

The Future of Golf Courses: Opportunities and Alternatives

Addressing the Growing Demand for Golf

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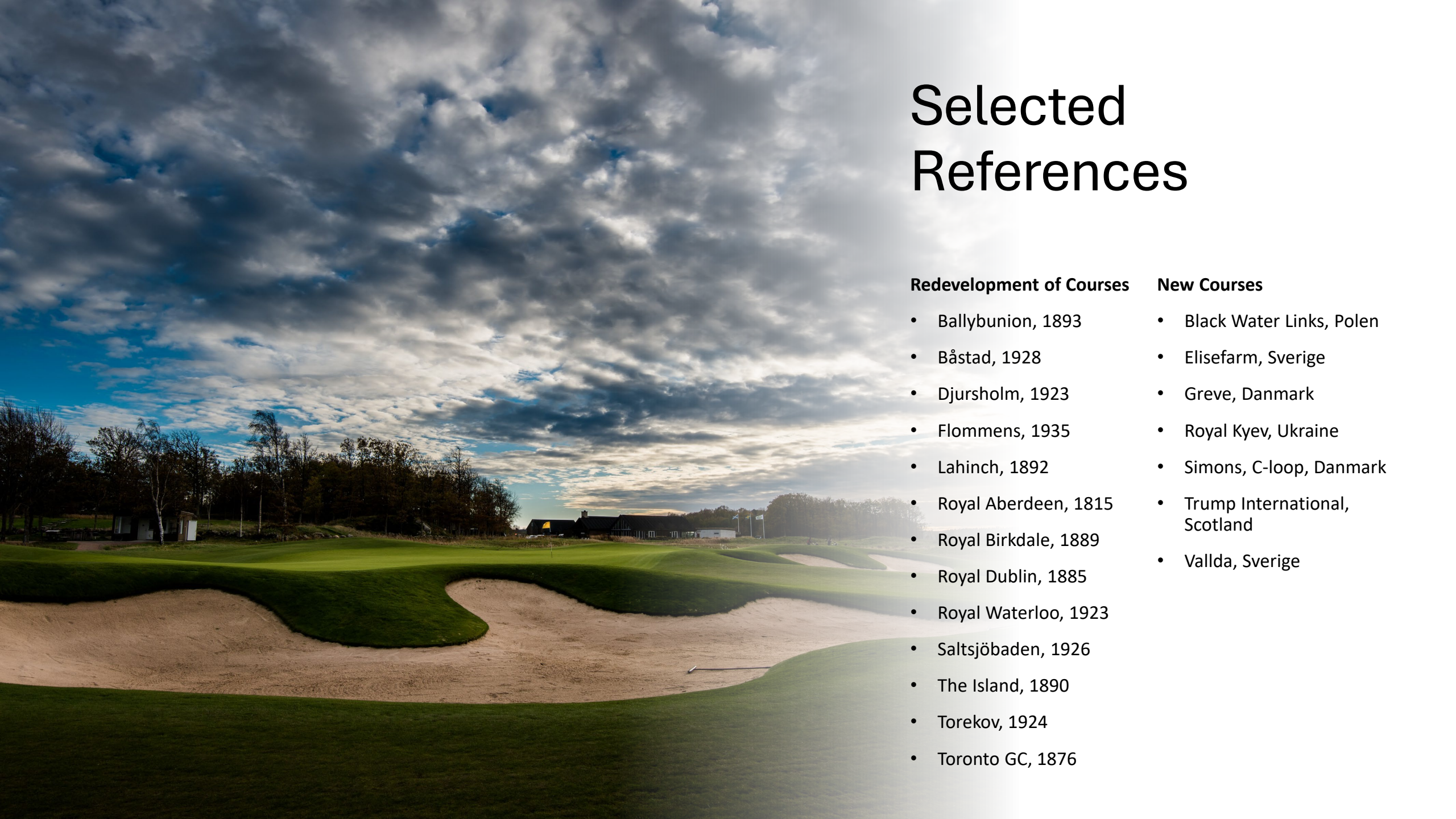
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- 1997-2012 Hawtree Ltd – Golf Course Architects
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- Member of Danish Landscape Architects (MDL)
- Member of Scandinavian Federation of Golf Course Architects (FSGA)
- President of European Institute of Golf Course Architects (EIGCA)





Selected References

Redevelopment of Courses

- Ballybunion, 1893
- Båstad, 1928
- Djursholm, 1923
- Flommens, 1935
- Lahinch, 1892
- Royal Aberdeen, 1815
- Royal Birkdale, 1889
- Royal Dublin, 1885
- Royal Waterloo, 1923
- Saltsjöbaden, 1926
- The Island, 1890
- Torekov, 1924
- Toronto GC, 1876

New Courses

- Black Water Links, Polen
- Elisefarm, Sverige
- Greve, Danmark
- Royal Kyev, Ukraine
- Simons, C-loop, Danmark
- Trump International, Scotland
- Vallda, Sverige

The popularity of golf is increasing, leading to greater demand for golf.

Growing participation in golf, especially post-pandemic has led to a shortage of golf availability.





