

THE HISTORY OF



First Club House - 1902

Fall River Country Club

Fall River Country Club

FOREWORD

Chronicling the history of the Fall River Country Club would not have been possible without the personal observations and knowledge of the late Mr. Albert A. Harrison. Mr. Harrison was an active member of the Club from 1904 to the 1940s and was instrumental in the purchase of our land west of the railroad in 1918. He was president from 1928 to 1930 during the difficult depression years. His writings, together with some newspaper articles from the distant past, are the only remaining links to the early days of Fall River Country Club.

We have tried to be as factual as possible, given the limited information available, and though we realize it is impossible to bring to light everything from the past, we believe this report covers most of the high and low points of the last 90 years.

Fall River Country Club's history parallels the history of golf in America in the 20th century, from the short, rudimentary courses, hickory shafts and gutta percha

balls of 1900, to the 7000 yard manicured layouts and hi-tech equipment of the 1990s. A great many of the courses constructed in those early years no longer exist, but Fall River Country Club has survived the test of time and is now at the highest point in its history.

We dedicate this work to those stalwart golfers who had a vision of a golf course in Fall River, the desire and fortitude to steer the Club through the difficult times, saving for us, the present members, a truly unique golf course and a tradition in which we can take justifiable pride, together with the enjoyment of playing the great game of golf.

The 1990 History Committee

Edmund Buckley, Chairman
William Gray
Austin Hentershee
William Nugent



Somerset Junction Station, on the Old Colony Line, which was adjacent to the FRGC in 1900. The Old Colony RR ran from Newport & Fall River to Taunton & Boston via Somerset, and crossed the Taunton River to Somerset, just north of FRGC, over one of the longest causeways and bridges in New England. The line was discontinued in 1932.

(Photo from collection of Paul E. LeVasseur)

History of the FALL RIVER COUNTRY CLUB

Founding and Incorporation

(From the Records of Albert A. Harrison)

The individual most responsible for the introduction of golf to the Fall River area was Mr. Nathan Durfee. Mr. Durfee was a prominent cotton broker in Fall River in 1898 who was later to become associated with the American Print Works as treasurer and plant executive. It was customary for Mr. Durfee to take vacations during the summertime and sometimes these trips took him to the Lake George and Lake Champlain areas in New York state. While at Lake George in June of the year 1897 he witnessed people playing the not yet popular game of golf. Invited to swing a golf club and drive a golf ball from a tee, he got his first thrill by lining out a creditable drive. His interest in the game of golf, new to him, was immediately aroused. The following year he again watched players in action and upon his return he invited a number of his friends to meet with him in his office to discuss the desirability of forming a golf club.

A meeting was held in Mr. Durfee's office on September 13, 1898, and recorded as follows: —

"Fall River, Mass., September 13, 1898

At a meeting of gentlemen interested in the formation of a golf club in this city held on the above date, the following business was transacted. Officers of the club were elected as below: —

President - Mr. Nathan Durfee
Treasurer - Mr. Winfred C. Wetherell
Secretary - Mr. Charles L. Holmes

Voted that there be an executive committee of five, composed of the officers and two members to be appointed by the chair, to select suitable grounds and make any arrangements that they deem necessary.

The chair appointed Mr. Spencer Borden, Jr., and Dr. Charles D. Burt to act with the officers upon said committee.

Voted that there should be a membership committee consisting of the executive committee and four other members to be appointed by the chair. Mr. Edward B. Jennings, Mr. R.H. Beattie, Mr. L.E. Wood and Mr. J.H. Bowen were appointed to that committee.

Voted that we adjourn until Tuesday September 20th at 5 pm unless called together before that time by the President.

Charles D. Holmes, Secy."

"Fall River, September 20, 1898

A meeting of the golf club was held this day and Mr. E. Jennings was elected Vice President of the club. A constitution was adopted. It was then voted to adjourn subject to the call of the President."

In this manner the Fall River Golf Club was founded.

The executive committee on June 26, 1899 made application for a charter for a corporation. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts responded as follows: —

"Be it known that whereas, Nathan Durfee, Winfred C. Wetherell, Charles D. Burt, Charles L. Holmes, Edward B. Jennings, L. Elmer Wood, Joseph H. Bowen, R.H. Beattie and Spencer Borden, Jr. have associated themselves with the intention of forming a corporation under the name of The Fall River Golf Club for the purpose of encouraging athletic exercises and particularly the game of Golf, and have complied with provisions of the Statutes of this Commonwealth in such case made and provided, as appears from the certificate of the Proper Officers of said corporation, duly approved by the Commissioner of Corporations, and recorded in this office:

Now, Therefore, I, WILLIAM M. OLIN, Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, DO HEREBY CERTIFY, that said Nathan Durfee, Winfred C. Wetherell, and others as mentioned, their associates and successors, are legally organized and established as and are hereby made an existing corporation under the name of The Fall River Golf Club with the powers, rights, and privileges, and subject to the limitations, duties, and restrictions which by law appertain thereto.

Witness this tenth of October 1899
s/William M. Olin
Secretary of the Commonwealth"

Thus was the Club founded and incorporated.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Be it known That whereas Nathan Durfee, Winfred C. Wetherell,
Charles D. Burt, Charles L. Holmes, Edward B. Jennings,
L. Elmer Wood, Joseph H. Bowen, R. H. Beattie and
Spencer Borden, Jr.

have associated themselves with the intention of forming a corporation under the
name of the *Fall River Golf Club*

for the purpose of encouraging athletic exercises and particularly
the game of Golf

and have complied with the provisions of the Statutes of this Commonwealth in such
case made and provided, as appears from the certificate of the

Proper Officers

of said corporation, duly approved by the Commissioner of Corporations, and recorded
in this office :

Now, Therefore, I, WILLIAM M. OLIN, Secretary of the Common-
wealth of Massachusetts, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that said

*Nathan Durfee, Winfred C. Wetherell, Charles D. Burt,
Charles L. Holmes, Edward B. Jennings,
L. Elmer Wood, Joseph H. Bowen, R. H. Beattie
and Spencer Borden Jr.*

their associates and successors, are legally organized and established as and are
hereby made an existing corporation under the name of the

Fall River Golf Club

with the powers, rights, and privileges, and subject to the limitations, duties, and
restrictions which by law appertain thereto.

Witness my official signature hereunto subscribed, and the seal
of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts hereunto affixed this
Tenth day of *October* in the year of
our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety- *nine*

Wm M Olin

Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Be it Known That whereas Nathan Durfee, Winfred C. Wetherell, Charles D. Burt, Charles L. Holmes, Edward B. Jennings, L. Elmer Wood, Joseph H. Bowen, A. H. Beattie and Spencer Borden, Jr.

have associated themselves with the intention of forming a corporation under the name of the Fall River Golf Club

for the purpose of encouraging athletic exercises and particularly the game of Golf

and have complied with the provisions of the Statutes of this Commonwealth in such case made and provided, as appears from the certificate of the

Proper Officers

of said corporation, duly approved by the Commissioner of Corporations, and recorded in this office :

Now, Therefore, I, WILLIAM M. OLIN, Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that said

Nathan Durfee, Winfred C. Wetherell, Charles D. Burt, Charles L. Holmes, Edward B. Jennings, L. Elmer Wood, Joseph H. Bowen, A. H. Beattie and Spencer Borden Jr.

their associates and successors, are legally organized and established as and are hereby made an existing corporation under the name of the

Fall River Golf Club

with the powers, rights, and privileges, and subject to the limitations, duties, and restrictions which by law appertain thereto.

Witness my official signature hereunto subscribed, and the seal of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts hereunto affixed this Tenth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety- nine

W^m M Olin

Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Excerpts from Albert A. Harrison

HISTORY OF FALL RIVER COUNTRY CLUB

*Mr. Harrison was a long time member and
President of FRCC from 1928 to 1930*

– **First Meeting** held September 13, 1898 - A meeting of gentlemen interested in the formation of a Golf Club in the city of Fall River. Officers elected were Nathan Durfee, President, Winfred C. Wetherell, Treasurer. At their next meeting on September 20, a constitution was adopted and the FRGC was founded. (*See article on founding of club*).

– **First Course** (1899) was located on the Spencer Borden estate, Interlaken, located on North Watuppa Pond at the eastern end of New Boston Rd. Six holes, with temporary greens and fairways around the Borden house and the ice house. Stone walls, chickens and geese were hazards. An old hen house was used for club storage.

