

LINKS OR COURSE ?

A term that has given rise to a certain amount of controversy even in its native land is the word "links". There is a modern tendency to restrict this term to the natural seaside golf country among the sand dunes, and it is frequently suggested that the word has always been applied only to courses of this traditional type. But I can find no support for this contention. The noble expanse of turf on which the Royal Eastbourne course is laid out was known as "The Links" long before anyone thought of playing golf over it, and it is high up on the downs. A similar stretch of down at Cambridge was long known as "The Links" although nobody ever thought of playing golf there. Sir Walter Scott in *Redgauntlet* puts a definition into the mouth of the English Darsie Latimer :

"I turn my steps towards the sea, or rather the Solway Firth, which here separates the two sister kingdoms, and which lay at about a mile's distance, by a pleasant walk over sandy knolls, covered with short herbage, which you call *links*, and we English *downs*".—LETTER III.

Another definition from the same source is :

"They sat cozily nitched into what you might call a *bunker*—a little sand-pit, dry and snug, and surrounded by its banks, and a screen of whins in full bloom."—LETTER X.

(From "*A History of Golf*" by Robert Browning. First Published by J. H. Dent & Sons Ltd., 1955.)

PORTSMOUTH'S MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE WILL NOT BE CUT TO NINE HOLES

Portsmouth Parks Committee has refused a request by the local planning authority that 30 acres of the city's golf course should be released for industrial development. This would reduce the course to nine holes until a new course could be laid out on another site.

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