

Albany Golf Club



50th Anniversary

1947-1998

28th June 1998



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ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

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Mbabane Golf Club
PO Box 224
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Welcome Golfers,

This year, 1998 is the 50th anniversary year of the Mbabane Club and the Mbabane Golf Club. Construction of both the club and the course began in 1947. Although the golf course was not open and ready for play until 1948, the Golf Section of the Mbabane Club are celebrating the Mbabane Club's 50th anniversary along with the other sports sections and our fellow members.

What better way to celebrate our 50th anniversary than to play golf and to share the occasion with our friends from other Clubs around the country.

The 50th anniversary golf day is just one day of 365 days in the year that the course is open for play. Maintaining a golf course and running a golf club is are expensive and time-consuming pastime. The financial viability of the course would not be possible without our sponsors and supporters who not only help make a day such as this a success, but also support us throughout the year. To our current and more recent sponsors, who include FIRST NATIONAL BANK, NEDBANK, ELLIOTT INTERNATIONAL, S&B BUILDING, BUSIQUIP, DU VAN DEVELOPERS, BARCLAYS BANK, MVN MARKETING, STIRLING CONSTRUCTION, we say thank you. On the club side we have far too many people to mention all of them here; those who have over the years contributed tireless hours and energy to making the club and the course what it is today, we say an even bigger Thank You.

Enjoy your golf and the Mbabane golf course.

Sean Johnson, Captain
Alfred Dunn, Vice Captain
Margret Harvey, Lady Captain
Andre Botha, Secretary
Alan James, Treasurer
Richard Maphalala, Greenkeeper
Evert Madlopha, Committee
Berry Ansley, Committee
Ian Barratt, Committee



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50th anniversary



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The History of Mbabane Golf Club

1947 - 1998

E.B. Ted' Beetham arrived in Swaziland from Kenya to take up his new post as the British Colonial Office Residence Commissioner for Swaziland in September 1946. Shortly after his arrival he asked where the golf course was and on being told that there was none said "what! No Golf Club? Ill soon fix that".

There had, in fact, been a golf course in Mbabane before then, but had since disappeared, a victim of urban expansion.

The original Mbabane golf course was next to the main road leading out to Oshoek, now called Giffillan Street. Peter Millin recalls that the golf course had been there since his earliest memories, and was probably laid out in about 1910. The first tee was near the corner of Hill and Schoch Streets and the fairway ran parallel to the road. The first fairway also served as a rugby field. The second hole, a short par 3, was on the other side of the main road. This was followed by a long par 5 heading southwards towards Park Street (near Sifundzani School). The fourth hole ran parallel to number three, back towards the main road. Number 5 fairway, another long hole, followed the main road on its southern side towards Kent rock. Across the main road once more to the short number six that traversed the gully to the north of Kent rock. Number seven comes back towards town along the northern side of the road with the green next to the first green. The Anglican Church was the direction for the eighth hole, and then 180 degrees back up the hill to the ninth green next to the first tee.

The "greens" were of course not green grass, but were covered and levelled off with tin mine waste material. You putted on "blacks" because the material was black in colour and heavier than sand. By all account it wasn't a bad surface to putt on.

Up until about 1940 there were no houses anywhere near the old golf course. The fairways were just ordinary veld grass that was cut by means of an ox-drawn mower borrowed from the "goat". But then Mr. A G Marwick, a former Resident Commissioner, bought a plot next to the course and built a

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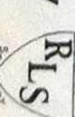
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house right beside the 9th "green". The Colonial Government then built three double storey houses right next to the first "green" and Dr. Dwe, obviously not a golfing man, built right in the middle of the 7th fairway. "Houses sprung up all over the course and that was that!" recalled Peter Millin.

Into the picture came Ted Beetham, a golfer and the new Resident Commissioner. Prior to his arrival late in 1946 there had been some discussion about starting the Mbabane Club. With the "strong support" of Ted Beetham, a meeting was called in the old Court House, chaired by Bertie Millin, to discuss the formation of the Club. There were strong views as to where the Club should be situated one popular choice was inside the race course that existed near where the 5th green is situated today. However, it was felt this was too far out of town. There were other ideas but the one that proved most popular was the present site, overlooking the Oval. Probably through the efforts of Ted Beetham, the Club was given a loan by Government to put up the first building and to start laying out the new golf course.

