

## *The Pavilion from 1912 to today*

Oxhey Golf Club, South Oxhey. (1912 - 1952) was a splendid 18-hole course which had the 1912 Open Champion, Ted Ray, as the club professional.



Ted Ray went to the USA in 1913 and finished second in their open, eventually winning it in 1920. His Open win in that year put the Oxhey Golf Club on the golfing world map. At that time, the entry fee for gents was £10/10/0 and ladies £4/4/0.



No lady visitors were allowed on weekends or Bank Holidays! Visitors travelled to the course via the station at Bushey and Oxhey London & North Western Railway which was 15 minutes away and is now familiar to us as Carpenders Park station.

## ON THE OXHEY GOLF COURSE : *Special "Sphere" Series.*



**Keeping the Fairways in Good Order**

A flock of sheep, whose cropping of the grass is an excellent method of keeping the course in good condition



**The 6th Green on the Oxhey Golf Course**

Showing in the foreground the sandy bunkers and in the background the comfortable and spacious club house. A member is here taking his putt



**A Group on the 15th Green**

The Oxhey Club, near Watford, is among the finest on the outskirts of London. The course is set in the midst of beautiful country



**The Bunkers Guarding the 13th Approach**

The formidable bunkers on the course render play difficult and stimulating. Those illustrated here lie across the approach to the 13th green

A little more than two years after the course was opened for play, the First World War began which caused a loss in both members and club employees due to military duty. By May 1917, the course had fallen into disrepair and suffered from flooding, mud, and damage by grazing sheep.

By 1921, the condition of the course had been improved to the point that it was selected to host the 1921 McVitie & Price Tournament. The News of the World PGA Match Play tournament was held at Oxhey Golf Club on three occasions: in 1921, 1930, and 1936.

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**COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS AT OXHEY.—E. RAY PUTTING ON THE 6TH GREEN.**

At this meeting Ray retained the **1921** professional championship, and Mr. H. W. Beveridge won the amateur title. The Oxhey Club won the club championship.



Club House, Oxhey Golf Club

In 1931 the ladies held the first international golf match between France and England winning easily in front of an enormous crowd. The French ladies had the 1927 British champion and French Close champion Mme Simone Lacoste playing.

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**THE FIRST LADIES' INTERNATIONAL: GREAT BRITAIN BEATS FRANCE.**

MISS JOYCE WETHERED MAKING HER FINAL WINNING PUTT AGAINST MME. LACOSTE (FORMERLY MME. DE LA CHAURE) WHOM SHE BEAT BY 3 AND 4.

MISS MARIORY WHITE FLAGG—MISS WETHERED'S DRIVE.

GREAT LADIES SHAKE HANDS ON MEETING AT OXHEY: MME. LACOSTE, THE WIFE OF THE FAMOUS LAWN TENNIS PLAYER, AND MISS JOYCE WETHERED.

THE YOUNGEST PLAYER: MISS PETIN, 16 YEARS OLD.

Simone's husband was a leading French tennis player and businessman. While playing in Boston in 1923 his team captain promised to buy him a crocodile leather suitcase if he won his game. Although René didn't win, he showed great determination on court, and after an American journalist saw him play and heard the story, he gave him the nickname "the crocodile" which stuck with him. In 1929 he created a very nice tennis shirt and two years after his wife had played golf in Oxhey he had a bonkers idea to stick a crocodile logo on it! It was the first brand to display a visible logo on an article of clothing and it turned out to be a pretty good idea!



MISS MOLLY GOURLAY DEFEATS FROM THE 15TH. IN THE FOURSOMES SHE WON WITH MISS MORGAN AND BEAT MME. VAGLIANO IN THE SINGLES.

The first international golf match between the ladies of France and England took place last Saturday at Oxhey, when the home ladies beat the invading army by eight out of nine matches, the other being halved. An enormous crowd was present. Miss Joyce Wethered, making one of her somewhat rare appearances, beat the former Miss Simone Thion de la Chaume, now Mme. Lacoste and the winner of the British Open championship of 1927, by the margin of 5 and 4, and also won her foursomes match when, in partnership with Mrs. Garon, she beat Mme. P. Munier and Mme. Vagliano by 7 and 6. The halved match was between Miss McCulloch and Mme. Waddel. The British ladies—not all playing in both foursomes and singles—were: Miss Wethered, Mrs. Garon, Miss Morgan, Miss Gourlay, Mrs. Watson, Miss McCulloch, Miss Fishwick and Miss Corlett. France was represented by Mme. Lacoste, Mme. P. Munier, the new French Open champion, Mme. Vagliano, Mme. Déougis, Mme. Waddel, Mme. Monier and Mlle. Petit.

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### DEATH OF GOLF CLUB

**L**AST faint hope of a reprieve for Oxhey Golf Club has flickered out. The club will cease after March 31, just five weeks short of its fortieth birthday.

Watford Rural Council have told the members that they will not continue the club. Part of the course will be turned into playing fields, and the clubhouse probably into a community centre "sometime in the future".

Frank Forge, the professional, who came with the late Ted Ray when Oxhey opened—and would have completed forty years' service on April 15—intends to continue his active interest in the game.



www.britainfromabove.org.uk/image/EPW020993

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The club ceased to operate and was closed down on 31 March 1952. In 1991 half of the course was reopened as a nine-hole course and became known as Oxhey Park Golf Club. Now both this course and the former golf clubhouse are lying redundant and semi derelict just 100 years after being the leading location to play golf and hosting the World PGA Match Play tournament.



The London County Council purchased the other half of the course, and it now forms the South Oxhey Playing Fields and its perimeter. As ownership has changed so have the stakeholders; firstly, the successors to the Greater London Council and then the current local council, Three Rivers District Council.

Although, with the assistance of Watford Rural Council, the Pavilion is now designated as a Community Asset by Three Rivers District Council, this does not, as yet, offer a way forward, as there still needs to be agreement between the leaseholder and Three Rivers District Council (and the various London Boroughs – in particular Bromley, but also Harringay), as to its future use. Partly refurbished and reopened it has now been closed for 4 years waiting for a resolution of the way forward.

It would be good for it to be reopened as a local facility on a sound commercial basis and for the surroundings to be restored to something approaching the glory days of a century ago.

## References

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Llewellyn, John. *Golf's Missing Links - Golf Courses of Yesteryear*, <https://www.golfsmissinglinks.co.uk/>

Wikipedia, Oxhey Golf Club, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oxhey\\_Golf\\_Club](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oxhey_Golf_Club)