

Standside

In common with many golf courses, each of the 18 holes of Buxton and High Peak Golf Club have a name. While some are easy to understand (often relating to the fabulous views you enjoy), others are a little odd.



Standside? I wondered about this for some time and so thought it would be worth a little research.


Langham (2001) tells the story of Phillip Heacock, a native of Etwall. He was the agent for the 6th Duke of Devonshire, appointed soon after the 5th Duke died in 1811. Putting this into context is important because at this time there were lots of things happening in England and beyond. Firstly, we were in the middle of the war with Napoleon and there was a whole industry springing up to make materials for war as Britain spearheaded the industrial revolution. The Chartist movement was underway, generating quite significant unrest in “The North”. Heacock appears to have had the ear of the Duke and a vision for the future of Buxton and was conscious of the pressure on rents and incomes at a time of social change.

So there came about a plan to promote Buxton as a health resort to “tradespeople with money” and to provide “entertainment for the prosperous”. One day, he knew, that war would come to an end and people would need diversions. So he led the development of Buxton as we see it today, creating a road and rail network, planting trees and generally smartening up the town. Many of the classic buildings (Crescent, Devonshire Hospital, Broadwalk promenade, Baths, Opera House and Pavilion Gardens) have their origins around this time. He visited the Great Exhibition in Hyde Park and returned with some of the ideas he saw demonstrated in all their Victorian grandeur. Naturally the Duke gets the credit, but it was Phillip Heacock who had the vision that still makes Buxton remarkable today.

He lived in one of the houses on The Square until his death in 1848 so he must have had an idea of how it was starting to take shape. Leach (1987) provides an idea of how the entertainment side of Buxton was developing around this time, listing a cricket club (1850), a football club (1872), a tennis club (1880) and our very own *Buxton and High Peak Golf Club* (1886) as well as a range of winter sports. The theatre, cinema and other attractions came later. These clubs are still flourishing, as is the new Buxton Cinema.

A clear and necessary pastime was, of course, horse-racing. Wallis (1930) notes that outside of Buxton there is “a Barm on which races were held”; Barm is another word for common land and there is still a Barm’s Farm at the top of the golf course. Leach (1987) provides more detail. The first recorded “horserace” was in July 1821; this ties in neatly with the vision of Phillip Heacock. There was a Grandstand built pre-1831 and regular meetings held for the next couple of decades.

J. LOMAX'S Correct List, by order of the Clerk of the Course.
BUXTON MEETING, 1830.
 WILLIAM CAPEWICH, ESQ. M. P. — WILLIAM MUNDY, ESQ. STEWARDS.



FIRST DAY.—WEDNESDAY THE 16TH.

A GOLD CUP, GIVEN BY HIS GRACE THE DUKES OF DEVONSHIRE, WAGON IN A SWEEPSTAKE OF TEN HUNDRED GUINEAS. For three pounds, at 100. Race, Sat. 20th, Dec. 30th 1829, and aged 100. Horse and gelding allowed 20. The second horse to receive half the stake. A portion of a Cup to be placed upon the turf 20. every of the turf 20. every, one mile and a distance. The Cup to be in gift of the Duke and his son.

Mr. William Cavendish's Mr. C. Anderson, 4 years old, CALVERT 1
 Mr. Huddersfield's Mr. C. Turner, 3 years old, 2
 Mr. Vane's Mr. C. Turner, by Huddersfield, 3 years old, 3
 Mr. Turner's Mr. C. Turner, by Huddersfield, 3 years old, 4
 Mr. Turner's Mr. C. Turner, by Huddersfield, 3 years old, 5
 Mr. Turner's Mr. C. Turner, by Huddersfield, 3 years old, 6
 Mr. Turner's Mr. C. Turner, by Huddersfield, 3 years old, 7
 Mr. Turner's Mr. C. Turner, by Huddersfield, 3 years old, 8
 Mr. Turner's Mr. C. Turner, by Huddersfield, 3 years old, 9
 Mr. Turner's Mr. C. Turner, by Huddersfield, 3 years old, 10

A SWEEPSTAKE OF FIVE HUNDRED GUINEAS, for Horses from the turf, with 200 which. Three pounds old to carry 100. Race, Sat. 20th, Dec. 30th 1829, and aged 100. Horse and gelding allowed 20. Horse, twice round the course and a distance.

Mr. Turner's Mr. C. Turner, 3 years old, JONES 1
 Mr. Turner's Mr. C. Turner, 3 years old, 2
 Mr. Turner's Mr. C. Turner, 3 years old, 3
 Mr. Turner's Mr. C. Turner, 3 years old, 4

SECOND DAY.—THURSDAY THE 17TH.

THE WOODBURY AND GILBERT'S HUNDRED GUINEAS, for FIFTY SWEEPSTAKE, for Horses, Mr. of all ages. Three pounds old to carry 100. Race, Sat. 20th, Dec. 30th 1829, and aged 100. Horse and gelding allowed 20. Horse, twice round the course and a distance. Entries, from 10 o'clock, and first prize to be in gift of the Duke. The second to be given to the Duke's son.

