

Our golf course – names and history

Hole 1 - Gärdesfallet / The waterfall in the field

A stream once curled around the estate of Forsbacka gård. The stream formed a waterfall where the bridge is now. This is where the tilt hammer was constructed. During the end of the 17th century 735 ton of iron forging a year was allowed round Åmål, and Forsbacka produced a substantial amount of that.

Hole 2 - Husåsen / The house hill

The hill west to the fairway is still called "Husåsen". Several cottages were situated here in the past.

Hole 3 - Lärdomen / The knowledge

The name aims to the fact that the old school of the estate were situated close to the current tee.

Hole 4 - Sir Owls bog

Magistrate Owl continued the previously started job with diking out the bog west of the current fairway. For this reason, the deep grave beyond the men's tee were dug out. The peat was used as litter in the stables and barn. It was also used as fuel, perhaps something we should pick up. The ditch right after dogleg should foremost be a clever plan by the architect of the course.

Hole 5 - Lowenheim's meadow

The foundry proprietor Lowenheim continued the battle against the bourgeois of Åmål regarding a country road and fees concerning the railways. This time the battle regarded a road by Byälven in Värmland, which waterfront belonged to Åmål. A famous bourgeois in Åmål wrote to the governor of Älvsborgs län regarding this and several other quarrels. The governor didn't care much, because as he said: what does it concern him what goes on in Värmland?

Hole 6 - The wolf pit

A trap, as cleverly constructed as any. The wolf was the biggest enemy of the countryside. A popular method was to trap the wolf in a deep pit, and several of those were situated on different places at Forsbacka.

Hole 7 - The Finnish wall

Legend says that the wall east of fairway was built by fins who in the beginning of the 17th century domiciled in the woods west of Åmål. When one see's where they decided to construct the wall, deep into the forest, one may be surprised by the location of the wall. One reason for this is the reputation of the fins, who were regarded a violent and sinful people, and were not allowed to live closer to the church than half a mile.

Hole 8 - Backa tavern

In 1655 111 people lived in Åmål. Of these were 5 brewers and 4 tavern owners. Despite this, Forsbacka had its own tavern which was situated where the fork still exists, perhaps on green. In December 1679, a dead woman was found in Åmålsån, the river of Åmål. No crime had been committed. In the court records it was stated that “a wife has drunken gone into the stream. She feared God by singing and reading. Her wrong was that she loved to drink, but she had no other sinful behavior”.

Hole 9 - The salute of the foundry proprietor

At solemn occasions, a salute was shot at Forsbacka with a Karl XII canon, which were placed at the hill by green.

Hole 10 - Linroth's memory

The family of Linroth founded Forsbacka in the late 17th century and owned from time to time for hundred years. The brothers Johan and Elias Linroth kept up a long battle with the bourgeois in Åmål, among other things about the right to ship iron on own boats from Värmland to Åmål and therefrom to Vänersborg.

Hole 11 - The deep valley

A still existing croft northwest of green. During its best days, the forges at Forsbacka about 100 men and all its employees lived in crofts around Forsbacka. One of these crofts were Deep valley.

Hole 12 - The fox hill

Several locations at Forsbacka carries this name. The unexperienced will notice that the green is very cleverly located.

Hole 13 - The birch tree meadow

A very old name for the land beyond dogleg.

Hole 14 - The vanity

The name of a croft that once was situated at green. There weren't only blacksmiths and farmhands at Forsbacka. With the employed men also came foremen, coachmen, farmhands, maids, other servants, and foresters. In the middle of the 19th century Forsbacka was at its largest and consisted of 9000 hectares, mainly woodland.

Hole 15 - The boggy land

Forsbacka was purchased by the municipality of Åmål in 1925. The price was 141.600 kr. The reason for the business deal was that the town of Åmål wanted to construct several power plants upstream and downstream Forsbacka by Åmålsån, that is connected to Kalven-lakes. Where you now can see the lake Forsbackasjön below the mansion, Åmålsån once was floating. The waterfront south of fairway was notably boggy, hence the name. Those waterfronts are now covered by Forsbackasjön.

Hole 16 - The ox field

The field that now is fairway carried this name. Dalsland were famous for its heavy oxen, something that is preserved in Dalslands city arms, and in the club badge of Forsbacka Golfclub. The city of Åmål fought for the ox market to be held in Åmål and not in Säffle. The trading of oxen was successful due to lack of oxen meat in Bergslagen, which had to be complemented from another source. The ox was also used as beasts of burden. In 1816 Forsbacka held with 2 oxen, and 47 horses, 170 cows, 56 calves and 331 sheep.

Hole 17 - Sir Bagge's jump

In 1667 was Forsbacka owned by cornet Gustaf Bagge. In 1645 his father Johan Bagge participated in one of many wars against Denmark, and during this year he was located with two companies in Åmål. The drank much and due to this they burned up four buildings in the city. When the Danish enemy came, Bagge and his men couldn't put up much of a fight, even though they outnumbered them. The Danish helped the bourgeois in Åmål to put out the fires Bagge and co started. In 1676 Gustaf Bagge proved he was his father's son; he also destroyed several buildings with fire during an escape from Norwegians. Bagge was sentenced in court to reimburse the buildings he burnt down. If he did so or not we'll never know.

Hole 18 - Totties arbor

The family of Tottie ran Forsbacka for many years. One of the owners constructed the arbor of trees above green. In 1726 the farmhouse building burnt down and a new one was built in 1747 by E.G. Ekerman. In 1818 the now existing main building was built.