As with the Club itself, there was much controversy regarding the siting and layout of the golf course. We can guess that the golfers were amongst those who supported the proposal for siting the Club up the hill of the race course rather than in its present position. But a fair account of it likely was and the first tee and ninth green would have to be somewhere near the Main Club. Many people were involved in the layout and construction of the course and Pat Forsyth Thompson recalls that Bob Rankin played the leading role, assisted by "Hahn" Cooper who supervised the earth work operations. The earth works were accomplished by "running in" the Public Works Department's new graders. It took nearly eighteen months to build the golf course and the official opening ceremony was conducted early in 1949.

The controversy surrounding the building of the golf course did not end when the course opened. Many members had argued for grass greens whilst others said grass was too expensive to maintain.

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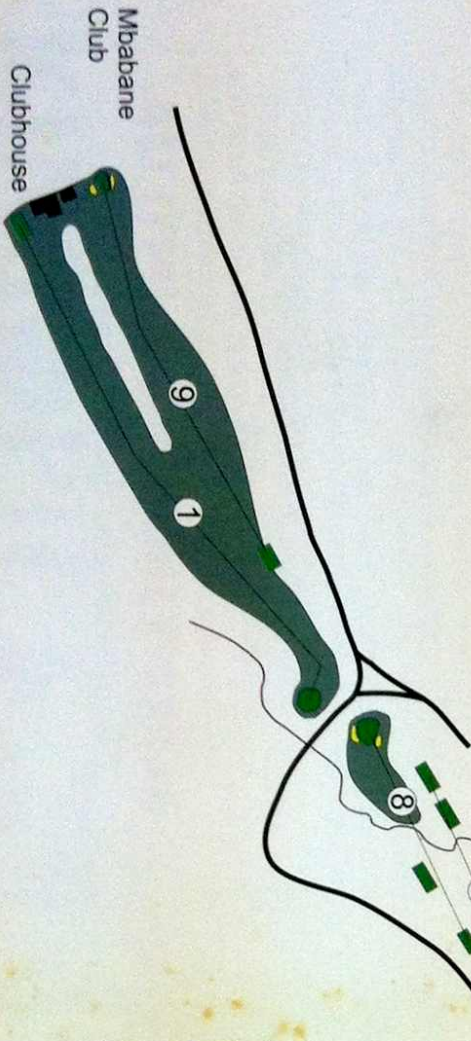
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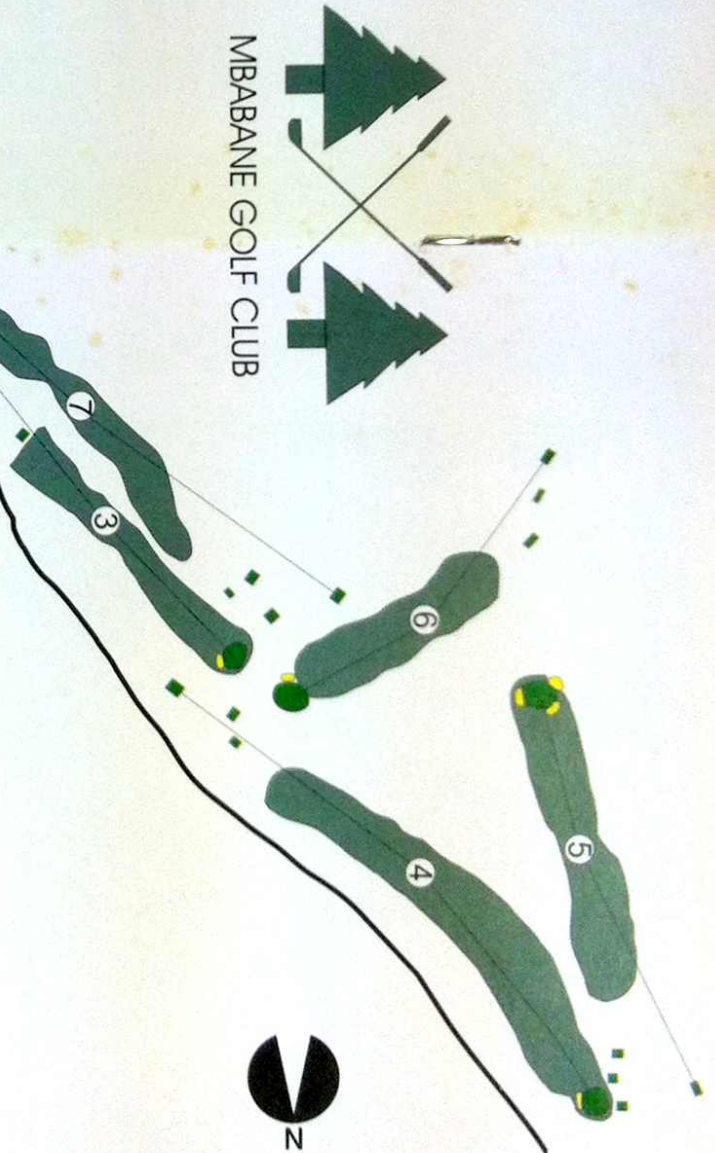
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Hole No.	Par	Length	Stroke	Ladies Length	Ladies Stroke
1	5	426	17	421	5
2	3	156	13	142	15
3	4	351	8	263	7
4	5	505	8	468	1
5	4	356	11	330	11
6	4	327	7	268	13
7	4	428	1	395	3
8	3	155	9	105	17
9	4	311	15	305	9
Out	36	3015		2691	
10	5	441	16	415	6
11	3	161	12	136	16
12	4	345	4	265	8
13	5	468	6	399	2
14	4	351	10	312	14
15	4	295	18	245	18
16	4	392	2	333	4
17	3	160	8	137	10
18	4	306	14	293	12
IN	36	2919		2541	
OUT	36	3015		2691	
Total	72	5934		5232	



