ARBROATH GOLF COURSE



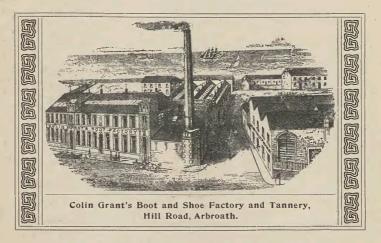
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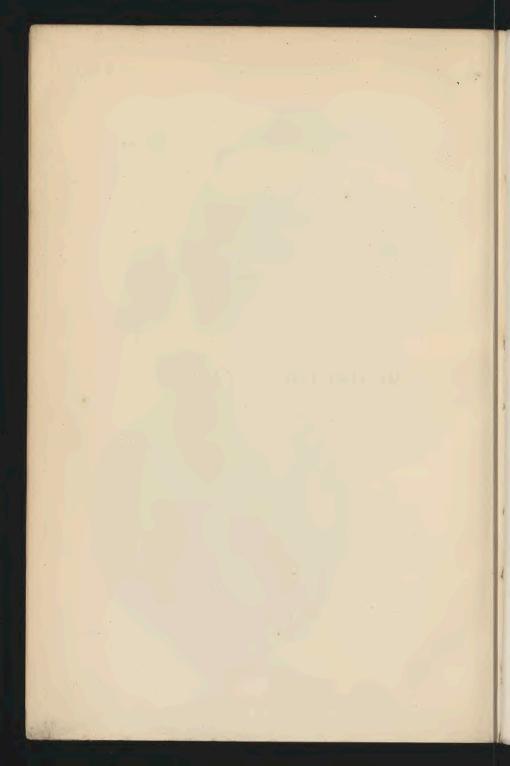
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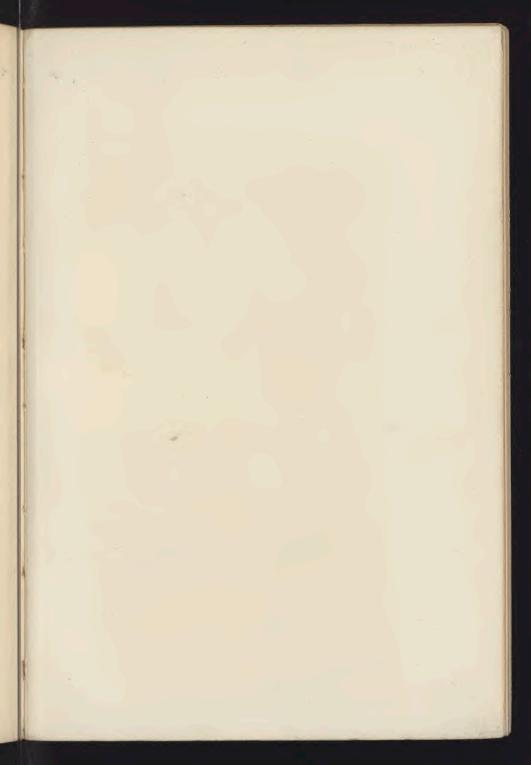
COLIN GRANT

86 High St.,249 High St.,21 West Port,

ARBROATH.

THE ARBROATH GOLF COURSE







CLAUD STRACHAN CARNEGIE OF TARRIE.

Photo by Puddicombe, Bideford.