– Committee chosen to find suitable site to provide sufficient acreage for an accredited golf links. Properties viewed were the Wood farm in Swansea, the Terry farm in Assonet (600 acres off South Main St.), and the present site north of Steep Brook, adjacent to the Somerset Junction railroad station.

– **Application for Charter** was made June 26, 1899

– **Charter granted to the Fall River Golf Club Oct. 10, 1899**

– Land at present site was leased in 1900 from the Hathaway and Hambly families for a total of \$475 per annum for a ten year lease. Mr. Hambly, when signing the lease, expressed much pleasure with his bargain, remarking, "the game of golf is just a fad and will not last long". Later, in 1910, the lease on these two properties was extended for 5 years at a total of \$800/yr.

– **First Greenkeeper** was Jack Howard of Fall River, he was hired on Sept. 5, 1900. He was an experienced builder of cricket creases, and was recommended by Mr. George Wright of Wright & Ditson Company of Boston. Under Howard's supervision tees and greens were built that were acknowledged to be the equal of any then in use in the country.

– **Original course was 2633 yards** (counter clockwise). The rough was seldom cut. Tall grass grew for 75 to 100 yards in front of the tees and was cut once or twice a year by hand-scythe. The fairways were cut by horse-drawn mowers. The horses wore special boots

over their shoes to prevent making holes in the ground. One week was required to cut the fairways and a fresh horse was used each morning and afternoon. Stone walls were banked with soil and sodded, providing cross bunkers.

– **A temporary Club House** was made from an old carriage shed at the bridge from the RR station. One end was partitioned off for a locker room and 19th hole.

– **No autos in 1900** - only horse and carriage. Limited train service from Fall River to Somerset Junction Station which was located on the North Main St. side of the tracks opposite the club house. Golfers using the train would cross a trestle bridge to reach the club house. The club roster included several members from Newport and Taunton who used the train service to reach the golf course.

– **The original course was planned by A.H. Fenn** in 1900. He was the first professional to give lessons to members at \$6/hour.

– **The first Pro** to be employed by FRGC was John M. Inglis in 1904, at \$30/month for seven months, which was the golf season.

– **Harry Vardon**, the world's most famous player, having just won the U.S. Open in Chicago, played at FRGC on October 20, 1900 and set course records for 18 and 36 holes. He played in a foursome with two other Pros, A.H. Fenn, and Alex Findlay, and a FRGC member, R. Hawkins. A crowd of 300 watched the match. Vardon developed the overlapping grip, or the well known "Vardon grip".

– **A new Club House** was built on the bluff overlooking the Taunton River from plans submitted by Angell and Swift Architects of Providence, and was completed in October of 1902 at a cost of \$6000. It was built and furnished with money subscribed from members. Two clay tennis courts and a rogue court were built at a cost of \$3000. Men's dues were raised to \$15 per year, and women's to \$10. A trap shooting range and shelter were built at the north end of the property.

– **Many social events** were held with New Bedford CC; a chef (\$35/mth) and a waiter (\$20/mth) served meals.

– **Club membership was limited to 400 members in 1904.**

– **The Harvard Golf Team** scheduled its first match for many years at FRGC because our course was one of the first to be playable in the early spring.

– **Katherine G. Harley**, a member of FRGC, won the National Womens Amateur Championship at Chevy Chase, MD in 1908. Later, in 1914, as Mrs. H. Arnold Jackson, she again won this championship, playing for Oakley CC of Watertown, Mass.

– **The Club House burned to the ground on July 6, 1909.** A new club house was built on the same site with insurance money and liberal contributions from members.

– **In 1910** the Allen property in the north end was leased for 5 years at \$100/yr, excepting the sand hill at the NW corner.

– **The RR bridge burned in 1912.** A second bridge through the Hambly property was built but was difficult to use in wet weather due to the steep incline and unimproved roadway.

– **Club name changed to Fall River Country Club in 1914.** Robert Davis was President.

– **In 1918 the land was purchased** from the Allen, Hambly, and Hathaway families. Tom Winton, a golf architect, was engaged to lengthen the course using Allen's land at the north end. Much study was made to see if the marsh could be filled in to create an 18 hole layout, but only 12 or 13 holes could be made. Some radical changes were made including a short 140 yard hole running west of the 4th tee (13th 1990) to the river. Later this hole was abandoned due to the protests of our less athletic members who objected to the steep climb in playing the following hole. Too bad, for it was a fine and sporty hole.

– The Hathaways and Hamblys attached great value to their lands for they said there was a legend that a part of Captain Kidd's treasure was buried upon the shore of their properties. We agreed to write into the deeds a clause relinquishing all right and title to Captain Kidd's treasure, but in due time the purchase was completed without this clause appearing in the deeds.

– **Francis Ouimet**, U.S. Open and U.S. Amateur Champion, played and thought the course one of the best 9

hole layouts in New England.

– **Bobby Jones**, winner of 13 major golf championships, played FR in 1923 and failed to break par.

– **Bill Tilden**, world famous tennis pro, played a tennis exhibition at the FR courts.

– The par 5 2nd hole (525 yds) was eagled by both players in a match (Tom Jones and Harry Kenworthy)

– Club records dating from 1906 were destroyed in the City Fire of February 2, 1928.

– Several years ago an attempt was made to rate the golf courses in Massachusetts. Ours stood very high on the list. The writer, who has played about 125 different golf courses, knows of no nine hole course offering the scenic beauty, and the variety of shots, due to length, wind conditions, etc. Add to all this the cool breeze coming off the water on a hot summer day, and you have a situation hard to duplicate.

NOTE - According to Richmond Harrison, former President of FRCC and son of Mr. A.A. Harrison, this report was written by Mr. Harrison sometime in the early 1940s.

WEDNESDAY JULY 7, 1909

GOLF CLUB HOUSE DESTROYED BY FIRE



The Fall River Golf Club's club house at Somerset Junction and most of its contents were totally destroyed by fire yesterday afternoon. The fire is supposed to have been due to a defective chimney. Following the rain of the afternoon, the lowering temperatures and dampness caused a chill, and a fire was started in the fireplace of the reception or sitting room on the north side. Only a small fire was made, nothing like the roaring big fires that are the rule in the early spring and late fall. The first evidence that the building was burning was in the men's locker room over the reception room. The roof over this room appeared to be steaming, but it was smoke, not steam, that was seen. The first of the fire noticed was about the chimney. It is supposed that the chimney had settled recently, causing a crack through which the woodwork caught.

When discovered the fire was too well advanced to have any chance for saving the building. Jack Howard, the green-keeper, Willie Dow, the club's professional, and the club's servants with several men and women who were in the vicinity, turned their attentions to saving the furnishings of the lower floor. The draperies and most of the furnishings on that floor were taken out.

There were very few members on the grounds. Four or five women who were out saved some of their own things and helped to strip the lower club rooms. There was no opportunity to save the contents of the lockers, even if they had

been open. Howard ran out a line of lawn hose, but the pressure was not heavy and the small stream had no effect. The fire department was notified and apparatus was sent out, but the building was doomed long before the first piece arrived. The club house was burned flat to the ground. The other buildings were not in danger.

Many members of the club when they heard of the fire hurried out to the links. Some of them had faint hopes of saving their things, but a glance at the ruins was enough to kill all such hopes. There was nothing to do but view the ruins.

The building was completed seven years ago this coming fall. The original cost was about \$6000, and the house has since been enlarged and improved. The loss



on the building is estimated at \$8000. There is \$6000 insurance on the building, but none on the contents owned by the club. Among the things saved were all the club trophies.

Standing on the high bluff above the river, the burning club house was visible from all the higher parts of the north section of the city. It presented quite a spectacle, though not nearly so brilliant a one as though it had been two or three hours later. The fire was out before dark.

Members of the club have been doing little else this morning except to compare notes and figure up losses. The total of undivided losses figures up large. Of the 275 lockers about 250 were occupied, and \$50 each is a conservative average of the loss of contents of a locker. The total of these losses figures \$12,000 or more. Possibly half a dozen members carried insurance on their things, and this insurance was only partial. Two or three members had belongings valued at from \$300 to \$400 in their lockers. The smallest undivided loss probably amounts to \$20. Probably 15 members kept their best clubs and all that they used regularly in the caddy house, where the professional could care for them and keep them in order.

Not a few of the members had recently put in new supplies of one sort or another. To those who play more than casually, the loss of clubs means much more than the loss of the amount of money represented by their cost. As in any other game of skill a player becomes accustomed to his implements. An old club that suits a player is of much more value to him than the best new one could be.

