 13-holes of the Archerfield links was laid out for family, friends, and staff of the Estate, known as the Dirleton Golf Club.



Part 2: 1874 to 1935



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



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



Ben Sayers, along with James Braid, laid out the original nine-hole Rhodes Links in 1894, now part of the Glen Golf Club in North Berwick.



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



Luffness New Golf Club was created by landowner, George Hope in 1894, who wanted to create a course closer to Gullane.



The original Luffness Golf Club moved to land to the west of its original course, known now as Kilspindie Golf Club from 1899.



At the start of the 20th century many famous golfers played at North Berwick Golf Club. Prime Minister from 1902 to 1906, Arthur James Balfour was a member.



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 the Ryder Cup is Abe Mitchell.



Dunbar Town Council acquired 70+ acres of land in 1935 and Winterfield Golf Club was born. A municipal course, still run by the 'burgh', the course has eight par 3s.



Part 3: 1938 to 2022



Musselburgh Golf Club at Monktonhall was officially opened in 1938 with a match between James Braid, Percy Alliss (Peter's father), Henry Cotton and Alf Padgham, who won 9 Open between them.



Royal Musselburgh was designed by five-time Open champion, James Braid. Braid died in 1950 having designed over 250 courses, also including Carnoustie and the King's course at Gleneagles.



Catriona Matthew, two-time winning Solheim Cup captain and North Berwick resident was born in 1969.



Craigielaw, designed by Donald Steel, was opened for play in 2001, hosting the Scottish Senior Open in 2018 and 2019.



Archerfield opened the Fidra after an island off the coast. Robert Louis Stevenson's cousins, David and Charles designed the lighthouse on the island, and Fidra is reputed to have inspired Treasure Island.



Gifford Golf Club celebrated its 100-year anniversary in 2004. The 9-hole parkland course has only ever had four head greenkeepers in its history.



The Tom Doak designed Renaissance Club was opened in 2008. The Renaissance has hosted the Scottish Open from 2019 to 2022. 2022 is the first time the event is co-sanctioned with the DP World Tour and the PGA Tour.



In 2013, Muirfield, the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers, hosted the Open for the 16th time. Only the Old Course and Prestwick has held the Open more times.



In 2017 Kilspindie Golf Club celebrated its 150th anniversary. The club was originally formed as Luffness Golf Club in 1867, the 35th registered golf club in the world.

2022: A celebration of golf on the coast



350th anniversary of golf being played on the Musselburgh Old golf course. Musselburgh hosted the Open six times in the 19th century.



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.



The AIG Women's Open will be held at Muirfield for the first time in August 2022.