

# THE HISTORY OF GREENSIDE

"Greenside was initially a farm founded by the Geldenhuys brothers. Greenside's name is considered to be Scottish in origin, and refers to the adjacent Parkview Golf Course. Greenside is a well known suburb approximately eight kilometres north of central Johannesburg. It was laid out in the early 1930s and the story behind its street names is an interesting one as Trevor Pengelly explains:

"I saw a suggestion somewhere that Greenside derived its name from the Greens on the Parkview Golf Course which had been founded in 1916. Be that as it may the lore is that they tried to begin every street name with a 'G'.

So we have Greenside; Greenway; Greenfield; Glenside; Greenhill; Gullane, which is also a golf course in East Lothian Scotland, and Geers... then perhaps Gleneagles, a truly ancient golf site, set the golf ball rolling – how about famous golfers? Of course if they were quick witted they could have added 'Golfers Avenue'!

So lets begin with 'The Braids' for that seems to be the odd man out. Braid Hills is a magnificent course overlooking Edinburgh and seems to have been named after the greatest golfer James Braid at the turn of the twentieth century – him, Harry Vardon and John Henry Taylor ... but wait a bit those are also street names in Greenside.

Melton Mowbray is a golf course in Leicestershire built in 1925. Braeside is as well but that was founded in 1947. Chirside is a famous Scottish hall but Thomas Chirside founded a park in Victoria Australia which has a golf course but only founded in 1962. Well it seems that some of these golf name shots have been sliced and hooked and where did the name 'Petra' and 'Coetzer' creep in? Perhaps these newer golf courses were opened because they were street names in Greenside!

Barnton has an ancient course in Edinburgh from about 1700 called 'The Royal Burgess'. While Hoylake, the Liverpoolian golf course, is situated in England. Clovelly is in Cape Town but strangely founded in 1932 – a year after Greenside was founded. And lets not forget the famous course at Troon!

All the leading golfers of the day get listed on the short cross roads. Walter Hagen the best golfer until Jack Nicklaus; and Joyce Rogers regarded as the straightest hitter of all time admired by the great Bobby Jones. Charlotte Cecelia Pitcairn Leitch called 'Cecil' was another wow of a woman golfer of a decade before Joyce winning the amateur championship four times.

Gene Sarazen was a champion of the twenties, Alf Padgham played his best in the 30's and Francis Quimet, the only American, was called the father of amateur golf. Johnny Farrell was named best professional golfer of 1927 and 8 and Archie Compston may have been the first 'celebrity golfer' in Britain. Finally there was Henry Cotton a leading English professional at the time. The only one I cannot trace is Prentice... who was Prentice?

So Parkview has its Irish names and Greenside the golfers."

*Reference: <http://www.heritageportal.co.za/article/story-behind-greensides-road-names>*

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