The executive committee of the club met last evening to decide upon arrangements to be made for the accommodation of the members during the remainder of the season. A small detached building erected and fitted by E.R. Remington, now president of the club, before the club house was built, is to be made more habitable and turned over to the women members for use. A portion of the horse sheds will be made tight as to roof and sides and floored over for use of the men as a locker and dressing room.

It will not be possible to rebuild this season. The lease of the land occupied by the links runs out this year, and the executive committee will not make any decision relative to rebuilding until it is decided whether the lease is to be renewed, or a location for the links secured elsewhere.



2nd Club House - Built 1910



2nd Club House with Lounge & New River Room - Circa 1975

THE FALL RIVER COUNTRY CLUB LAND

The land upon which the Fall River Country Club is situated was once owned by the Wampanoag Indians, who's king was Massasoit. His eldest son, Wamsutta (Alexander), and Wamsutta's wife Weetamoe, who was queen of the Pocasset, after years of negotiating by Gov. William Bradford and other officials of Plymouth Colony, agreed to sell part of their lands to 26 freemen from Plymouth Colony. This was called "Freemen's Purchase", deeded April 2, 1659, and consisted of land along the eastern banks of the Great Taunton River, starting at the falls at the Quequechan River and running northerly 7 to 8 miles to Assonet Neck, and 4 miles easterly into the woods, or approximately 30 square miles of fertile farmland with access to the river and bays. This tract was divided into 26 parcels, each having a frontage on the river of 100 rods (1650 feet). Lots were assigned to the "Proprietors" by lot draw. Fall River Country Club lies on parcels 11, 12, and 13 of Freeman's Purchase.

The price paid for this land was 20 coats, 2 rugs, 2 iron pots, 2 big kettles, 1 little kettle, 8 pairs of shoes, 6 pairs of stockings, 1 dozen hoes, 1 dozen hatchets, 2 yards of broadcloth, and a debt owed by Wamsutta to one John Barnes, a proprietor, who ran a tavern in Plymouthtown. None of the original owners ever settled on their land, it either becoming the property of their sons or, in most cases, sold to other settlers for a profit.

Parcels 11, 12, and 13 eventually were owned by the Hambly, Hathaway, and Allen families, from whom Fall River Golf Club leased the land and eventually purchased

in 1918.

The land is also important archaeologically as described elsewhere in this report.

In 1955 approximately 9 acres running from North Main St. to the railroad property, on both sides of the Country Club access road, were acquired from George Moisan. The parcel to the south of the access road containing about 6 acres, where Rope Walk Condominium now stands, and the lot at the northeast corner of the access road and North Main, were sold to George Clark in October of 1981.

In 1964 and 1965 during the term of President Edmund Buckley, all of the land west of the railroad to the Taunton River underwent a complete survey of metes and bounds and a title search. The Massachusetts Land Court granted us a decree and Certificate of Title for Registered Land on August 31, 1965. The land was adjudged to contain 108.47 acres. The club sold 6.28 acres of this registered land in 1981 to George Clark. The parcel lay between our club house road and the railroad property, from a point just south of the bridge all the way southerly to the river.

When the club members decided to build nine new holes and expand to an 18 hole course in 1974, approximately 10 acres east of the railroad and north of the access road were leased from the Cote family. This land became our existing 6th and 7th holes and was acquired in 1984.

EXPANSION TO 18 HOLES - 1975

For years Fall River Country Club's "Old Nine" was widely recognized as one of the best and most difficult nine hole layouts in New England, it having the characteristics of a Scottish links-type course with undulating fairways, difficult areas of rough, and small, well bunkered greens. Over the years several surveys had been made to see if an additional nine holes could be built, but there was not enough land available.

However, in 1950-51, approximately 20 acres of land was created from the dredgings of the Taunton River channel, which was deposited in the lowlands along the river shore, becoming the property of FRCC and usable after 20 years.

In April 1974, under the guidance of President William S. Gray, construction of nine new holes designed by golf architects Cornish & Robinson was started, utilizing

the 20 acres of reclaimed land along the banks of the Taunton River and 10 acres on the east side of the railroad tracks which were leased and later purchased from the Cote family.

On July 4th, 1975, the new course was dedicated with a large crowd of members and visiting notables in attendance. The three day weekend festivities, presided over by President Gray and his committee, included a gala cocktail party, a semi-formal ball, and special golf tournaments.

The new holes have now matured, being 15 years old, and have complemented the "Old Nine", giving Fall River a first class 18 hole golf course that is a true test of golf, with unmatched scenic views. The yardage from the back (blue) tees is 6267, par is 70, and the slope is 130. Ladies par is 72 with yardage of 5601, and slope of 118.

OCTOBER 30, 1914

GOLF CLUB COURSE INTERESTING PIECE OF LAND

That the Fall River Golf Club course, so well known for its demand upon the best skill of the golfer, was laid out in the glacial period, will be surprising information for some of the members, who have never known where the credit belongs.

Professor Lewis J. Johnson, who lectured before the Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday night, is authority for the statement.

Furthermore, so interesting is the conformation of that bit of land that there is in the possession of the Bureau of the Coast and Geodetic Survey in Washington, a plaster model of the whole stretch - cliffs, valleys, undulations and all.

He knows, for he made it himself back in the year 1885, when he spent a whole summer doing geological and survey work for the government. "One of the most interesting bits of land in the country", Professor Johnson called it.

Those that are familiar with the golf grounds know that the gravelly soil is full of smooth and rounded stones, giving the appearance of their having been brought from some beach.

It was these stones which attracted the geologists' attention. From their knowledge of such things they decided that the whole accumulated heap on which the course is now laid out was deposited there by a subterranean, glacial stream. If it had been another sort of stream the material would have been laid out in fan-shape or would have been heaped in an oval hill.

The curious hollows which add so much character to the golf course solved the problem. A river from the melting glacier running either along the ground, or along a lower stratum of ice, probably the latter, met with some obstructions which slowed up or turned its current. For a few thousand years or so it dropped its load of gravel and went its way. Then the Ice Age passed and there was a great and variegated sand hill heaped up alongside the Taunton River, whose bed, it is said, was scooped out by the glacier.

What the shape or extent of the hill may have been when first the Taunton began gnawing away at its side cannot be known. But happily, enough remains to make a very notable geological curiosity, and a first class golf course.

Fall River Country Club COURSES

Original Course at North Main St. Site

Apparently laid out in 1900 by Arthur H. Fenn (see note), a traveling pro. The "Old Course" consisted of nine holes played in a counter clockwise direction, and stayed more or less the same until sometime after 1910, when additional land in the northern end was leased from John Allen. The tees and greens were probably constructed and maintained by Jack Howard who was hired as Greenkeeper September 5, 1900 and stayed until 1910. This was the course that Harry Vardon played October 20, 1900, with A.H. Fenn, Vardon setting the course record of 74 for 18 holes.

Many topographical changes have occurred over the years, particularly in the present 2nd, 8th, and 14th hole areas, due to the removal of gravel, etc., making it difficult to visualize where certain tees and greens were

located, so much of this description has to be considered approximate.

The total yardage apparently was 2633 yards and par was 37 for the nine hole layout. From sketches drawn from memory by long time member Mr. Jim Mullen, and Dennis Violette, former caddy and assistant to Pro Marty Higgins, the "Old Course" was approximately as follows -

Hole #1 - 325 yards - Par 4

Tee was next to old Club House, on the east side. The fairway ran northerly up the existing 9th fairway, bordered on the east by the driveway. The green was located in the 9th fairway past the shallow box trap and

(Continued on Page 9)

(Continued from Page 8)

before the bridge.

Hole #2 - 345 yards - Par 5

Tee was about opposite bridge, in 9th fairway. The fairway ran northerly over our present 8th green, to a green that was probably on a plateau just west of our 8th tee. (This plateau was removed in 1980-81).

Hole #3 - 225 yards - Par 4

Tee was in existing 8th tee and 5th green area. The fairway ran northerly down the 5th fairway to a green located before the pond in front of the 5th tee.

Hole #4 - 300 yards - Par 4

Tee was in area between our 5th and 2nd fairways. Fairway ran due west across 2nd fairway and 14th tee to a green thought to have been in front of our 13th green.

Hole #5 - 280 yards - Par 4

Tee was somewhere between existing 13th and 14th fairways. The fairway ran due south to a green near our present 14th green.

Hole #6 - 300 yards - Par 4

Tee was near existing 14th green and the fairway ran northerly to a green that was in a hollow in front of the present 14th tee. (Hollow was filled in and is now part of the 14th fairway).

Hole #7 - 268 yards - Par 4

Tee was in flat area near our 14th Ladies tee. The fairway ran southerly up existing 2nd fairway to a green located in the 2nd fairway near the first saddle area.