THE

ARBROATH GOLF COURSE

BY

J. D. GILRUTH, M.A., M.D. (Edin.)

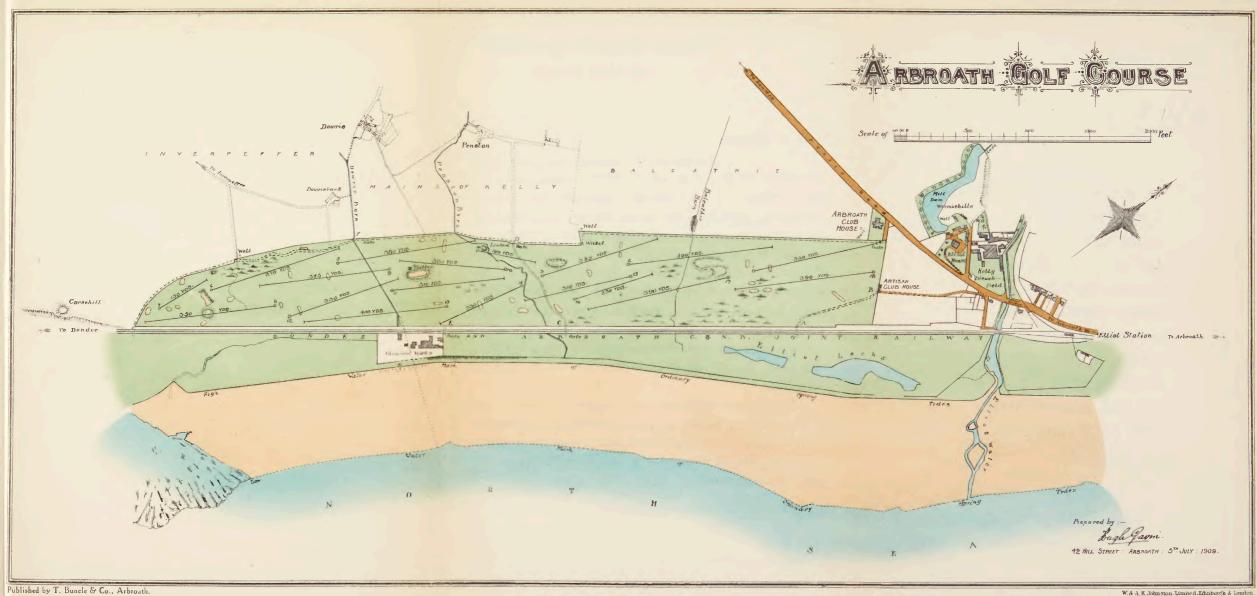




ARBROATH: T. BUNCLE & CO.

1909

PRINTED BY T. BUNCLE & Co., ARBROATH



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I have pleasure in bringing before your notice the HIGH-CLASS TABLE WATERS manufactured by me. In doing so I can confidently recommend them as being made from Sterilised Water passed through a microbe-proof Berkfeldt Filter, and from the Noran Water, a supply unsurpassed in this country for chemical and organic purity. The Waters are passed through silver-lined pipes and machinery. No expense is spared in the manufacture. The Waters are prepared under the supervision of a qualified Chemist upon the most scientific principles, with scrupulous care in the apparatus, of porcelain, slate, and glass, thus preventing their coming in contact with either lead or copper, a fact which is of the greatest importance.

It is therefore with the utmost confidence I now ask for a trial of my Table Waters, and feel confident I am recommending an article equal to anything on the market. A cordial invitation to any one interested is extended to examine the Factory and the mode of preparation.

Yours faithfully,

JAMES JACK.

Arbroath Mineral Water Works, 102 High Street.

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Yours faithfully,

JAMES JACK.



PREFACE.

THIS book can at least claim to have no predecessor. It enters the field against no rival. Its aim is peaceful; its hope is to help.

It has entailed some labour, ungrudgingly given, and it offers itself without pretence to those who care to read.

Every care has been expended in verifying information given, but in spite of all watchfulness mistakes may have crept in. Authorities are usually acknowledged in the text, and the page number is given in many instances.

The illustrations of the course and club-house are from photographs taken specially for the book by Mr F. W. M. Bennett, chemist.

The map is prepared partly from the Ordnance Survey sheet and partly from drawings generously supplied from the Dalhousie Estates Office through the kindness of Mr John Robertson, factor. Mr Hugh Gavin, architect, has spared nothing in making it an artistic success. Messrs W. & A. K. Johnston have reproduced it accurately and faithfully.

Thanks are due to Mr W. Alexander, secretary, Arbroath Golf Club; Miss Grant, secretary, Ladies' Golf

Club; and Mr J. C. Dewar, secretary, Course Committee of Management, for allowing perusal of their respective minute-books.

To Mr J. Joss, of the "Dundee Advertiser" Office, Arbroath, the author owes much for willing and helpful assistance as amanuensis.

Amongst others, Mr J. Hosie, librarian; Mr W. F. Mackintosh, F.S.A. Scot., Town Chamberlain; Mr W. Macintosh, lately of the Town House; Mr W. P. Dowall, Elliot; Mr R. C. Bowie, Mains of Kelly; and Mr A. Oliver, S.S.C., have lent useful papers, books, and maps.

HYDE PARK HOUSE, Arbroath, November 1909.

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INTRODUCTION.

EVERY one has heard the now famous jibe, that a Scotsman "keeps the Sabbath and—everything else he can lay his hands on!" But time was when the game of golf had such an irresistible fascination for the Scot that laws had to be laid down and duly enforced to prevent the enthusiast neglecting the ordinances of the church. In the kirk-session books of the parish of Cullen, Banffshire, in the year 1641, it is recorded that three men were convicted for breaking the Sabbath, "for playing at ye golf efternoone in time of sermone," were fined half a merk, and had to "mak repentance ye next Sabboth."

In all ages the Scot has been to the forefront in metaphysical speculation and in theological controversy. The more subtle the subject, the more keenly does the hardy Caledonian discuss it. Wherefore it is reasonable to assume that there is something of the same elusive essence about the graceful and enticing game of golf, and that this quality has determined the sport as, indeed until within a generation or less ago, a peculiarly Scottish national pastime.

