

*Webster Dudley Country Club, Inc.*

*d/b/a Dudley Hill Golf Club*

Mr. Slater, then president of the S. Slater & Sons Co., hired Devereaux-Emmett Co. of New York City, golf architects, at his own expense in November 1925. A. H. Tull, chief engineer for the company, toured Webster and Dudley on December 22, 1925, inspecting possible locations for a golf club. He examined at least a half dozen proposed properties.

Webster-Dudley Country Club, Inc. formed by local residents, secured an option to the former Williams Farm in Dudley on January 10, 1926. Plans to build a 9-hole golf course were announced at the same time. Owner Victor Ethier agreed to sell the property, which included a small dwelling.

The state charter for the club, issued by State Secretary Frederick W. Cook, was delivered February 3, 1926. Incorporators were Horatio N. Slater, Joseph N. Roy, Everett L. Moore, E. Guy Howard, Laurence J. Daly, Telesphore Lebouef, John W. Dobbie, Richard J. Murphy, Joseph A. Patenaude, John M. Crawford, Joseph A. Love, David A. Towns, Ralph K. Hubbard and Armand J. Brissette.

Their first meeting was Thursday, March 11, 1926. Reported at this time was an option to buy land from Esterbrook estate. The property was adjacent to that purchased from Mr. Ethier. Membership cards were distributed.

The charter for the golf course was closed on April 12, 1927 at a Board of Governors meeting. Certificates of ownership were issued to 135 persons, each of whom paid \$100 for Charter Rights. The annual membership fee was set at \$25 open to anyone within a 15 mile radius of Webster-Dudley. Greens fees were set at \$1.00 for weekdays and \$2.00 for Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays. The same meeting voted to set aside \$1,400 to remodel the building and furnish a locker room. Webster contractor, Paul Plasse, started the work on April 25, 1927. Plasse agreed to add a 12 foot veranda for \$100. This was a "token price" because of his interest in golf, Mr. Plasse said.

Local golfers couldn't wait until the 9-hole, 3200 yard course was completed. An informal opening was held on June 7, 1926. Temporary greens were used and play was restricted to five holes. The first club championship tournament, a 36 hole event, was held that labor day weekend and the winner was Raymond W. Sheldon, Sr., publisher of The Webster Evening Times. Two golf watches, one for a man and one for a woman, were given to the winners of the first invitational tournament held August 25 and 26, 1926. Ralph K. Hubbard's name was inscribed on the first Governor's Cup in 1928.

Faced with financial troubles, directors of the golf course leased the 9-hole facility to Nichols College for 10 years on March 24, 1949. A small building was purchased from the town of Webster for \$75 and was moved to a point off Dudley Hill Road, behind the Corbin Cemetery. The building was repaired, and shower and locker facilities were installed. It was used for a number of years as the course clubhouse. Today, it is used as the superintendent's work shop and for storage. The restaurant at the facility was separated from the golf course in 1949. Known as the Webster-Dudley Country Club, the restaurant was destroyed by fire at 4:30 a.m. on January 1, 1964, just hours after 175 New Year's Eve revelers had left the premises.

Nichols College, with a long term lease on the course, constructed a prefabricated steel clubhouse at the site of the former restaurant, which was in use until Roger Lavoie donated the existing Clubhouse to the Golf Course/Nichols College in memory of his beloved wife, Lucille, in the Spring of 1996.

In January 1999, management of the golf course reverted to the successors of the original Webster-Dudley Country Club, Inc., Board of Governors.