Mr. Huddersfield's Mr. C. Turner, 3 years old, DARLINGTON 1
 Mr. W. Turner's Mr. C. Turner, 3 years old, 2
 Mr. W. Turner's Mr. C. Turner, 3 years old, 3
 Mr. Turner's Mr. C. Turner, 3 years old, 4
 Mr. Turner's Mr. C. Turner, 3 years old, 5
 Mr. Turner's Mr. C. Turner, 3 years old, 6
 Mr. Turner's Mr. C. Turner, 3 years old, 7
 Mr. Turner's Mr. C. Turner, 3 years old, 8
 Mr. Turner's Mr. C. Turner, 3 years old, 9
 Mr. Turner's Mr. C. Turner, 3 years old, 10

THE GARDNER'S STAKE OF THREE HUNDRED GUINEAS, for Horses, Mr. of all ages, but not to exceed 100. Race, Sat. 20th, Dec. 30th 1829, and aged 100. Horse and gelding allowed 20. Horse, twice round the course and a distance. Entries, from 10 o'clock, and first prize to be in gift of the Duke. The second to be given to the Duke's son.

Mr. Huddersfield's Mr. C. Turner, 3 years old, 1
 Mr. Turner's Mr. C. Turner, 3 years old, 2
 Mr. Turner's Mr. C. Turner, 3 years old, 3
 Mr. Turner's Mr. C. Turner, 3 years old, 4
 Mr. Turner's Mr. C. Turner, 3 years old, 5
 Mr. Turner's Mr. C. Turner, 3 years old, 6
 Mr. Turner's Mr. C. Turner, 3 years old, 7
 Mr. Turner's Mr. C. Turner, 3 years old, 8
 Mr. Turner's Mr. C. Turner, 3 years old, 9
 Mr. Turner's Mr. C. Turner, 3 years old, 10

COCKING.

WOODSOCK FOR STAFFORDSHIRE.	4 4	WINDSOR FOR NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.	4 4
Tuesday	2 1	Tuesday	4 1
Wednesday	2 2	Wednesday	4 2
Thursday	3 1	Thursday	4 3
Friday	3 2	Friday	4 4

JOSEPH BROOMHEAD, Clerk of the Course.

It is also worth noting that Owen (2003) identifies the importance of Fairfield Vicarage, built around 1620. In the 1800s, a large stable block was added. Perhaps this was to accommodate the horses from the racecourse?

Pigot (1835) describes Fairfield as “a chapelry, in the parish of Hope, in the same hundred as Buxton, 1 mile N.N.E. from that town. Here is an ancient church, dedicated to St. Peter; the living is in the gift of trustees residing in the parish and the present incumbent is the Rev. Geo. Mounsey. **On a large tract of waste ground, an excellent round course has been formed, where horse races take place. on the Wednesday and Thursday in the week after the meeting at Newton ith' Willows; for the accommodation of visitors, a handsome stand has been erected.** From this village, the best panoramic view of Buxton crescent, &c. is obtained. The population returns of this chapelry present a singular coincidence, the number of inhabitants being 482, at the several censuses taken in 1811, 1821 and 1831.”



However, it developed something of an unruly atmosphere with cock fighting, bare knuckle Prize fighting and it is reported that local police had to call for reinforcements to sort out disputes between visitors who felt that they had been cheated by the locals! Whether this was part of Phillip's vision I somehow doubt. Eventually the racing was stopped and the Grandstand removed. Some of the wood was used to build the Methodist Church in the Market Place (the site of the original cock pit in Buxton). Eventually the A6 was built and that, as they say, was that.

All that remains is a fabulous par 5, running parallel to the Manchester Road, marking the end of the "front nine" holes of Buxton and High Peak Golf Course.



There is a sense of history here, on Derbyshire's oldest golf course that is tied up with the third re-birth of Buxton and the development of the Crescent and Octagon. I really like to think that this regeneration will bring more visitors to Buxton to enjoy the recreation that is to be had here. Maybe there will also be a little time for you to visit Buxton and High Peak Golf Club and if there is, you will be assured of a very warm and friendly welcome.

Perhaps Phillip Heacock would be pleased?

Jon White September 2018

Sources

Langham M (2001) Buxton: A People's History Carnegie: Lancaster

Leach J (1987) The Book of Buxton Barracuda: Buckingham

Owen D (2003) A History of Fairfield Church and Parish Cheshire

Pigot & Co (1835) The Commercial Directory for Derbyshire

Wallis A (1930) Bemroses' Guide to Buxton, Castleton, Eyam etc Bemrose: London

Notes

1. An account of Buxton published by Ernest Axon may have further information.
2. The *Fairfield Stud* is a recognised bloodline: did this come from Fairfield, Derbyshire?
3. Further illustrations of the Grandstand would be welcome.
