

# COURSES

## MUST PLAY GOG MAGOG

**C**ambridgeshire may not have the wider golfing reputation of certain other counties, but Gog Magog, a few miles south of Cambridge, is the exception to that rule – and for more reasons than just its unusual biblical name. It is actually taken from the low chalkland hills close by, and was the club's name from the outset when the first nine holes were laid out in 1899.

Despite East Anglia being renowned for its flatness, the Old course is anything but, climbing on the first couple of holes over downland that has a distinct heathland feel in many places, up on the top of a chalk escarpment. That 2nd hole may only be a short par 4, but with an old quarry to carry before a sharp rise to the green, it can easily catch you out early in your round.

W Duncan created the original nine holes, but famous architects Willie Park Jr, James Braid and Martin Hawtree have all had a

hand over the years in shaping what most believe to be Cambridgeshire's finest test.

### HISTORY

The Old course had a full 18 holes by 1901, and around 100 years later the hole count at Gog Magog rose to 36 when Hawtree's longer Wandlebury course came into play in the late 1990s. This course was

The Wandlebury course's 16th hole

actually an extension to a nine-hole layout created by Hawtree & Son in the late 1960s, and has gone on to host Regional Qualifying for The Open several times.

The Old course continues to host the Lagonda Trophy, one of the premier events on the amateur calendar, as it has done every year since 1990. This prestigious 72-hole event boasts

an impressive cast of past winners, among them Lee Westwood, Luke Donald, Andy Sullivan, Kenneth Ferrie and Oliver Fisher. This year's event will take place from May 23-24.

### SIGNATURE HOLES

There are many fine holes on the Old course, including that testing 2nd and a strong cast of short

holes. Perhaps the pick of these is the par-3 13th, a stout 204-yarder to a green that feeds down from right to left.

Splendid vistas abound at Gog Magog, and one of the finest can be enjoyed from the 10th tee on the Wandlebury course. So take a moment to soak it all in before opening your shoulders on the inviting downhill drive.