Hole #8 - 430 yards - Par 5

Tee was north of deep ravine behind our existing 17th green. The fairway ran southerly over the ravine and our existing 1st green, and past the tub in the 1st fairway. The green was located in the 1st fairway near the shallow box traps.

Hole #9 - 160 yards - Par 3

Tee was in 1st fairway, in front of the tee. The green was located in the pit in front of the old Club House.

NOTE: Reference from "50 Years Of American Golf", by H.B. Martin, and "Golf Courses of New Hampshire" by Labbanace and Coldwell.

Arthur H. Fenn was America's first home bred golf professional. He was born in Waterbury, Connecticut in 1858. Self taught, he took up the game at the Palmetto Club in Aiken, SC in 1895. He constructed the golf course at Poland Springs (Maine) GC in 1896. He won the Lenox Cup as an amateur in 1896 and 1897, and was presented the trophy by President McKinley. He became summer golf pro at Poland Springs and winter pro at Palm Beach CC, Florida, in 1898, positions he held for over 25 years. He played with the great Harry Vardon in exhibition matches during Vardon's tour of the US in 1900. Fenn is credited with the layout of seven golf courses in the White Mountains area of New Hampshire, including Waumbec, Crawford Notch, Twin Mountain, and Profile Club in Franconia, but little of his work still exists these ninety years later.

2nd Course

The 2nd course layout was made sometime after 1910 when the Club leased the Allen land in the northern end of the property, **excepting the sand hill** on the point at the NW corner where our present 3rd green and 4th tee are located. This layout was apparently used until about 1922. There is no record found of anyone other than FRCC being responsible for this layout.

All of the land west of the railroad, to the Taunton River, including all the Allen land, was purchased by FRCC in 1918, at which time Tom Winton, (see note),

who was once associated with the famous architect Willie Park, Jr., was hired to see if the land could accommodate 18 holes. Only 12 or 13 holes were possible. Winton may have been responsible for the design of our existing 3rd and 4th holes, which became part of the "Old Nine" course layout.

The course consisted of nine holes (three par 5s) with a total yardage of 3103 and a par of 37, or 6206 yards and par of 74 for 18 holes. A description, from an old score card, follows —



“The Old Nine”

For 50 years or more, until 1975, when FRCC went to 18 holes, “The Old Nine” was recognized as being one of the finest nine hole courses in Southern New England. In 1918 FRCC purchased all of the land west of the railroad which previously had been leased from the Hamblys, Hathaways, and Allens, including the Allen sand hill where our present 3rd green and 4th tee are situated.

According to the records of Albert A. Harrison, who handled the land purchase as a member of FRCC in 1918, (he was President in 1928-30), it was determined by golf architect Tom Winton that an 18 hole course could not be made on the property. A decision was made in 1922 to lengthen the existing nine holes (Course #2) by altering some of the existing holes and utilizing the sand hill in the extreme NW corner.

The “Old Nine” course, from old cards, follows: —

Hole #1 - 443 yards - Par 4 (4.6)
Existing 1st hole.

Hole #2 - 531 yards - Par 5
Existing 2nd hole.

Hole #3 - 315 yards - Par 4
Existing 14th hole.

Hole #4 - 426 yards - Par 4 (4.4)
Existing 13th hole.

Hole #5 - 180 yards - Par 3 (3.2)
Existing 3rd hole.

Hole #6 - 385 yards - Par 4
Existing 4th hole.

Hole #7 - 353 yards - Par 4
Existing 5th hole.

Hole #8 - 131 yards - Par 3
Existing 8th hole.

Hole #9 - 450 yards - Par 4 (4.4)
Existing 9th hole.

Nine hole yardage 3214, par 35. 18 holes 6428, par 70.

A score card for the “Old Nine” is on page 14.

18 Hole Course - 1975-1990

12

In 1975 the "Old Nine" was augmented with a new nine holes designed by the golf architectural firm of Cornish and Robinson. Plans for the new holes were finalized in late 1973 and work was started in the spring of 1974. Seeding was completed in the autumn of that year, and the course opened for play in July of 1975. The construction work was done by Chester Drake & Company.

The new holes, as now played, were #10, #11, #12, #15, #16, #17 and #18, all on the river side, and holes #6 and #7 east of the railroad. Hole #10 was played

as hole #1 when the new 18 hole layout was first used in 1975. The only major changes that have been made on the new holes to date are the lengthening and reconstruction of some tees, namely #7, #10, #15, and #17.

The course is par 70 and measures 6267 yards from the back tees, with a course rating of 70.5 and a slope of 130. Ladies par is 72 at 5601 yards, a rating of 70.4 and slope of 118.

The course record of 64 is jointly held by FRCC members Jim McDermott and Guy Newton.





GOLF IN 1900: Harry Vardon, famous English player, driving in four ball exhibition match at Fall River Golf Club on Oct. 20, 1900. Vardon teamed with Dick Hawkins of the Fall River club and won a 2 up decision over a pair of professionals, A. H. Findlay and A. H. Fenn. Hawkins is in center of three golfers at left of Vardon, who set a course record of 74. In left corner are the clay and water buckets, for cleaning golf balls.

Article from the Fall River Daily Herald

MONDAY OCTOBER 22, 1900

CHAMPION VARDON

Exhibit of Golf at Fall River Links

FORMER RECORDS BROKEN

Harry Vardon, the American golf champion, gave an exhibition at the Fall River links at Somerset Junction Saturday. He was accompanied by Alec Findlay, and a Scotch foursome was arranged. A.H. Fenn, who laid out the course at Fall River links, and R.M. Hawkins, the Fall River club's Vardon, made up the quartette. Mr. Hawkins was paired with the champion, and Findlay and Fenn opposed them. A company of 300 people followed over the course and was deeply interested. The match was 36 holes, 18 played in the morning and 18 in the afternoon. Vardon and his partner won the day's match by a score of 3 up with 2 to play, or 2 up for the 36 holes. Vardon made 74 in the morning, which broke the club record for 18 holes, and his score was the same in the afternoon. Findlay also made a 74 in the afternoon.

The feature of the play that specially interested spectators was the long driving and accurate approach. In this Vardon showed his superior skill, although Findlay shared the honors and the applause. Mr. Hawkins played with great credit to himself and the club, although he

did not equal his best score over the course. The crowd was disconcerting and the anxiety natural in company of experts, influenced his play somewhat.

As a social feature the day was a great success. The weather was beautiful and Groundsman Howard had the greens in the best possible shape. During the interval between morning and afternoon play and during the afternoon, Sokoll served light refreshments in a marquee near the club house, while within the house a blazing fire on the hearth made it cozy for those that rested there. Lieutenant Milton and a squad of patrolmen from the North station kept the heights against trespassers without credentials.

Reference Note:

Harry Vardon won six British Opens from 1896 to 1914. He won the U.S. Open in 1900 at Chicago G.C. He is credited with developing the overlapping grip, or the well known "Vardon Grip".

OCTOBER 15, 1923

BOBBY JONES AT COUNTRY CLUB

Open Champion Shows Skill In Exhibition Match

Paired With Brad Durfee He Wins from A.T. Buffinton of Yale and Robert Clough of Harvard.

Champion After Matches at Belmont Springs and Philadelphia, Thursday and Friday, Slightly Off Form

On Saturday afternoon at the Fall River Country Club, "Bobby" Jones, Open Champion of the United States, paired with Bradford C. Durfee, won an exhibition match from A.T. Buffinton, captain of the Yale 1921 golf team, and Robert Clough of the Harvard team by a score of 2 up and 1 to play.

Jones, who played an exhibition match at Belmont Springs Thursday, and Friday set a record at the Tredyfflin course at Philadelphia, showed the strain of too much golf and at times was appreciably off form. This was particularly noticeable in his putting and in a tendency to be off direction with his irons.

His medal score, while high for a golfer of his ability and somewhat disappointing to the gallery, was easily accounted for by this and a strong southwest wind which blew steadily across the course. Present playing conditions on all courses are far from desirable; lack of rain having caused the soil to become very hard making it very difficult to play iron shots correctly.

His score for 18 holes was 84. While he found it necessary to take three putts on several greens, he presented an array of masterly tee shots and long irons, played with an ease and precision, that left no doubt as to the justification of his fame.

He was unvaryingly straight off the tee and usually quite long, his tee shot on the second leaving him a long mashie for a birdie four, these two shots covering a distance for which the average golfer requires two wooden shots and a mashie.

