

BROOKLAWN'S HISTORY

One of the nation's oldest Clubs, Brooklawn was founded on May 1, 1895, just four months after the USGA itself was organized.

The Club was one of the first dozen to join the USGA, becoming a member in 1896, and its history has been a rich one.

Brooklawn celebrated its Centennial in 1995. The first Brooklawn golf professional was Tom Morris, grandson of "Old Tom." William Howard Taft, then dean of the Yale Law School in nearby New Haven, was made an Honorary Member in 1913.

Gene Sarazen began his career at Brooklawn in 1918 as an apprentice club-maker and is an Honorary Member, as is Julius Boros, who grew up in the area and often played the course as an amateur.

Over the years, Brooklawn has been the site of almost every major amateur and professional event in the Northeast. Although the course is relatively unheralded outside the area, it is well-known to the United States Golf Association. In the past it has been host to four USGA championships - the 1974 Junior Boys, won by David Nevatt; the 1979 U.S. Women's Open, won by Jerilyn Britz; the 1987 U.S. Senior Open, won by Gary Player, and the 2003 U.S. Girls' Junior Championship, won by Sukjin-Lee Wuesthoff.

The original course was a nine-hole layout, 2,596 yards long, on what was then rolling farmland on the outskirts of Bridgeport. The nine hole course was later lengthened, additional land was purchased, and a new 18-hole course was opened in 1911. In 1915 a new clubhouse was built for \$65,000 and 14 years later, A.W. Tillinghast, one of history's premier golf architects, redesigned the course. In 2001, a Master Plan was created by Ron Forse. His thoughtful suggestions carefully balance the history and traditions of Brooklawn with the realities of modern technology. Brooklawn remains today an excellent full-service country club, with one of the best golf courses in the Northeast and the nation.

Honorary Members Now Deceased:

Gene Sarazen
Georgiana Bishop
Raymond E. Baldwin
Julius Boros
Wm. Howard Taft
Eleanor Reycroft

