

New Golf Course

Falkirk Herald 26 October 1901

New Golf Course.- On account of their golf course taken into the farm of Roughhaugh, and being about to be cultivated by the tenant, we understand that the Blair Golf Club have secured another course on the farm of Gilston. This new course has a commanding situation and is admirably suited for the game of golf. In its situation it somewhat resembles the Braids Golf Course, Edinburgh, and the membership of the club is sure to swell in consequence of the acquirement of such an excellent course.

From the website:

Forgotten Golfing Greens of Scotland:

<https://www.forgottengreens.com/forgotten-greens/stirlingshire-avonbridge/blairlodge-school-polmont/>

Blair Golf Club. Instituted 1893. A 9 hole course on Roughhaugh, half a mile from Polmont station.

“The holes vary in length from 150 to 350 yards.

Major trophies: Gray Gold Medal, Championship Gold Medal. Membership 30, 10 Ladies and 5 Youths. (GA 1896-97)

The course had begun to deteriorate and in 1901 the club relocated and changed its name to Polmont Golf Club.

“The new 9 hole course which has been laid out on Gilston Farm, near Polmont Railway Station will be formally opened tomorrow afternoon. The turf is good and the subsoil consists of sand and gravel. The ridges are sea banks or glacial drifts, and they add to the sporting character of the links. Judging from the sketch, I think the order of playing the holes will have to be altered. There is far too much distance between the seventh green and the eighth tee. If the ridges are broad enough, two or three greens ought to be formed on top of them. Plateau greens are more difficult to approach than those in the hollows or on the flat. The pavilion appears to be too far from the starting and finishing posts.” (GET 1901)

“The course, of nine holes, varying from 200 to 600 yards, is about half a mile from Polmont Station. The soil is sandy, and the hazards are a burn, a wall, hedges, and fences. The Club-house has accommodation for ladies.” (GA 1907-08).

The Canmore project to record lost golf courses recognises there was one at Gilston:

<https://canmore.org.uk/site/351084/polmont-gilston-polmont-golf-club>

The land for Polmont Golf Course was rented from Kerse Estate in the 1930s. Gilston Farm held the grazing rights.

1940-41 A-A Unit in Club House (BOFORS Unit), guns on 9th Fairway.

<http://collections.falkirk.gov.uk/search.do;jsessionid=3A3E9B0256EB1CF65BD54B32E0FF5C08?id=558610&db=object&page=1&view=detail>

This suggests that the land was used for military purposes during the second war.

<http://collections.falkirk.gov.uk/search.do;jsessionid=FB9580053E46712510F853187D8AE179?id=559533&db=object&page=1&view=detail>

Gilston farmhouse in background. Showing 4th and 9th green 1940-41. AA unit in club house (bofors unit) guns on 9th fairway. Land rented from Kerse estate in 1930s grazing rights to Gilston farm.

Anti aircraft unit in club house (Bofors Unit). Guns on the 9th fairway. Land rented from Kerse Estate in 1930. Grazing rights to Gilston Farm. Falkirk Archives.

From Falkirk archives : photos of Gilston farmhouse 1940.