The best score of the match was an 83 turned in by Buffinton who with W.T. Rogers is joint holder of the course record with 72 strokes. He gave Jones a good battle all the way. On the first hole, hooking his drive into the rough, he played a beautiful iron to the green, holeing out in par 4, and again on the 16th he played a long iron to the elevated green from the rough, sinking his putt for a birdie 3.

Durfee, who is the natural "Siege Gun" of Fall River, hit some splendid wooden shots, but in company with

Clough, found difficulty with his short approaches and chip shots. The play was closely contested, Durfee's par 3 on the 17th deciding the match.

Jones spoke highly of the course. He is the second player of note to go over it, the other being Francis Ouimet. Both have found difficulty making low scores.

Reference Note:

Bobby Jones won a total of 13 major championships from 1923 to 1930. 4 U.S. Opens, 3 British Opens, 5 U.S. Amateurs, a 1 British Amateur.

U. S. G. A. Rules shall apply in all plays.
Every player is responsible for his knowledge of the rules and any question which the player cannot decide should be referred to the Tournament Committee before the player hands in his card.

OUT OF BOUNDS

No.1-Beyond white stakes on West line of fairway and Tennis Courts.
No.6-Beyond line of railroad fence East of green.
No.7-In and beyond ditch and white stakes on East line of fairway.
No.8-Beyond railroad fence.
No.9-Beyond railroad fence and white stakes.
Roadway - east of No. 9 fairway is a hazard, all other roadways are "Rough."

Two things most essential to the enjoyment of Golf are good, turf and an opportunity to play without waiting an unreasonable time between strokes.

Your co-operation is necessary to secure these advantages.

If in making a stroke you take turf, either intentionally or accidentally, see that your caddy replaces the divot at once.

If you have an open hole ahead of you, or if you have lost a ball, look back and see whether the following players are waiting; if so, ask them to go thru before they insist on their rights.

You cannot presume to regulate the speed of all following matches.

The sharing of this golf course with others makes it necessary that you should know Golf Etiquette.

SCORE CARD

FALL RIVER
COUNTRY CLUB
SOMERSET JUNCTION
MASSACHUSETTS

TURF, WHEN CUT, MUST IMMEDIATELY
BE REPLACED AND PRESSED
DOWN WITH THE FOOT.

Match Play Competitions.
Three fourths of Medal Play

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18

HANDICAP FIGURES IN ITALICS (H)

(A)	(B)	BEST BALL (A-B)	REPLACE TURF		(C)	(D)	BEST BALL (C-D)
			DATE	HOLE YARDS (H)			
				1 443	9 4.6		
				2 531	1 5		
				3 315	13 4		
				4 426	7 4.4		
				5 180	15 3.2		
				6 385	11 4		
				7 353	5 4		
				8 131	17 3		
				9 450	3 4.4		
				OUT 3214			
				10 443	8 4.4		
				11 531	2 5		
				12 315	14 4		
				13 426	10 4.4		
				14 180	16 3.2		
				15 385	12 4		
				16 353	4 4		
				17 131	18 3		
				18 450	6 4.4		
				IN 3214			
				OUT 3214			
				TOTAL 6428			
				HANDICAP			
				NET SCORE			

ATTESTED

SIGNED

PLEASE TURN IN ALL YOUR SCORES

A Score Card for the "Old Nine"

MARTY HIGGINS

Notes From Various Fall River Herald News Articles

Marty Higgins was named club Pro at Fall River Country Club in 1928 after serving at Rhode Island Country Club as assistant to Pro Tom Jones. He was appointed Pro-Greenkeeper in 1938 and served in this dual role until his death in April of 1959.

His tenure of 31 years as Club Professional is the longest in the history of Fall River Country Club.

Higgins started at FRGC in 1914 as a caddy when he was 9 years old. After five years of caddying, he worked in the pro shop as assistant to Pro Tom Jones. He worked afternoons during his high school days, and 12 hours a day, 7 days a week in the summer at a pay of \$9 per week. He graduated from high school in 1923 and in 1926 went to work at RICC as assistant to Tom Jones for two years. He took a special course at Massachusetts State College in 1938, studying golf course grasses. He was class valedictorian and earned much praise for his thesis on "What is the best time of day to mow putting green grasses?".

Higgins gained the respect of his fellow professionals by being elected as president of the New England Professional Golfers Association in 1939. According to the recollections of Denny Violette, a former caddy at FRCC, and assistant to Higgins, they travelled throughout New England to officiate at weekly PGA tournaments. Marty

designed a score board that was the forerunner of the large boards seen today on the pro tour. The board, in sections, was transported to and from the tournaments in his truck, to record the participant's scores.

As president of the N.E.P.G.A., Marty established many friendships with outstanding national golf figures such as Joe Dey, for many years secretary of the USGA. Higgins was a tireless worker in this area for the Frances Ouimet Scholarship Fund.

A story is told of how much Marty Higgins was respected by his fellow Pros. The great Gene Sarazen, who was to make a well advertised and sold out visit to FRCC, suddenly cancelled out. Higgins swung into action and demanded a suitable replacement so that Fall River golfers would not be disappointed. He got results! Bob Toski, who had just won the important Tam O'Shanter tournament and was one of the biggest names at the time, was ordered to come here to replace Sarazen. He was flown here from western Massachusetts in a private plane.

Marty Higgins was a man who gave much of himself in time, energy, and devotion to FRCC. He was always ready to assist a member and was a good teacher as well as a good tournament player. He was a dedicated Professional.



Marty Higgins with Mrs. A.A. Harrison - Circa 1935

TOM TETRAULT

Golf Professional - FRCC

Tom Tetrault was appointed as the FRCC golf pro in 1976, succeeding Dennis McKensie. He was assistant pro at FRCC for four seasons, following his graduation from Roger Williams, where he was an outstanding golfer. He also served FRCC as club manager in 1979 and 1980.

Always interested in the promotion of junior golf, Tetrault was selected in 1985 as the National Junior Golf Promoter of the Year by Golf Digest for his work in the development of junior golf programs. Also in 1985, he was presented the Horton Smith Award for his leadership and contributions to the educational programs of the PGA.

Tetrault has the distinctive honor of being the first two-time winner of the coveted Bill Strausbaugh Club Relations Award from New England. He first won the award in 1986 and was named again in 1989 for his work in improving economic standards of New England and National PGA members.

Tetrault is a Past President of the Rhode Island PGA and is now serving his second term as President of the New England PGA, and is in his third year as chairman of the Sectional Club Relations Committee, representing District I of the National PGA.

On October 26, 1990, Tom Tetrault was honored again, receiving the prestigious New England Golf Professional of the Year award and was named Honorary President of the New England PGA.

With all the honors Tom Tetrault has received, he has never neglected the membership of FRCC, and has been one of the moving forces in the continuing improvement of the FRCC, helping to make it one of the best golf clubs in southern New England, with a full capacity membership.

TOM OHLSON

Course Superintendent - FRCC

Tom Ohlson was appointed Course Superintendent of FRCC for the 1981 season and is now starting his eleventh year, the longest term for a Superintendent at FRCC since that of Marty Higgins, who served from 1938 to 1959. Tom comes from a long line of golf course superintendents and greenkeepers, his grandfather, great uncle, father, and brother being now, or formerly, employed at well known country clubs in the area.

Tom, himself, came to FRCC after serving as Superintendent at Norton CC, Kirkbrae CC (Asst), Royal Crest CC (Walpole), and Sharon CC. He has a B.A. in English from U/Mass-Boston and graduated from U/Mass-Stockbridge with a degree in course management. He has taken many courses sponsored by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and is a Certified Golf Course Superintendent. He is Class A member of the Rhode Island Golf Course Superintendents Association and has served as Association Secretary for 1989-1990.

When Tom Ohlson was hired in 1981, FRCC was in the midst of a difficult period in its history. Membership had declined to the point that sufficient funds were not available for anything but the bare necessities, adversely affecting the overall condition of the golf course. Also, in an attempt to meet expenses, thousands of yards of gravel had been removed, making a shambles of the 2nd fairway and 8th tee areas. Now, ten years later, FRCC is recognized as one of the most attractive and best conditioned courses in Southern New England, with a capacity membership of over 500.

For a country club to grow to the status that FRCC now enjoys, it must have as its major attraction an excellent course, well laid out and, most importantly, well maintained in all respects. Most of the credit for this success goes to FRCC's Tom Ohlson, C.G.C.S.

Fall River Country Club

PAST PRESIDENTS

1898-1902	Nathan Durfee	1938-1947	Birtwell Stafford	1970-1972	Edward Nasser
1902-1903	Edward Higginson	1947-1948	A. Frank Fyans	1972-1976	William S. Gray
1903-1914	Edward B. Remington	1948-1949	William H. Moran	1976-1977	Martin Slutsky
1914-	Robert C. Davis	1949-1951	Richmond Harrison	1977-1980	Robert Murray
19 -	Charles B. Chace	1951-1957	Russell L. Mellwaine	1980-1982	Richard Lewis
1928-1930	Albert A. Harrison	1957-1961	James T. Waldron	1982-1986	Dr. Richard Perkins
1930-1931	Claude C. Curtis	1961-1968	Edmund Buckley	1986-1988	Joseph Scanlon
1931-1934	Dr. Thomas Almy	1968-1970	John O'Donoghue	1988-	Ronald Raposa
1934-1938	Charles P. Ryan				

CLUB PROFESSIONALS

1900-	A. H. Fenn - <i>Laid out original course</i>
1904-	John M. Inglis - <i>1st employed Pro</i>
1908-	Willie Dow
1910-	Tom McNamara - <i>Placed 2nd in 1909 U.S. Open</i>
1911-	Dave Ogilvie
1912-	Peter Robertson - <i>from Scotland</i>
1914-	Bill Campbell - <i>from Scotland</i>
1915-1924	Tom Jones
1925-	Dave Sutherland
1926-1927	Jim McAndrews
1928-1959	Marty Higgins - <i>Pres. New England PGA 1939</i>
1960-	No Pro
1961-1964	Charlie Borden
1965-1966	Mike Russo
1967-1969	Carl Palumbo
1970-1972	Tom Pilkington
1973-1975	Dennis McKensie
1976-	Thomas Tetrault - <i>Pres. New England PGA 1989-90</i>

COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS (Greenkeepers)

1900-1910	Jack Howard	1959-	Manny Sousa	1970-1972	Tom Pilkington
1911-1912	Frank Harrison	1962-	Charlie Borden	1973-1977	George L'Heureux
1912-1925	Mike Kane	1965-	Ren Bradshaw	1978-1980	Jack Ellis
1926-1937	Guy West	1967-1969	Carl Palumbo	1981-	Thomas Ohlson
1938-1959	Marty Higgins				

CLUB CHAMPIONS

1922-	W.P. Rogers	1939-	W.S. Canning	1960	W. Nugent	1973-1974	P. Saunders
1923-	C.E. Smith	1940-	H. Scofield	1963-	A. O'Neil	1975-	J. McDermott
1924-	A.T. Buffinton	1941-	F. Dolan	1964-	W. Gray	1976-	R. Hickman
1925-	W.P. Rogers	1942-	H. Scofield	1965-	A. O'Neil	1977-1982	J. McDermott
1926-1927	A.T. Buffinton	1943-1944	F.E. Sullivan	1966-	W. Gray	1983-	D. Salmon III
1928-	C.E. Smith	1946	W. Nugent	1967-	J. Saunders	1984-	D. Salmon Jr.
1929-1931	A.T. Buffinton	1949-1953	H. Ferreira	1968-	C. Moniz	1985-	L. Alves
1932-1934	H. Scofield	1954-	W. Nugent	1969-	Dr. H. Powers	1986-	D. Salmon III
1935-	T. Larson	1955-	J. Bullock	1970-	R. Ouellette	1987-1988	L. Alves
1936-	W.P. Rogers	1956-1957	W. Nugent	1971-	P. Saunders	1989-	G. Rounds
1937-	R. Ryder	1958-	M. Tercera	1972-	J. Saunders	1990-	J. Carroll
1938-	F. Dolan	1959-	J. Bailey				

Womens Golf Association

18

PRESIDENTS

1936-1938	Mrs. D.S. Jones	1954-1955	Mrs. B. Goldberg	1973-1974	Phyliss Daby
1939-	Miss Jean Aldrich	1956-1957	Mrs. David Entin	1975-1977	Helen Mullen
1940-1941	Miss Alice Dyer	1958-1960	Mrs. D. Bradshaw	1978-1979	Edie Orvis
1942-1944	Mrs. D.S. Jones	1961-1962	Marji Packer	1980-1981	Marilyn Abraham
1945-1946	Mrs. Donovan	1963-1964	Mrs. L. Bullock	1982-1983	Marcia Salmon
1947-	Mrs. D.S. Jones	1965-1966	Mrs. Phoebe Nasser	1984-1985	Fee Kravitz
1948-1949	Mrs. R. Canning	1967-1968	Rose Dashoff	1986-1987	Pat Smith
1950-	Miss Constance Briggs	1969-1970	Sandra David	1988-1989	Marcia McCormick
1951-	Mrs. Henry Brough	1971-1972	Marion Ferry	1990-1991	Kathy Farrell
1952-1953	Mrs. D. Stafford				

CHAMPIONS

1937-	Mrs. Prescott Rogers	1950-1951	Pauline Radovsky	1973-	Sandra David
1938-	Mrs. D.S. Jones	1952-	Ada Fyans	1974-1977	Marji Packer
1939-	Miss Jean Aldrich	1953-	Regina Golden	1978-	Sandra David
1940-1941	Mrs. D.S. Jones	1954-	Pauline Radovsky	1979-1981	Helen Mullen
1942-	Miss Jean Aldrich	1955-1956	Ada Fyans	1982-	Fee Kravitz
1943-	Mrs. D.S. Jones	1957-1959	Claudette LaBonte	1983-	Natalie Michael
1944-1945	Miss Jean Aldrich	1960-1969	Marji Packer	1984-1987	Helen Mullen
1946-1947	Mrs. B. Shay	1970-	Phoebe Nasser	1988-	Julie Salmon
1948-	Miss Jean Aldrich	1971-	Jan Gottlieb	1989-	Helen Mullen
1949-	Mrs. Dorothy Stafford	1972-	Mary Nugent	1990-	Cindy Prayzner

National & State Champions

KATHERINE G. HARLEY

In 1908, Miss Harley playing as a member of the Fall River Golf Club, won the National Womens Amateur Golf Championship at the Chevy Chase Golf Club, Chevy Chase, Maryland. She qualified 14th in a field of 32, and won five match play matches to become Champion.

Later, in 1914, playing as Mrs. H. Arnold Jackson, out of the Oakley Country Club of Watertown, Mass., she again won the Womens Amateur title.

RUTH WOODWARD

Miss Ruth Woodward of Fall River Country Club won the Championship of the Women's Golf Association of Massachusetts in 1949.

CLAUDETTE LABONTE & JACK BAILEY

Miss LaBonte and Mr. Bailey were the winners in 1959 of the Stone Cup, a mixed competition tournament sponsored by the Women's Golf Association of Massachusetts.

JIM McDERMOTT

Jim McDermott has brought fame to himself and honor to FRCC by winning the Massachusetts State Amateur Championship, not once, but **three times**, being the only player since 1961 to accomplish this extraordinary feat.

Jim won his first State title in 1980 at Salem Country Club, his second in 1984 at the Country Club of Pittsfield, and his third in 1989 at Worcester Country Club. He also received the award of Massachusetts Golfer of the Year in 1989.

The MGA Amateur began in 1903 and only two players have won the title more times than Jim McDermott, they being Frederick J. Wright, Jr. (7), and the famous Francis Ouimet (6), winner of the US Open in 1913 and twice US Amateur Champion, in 1914 and 1931.

Special Tournaments at FRCC

In addition to the full schedule of tournaments for the membership of FRCC there are several special events that have been initiated by FRCC. These tournaments have become annual affairs and contribute greatly to the prestige of FRCC.

The most noteworthy of these events are the Norton Open, a charity benefit for the Association of Retarded Citizens of Greater Fall River, the Frank McGrath Tournament, and the Greater Fall River Junior Open.

The Junior Open, initiated by Pro Tom Tetrault and under the direction of Ed Keyes of FRCC, has grown from a field of 60 young golfers in 1979, to a capacity field of 160 that participated in the 1990 event. In addition, there was a standby list of 40 waiting for an opening to compete. The tournament is a one day, 18 hole medal play event with five divisions based on age. The winners and second place finishers in each division, with their parents, are hosted by FRCC at the "Dinner of Champions" on Sunday evening after the tournament, when trophies and other prizes are presented. Many of these young golfers have gone on to successful golf careers, Brad Faxon and Billy Andrade of the PGA Tour, and Drew Chapman, Tom Keyes, and Donald Daley, working members of the PGA.

