In 1886, Royal Lytham and St. Annes Golf Club was founded and in 1897, the present course was built. Ten Open Championships have been played on the links, as well as two Ryder Cups.

To run alongside our Open preview this month, Royal Lytham and St. Annes’ Head Greenkeeper, Paul Smith delves through the archives to offer us some memorable Open moments, historical accounts and anecdotes through the course’s colourful ages.

Greenkeepers Past

It is a good thing if one can maintain a good sense of humour and have a good outlook on life; these attributes serve you well in the world of greenkeeping which is likely to help you to achieve success in your chosen career. I am sure that we can all relate to some humorous account or incident in the line of our work.

In 1937 John Barron was dismissed after 19 years of loyal service. He developed a habit of saying “Oh dear” when in fact he nipped over to the 9th hole immediately before a member of the greenstaff sneaked one out on the course he was caught red handed and made to feel like Judas.

A Historical Account

Bernard Darwin was quoted as saying “A teaspoon more sand would have meant irretrievable ruin”. Brush are the lawns which between winning and losing in elite sport.

Memorable Open Moments

There was no easy round for Bobby Jones when he went onto win the 1926 Open. He made a remarkable recovery shot with trouble all the way to the green, with a 175 yard carry at the 17th after he had pulled his drive into sandy wastes.

This moment of brilliance during the final round was the shot that won this legend the 1926 Open Championship.

Boasting ten Open Championships and two Ryder Cups, Royal Lytham and St. Annes Golf Club has a quite prestigious past. Paul Smith delves through the archives to offer us some memorable Open moments, historical accounts and anecdotes through the course’s colourful ages.

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**Greenkeepers Past**

It is a good thing if one can maintain a good sense of humour and have a good outlook on life; these attributes serve you well in greenkeeping, and a bloom of personality, and a touch of bracing out of the line of your career. I am sure that we can all relate to some humorous account or incident in the line of our work. Perhaps there can be introduced?

In 1907 John Barnes was dismissed after 19 years of loyal service. When he planted some 320,000 plants, for wages was £2,500 of which £400 was for rental for 4 years and £1,000 for wages. He was a charismatic, friendly and humorous person, always with a story to tell.

MacDonald when he was quoted as saying: “Lytham St. Annes was not the most beautiful of courses but it’s not always the prettiest of women that make the best wives.” He also had a hatred for the stamp meter and when an inquisitive member of the greens staff sneaked one out on the course he was caught red handed and made to feel like Judas.

**A Historical Account**

Hours of work have changed little since 1923. Leave the course architect, worked alongside eight men, starting at 7am, stopping for breakfast at 9am, breakfast and dinner at 12-1. Knocking off time was 5.30pm for the men, and 5pm for the horses.

Work records included carting, topping, scrub cutting (which we are still on with), thatching hay, with a 175 yard carry at the 17th after he had pulled his drive into sandy wastes.

This moment of brilliance during the final round was the shot that won this legend the 1926 Open Championship.

Bernard Darwin was quoted as saying: “A teaspoon more sand would have meant irretrievable ruin”. Such are the margins between winning and losing in elite sport.

In 1950 Tony Jacklin’s win was significant after so many years of overseas domination.

**Memorable Open Moments**

No there was no easy road for Bobby Jones when he went onto win the 1926 Open. He made a remarkable recovery shot with trouble all the way to the green, with a 175 yard carry at the 17th after he had pulled his drive into sandy wastes.

**Back on the course one day he was going down to the 9th hole, improvising his approach shot. The member complained of his difficult hole immediately before a member of the council played his difficult shot. He developed a habit of saying ‘Oh dear’.**