



women pioneers in amateur golf 1893-2022

The timeline of women's golf initiatives by women in the UK

Women pioneers in amateur golf 1893-2022

Since 1893, women have been coming together to play golf outside of their individual clubs, through setting up & running their own initiatives & associations

- April 1893 Issette Pearson held the inaugural meeting of the Ladies Golf Union in London
- The purpose and objectives of the LGU were: to promote the interests of the game of golf; to obtain a uniformity of the rules of the game by establishing a representative legislative authority; to establish a uniform system of handicapping; to act as a tribunal and court of reference on points of uncertainty; and to arrange an annual championship competition and to obtain funds necessary for that purpose. In contrast to men's golf which suffered from 'an oligarchy of each local club ruling over its individual members, and a great oligarchy of an ancient and venerable club ruling over the golfing world', the LGU would provide an opportunity for all clubs to vote on issues.
- June 1893 First Ladies' Championship to take place between the 13th and 15th June 1893.
- 1893 The LGU was the establishment of a national system of handicapping.
- Within a decade the LGU's methodology had become widely accepted & provided a reasonably reliable indicator of the quality of players from club to club.
- 1897 Four volunteer LGU handicap managers were at work
- 1894 The publication of a handbook from 1894 was also a pioneering golfing venture by women.
- Issette Pearson, who remained Hon. Secretary of the LGU till 1921, brought in the idea that affiliated clubs should be compelled to purchase copies, the numbers required to be in proportion to membership.
- 1905 15 volunteer LGU handicap managers were at work
- Such was the success of the handicap system that it became extensively adopted by female clubs in Australia & New Zealand.
- 1910 Pearson Trophy Founded by Issette Pearson still played today between, Kent, Hertfordshire, Middlesex & Surrey
- This competition was founded by Issette Pearson, (1861-1941) co-founder and secretary of the L.G.U., in 1910. With the formation of scratch teams and more ladies taking to golf it was founded for the "higher" handicapper 13-30 range. 30 being the highest handicap at the time.
- 1914 The LGU Year Book records 548 clubs suggesting perhaps over 60,000 female golfers

Women pioneers in amateur golf 1893-2022

Since 1893, women have been coming together to play golf outside of their individual clubs, through setting up & running their own initiatives & associations

- 1894 The Ladies Championship was held at Littlestone Golf Club and it was then that Issette Pearson met Mabel Stringer, a sports journalist. Mabel, joined the Ladies Golf Union and was instrumental in improving the conditions for women golfers at her own and other golf clubs.
- 1919 Mabel Stringer was working for The Gentlewoman when it gave its name to "The Gentlewoman Tournament". The competition was first organised (and cancelled) before the war. It was played at Stoke Poges until 1938.
- 1921 Mabel Stringer founded the national "Veteran Ladies Golf Club" for women over 50.
- 1938 The Gentlewoman Tournament became the UK's Girls Amateur Championship.
- 1969 The successful model of the VLGA in the South was adopted in the Midlands & North of England & Scotland.
- 1981 The first British Senior Womens Championship was played and won by Brenda King, who worked with the LGU to get recognition for senior women golfers.
- 2017 The Ladies Golf Union merged with the R&A
- 2021 The Veteran Ladies Golf Associations celebrated their centenary. The VLGA's continue to provide women over 50 with a regional virtual golf club, with matches, championships, fun and qualifying competitions throughout the year, and all 4 associations come together annually to play in a 3 day inter region jamboree.

In addition to the veteran golf associations, there are ladies golf alliances across the country, who organise and run interclub competitions, leagues and championships. Outside of these well organised associations and alliances, women come together to create their own golf societies to play together at various clubs across the country.

Women pioneers in amateur golf 1893-2022 - UK

The tradition of women coming together to create their own experiences, continues today, with new groups of women golfers coming together online and off-line to create more playing opportunities and find like minded golfers to play with of all ages and abilities.

In the last few years, 8 women have setup groups aimed at women golfers, similar to themselves, in order to facilitate a broader golf experience for women.

Initiative & URL	Target Golf Group	Members	Founder	Started	Mission	Platform
Womens Golf Day LINK	Beginners	80 countries, 1200 clubs	Elisa Gaudet	2016	Womens Golf Day – a global annual golf day where women attend a four hour golf day at host clubs	Website and volunteers
Skratch Women LINK	Beginners	??	Caroline Shukla	2021	To get more women in to golf, provide lessons and social golf events at driving range and on courses in SW London.	Website Driving Range Local Courses
UK Womens Golf Community LINK	Beginners and players new to golf in the last few years	2,200 (15/11/2022)	Jasmine Jazzy Golfer	2021	To bring women golfers together to meet and practise at driving ranges across the UK.	Facebook Whatsapp Driving Ranges
Ladies Golf Lounge LINK	Golfers of all standards	9,100 (15/11/2022)	Yvonne Brooke	2020	To bring women together to share their golf experiences, to create events for women golfers & to create a womens network to meet up & play locally.	Facebook Whatsapp Courses
Women & Golf Events LINK	Golfers of all standards	??	W&G Team	??	Women and Golf Website, news, events and membership access to premium content/	Website
Women in Golf and Business LINK	Working women interested in learning & networking via golf	??	Nicki Lawrenson	2021	To create a golf and business network of working women golfers, provide get in to golf sessions.	Website Courses

Women pioneers in amateur golf 1893-2022 - INTERNATIONAL

Initiative & URL	Target Golf Group	Members	Founder	Started	Mission	Platform
Women who Golf (US) LINK	Women golfers of all standards	53,800 (15/11/2022)	Tuscany Williams	2019	A global community for women golfers at any level to meet and support each other	Facebook Website
Australian Womens Golf Network LINK	Working Women golfers of all standards	??	Jessica Eden	2021	To get more working women in to golf, provide lessons and social golf events at driving range and business networking in Australia	Website Driving Range Local Courses
EMAJIN GOLF LINK	Beginners and players new to golf in the last few years	??	Raj Narayan	2020	To create a virtual golf club for women and men in Australia	Website, Course and technology partners
LPGA Amateurs acquired by the LPGA LINK	Bring women of all standards together from different clubs to play together at different course in their region, be part of a national network and league and have an annual championship for members	??	??	Pre 2010	Bring women of all standards together from different clubs to play together at different course in their region, be part of a national network and league and have an annual championship for members	Website and chapters across the US and Canada