One day a few years ago I met a man on the high road exercising a new free-wheel bicycle and glorying in the splendid sensations he was enjoying. With some little

difficulty he was inveigled on to the golf links at Elliot, and made to do duty as a "caddie" for a few holes. Very soon he politely asked to be allowed to "try a shot." This was willingly conceded, and he braced himself for the new and, as he thought, supremely easy task. Twice he swung, yet only hit-the ground a yard behind, and the third time he only managed to "scruff" the ball, which with a feeble bounce came to rest a yard away. Up went his hand to his temple in bewildered amazement and chagrin. "I see," he said, "that this game is more difficult than I thought." "Oh, but," I replied, "it is just because it is difficult that it will appeal to you." One of the last times I saw him on the links he was coming in at the end of his third round tired, sore possibly, but radiant with the joy of life and health. "All beginnings are difficult," Goethe said, but to him and me and to many others the game is difficult all the time; and it is this uncertainty of it, the chasing after the ideal of it, the climbing in pursuit of the highest in it, that makes the game an art and an inspiration, and a constant well of sweet, refined surprise.

No wonder that in the olden days, when archery was to the nation what the Territorial militarism is now, the law had to be invoked to divert the young mind to sports which would be of more utility and value in case of invasion by foreign foe.¹ Golf is a sport of peace, quiet

¹ Warden's Angus, I., p. 209.

and sociable in its nature, but nevertheless calculated to train the eye and discipline the mind, and draw out the best and coolest attributes of the character.

Within a generation or so the whole civilised world has awakened to the true inwardness of this hitherto purely Scottish game, and men-it may be women too-are shedding silent tears over the waste of the precious years of their golfless youth. Busy men of all ages and all classes have discovered that at last they can afford time for a breath of fresh air once or twice a week. They flatter themselves that "the exercise is doing them good," and that "walking after an object" is such sound and beneficial treatment for touches of gout or rheumatism! This is all mere sophistry, simple bluff between a man and himself, or between him and his friends. It is the constant endeavour to excel one's past best, to beat men hitherto one's recognised superiors; in other words, to live and grow in the game, that makes it no mere mechanical pursuit, but a gradual development of finer art and more dexterous skill. All over the world the plant "Golf" has found a footing, is thriving and flowering, and throwing its perfume to the air. In darkest Africa, in sun-baked India and Ceylon, amongst the tropical vegetation of Brazil, and the snowy valleys of Switzerland, the game is prospering and giving pleasure to an ever-increasing number of devotees.

At home, north and south, east and west, in busy cities

and in sleepy-hollow hamlets, energies have stirred and given strong expression to the now universal spirit, and rarely do we find in any place worthy of a name that a golf course has not been, or is not soon to be, established.

Arbroath, the ancient burgh by the fringe of the grey North Sea, has acted with quick response to the all-pervading impelling necessity. What a few years ago was a wild, uncouth stretch of low-lying sandy dune and unkempt benty land is now a golfing paradise, ninety-six acres in extent, tended with loving care.

THE ELLIOT GOLF LINKS.

THE ELLIOT LINKS, the site of the Arbroath Golf Course, lie some little distance to the south-west of Elliot Station, and are about a mile and a quarter from Arbroath.

The terrible railway tragedy which convulsed this neighbourhood on the 28th December 1906 raised the name of Elliot to a position of almost world-wide notoriety. The name itself is that of a little stream which rises in the highlands of Carmyllie, and, pursuing its course through the beautiful woods of Guynd, past the sweet and picturesque village of Arbirlot, and down the famous Kelly Den, falls into the sea quite close to the scene of the lamentable The bridge here, over which passes the Dundee turnpike road and under which the Elliot flows, has a tragic story attaching to its origin. At one time a ford had to be crossed at this point by all who wished to pursue their onward way. On the 24th September 1785 an old man named John Christie, 70 years of age, post rider between Dundee and Arbroath, dared, in spite of urgent advice to the contrary, to cross the roaring stream with his mail bags. The night was one of ceaseless rain and wind, and the alternative road by Arbirlot was long and weary. Bravely

old John, mounted on his courageous steed, pushed into the foaming torrent. The horse struggled through, but John was washed off his saddle and perished in the darkness of the night. Brave old man! His memory deserves a tribute of thanksgiving from those who live in more favoured times.

The present bridge was erected in 1786¹ by public subscription, with the assistance of the Town Council of Arbroath, and is still in a capital state of preservation. A group of willow trees forms a curious arch of foliage over the little bridge, and through it we get a first glimpse of the professional's workshop, which marks the first tee of the splendid course now the credit and delight of Arbroath golfers.

After the bridge is crossed the Elliot bleaching works, with their spacious green full of whitening yarn, appear on the right:

Where Elliot's waters ere they rush
To meet their final doom
Wash white the thread there neatly spread,
And fit it for the loom.²

A little farther along this road a neat white-gabled cottage marks the corner of the grounds, and the visitor will notice with some surprise the wonderful display of roses in the little garden where Mr John Porter produces from

¹ Hay's Hist. of Arbroath, p. 441. ² A Holiday on the Elliot—Jas. Crighton.

year to year the envy of the Elliot neighbourhood. Almost opposite the cottage is the gate into the handsome residence of Mr W. P. Dowall, and under the trees a greensward with clustering plots of many-coloured flowers affords a charming glimpse of cultivated nature. Turn down the narrow lane between the house and the bleaching buildings, hold on past a few cottages in the rear, and soon you will be held up in a narrow cul-de-sac, below the old mill-kiln, by a little well of very interesting history. This is the ancient "Medicie Wallie," far famed for its medicinal and healing properties. It is visited by many hundreds of eager people, young and old, who sample the "iron" spring with a silent prayer that, as the years go on, they may never need to have further recourse to any such chalybeate necessity.

