

## GOLF AT NORFOLK.

### The New Links Opened There on Saturday.

#### THE COURSE HAS FINE NATURAL ADVANTAGES.

Another Attraction for This Favored  
Resort — The Duke of Norfolk's  
Colors Selected—A Fine Ground, in  
Expert Opinion.

(Correspondence of The Courant.)  
Norfolk, Aug. 21.

The opening of the golf links in Norfolk marks a new era in the athletic sports of this town. The people are indebted to Miss Bella Eldridge for this generous gift. Nothing has been done recently which will contribute so much to the pleasure and enjoyment of the entire community; since this form of athletic sport has become so popular of late that no town can afford to be without suitable facilities for golf playing.

The golf links are beautifully situated about a mile from the village green and in close proximity to Tohey Pond, which offers an additional attraction to the athletic field. The links are placed over fields especially adapted by natural surroundings to make it a most desirable course. The rolling ground, the various shade trees, the natural obstacles, the fine view of Canaan Mountain on the west and the village church on the east, the pretty little sheet of water with its wooded shore and the magnificent Canaan valley on the north conspire to make the course most picturesque and beautiful.

The golf grounds have been made under the able supervision of Mr. Cobb, whose skill and industry have accomplished a task, which was by no means easy. Great credit is due to him. He has faithfully carried out Miss Eldridge's instructions, which were given to her by one of the most expert and professional players from Scotland. It might be added that the famous player considered the natural lay of the land in this course as one of the best in this country. The use of the grounds will improve the course and in another year Norfolk can feel proud of such an addition to its many sources of amusements. It is proposed to form a club and to build an artistic club house for the benefit of the players and their friends. With the library and the gymnasium, the tennis courts and golf links, Norfolk may well feel proud of its attractions as a place of rest and recreation for city-people, which, however, in no way detracts from it as a place for permanent abode.

The opening game was played to-day by Frederic James and Warren E. Dennis—both of whom are residing in Lenox for the season. Mr. James has just returned from Scotland where he has been playing on the famous St. Andrew's links. He states as an expert in the game that the Norfolk course is one that gives promise of being an exceptionally fine one.

Among the players who went over the course this morning were the Messrs. Swift, Dowd, Beebe, Bangs and Cooley, and many ladies. The colors adopted are those of the Duke of Norfolk.

The term golf links is a misnomer. There is really no such thing in golf as links but common usage has appropriated the name of links which really mean sand dunes—or sandy stretches upon the coast of Scotland. For instance, the expression golf dunes would be just as correct as golf links. By common usage, however, the term links has become applied to any golf course.

The oldest course in England is the Royal Blackheath Club which was in existence many years ago and the game, as now played, is a resurrection of the ancient game with but slight change. As an example of the interest which is taken in the game it may be stated that at St. Andrew's in Scotland as many as seventy or eighty couples will start in the morning and even a greater number in the afternoon, keeping the course occupied from 5 in the morning until 9 in the evening. In this connection it may be interesting to refer to the origin of our word club as applied to any organization. In early days the golf players used to carry their clubs back and forth with them each day from their homes to the links. This became burdensome and it occurred to some of the players that a shed might be built where the clubs might be left over night. This was naturally called a club house. By a process of evolution it again occurred to the players that the shed might be transformed into a small house for their temporary shelter. Later on, some of the players felt the necessity of a "wee bit nip" and the temporary shelter was transformed into a house where refreshment could be obtained suitable for restoring the energy of the inner man after a hard day's play.

Finally, by a natural development from the shed to the temporary shelter a fully constructed house was formed where sleeping rooms and a restaurant were provided for the players. This then became a place of meeting in addition to being golf links.

As another item of interest pertaining to the game and showing it in its highest development it may be mentioned that during the last month a new record and one which is likely to stand for some time was made by a professional named Auchterlontie who made the circuit of the eighteen holes for a total of seventy-one strokes, being an average of just under four per hole.