The Tom Norton Open was played first in 1974. In the early years many celebrities from the sports world par-

ticipated and the event still attracts more than 200 participants each year. Over the past 15 years this event has become as much a social event as a golf tournament with many groups participating on a yearly basis, some since the first tournament. FRCC members now make up the majority of the players and FRCC can be justly proud of the substantial revenue raised each year for the A.R.C. of Fall River.

The Frank McGrath Tournament, named in honor of the late Sports Editor of the Fall River Herald News, is a yearly event that allows area golf clubs a chance to compete, exchange ideas, and participate in friendly camaraderie. Teams are chosen by each participating club on a qualifying basis in handicap divisions and each club hosts the tournament on a rotating schedule. The first match was played at FRCC in 1957, and was won by FRCC. Six area clubs have competed - Acoaxet Club, Fall River CC, Montaup CC, CC of New Bedford, Poquoy Brook CC, and Segregansett CC.

Many other special tournaments, for various charities, have been played over the years at FRCC. An outstanding event was the New England Blind Golfers Open, hosted by FRCC in 1964. This event was for the benefit of the Associated Blind of Greater Fall River, and featured Joe Lazaro, the US National Blind Golfer Champion.

Tennis Courts

According to the records of FRCC's earlier historian, Mr. A.A. Harrison, there was a time when tennis was given more attention than golf. This was back in the early 1900s when tennis was thriving and golf fading because the club president, so it was said, was more interested in shrubbery and tennis than in the golf course.

Robert N. Davis was president in 1914 when the club name was changed from Fall River Golf Club to Fall River Country Club. It was argued that this change more clearly covered the diverse activities of the club. President Davis was an avid tennis player and at the time the

club had two of the best clay courts in the area, located on the west side of the 1st fairway, near the barn. The courts were used for years and at one time Bill Tilden, who went on to become one of the greatest exponents in the history of the sport, played an exhibition match at the club. Many players of note in the area played in tennis tournaments, and team matches were played with the CC of New Bedford and other clubs.

Golfers, however, finally became fed up with the over emphasis on tennis and made certain at future meetings that the presidency was restricted to golf enthusiasts.

1991 finds Fall River Country Club riding the crest of a wave brought on by the unparalleled popularity of the game of golf, and a vibrant economy which has lasted through the 1980s. Our membership is at an all time high, our golf course is in the finest condition in its history, we have well maintained and up to date equipment, and a brand new club house facility. We should be, and we are, justly proud of our present situation.

However, we must not forget that FRCC has gone through some difficult times since the year 1900, and it is well that we take a backward look and reflect on the most serious of those times. Those that can be substantiated from past records, and as in the most recent situation, by many of our present members.

In the years following World War I, from 1918 when FRCC purchased all of the land west of the railroad, to about 1922, many expenditures were incurred in improvements to the club house and golf course equipment. Also, the course was changed to include the new land at the NW corner, and holes were lengthened to make an accredited nine hole layout (the Old Nine). In May 1922, to help pay those bills, and as collateral for a mortgage, FRCC issued 350 bonds @ \$100 each, bearing 5% interest, with a call date of May 1952. Interest was paid yearly until about 1925, at the start of the Great Depression. At that time the City of Fall River had reached an industrial peak with more than 4 million spindles in its textile mills. Within four years the depression was at its height and would last through the 1930s to World War II. As many of its members were associated with the textile industry, FRCC was in a difficult bind for many

years, but was able to buy back bonds, or accept gifts in lieu of payment. This was not completed until 1964, due mainly to the dedicated efforts of Atty. Jim Waldron.

Another most difficult period was more recent and is still vivid in the memory of many members. In 1975 FRCC added a new nine holes which resulted in a beautiful 18 hole layout. A major financial outlay was made, and a large mortgage was taken by a consortium of local banks. The course attracted many golfers and the membership increased to near 400 in 1976-77. Another recession in 1978-79 caused a major loss in membership, resulting in reduced budgets and a general deterioration of the golf course.

Available funds were so limited that some bills could not be paid on time, and many deliveries of essential materials for the care of the course were made only on a C.O.D. basis.

To keep FRCC operating and to prevent possible foreclosure, drastic measures were taken. In 1980-81, land was sold for proposed condominiums, and upwards of 90,000 cubic yards of gravel were excavated from the 2nd and 8th fairways. Needless to say, during these trying times the membership dwindled to a dangerously low point, and those who continued to support their club, difficult though it was, can now look back with a sense of pride and accomplishment.

It is difficult to imagine what the condition of FRCC would now be, (perhaps it would not be), had those very unpopular steps not been taken.



Excavation of 8th Hole & 2nd Fairway



Re-seeding 2nd Fairway

THE STATUS OF FALL RIVER COUNTRY CLUB December 1990

by Ronald Raposa, President

On November 10, 1990, Fall River Country Club held the grand opening of its new Club House with 400 to 500 members in attendance. The new facility, designed by J.B.D. Designs of Warwick, RI, and built under the management of John Callahan Construction Inc., consists of 18,000 square feet, on three levels of 6000 square feet per level, at a cost of approximately \$1.5 million dollars.

At the present time the Fall River Country Club is enjoying great prosperity. Although New England has fallen on hard economic times, the effect has not filtered down to the Country Club level. FRCC currently has a full membership consisting of 299 Male, 38 Female, 45 Family, 54 Corporate, 108 Social, and 28 Junior memberships. There is also a waiting list of approximately 50 potential members. The dues structure is on the low end of the various private clubs in the nearby area, with the membership residing within a radius of 30 miles of the greater Fall River area. The membership consists of diverse groups of individuals, from all walks of life and ethnic backgrounds, making Fall River Country Club a very down to earth place to play golf and socialize.

THE 90s TO THE YEAR 2000

All of us, I am sure, have ideas that we would like to see happen at our Club. I would like to see a PGA event at FRCC and see how the Pros would fare on a difficult old links type course. In reality, I realize our course is short by pro tournament standards and probably would be humbled by the touring pro. It may not be out of the question that FRCC would be a great test for the LPGA. Our panoramic settings and amphitheater type terrain would accommodate crowds and provide great TV coverage. I foresee an MGA championship tournament being played at FRCC now that we can accommodate the field and spectators, and this I will actively seek.

I foresee future generations benefiting from the hard work and devotion of our current membership. A membership that saw a challenge and accepted, overcame hard times and persevered. A membership that is a credit, not only to FRCC, but to Fall River and the golf community. For their patience, fortitude, foresight and support, I will forever be grateful.

Club Officers 1989-1991

Pres. - Ronald Raposa
V. Pres. - Thomas Friar

Sec. - Laurence Oliveira
Treas. - Leo L'Homme

1989 - 1990 Executive Board

Richard Briere
Ruth Brown
Raymond Giasson
Fern Letendre
Marcia McCormick
Ben Milner
Paul Poirier
Marcia Salmon
John Scanlon
Michael Smith
Betty Welch
Donald Whalley

1990 - 1991 Executive Board

Norman Berube
Richard Briere
Ruth Brown
John Davis
Fern Letendre
Marcia McCormick
Ben Milner
Paul Poirier
Marcia Salmon
Paul Saunders
John Scanlon
Michael Smith

New Club House Building Committee

Thomas Friar, Chairman
Richard Briere
Thomas Hough
Marcia McCormick
Lawrence Oliveira
Marcia Salmon
John Scanlon
Betty Welch
Donald Whalley

THE STATUS OF GOLF AT FALL RIVER COUNTRY CLUB

December 1990

by Thomas Tetrault, Golf Professional

The main word is **BUSY, BUSY, BUSY ...**

In the year of 1990 the rounds of golf will exceed 40,000, golf cart usage will produce a gross revenue of \$175,000, and green fees will exceed \$65,000.

Fall River Country Club is a private, yet very busy club, and about half of our members still enjoy walking and carrying their clubs, while the others enjoy the luxury of golf carts. Our busiest days of the week are Monday through Friday when all classes of membership (Corporate, Women, Juniors, and 4-day) use the course. Saturday and Sunday have still survived without the necessity of starting times, with a wait of 15-20 minutes or less. I know some of our members often don't appreciate this, but many clubs in our area require their members to call on a Tuesday to arrange for weekend starting times.

FRCC has an active tournament program that starts January 1st and ends December 31st each year. The formal schedule starts in late March and ends in mid November. From November 15th to March 15th each year on Saturday and Sunday, a 9am ABCD tourney is played for our hearty winter golfers, provided Mother Nature allows.

The thing that has always made FRCC such a special place, is the people who make up its membership. Today we have people from all walks of life, some coming from as far as 50 miles, who come together to play a great golf course and enjoy the great game of golf.

