

## A Moseley Golf Club at Moseley Hall?

In the Golfing Annual of 1894 an entry appeared which may surprise local residents: Moseley Park Golf Club, Honorary Secretary, Mr T. W. Piggott, *The Lions*, Park Hill, Moseley. This was repeated the following year, but in 1896 it read 'Moseley Park Golf Club' with no other information.

Mr Piggott, a boiler maker, had already joined Moseley Golf Club – founded in 1892 – along with other members of the family, Mr J Piggott of Park Villa, G.T. Piggott and G.S. Piggott, who had a handicap of 18. All participated in club competitions and matches.

The question is why did Mr Piggott wish to start a club in Moseley Park? He lived round the corner only a short walk away whereas Moseley Golf Club was just over a mile away with an entrance in Billesley Lane. I suspect the family were looking for a place to practice their games without having to walk the extra mile and possibly avoid the members of the club from the professional classes. People 'in trade' often experienced difficulties in obtaining membership of private golf clubs, happily no longer the case today.

The Piggotts were active donors to charity, subscribing to the Queen's Hospital and the Women's Hospital. George T Piggott was educated at Rugby School. The park would have had room for a few short holes, hopefully not impinging on other users. The players would have been using the hickory shafted club, with which a good player could achieve a respectable distance with the *guttapercha* golf ball.<sup>1</sup> This became overtaken in the early part of the twentieth century and by 1913 there were at least a dozen golf ball manufacturers in Birmingham.

John Moreton

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<sup>1</sup>Guttapercha was a set of trees. These golf balls had a solid guttapercha core.

*The Lions*, the home of the Piggotts



## Hickory shafted Golf Clubs



## Gutta Percha Golf ball found at Moseley Golf Club