The options for increasing availability for the golfers

- Options for increasing availability on existing courses
- Options for new facilities



Modifying Course Layout and Design

Work with a qualified architect to explore options such as:

- Introducing shorter course options, such as 6 or 9-hole rounds within the course
- Turn the driving range into a par-3 course
- Ensure the playability of the course reflects the player's ability
- Create additional par 3 holes or shorter practice areas where golfers can play quick, efficient rounds.

Modify maintenance and course set-up to limit time of play

- Reduce areas where searching for balls occur.
- Ensure that hazards are visible and only challenge the right category of players
- Reduce walks as much as possible
- Encourage players to play from forward tees
- Reduce forced carries
- Avoid blind shots





Offering Alternatives and Expanding Capacity

- Enhance driving ranges, chipping areas, and putting greens so golfers who can't get a tee time still have options to practice.
- During peak season, adding temporary tee boxes or adjusting course difficulty (such as making some holes shorter) can help accommodate more players.
- Have days with 2 x 9-holes instead of 1 x 18 holes
- Have tee times for the back-9 in the morning



Adjusting Tee Times and Schedules

- Adjusting tee times to find the optimum starting interval
- Implementing flexible tee time options, such as early morning, twilight, or even night golf with floodlights, can spread demand throughout the day.
- Offer discounted rates for off-peak hours to encourage golfers to play during less popular times, increasing overall course utilization.
- Using both the 1st and 10th tees for simultaneous starts can help accommodate more players without extending the round times.

Access Adjustments

- Limited green-fee times: Offer different access levels with varying levels of priority for tee times
- Varied booking options: Allowing casual players and frequent golfers to have different booking windows.
- Varied pricing on tee times.
- Keeping restricted times to a minimum: tournaments etc.



The Challenges of Building Traditional Golf Courses

Land Use:

- 18-hole golf courses require large amounts of land
- Competing with urbanization and agriculture for space.

Environmental Concerns:

- Water consumption
- Pesticide and fertilizer use affecting ecosystems.

Maintenance Costs:

- High cost of labor and machines.

Accessibility:

- Courses are often located far from urban centers, limiting access for new players.



The upside of golf courses

A photograph of a golf course under a blue sky with light clouds. In the foreground, a silver driver is positioned on the left, and a white golf ball sits on a white tee marker on the right. The grass is green and well-maintained. In the background, a red flag is visible on a pole, and a line of trees is visible under the sky.

- **Employment:** Direct and indirect jobs for local residents.
- **Tourism:** Increases in visitor spending and hotel stays.
- **Real Estate:** Boosts property values and real estate development.
- **Local Businesses:** Drives sales and growth for nearby businesses.
- **Tax Revenue:** Increases in property values
- **Environmental and Community Value:** Provides open space, conservation efforts, and recreational amenities that attract residents and visitors.



Option 1 : Building More Traditional Golf Courses

Land Development in Rural Areas:

- Use available land further from urban centers
- Potential economic boosts to rural areas

Modernized Design:

- Smaller, more efficient courses with alternative number of holes: 6, 12, or 18
- Multiple starting points
- Reversible course would offer more options in less space
- Eco-friendly designs using drought-resistant grass and renewable energy sources
- Planned for the use of robots and large-scale automation of maintenance

Option 2 – Multi-Use and Compact Golf Courses

9-Hole or 12-Hole Courses:

- Time-efficient for players with busy schedules.
- Requires less land and lower maintenance.

Par-3 Courses:

- Shorter, faster games to attract new and younger players.
- Less space and water needed, making them environmentally friendly.

Driving range / par-3 course

- Driving range with target greens which doubles as a par-3 course at certain times
- Can be created within existing ranges and provide an upgraded experience both as a range and as a par-3 course

Golf Course Integrated with Parks:

- Creating multi-use spaces (walking paths, nature reserves) alongside golf courses to maximize land use.



Option 3 – Technology-Driven Alternatives

Virtual Golf and Simulators:

- Indoor golf simulators replicating the experience of playing on world-famous courses.
- Allows year-round play regardless of weather.

TopGolf and Trackman Driving Ranges:

- Social, gamified driving ranges for all skill levels.
- Suitable for casual play and entertainment, often in urban locations.

Augmented Reality Golf Experiences:

- Combining AR technology to create interactive golf games on smaller courses.
- Appeals to tech-savvy audiences and those looking for unique experiences.



Conclusion:

There are options for increasing golf availability

- Within the existing courses through adjustments in design
- By adding features to existing practice facilities
- By utilizing technology
- Through administrative adjustments
- Through building new facilities



A wide-angle photograph of a golf course. The foreground is dominated by a large, well-maintained green fairway. To the right, a large sand trap is visible, with a grassy bank leading up to it. In the middle ground, there are several smaller sand traps and a line of trees. The background shows a clear blue sky with a few wispy clouds and a few thin, white contrails. The overall scene is bright and sunny, suggesting a clear day.

Questions?"

A photograph of a golf course green. A yellow flagstick is planted in the hole, and a white golf ball is on the grass in the foreground. The background shows a line of trees under a clear sky. The image is slightly dimmed to make the text stand out.

Tomorrow

Remodeling the Course
for
Current and Future Needs



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