MBABANE GOLF CLUB



LOCAL RULES

1. Boundaries
 - a) All fences adjacent to Nos 1/10, 2/11, 3/12, 4/13, 5/14, 8/17, and 9/18
2. a) Rule 23:1 applies to flattened molehills.
 b) Flattened molehills are classified as loose impediments through the green.
3. Lateral hazards: - The ditch on the right of the 1/10 hole from the stake onwards. The stream to the left of Nos 2/11 and the pond to the right of Nos 7/16 holes and the stream to the left of Nos 8/17 holes (marked with red stakes).
 Water hazards: - Those parts of the stream directly between the tees and greens of Nos 2/11, 8/17 (yellow stakes).
4. A ball lying on the road adjacent to the 9/18th fairway may be lifted and dropped on the side further away from the hole without penalty. A ball lying on the road adjacent to the 9/18th green may be lifted and dropped into the demarcated dropping zone closest to the position where the ball lies, but not nearer the hole.
5. The constructed walls of the tees are immovable obstructions.

Hailstones on the 5th Green. 11th May 1991



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Hole No.	Par	Length	Stoke	Player A
1	5	426	17	4
2	3	156	13	3
3	4	351	3	4
4	5	505	5	5
5	4	356	11	4
6	4	327	7	4
7	4	428	1	4
8	3	155	9	3
9	4	311	15	4
Out	36	3015		35
10	5	441	16	4
11	3	161	12	3
12	4	345	4	4
13	5	468	6	4
14	4	351	10	3
15	4	295	18	4
16	4	392	2	3
17	3	160	8	3
18	4	306	14	5
IN	36	2919		33
OUT	36	3015		35
Total	72	5934		68

The Mbabane Golf Club
Current Course Record Score
Gross 68
By Raymond "Sugar" Dlamini
playing in the Club Championships
March 1992

