

ROYAL DURBAN GOLF CLUB

Royal Durban Golf Club was first established in 1892 as the Durban Golf Club after a local bank manager approached the town council about creating a Golf Club in Durban and was duly granted permission to lay out a links designed course on the grounds within the Greyville Racecourse.

The first course was a far cry from the professionally landscaped grounds of today. There were no actual greens - only scuffed ground on hard clay surfaces, and the fairways were not planted, the grass was merely cut by a reaper drawn by oxen.

In 1932, the Durban Golf Club was rebuilt with a brand new clubhouse replacing the original wood and iron shanty and a new layout was designed by Bob Grimsdell, a qualified architect from Colt & Allison of London, Paris and New York.

The course became known for its punishing rough, which was the only defense it had, apart from the prevailing winds. Large and bulky trees and bushes were not allowed in the design of the course for the simple reason that they would obscure the view of the racetrack. With the advent of television the restriction changed with trees and bushes now adorning many parts of the course.

One of the proudest moments in the history of the Club was on April 1932 when, following a visit from the Prince of Wales in 1925, Durban Golf Club was granted permission to use the prefix "Royal" by King George V, making it one of only four clubs in South Africa to obtain this honour.

Royal Durban Golf Club is one of very few golf courses to be situated in the middle of a horse racing track and has hosted some renowned golfing tournaments over its 130 year history including the Commonwealth Tournament in 1975 (which saw Nick Faldo playing at the tender age of eighteen), the S.A. Open, The Players Championship, the S.A. Amateur Championships and The Nelson Mandela Trophy.

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