Quite near and above the well is the beautiful mill dam of Elliot. It is a private lake, and open only to the proprietors of the works close at hand, but the prospect is one of considerable beauty: the lake overhung by greenery behind, and curling in a semicircle of placid water till lost to view in the farther rising ground. Swans grace the limpid surface, and add dignity and repose to the charm of the "speaking quietude that wraps the moveless scene."

Just below, it is easy to distinguish the remains of the old mill of Wormyhills, where in earlier times the mill wheel, long since disappeared, ground a daily sustenance for the toiler and the worker of the soil. It is a sweet and silent spot, where, away from the hum and dust of the highway, the weary one may rest and think awhile. Long ago it was said regarding the well by the Rev. Mr Edwards, minister of Murroes, in his "Description of Angus" (1678), "that for want of proper accommodation persons of high rank have declined coming to it!" Perhaps now that Elliot Golf Course is so near at hand, we shall be able to say that we have changed all that, and that persons of high rank will decline no longer!

The mill must have been of some consequence in olden times, because on 11th August 1591 a man named "William Spalding, at the mylne at Elliot," is associated along with, but secondary to, "Gardyne of that Ilk, and Lord Ogilvy of Airlie," in procuring a bond of caution that "Alexander, Bishop of Brechin, and others, all of the name of Campbell, should be harmless to them." 1

This same meal mill of Elliot or Wormyhills was leased by Mr Charles Dowall, grandfather of the present proprietor of the bleaching works, in the year 1812. Coming originally from Banchory Ternan, he continued in his tenancy till his death in 1855, which occurred at the ripe old age of eighty years. His son, also Charles Dowall, succeeded Mr Anderson in the bleaching works in the year 1837, and along with his brother-in-law,

¹ Hay's Hist. of Arbroath, p. 136.

Mr William Paterson, in partnership, built a large and valuable addition to the previously existing buildings. A prosperous industry, giving much employment, it is now controlled by Mr W. P. Dowall.

The name Wormyhills is said to be derived from the curious shape of the hills in this interesting valley, for the tumuli are said to "very much resemble worms, especially where they twist themselves." 1

Very soon the imposing Club House becomes visible on the higher ground. On the links below we see the club-maker's tidy workshop where the professional of the links, among other duties, issues tickets of admission to strangers who wish to play a round on the course. To the left the Artisan Club House is a prominent feature, while still farther to the left the railway is a noticeable landmark.

If the reader will now turn to the map provided herewith he can readily discern the character of the course with its position and extent. The whole of the lands lie to the inner or north side of the railway line, and to the outer or south side of a range of higher ground, which is spoken of in geological terminology as a 'raised beach.' On both sides of Arbroath this raised beach is a feature of the coast line. It extends onwards, and can be detected at various points between Elliot and Monifieth.

¹ Warden's Angus, II., p. 379.

This distinctive conformation of the land gives the links a cosy shelter, so that even in winter the feeling is engendered that here there is more comfort and less of the icy blast which comes with chilling fingers from the snow-clad Grampians. The absence of trees in or around the lands does not detract from their atmospheric healthfulness, but on the contrary the pest of flies, so common on courses with the advantages of foliage, is one which never visits the charmed dunes of Elliot.

The sea is near at hand, and while we never get into close touch with "blue-eyed ocean and her silver locks," there is the constant near presence of the sea which, as at St Andrews, counts for much happiness. These beautiful words of Shelley interpret the genius of this favoured place:

The blue Ægean girds this chosen home, With ever-changing sound, and light, and foam, Kissing the sifted sands, , And all the winds wandering along the shore Undulate with the undulating tide.

Here cloudland, too, entices interest and often deep affection. The grey-toned east coast skies, sweet with soft middle tones, and radiant with harmonies that speak with no discordant language to the poet's heart, present a changeful canopy of beauty, "cradled and hung in clear tranquillity."

And from the breezes, whether low or loud, And from the rain of every passing cloud, And from the singing of the summer birds, And from all sounds, all silence.

Such then is the spirit of this place, beckoning us to the more everyday pursuit of golf.

The links are, as has been said, ninety-six acres in extent, and are composed of land which originally belonged to no fewer than three different farms. Until the land was acquired by the town of Arbroath by charter from the Earl of Dalhousie, the terms of which deed will be found on another page, the tenants of the farms had given the privilege of play to the Arbroath Golf Club. As the ground now belongs by inalienable right to the community for the purposes of golf and golf alone, it is worth while to enquire to what extent history can throw light on the earlier proprietorship of these holdings. But before doing so it will simplify our arrangement to deal with the time more immediately past. Like all Gaul, which the naïve schoolboy said was "halved into three quarters," the Elliot links can be divided into three sections, namely, the lands of Balcathie, Mains of Kelly, and Inverpeffer.

BALCATHIE.

The land of Balcathie extends as far as a line drawn directly across the course and starting from the wicket

gate which appears at a jutting corner of arable land, to be seen on the right when playing to the third hole. This land is 41.468 acres in extent, and the solum of the links to the north had at one time been in cultivation. The farm of Balcathie is situated about half a mile to the north of the links, and has a fine steading and an imposing farm house. The residence anterior to the present is still in a good state of preservation, and is used as a dwelling for one of the married servants. Mr James Finlayson, the tenant, is a man respected amongst his fellow agriculturists. His family have leased the lands of Balcathie from the Panmure family since 1770, and are, so far as can be ascertained, the only family in a large surrounding area holding land in direct succession from father to son for such a long period of time as 140 years. Mr Alexander Finlayson, the great-grandfather of the present tenant, came to Balcathie in 1770, the year already mentioned, and the easterly part of the Arbroath Golf Course is over links land used as grazing ground for sheep on his holding.

During this long period of time changes have been at work altering the arrangement of the farm lands, and possibly the making of the present turnpike road to Dundee, in or after 1790, was the greatest of all these transmuting forces.

The Arbroath Golf Club House stands in a corner of Balcathie land, in a convenient situation beside the high road to Dundee and the north-easterly edge of the lands, where to suit the ardent golfer the first tee is placed.

A broad road, up till now scarcely sufficiently macadamised, leads the short distance between the turnpike and the links. This is the public entrance, so to speak, to the links, but the usual means of access to the Golf Course has for thirty years been by the lower ground past the Artisan Golf Club.

Near the site of the present Golf House at one time a little pendicle existed, where a man named Francie Smart tilled a few acres of land, kept a cow, and filled in the time by working for neighbouring farmers. The house stood off the road in the field, and it is of interest to us because there still remains, a few yards from the Club House, the old well on the slope of the brae which was used in the little holding, and is yet known among the older residenters as Francie's Well.

Balcathie is an ancient place, at one time having as owners men of some importance who assumed their surname from the lands. Huttingo de Balcathyn was one of the signatories witnessing two deeds in the ancient chartulary of Arbroath Abbey in 1204. From that time till 1311 the name of Rogerus de Balcathyn frequently occurs, and leads us to infer that Roger was a family name which descended to several generations. They are sometimes described as burgesses of Arbroath, but whether or not the family had any connection of a closer

nature with the great Abbey of King William the Lion (founded in 1178), we can at least gather that the proprietor of Balcathie was a useful county magnate, easily secured for the purpose of witnessing charters. The family of "de Balcathyn" thus seems to have held land there before the time of the foundation of the Abbey, but how long before it is impossible to tell. Certain it is that at a later date the name entirely disappeared, the reason being that the family became extinct. The lands then merged into those named Ochterlony or Kelly, a barony which from very early times till the present day has had a varied and interesting history.

MAINS OF KELLY.

The part of the links derived from the farm of Mains of Kelly begins at the line of the wicket gate at the corner and continues to the Dowrie Burn, which runs almost in a straight line across the course. It is 29 093 acres in extent, and is intersected by a tortuous stream known as the Penston Burn. At the time of the acquisition of the links ground by the town of Arbroath, the farm of Mains of Kelly was tenanted by Mr R. C. Bowie, of Brookfield, Carnoustie, a gentleman who has always been a good friend to the Elliot Golf Course, and whose family have held the farm now for upwards of a hundred years. In or about the year 1806, Mr Alexander

Bowie, grandfather of the above, migrated from the Cockpen district of the Lothians at the express desire of the then Earl of Dalhousie, and established himself in the Mains of Kelly.

At one time, however, the lands contiguous to the links, and now forming part of the Mains, were divided into two small pendicles, the one known as "Penston" and the other as "Dowrie." The ruins of the Penston pendicle still stand, and its arable land extended to about thirty-two acres.

Dowrie, on the other hand, was a collection of small holdings; indeed at one time there were no fewer than seven small cottages with strips of land attached. In the map given as an inset to this work there have been given in dotted lines the plans of the pendicle of Penston as well as those of the cottages at Dowrie, these having been specially prepared for the writer by Mr John Robertson, factor to the Earl of Dalhousie.

The names of the persons who lived in these cottages at the Dowrie about sixty years ago were, starting at the east side, Alexander Hovell, Mary Hosie, David Gibson, David Watt, Henry Nicol, and one named Fox. The seventh is uncertain, but was most likely a man called Paterson, members of whose family still live in Arbroath and remember the old home well. Mr James Fox, grocer, High Street, Arbroath, is one of the Fox family, and Mrs Adams, 35 Kinnaird Street, aged 82, whose maiden

name was Watt, as a little girl climbed the braes of Dowrie, and "paidled in the burn" that once in the long ago gave its name to Inverpeffer.

There is not one stone above another left to tell the tale of this ancient homestead, for as time went on Mr Alexander Bowie, the present tenant's father, by whom most of the pendiclers were employed, demolished the houses as well as the old steading, and utilised the land for arable purposes.

In the year 1767 the lands of Penston, or Painstown as then called, and the lands of Dowrie or Durie, were held by one named William Butchart. He is given in the "Statistical Account of the Parish of Arbirlot" in that year as being tenant of Balcathie, Painstown, Durie, Mill of Wormyhill, Park of Kelly, and Inner or Nether Kelly,—truly a large and important holding. The tenancy was divided at the time Mr Alexander Finlayson came to Balcathie in 1770.

It is impossible to tell how these different places appeared in the dim and distant past, but it is likely that Dowrie, which is a Celtic name, was the older habitation, the Penstoun showing a suggestion of the Anglo-Norman influence on place names, having the terminal "ton" or "toun" as a suffix.

Amongst those who were born at Dowrie and still retain a deep love for the old locality, it would be difficult to find one more intensely interested in our notes and in these obliterated pendicles than Mr Thomas Finlayson Hovell, who resides at Dowrie Cottage, Parkhead, Glasgow. Many years ago he migrated to the west of Scotland, where it is twenty-four years since he became interested in what was then a comparatively new industry, namely, the production of steel castings by the Siemens-Martins process. From a small beginning this method has now become universally employed, and among engineers and shipbuilders the process is considered indispensable. Mr Hovell has become a force in the portion of Glasgow where he resides, and in very many spheres of life and action his influence is felt and appreciated. The appended notes by him constitute a series of word pen pictures of times now passing away from living memory.

"In writing down a few notes about Dowrie I feel my own inability to do it justice. Like Jerusalem of old, not one stone is left upon another to indicate even the locality where it once stood. Within my memory it was a little hamlet of seven or eight homes, with large families as a rule, and all had their bit of land held from the farmer of Mains of Kelly, though I understand they used to hold it direct from Panmure. Those were the times of three acres and a cow. Whether Mr Chamberlain ever heard of them or not, I cannot say, but he may have got his inspiration from some such hamlet as was Dowrie then.

[&]quot;My memory goes back half a century, and the

18

difference from then and now is very striking. I have said that these seven or eight families held their small holdings from the large farmer, and one condition in the bargain was that they should always provide an 'outworker,' as they were called, that is, a young woman to work on the farm all the year round. These very often were the daughters, when they were old enough, but if the families were too young, then a young woman had to be hired in and lived en famille. These outworkers were paid at the rate of 1s per day of ten hours by the farmer, and extra at harvest time when the work was extra heavy, as many a time they had to do the work of a man. But while the work was trying and not always pleasant, still a good hardy, strong race of women was reared up, fit to take their places as farmers' wives and be a better half to them if such should be their luck.

"Looking back to those times, I am struck with the changed conditions of farming now. My memory goes back to before the introduction of reaping machines, when the crops had to be cut down either by hook or scythe. On the particular farm of Mains of Kelly it was mostly done by shearers, as we called them, and these men were carted every morning from Arbroath and carted home again at night. The families at Dowrie took their share of this work and made a little extra money, as all the little folks were shearers and helped their mothers with their 'rigg,' as it was called. These shearers

were paid by the 'thrave'; two stooks was a thrave. Twelve sheaves was a stook of oats and barley, and fourteen sheaves of wheat. The pay was 3d per thrave for oats and barley, and 4d for wheat, owing to the fact of it being heavier to handle. The 'bandsters' were the men who bound the sheaves and set them on end into stooks. Each bandster had four or five riggs or women to bind for, and these men were often engaged just for the four weeks of harvest at fairly good wages, including 'baps and ale' served out forenoon and afternoon. It was a jolly time the harvest time, not leisurely by any means, but blythe and cheery we all seemed to be. If the corn was good and thick on the ground, good wages could be made. The writer has made 5s. per day at shearing when a lad of about fifteen years, but he was considered a good shearer; in fact, Mr Bowie called him the "King of the Shearers"; and well he might be good at shearing, for there was always plenty of it. All the summer the grass for the cow or cows had to be cut at the hedge sides day after day. Two barrow-loads had to be got; that was part of the bargain with the big farmer—that the grass round the hedges and ditches should belong to the cottars; and these hedges and ditches were all got by lot-sometimes one family would get one field and sometimes another. Then the "three-mile widdy," as it was called by the Arbroath folk, was all divided into lots, and each had their lot, and the cutting of the grass at these two woods-which were called the Hills and the Meadows—was a yearly thing which I can never forget.

"In regard to Dowrie, as I said, the families there generally made a little money, though, as I often think now, if they had thought of all the extra work put into the years, it was dearly won money. The bulk of the working of the bit of land was done at night, though the ploughing was generally done by getting a day of of the big farmer's horses.

"But though of Dowrie I cannot say that I know of any great man having been born there, yet I can say truly that some good men have lived there, the kind that are the backbone of the country. I remember the only Sabbath School we had was kept by one David Gibson. He used to gather us little ones together on Sabbath afternoons, and I can picture us all sitting across the kitchen floor on long stools or forms without backs, and learning the Shorter Catechism and the Psalms and Paraphrases. Some of these old-world fathers and mothers were very strict in the upbringing of their families. It was a favourite thing amongst the young folks to get down to the links on Sabbath afternoon to be amongst the bents. The writer would never be allowed this liberty, and thought it hard lines. If we had not herding to do we had to keep in the house, and read a good book. good books were not very plentiful, but we were allowed to read the 'Christian Treasury.' This was a periodical,

but a bound copy happened to be in our house, and often and often we would turn to it for the short stories in it. The other good books were 'John Bunyan,' and 'Foxe's Book of Martyrs,' 'Hervey's Meditations amongst the Tombs,' and many of what was called the cheap publication series of books, dealing with the Disruption Period, the Ten Years' Conflict, &c., &c. Well, as I say, we thought it hard to have to stay indoors on a good Sabbath afternoon when others were out and enjoying themselves; but it was all for good, and, if one may say it, Scotland suffers to-day because of the laxity of parents in matters such as this. There was another place - though only one family lived at it: that is now completely gone. It was called Dowrie Bank, and was on the other side of the Dowrie Burn. It was a country wright's place, and had several outhouses and more land attached to it. William Scott was the wright there before he removed to Arbirlot. There is still a tree standing at the burn side to indicate where the 'briggie' used to be.

"And now about the links, which are now the Arbroath Golf Course. We used to know the links as Balcathie's, Mains of Kelly, and Inverpeffer Links, and I never pass along the Dundee and Arbroath Joint Railway but I think of the times when we used to play,—not golf, certainly; but every sand hill was dear to us, and we used to bore holes through the overhanging turf and pour sand through, and make 'millies' as we called them.

Then in the winter time we had such fun skating and sliding. There does not seem to be nearly so much water about now. I have seen a great sheet of water just in the corner at Dowrie Burn, before it passes through below the railway, on the Mains of Kelly side of the burn, and in another deeper hollow farther east, which was called 'Johnnie's Howe.' Once a boy lost his life there. Then the winters were real winters, and all we thought of at Yule was to get away down to skate and enjoy ourselves. We were never allowed to go so far east as the Elliot Loch, where the youth of Arbroath used to disport themselves, as it was too deep, and lives had been lost in it. This loch, by the by, seems pretty well dried up now. It used to stretch a good long way along the links, between the railway and the sea, just where the Volunteers used to do their shooting. The hills and hollows all look so small now from what they appeared to be fifty years ago, that I sometimes wonder if it is the same place at all. There is another memory that comes up of the now far off time. Railways had not long been started then, and the carriages were not so comfortable as they are nowadays. The great annual festival of St Thomas's Market will soon be on again, and people be highing themselves here and there in various directions. The time of St Market in those days was also favoured by people for seeing places from home, and many went to Edinburgh, not in comfort, I should say, as they had to travel in open carriages. It was our great delight to go down to the links and wait for the Edinburgh train coming home and see the people in the open carriages, and when we shouted to them they would throw out sweets, which we picked up with great glee. We used to go to the 'Corse Hill,' that is at the far end of the Golf Course, where the bend in the line was, and the train had to slow down there, and so we had a better chance of seeing the folk and asking for 'sweeties,' as we called them. What a change now, when we get whirled along at fifty miles an hour in carriages so comfortable, as a rule, that they leave nothing to be desired."

In so far as these lands ultimately at least became part of the great Barony of Kelly, it seems to be within the sphere of this book to trace the history of the larger and more important estate.

It has already been mentioned that Balcathie eventually became part of the lands of Kelly, although at an earlier period possessing "squires" of its own with some position in the county, and this is certified by the fact known that William Durham of Grange obtained a charter under the great seal of the lands of Kelly, including Balcathie, dated 27th June 1609. Yet Kelly at this time had two proprietors, the other being Sir William Ochterlony of that Ilk (or Kelly) who in 1614 sold the other part to Sir William Irvine, who was succeeded by his son, Sir

Alexander Irvine, of Drum, in 1658, the latter being "retoured in the barony of Kelly with the teind sheaves and parsonage sheaves of same, comprising Mains of Kelly, Balcathie, Balmirmer, &c." It is worthy of note that he owned in addition the "teind sheaves and parsonage sheaves," as already said.