Mbabane Golf Club
Honours

Year	Men's Captain	Men's Champion	Open Champion	Ladies Captain	Ladies Champion
1948	H Mundeell	H Ritchie			
1949	H Ritchie	E Osborn			M Flack
1950	H Ritchie	H Ritchie			M Flack
1951	E Osborne	H Ritchie			B Edwards
1952	H Osborne	H Ritchie			B Edwards
1953	H Osborne	H Ritchie			B Edwards
1954	R Winn	R Winn			B Edwards
1955	H Hay	H Edwards			B Edwards
1956	H Hay	E Osborne			M Howe-Dreyer
1957	H Hay	P De Seer			B Edwards
1958	H Edwards	J Jinneman			M Reed
1959	H Edwards	E Osborne			M Reed
1960	J Arthur	H Edwards			M Reed
1961	J Taylor	F Mundeell			M Reed
1962	F Mundeell	F Mundeell			M Reed
1963	R Thompsson	F Mundeell			M Reed
1964	B Knott	A Ferreira			M Reed
1965	J James	F Loyd			
1966	G Lang	B Knott			M Reed
1967	A Lefevre	B Knott			M Reed
1968	R Farrell	G Lang			M Reed
1969	D Wheeler	T Mason			M Reed
1970	G Osofort	T Shaw			M Reed
1971	B Shorland	D Wheeler			J Smythman
1972	A Tucker	T Shaw			M Reed
1973	I Clark	T Shaw			L Hogan
1974	J Hayes	T Shaw			J Smythman
1975	D Mbir	I Monour			M Reed
1976	J Russell	B Spencer			S Milnelt
1977	G Hutchison	G Osofort			J Smythman
1978	R Savage	B Spencer			J Smythman
1979	R Savage	T Davidson			J Smythman
1980	P Greenwood	T Diamini			J Smythman
1981	P Greenwood	T Diamini			L Tredway
1982	R Savage	M Kennington			E Kirby
1983	C Thom	M Kennington			J Smythman
1984	C Thom	J Malaza			E Kirby
1985	J Resting	S D Diamini			E Kirby
1986	B Stirling	B Spencer			D Gregor
1987	P McGinn	M Shongwe	P Friedlander		E Stirling
1988	D Bignaul	S Clarke	R Nxumalo		E Stirling
1989	J Resting	M Shongwe	C Carston		E Stirling
1990	C Thom	M Shongwe	B Diamini		E Stirling
1991	B Durn	G Falcomer	B Diamini		E Stirling
1992	P Gould	B Spencer	B Spencer		M McCall
1993	B Bagshaw	J Shields	B Diamini		E Stirling
1994	S Mabusela	R Diamini	G Lys		E Stirling
1995	B J Diamini	B Spencer	G Falcomer		E Stirling
1996	F Lepoux	R Diamini	R Mavuso		E Stirling
1997	N Maysela	R Diamini	S Berg		E Stirling
1998	S Johnson	B Diamini	B Diamini		E Stirling

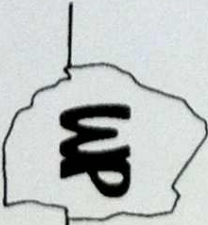
The Bremersdorp (Manzini) Club had sand "greens" and each golfer carried a wooden "T" square in his bag to flatten and smooth the line of the putt. The "browns" won the day, but instead of using coarse river sand, special "Kimberley Blue" sand was brought in from South Africa. (Cont. on inside back page.) However, shortly after the Mbabane golf course was opened, Stieki too began building its own Club and golf course. Here they built grass greens, and after playing the new Stieki course everyone realised it was better to putt on grass. Soon afterwards, grass was planted and the "browns" became "greens".

In the early years of the golf club, Bert and Babs Edwards played a big part in improving and maintaining the course. No doubt it was a labour of love. Over the years the course has gradually improved the realignment of the 2/11 hole, the rebuilding of the 6/15 green are just two of the more noticeable changes. But probably the biggest improvement came with the laying of an irrigation system for the greens in 1986. Since then the greens have been consistently in excellent condition.

The names of those golfing enthusiasts who devoted their time and energy in helping to run and improve the course are too many to mention. But tribute must go to the greenkeepers whose task must surely rate as one of the most unenviable and unrecognised of all. Without the greenkeeper we wouldn't have a course, and from the records of the Mbabane Golf Club, compiled by Geoff Osofort, we thank R.Rankin, R.Farrell, A.Tucker, J.Russell, K.Bailey, Mrs Smythman, Pat McGinn, Ron Savage, G.Reed, J.Bulleo, Bill Stirling, Don Blygnaut and Richard Maphaldala for their devotion to the care of the course we play on.

Talpiece

The land upon which the Mbabane Golf Club course is laid out is leased from the Government of Swaziland for a period of 60 years at the rental of one shilling per annum. The total rent of three Pounds Sterling was paid when the lease was signed. The land cannot be used for anything other than a golf course and the public cannot be prevented from having access or driving their livestock across it. The lease expires on the 27th day of March 2013 but with some goodwill and good sense, Mbabane shall have a golf club for at least another 50 years.



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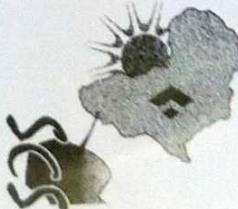
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