



# SWANSTON GOLF TIMELINE

## KEY DATES & EVENTS



The Club has a unique history dating back to **1927**, and its formation is attributable entirely to the enterprise and foresight of the then proprietrix-secretary, Miss Margaret Carswell [pictured]. As a member of the then Edinburgh Woman's Athletic Club she realised that the demand for golf facilities for women could not be met by the existing Clubs in and around the City. Fired with the urge to supply that want she "discovered" Swanston while walking in the Pentlands one day in **1927**. She apparently saw at an inspired glance the possibilities the land had to offer in the way of a golf course. A gambler by nature, as she herself admitted, she decided there and then to construct one. Leasing the land, she began by laying out nine holes, and in the following years she extended the course to eighteen holes.



Miss Carswell designed the course herself, showing a natural flair for golf architecture, and all major decisions in connection with the course's upkeep were made by her. She herself decided which fertilisers and weed-killers were most suitable and the beautiful condition of the turf bespeaks of an intimate knowledge of the land, no doubt inherited, from her ancestors who were landed proprietors in Fife [Rathillet - also name of house beside 1<sup>st</sup> tee].



She was fortunate in having a first-rate greenkeeper in Herbert More [opposite] who had been with the Club since its formation. His wife, Christina [opposite], looked after the catering in the then attractive little Club Pavilion [pictured] built in **1935** to supersede the old-fashioned cottages that served as the Clubhouse in the first years. Their son John was a Professional Golfer.



It was her original intention that membership would be confined to Ladies only, but as one or two potential members objected on the grounds that their male admirers also played golf, she opened the Club on a mixed membership basis. Despite the fact that initially the Men outnumbered the Ladies by three to one many people in Edinburgh at the time were under the impression that Swanston was a Ladies' Club!



Eric M'Ruvie, who won the Boys' Amateur Championship in 1926, took part in the opening of Swanston Golf Course and was again present on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October 1952** when he joined in an exhibition round to celebrate **Swanston's Silver Jubilee**.

To mark his long service to the Club Herbert More was presented with a suitably inscribed teak garden seat at this event by Miss Carswell.



An additional interest, for the literary minded, is that the Course is set in the heart of Robert Louis Stevenson Country. To the right of the first hole is the Country House where he resided and close to the tenth tee [Old Course] once stood a solitary tree where he used to sit and dream. In these inspiring surroundings the adventures of the immortal Long John Silver and other famous characters were conceived.



In **1977** to celebrate the **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** of the Club David Paton, the Captain of the day, arranged an exhibition match between Swanston and Broomieknowe.

Swanston was represented by John More, professional at Carlisle City Golf Club, and a Swanston Member in the 1940's and early 1950's [he was also the first winner of the British Youths Championship in 1954] and Jim McLagan, the current Club Champion.

Representing Broomieknowe was Bobby Muir, the Lothians Champion of that year, and Bob Fleming their Club Professional.

The match was played in front of a good crowd and by all accounts made for thoroughly enjoyable viewing. The result was a win for Swanston by 1 hole.

Jim McLagan holed in one at the 13<sup>th</sup> [Old Course], the last hole to be won.



### 2002 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Commemorative Scorecards and suitably inscribed golf balls were produced in order to celebrate this occasion.



### 2005 Swanston New Golf Club (SNGC) Formed In Partnership With Swanston Farm Ltd.



### 2007 New Clubhouse Opens

### 2009 Official Opening Of Clubhouse & New Holes [Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2009]



Graeme Millar John Gallagher Lynne Kenny Gavin Hastings  
Official Playing Party



**Plaque by 13<sup>th</sup> Tee**

**Swanston Golf Course New Holes**

These holes were officially opened by:  
**David McLetchie MSP**  
**Gavin Hastings OBE**  
**Douglas Connon SGU Chairman**  
**Ethel Jack SLGA President**  
**on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2009**



### 2016 Lothianburn Holes

Holes 10 & 11 [Lothianburn 3 & 4] added in place of Swanston holes 3 & 4

### 2017 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



A Special **Cross-Country Team Texas Scramble Event** was organised to mark this occasion with each Competitor receiving a complimentary ball marker




### 2018 Swanston Golf Academy Due To Open In June



### 2027 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary