

EAGHC – 20th Annual Meeting



Royal Waterloo Golf Club, 6-8 August 2026

History of the Royal Waterloo Golf Club Theodius Lennon

Royal Waterloo Golf Club

2

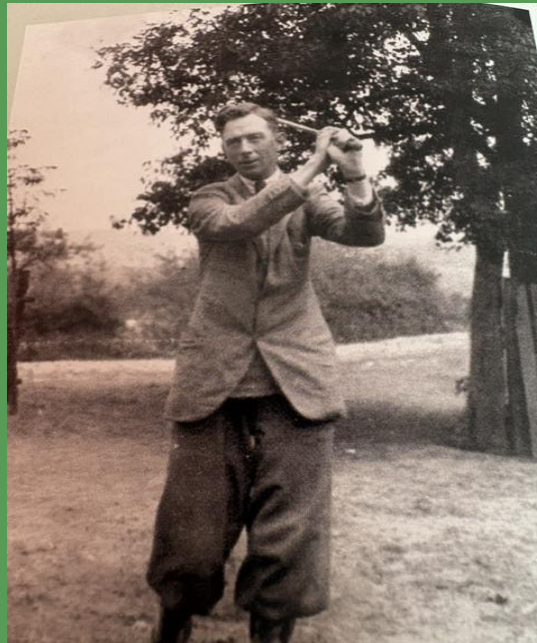
- Quick résumé of the Belgian golf scene pre 1914
- Idea to create a second Brussels based Club in the air pre-WW1
- Idea resurrected after the war. Group of Belgian businessmen, lawyers, professional classes with a few British ex pats.
- Royal Golf Club reluctant to take new members from the world of commerce
- Several sites looked at but it took until 1923 to find the site at Sint Genesius Rode on the Blaret family farmland
- Cooperative association formed in January 1924. Rental agreement for the land for 37 years until December 1960
- Decision to call the Club the Waterloo Golf Club given the international knowledge about the battle of Waterloo in 1815. Logo of the Waterloo lion.



Royal Waterloo Golf Club

3

- 27 holes ready for play by 1925. Designed by Harry Colt following his work at St André
- Construction work supervised by Charles Warren
- First pro Wallace (Wally) Marks in 1926



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4

- Clubhouse opened in 1928



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5

- Clubhouse in 1950s



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6

- Competitions from 1925 such as Belle Alliance, Mont St-Jean, Hougoumont, Plancenoit and de la Sainte Haie, all places which feature in the 1815 battle
- British members sponsored a British Cup from 1927
- First national competition was the Belgian Ladies Open in 1927
- Strength of the Club grew and it won the Belgian Interclub competition in 1931,32 and 33
- Henry Cotton recruited as pro from January 1933



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7

- In 1934 Cotton wins The Open at Royal St George's. Reception at the Club. Also won the Belgian Open that year



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8

- Jules Swaelens was Cotton's deputy
- Cotton won The Open again in 1937 at Carnoustie and in 1948 at Muirfield
- Exhibition match in July 1933 against Walter Hagen



Royal Waterloo Golf Club

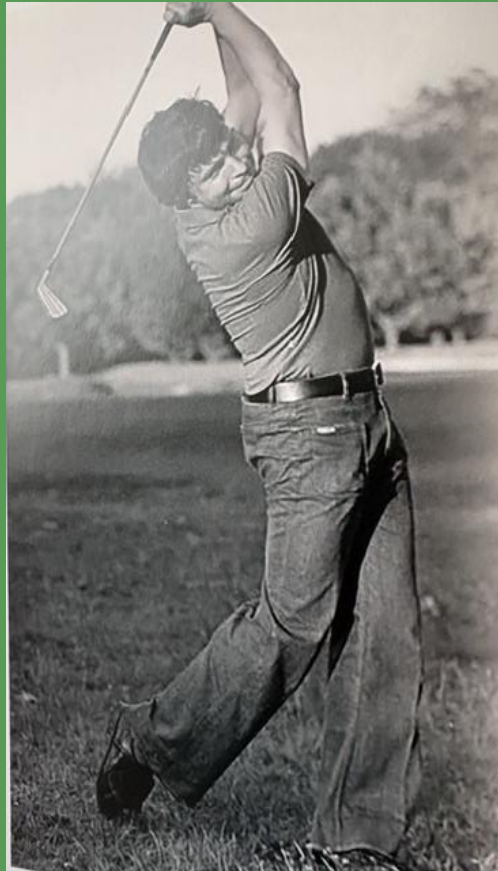
9

- Anecdote about Cotton's caddie Louis
- Cotton leaves in December 1936
- Aubrey Boomer becomes professional at Waterloo in 1939
- The Waterloo Club during the second world war
- Some of the holes used for grazing German soldiers horses
- Camille Sys gave lessons at Waterloo during the war
- Robbery in February 1944

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10

- Freddy Rodesch was young member in 1944



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11

- Aubrey Boomer returned as pro after the war but poached by the Royal Club in 1947
- Waterloo recruited in return Flory Van Donck from the Royal Club



Royal Waterloo Golf Club

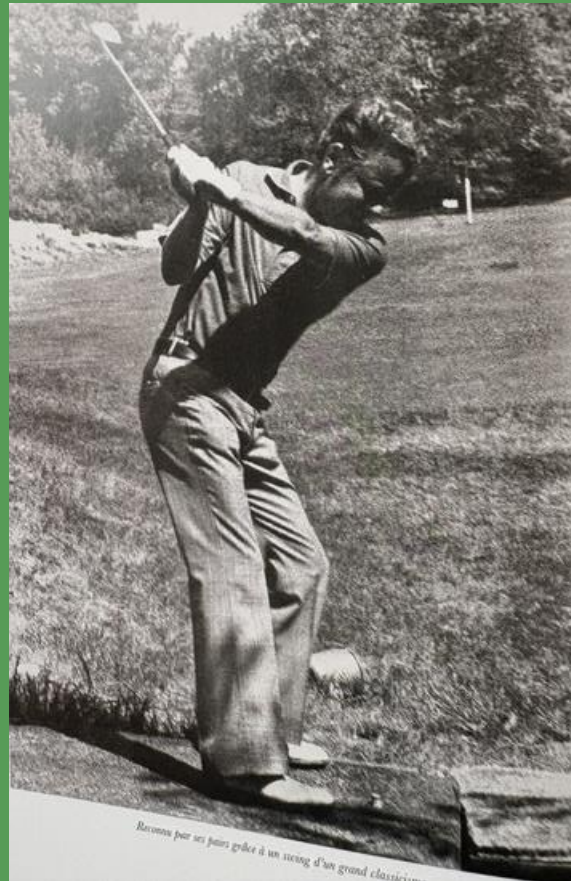
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- The Waterloo Club was granted Royal status in 1957
- 1960s move to Ohain. Rented for 50 years land from the Janssens family.
- Fred Hawtree recruited as architect for first 18 holes called La Marache. Work began in 1957 and was ready for play in 1959
- 9 hole course, Le Bois Héros, also ready in 1959
- Work on the new clubhouse started in 1959
- Official inauguration of the new site took place on 13 May 1961 when new clubhouse was ready
- The Royal Club poached Van Donck back in 1962

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13

- Donald Swaelens as pro



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14

- Major Competitions from late 1960s
- Trophee Laurent-Perrier



Many thanks for your attention