THE 90s TO THE YEAR 2000

We have all heard of the projected growth of golf by the year 2000, but what does that mean to Fall River Country Club?

Will FRCC continue to grow or maintain its present membership if our economy fails? Will a national disaster or a war affect all of us? None of us has the ability to predict the future but we can look back at history.

We now enjoy a complete facility with the opening of our new Club House, which places us second to none. A complete golfing facility that can be enjoyed by its members as well as the entire Fall River community.

However, we must always remember that Fall River Country Club is a place where, yes, people come to be sociable and to see friends, but most of all, the Club has survived the past 90 some years, mainly because people have come to play the **great game of golf**.

We must continue in the 1990s to provide our members with a well manicured course and all the other amenities they are accustomed to, with good service, and most important, at a reasonable price. That may be a difficult goal to keep through the 90s to the year 2000, but if everyone works hard at their jobs, it will be attainable.

FRCC COURSE RECORD

A new course record for 18 holes was set on July 21, 1983, by Jim McDermott of FRCC.

McDermott scored a 34-30 round of 64 playing the full course yardage from the blue tees. His record round included one eagle (10th), his first hole, as his match started on the back nine, six birdies (holes 2, 6, 12, 13, 14, 17), nine pars and two bogies. His score broke the former record of 65 which was made earlier in the year in the Tom Norton Open by the now touring Pro, Jim Hallet.

Playing with McDermott were Dr. Hackett, Norm Berube, and John Velozo.

Guy Newton, a FRCC member, also scored a round of 64, tying Jim McDermott's record. Newton's record round, also from the blue tees, was made on August 4, 1984, and included seven birdies (holes 4, 5, 6, 10, 12, 14, 18), ten pars and one bogie.

In Newton's foursome were Bob Silvia, Jeff Nugent, and Paul Saunders.

THE STATUS OF THE GOLF COURSE

December 1990

by Thomas Ohlson, C.G.C.S.

As the famous golf course architects of the early 1900s realized, a golf course can be only as good as the land on which it is constructed. FRCC is blessed with one of the finest links type properties in New England. As a Superintendent I have been very fortunate, because more of the golfer's attention has been drawn to the dramatic vistas offered by this property, rather than their concentration on the quality of the turf. Thankfully, the condition of the golf course has improved greatly in the past ten years.

In 1981 we spent \$68,000 to maintain the course, with very inadequate equipment and supplies, and a work force of four. In 1990 FRCC spent close to \$300,000, including the purchase of more modern equipment and with a work force of eighteen. Although this is still a modest budget by today's standards, there must be adequate funds available to continue the upgrading of the course, and the acquisition of equipment necessary to maintain it in the manner to which FRCC members have become accustomed.

As the demands for quality playing conditions increase, and the volume of play remains heavy, we must assure the members that FRCC will keep pace and continue to be one of the finest courses in Southern New England.

THE 90s TO THE YEAR 2000

There is room for improvement on every golf course. FRCC is no exception. In no particular order, because each item is important, here are some of the improvements I envision might be accomplished during the 1990s.

- An asphalt cartpath which starts at #1 tee and ends at #18 green
- A fully automatic irrigation system with a computerized central control in the Superintendent's office.
- Redesign and reconstruction of #11, #17, and #9 greens
- Conversion of our turf from Poa Annua to bentgrass and fescue
- Several new and/or enlarged tees to bear the heavy traffic of a popular golf course
- Excavation of a new pond, short of and to the left of #10 green, in conjunction with a major drainage project in the lower holes of the back nine
- Elimination of the present #12 hole and construction of a new hole between #3 tee and #2 green

Fall River Country Club

WGA

by Kathy Farrell, President

The Women's Golf Association of the Fall River Country Club reached a membership total of 74 for the year 1990.

By the year 2000, we would like to see this number doubled, by more actively educating the present FRCC women members, as well as new women members, with

regard to WGA membership benefits.

Another goal of the WGA, which goes hand in hand with a larger membership, is the advent of weekend tournaments. Hopefully our membership growth will allow this to be accomplished long before the year 2000.

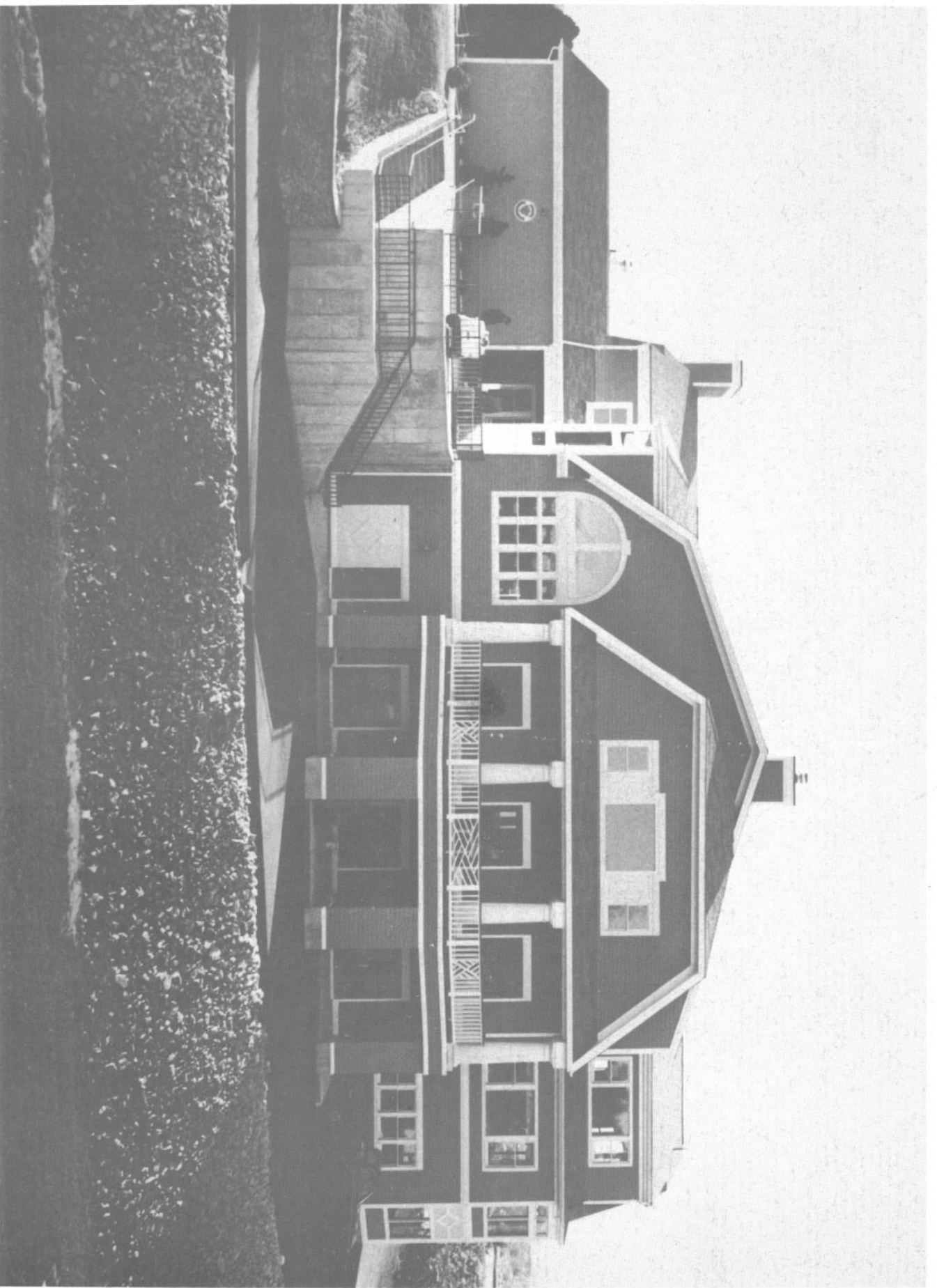


Herald News Photo by DAVE SOUZA

Participating in a ground breaking ceremony for the new clubhouse at the Fall River Country Club were, left to right — Ronald Raposa, club president; Mayor Carlton M. Viveiros; Tom Friar, building committee chairman; Rev. Edward Thomas, of the First Congregational Church; building committee members Marcia McCormick, Marcia Salmon, Larry Oliveira and Dick Briere; Betty Bevilacqua, representing Sen. Thomas Norton; committee member Jeff Oliveira, bankers Ron LaStaiti and Bill Flaherty of the NBIS, and architect Judd Brown.

Fall River Country Club breaks ground for new clubhouse October 17, 1989





New Clubhouse - 1990