

DURBAN COUNTRY CLUB

Durban Country Club, located in Durban, South Africa, has a rich history dating back to the end of World War I when the idea of establishing a Country Club in Durban first emerged. At the time, country clubs were gaining popularity in other parts of South Africa, and with Durban's reputation as a leading seaside resort, the need for such an amenity became evident for both residents and visitors.

One of the driving forces behind the club's creation was the need for a second golf course in Durban due to the persistent flooding problems faced by the Durban Golf Club (now Royal Durban). The existing golf club, located on a low-lying swamp at Greyville, frequently suffered from flooding, causing golf events to be cancelled. In 1920, the floods made the course virtually unplayable for the South African Golf Championships, raising concerns that Durban might not be asked to host the event again in 1924.

George Waterman, with assistance from fellow professional golfer Laurie Waters, took on the challenge of building the Durban Country Club's golf course. Their work was labour-intensive, involving manual earth-moving, flattening giant sand dunes, clearing dense vegetation, and removing trees.

Durban Country Club officially opened on December 9, 1922, with George Waterman having the honour of hitting the first ball on what would become one of the world's most famous golf courses. The members were so impressed with Waterman's design that they commissioned the Waterman Cup, a golf trophy in his honour, which was first contested in 1924.

Throughout its history, Durban Country Club has played a significant role in South African golf. Legendary players like Sam Snead, Jack Nicklaus, Sally Little, Ernie Els, Sid Brews, Bobby Locke, Papwa Sewgolum, and Gary Player have achieved some of their greatest golfing moments here. The club has hosted 17 South African Opens, more than any other club in South Africa, and was the proud host of the Centenary SA Open in 2010.

The golf course offers stunning views overlooking the Blue Lagoon estuary and the Indian Ocean. It has witnessed remarkable moments in golf history, including Gary Player's first South African Open victory in 1956 and Ernie Els' third South African Open win in 1998.

The club's classic Cape Dutch style Clubhouse, designed by architects Wallace Paton and WG (Billy) Moffat, overlooks the course. In the backdrop, the iconic Moses Mabhida Stadium adds to the scenic beauty of the surroundings.

Durban Country Club continues to be a cherished icon both nationally and internationally, preserving a rich legacy of golfing excellence that spans over a century.

Starting from December 1st, Durban Country Club will proudly unveil its newly revamped golf course. This eagerly awaited renovation follows the unfortunate flooding that severely impacted the course in 2022. The floods, which caused extensive damage, left the course in a state of disarray, putting a temporary halt to the club's golfing activities.

World-renowned golfer Gary Player, who has a special connection to the club, had remarked that he had never seen the course looking so good shortly before the floods hit. His endorsement of the course's quality added to the anticipation surrounding the venue. However, just two months later, the devastating floods disrupted the course, highlighting the challenges of maintaining a golf course in a region susceptible to such natural events.

Despite the setbacks, Durban Country Club's commitment to providing a world-class golfing experience remains unwavering. The forthcoming reopening of the revamped golf course signifies the club's determination to restore its historic and prestigious course to its former glory, ready to welcome golf enthusiasts from around the world once again.



WEBSITE: <https://durbancountryclub.co.za/>