



ESTABLISHED 1900



BROCKTON, MA

1900

Excellence, Integrity, Camaraderie

Thorny Lea Golf Club was founded to provide excellence in golf and to promote fellowship amongst its members. We're committed to maintaining our facility to the highest standard while providing exceptional value.





1900

About the Club

Thorny Lea Golf Club, often referred to as *A Hidden Gem*, or *An Oasis in the City*, was established in 1900. It began as a private company of friends who, for starters, built a motley array of holes on Brockton's West Side. Bit by bit over the next quarter-century, the members added to their property and by 1925 the full 18-hole complement of holes was in place, along with a clubhouse that fit the times.

More than a century after the first ball was struck at Thorny Lea, our course remains a challenge for golfers of all ages and talents. In addition, our beautiful clubhouse has become a popular gathering place for those seeking fine dining and first-class amenities for family celebrations and community events.

History



Thorny Lea Golf Club was established in 1900 and began as the dream of two men, William Monroe Nute and Herbert L. Tinkham. Nute was a 39-year-old executive for Howard & Foster Shoe Company, and Tinkham, 34, was the treasurer for the W. L. Douglas Shoe Company. Nute and Tinkham herded cattle away from Alfred Morse's cow pasture and stepped off a rudimentary layout of five holes.

It was Nute's wife, Harriet, who came up with the name for the club. The name of the club during its earliest years was Thorney Lea and remained so until 1906. The club commissioned a silver cup that was going to be presented annually to the club champion. However, when the cup arrived, the club's name was spelled Thorny Lea. Members agreed it was easier and cheaper to keep the new spelling than it would be to purchase a new cup.

Thorny Lea nearly became a Donald Ross course in 1924. He had given an estimate of the cost to expand the course by constructing nine additional holes, but even though the club favored an 18-hole course, some members changed their minds and voted instead to make improvements to the existing nine holes.

Thorny Lea expanded to the standard complement of 18 holes with the help of golf course architects Wayne E. Stiles and John Van Kleeck. The new course officially opened on June 20, 1925, with an exhibition match that included Francis Ouimet, the 1913 U.S. Open winner, and a man named Marden, then the Brockton Country Club champion, who squared off against perennial Massachusetts Amateur champion Fred Wright and Thorny Lea champion Alan W Barlow. Ouimet and Wright both scored one-over par 73's and the match ended up even after 18 holes.

Over the years the course has seen many famous visitors, including Walter Hagan, Horton Smith, Gene Sarazen, Babe Didrikson, Byron Nelson and Harold McSpaden. The PGA National Assistant Professional Championship was held here from 1977 to 1990.



Herbert Warren Wind



The member who rose to the loftiest heights in the world of golf was a man who worked with a pen, Herbert Warren Wind. Identifying him

as simply a writer is denigrating his work. Herb was the Poet Laureate of American Golf in the 20th century. Herb was taught how the game should be played in an era when proper etiquette was as important as a well-honed swing. Mr. Wind was inducted into the Massachusetts Golf Hall of Fame in October of 2016.

Events & Outings

At Thorny Lea Golf Club, we take great pride in providing the highest level of service and professionalism for every event. We believe the place where you host your event should be as memorable as the occasion itself. Our staff will exceed your expectations. We offer flexible wedding options for food and liquor, and there is no room rental fee for bereavement receptions. Whether you desire a formal celebration or a casual event, we offer the ideal setting for a memorable occasion.

Our menus include numerous food and beverage options that can be ordered to fit any budget, from box lunches to on-course cookouts to buffet and sit-down dinners. Golf outings include:

- 18-hole green fee and cart
- Bag-drop service
- Registration tables
- Unlimited range balls
- Set-up of course contests, signs and banners
- Scoring table and awards presentation

Our spacious deck, which overlooks the first and last holes of the course, is a wonderful setting for a pre-round cookout and our ballroom can accommodate up to 175 guests for drinks and dinner after play is finished. Aside from golf outings, we accommodate:

- Wedding Receptions
- Bar/Bat Mitzvahs
- Anniversaries
- Rehearsal Dinners
- Baby Showers
- Bridal Showers
- Reunions
- Graduations
- Memorial Luncheons
- Holiday Parties
- Baptism/First Communion Parties
- School Events

Accomplishments

New England Amateur Champions

Bruce Chalas

Matt Parziale (also won MA mid-amateur in 2016 & 2017, participated in the 2018 Masters, and finished tied for 48th in the 2018 U.S. Open)

- Shannon Johnson (also competed in the 2019 U.S. Women's Open)

State Amateur Champions National Champions

- John M. Tosca, Jr. (2)
- Edward Connell
- Steve Tasho (2)
- Bruce Douglass (2)
- John Hedges (2)
- Matt Parziale
- Shannon Johnson
- Matt Parziale - 2017 U.S. Mid-Amateur
- Shannon Johnson - 2018 U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur Champion

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Ace on Par-3 No. 17 on consecutive days (John Gorman)

Ace on all four par threes (Arnold Swartz) - took 4 1 years to accomplish

Membership Benefits

Membership at Thorny Lea Golf Club provides you with one of the most golf centric private club experiences in all of New England. The highly evident camaraderie among the members is based on great pride in our rich golf tradition.

As a member of Thorny Lea you can experience one of the finer golf layouts in the State of Massachusetts with our traditional Styles/Vankleek design. While golf is our core, the social enjoyment that accompanies golf is equally apparent, as the club has a festive and robust social scene with events and fine dining.

- Members-only Lounge
- Off-season Guest Rates
- Fully-stocked Golf Shop
- Full Length Practice Range with Short Game Area & Putting Green
- Active Womens' Golf Group
- Competitive Dues Structure
- Juniors Summer Camps
- Competitive Junior League with Reciprocal Clubs
- Club Tournaments
- Lessons/Instruction
- Function Rooms with no Rental Fee
- Wedding Packages
- Outings

List of Reciprocals

Black Rock Country Club
Blue Hill Country Club
Charles River Country Club
Cohasset Golf Club
Cummaquid Golf Club
Dedham Country and Polo Club
Duxbury Golf Club
Fall River Country Club
Foxborough Country Club
Framingham Country Club
Franklin Golf Club
Hatherly Country Club
Kirkbrae Country Club
Lebaron Hills Country Club
Marshfield Country Club
Pawtucket Country Club
Plymouth Country Club
Pocasset Country Club
Scituate Country Club
Segregansett Country Club
Walpole Country Club
Wollaston Golf Club



Come to Compete

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