

# Letters to the Editor

Flat 20 Eastmoor close  
Foley Road East,  
Streetly,  
Sutton Coldfield  
7th July 1972

Dear Mr. Hawtree,

I am very interested to read in 'Tee Shots' in the current issue of The British Golf Greenkeeper, your reference to Golf Clubs on Common Land, and in particular, Bulwell Forest (not 'Bitwell') near Nottingham and Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham.

You may be interested to know that I started my golf at the former, and now play at Streetly, Sutton Coldfield, the Sutton Coldfield Club.

What is more interesting, however, is the fact that my Grandfather, Edmund Williamson who was the station master at the Bulwell Forest Railway station, offered the use of his 'parlour' in 1887 to the few gentlemen of Nottingham who decided that Bulwell Common was an ideal place for their game of golf, and his son Tom aged 7 acted as the first caddy, carrying a few clubs (loose) under his arm, and a pocket full of wet sand with which to make the tees.

Son Tom (my own father) eventually became the first Professional of the Notts, Golf Club, at the age of 16, after having learnt the art of Club *and* ball making at North Berwick, Scotland. This was in 1896, he later moved with the Club to its new course at Hollinwell. He remained pro. until his death in 1950, having spent 54 years with one Club, although he had many tempting offers to move elsewhere.

My father was actually appointed on a 3 months' trial basis, and because he never had any further reference to this, he used to joke that he was 'still on trial'.

It is further interesting to note that his first Midland Championship win, one of many, was at the Sutton Coldfield Golf Club in 1897, when he was only 17 years of age.

As leading Midland Professional, on the occasion of the Annual Match with the top Midland Amateurs', he was always drawn to play Carl Bretherton, your President.

Yours sincerely,  
Fred Williamson

P.S. I believe there was a time in the early 1900's when it was claimed that my father had designed and made, or altered, nearly every course within a radius of 50 miles of Nottingham.

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