The first owner of the Kelly lands whose name has come down to us from the past was called Philip de Mowbray or Mubray, and he belonged to a great Norman family. In the Registrum Vetus of the Abbey he is recorded as having applied to the Convent of Arbroath to have an oratory or private chapel for his family within his house at "Kellyn," without prejudice to the rights of the Parish Church, of which the monks were the possessors.

He had already given the Convent a toft in Inverkeithing as a present, and in the charter regarding this we find that the gallant Norman was a married man, and that the name of his wife was the rather striking and beautiful one of "Galien." His brother, Robert de Mubray, was one of the signatories to the deed of gift.

This great family of Mowbray, then, planted themselves by the Elliot burn, and were probably the first builders of a house at Kelly, as the application for a private chapel would lead us to infer. The Mowbrays continued in possession, it is said, until the Black Parliament

¹ Reg. Vetus, p. 85.

in the reign of King Robert I., and ¹ in the beginning of the fourteenth century the Stewarts became the proud owners owing to the forfeiture of Roger in 1309. Robert Stewart received a charter of the Barony of Kelly from King Robert the Bruce.

In the beginning of the fifteenth century the Ochterlonys of Kelly in some way acquired the properties, for on 26th April 1409 Alexander Ochterlony was served heir to his father, William. Soon after this the name seemed to change from Kelly to Ochterlony. In the Black Book of Arbroath Abbey we find a "carta privilegii in lapicidio de Kelly et saisine ejusdem," in which William de Ouchterlony is described as "de Eodem," and the signature is declared "apud mansionem meam de Ouchterlony alias Kelly"—"tercio decimo die mensis Decembris anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo sexagesimo octavo" (1468).²

From the "Registrum de Panmure" (p. 75) we cull the following:—

"The Barony of Kelly or Ochterlony was purchased from Alexander Irvine of Drum by George, Earl of Panmure, in 1679. It was in part conveyed by Earl George to Harry Maule, his brother, in 1681, at which time he got a charter from the Archbishop of St Andrews, conveying to him the Barony of Arbirlot and tenandry

¹ Warden's Angus, II., p. 370.

² Reg. Nig., p. 159.

of Cuthlie. The remainder of Kelly was conveyed to him by Earl James in 1686, and in 1687 he got a charter under the great seal of the whole Barony of Kelly, which included Arbirlot and Cuthlie."

This Harry Maule of Kelly was a distinguished antiquarian, a most accomplished nobleman, and a far-seeing and painstaking man. He it was who compiled the great "Registrum de Panmure," a record of stupendous research, and a marvel of accurate historiography. Edited by Dr John Stuart, an edition for private distribution appeared in 1874, at the instance of Fox Maule, Earl of Dalhousie. "It is a pleasant picture," says the editor, "to realise Harry Maule in his picturesque old Castle of Kelly, surrounded by the historical collections which have made his name famous, and elaborating the history of his ancestors which is now printed (the Registrum); and while much of the thoughts and care of his later years were devoted to the recovery of the family honours and estates, there is abundant evidence in his correspondence that these did not impair his interest in the general welfare of the county. To make the picture complete we must also remember that he was surrounded by sons of high promise, who sympathised and took part with their father in his tastes and labours."

Harry Maule's son William was elevated to the peerage of Ireland under the title of Earl Panmure of Forth and Viscount Maule of Whitechurch in 1743, having attained to the rank of a general in the army. The Maules having become attainted in the great year of 1715 for their Jacobite sympathies, their estates were sold by the Crown to the York Buildings Company; but in 1764 Lord Panmure bought them back at thirty years' purchase of the rental. He died in 1782, unmarried, and his titles became extinct. The estates, however, were carried to George, eighth Earl of Dalhousie, for his liferent use, he being related to Lord Panmure through Jean, the daughter of Harry Maule of Kelly, having married George, Lord Ramsay, eldest son of William, fifth Earl of Dalhousie, in 1726.

In 1787 Lord Dalhousie died, and the lands of Panmure came to the Honourable William Ramsay, his second son, in terms of entail contracted by the first Earl. He represented the County of Forfar in Parliament for thirty-five years—from 1796 to 1831—and was created a peer of the United Kingdom by the title of Baron Panmure of Brechin and Navar. He died in 1852. He was a friend to the poor and needy, and among them may be mentioned the wife and children of our great national poet, Robert Burns. He had three sons, Fox, Lauderdale, and William Maule.

INVERPEFFER.

That triangular portion of the links, 25.510 acres in extent, which is situated beyond the Dowrie or Peffer Burn

lies in the lands known as Inverpeffer. The history these lands is exceedingly interesting from an antiquarian point of view, but before entering upon subject of their ancient proprietorship it is advisable to consider the position they occupy in more recent times. Mr James Swan, the father of the present tenant, came to Inverpeffer in 1860. He was one of the first to allow golf to be played on his portion of the links, and at all times he showed himself to be generously-minded to those who were advancing towards the goal of a golf course for the inhabitants of Arbroath. It will be seen from our map that a little pendicle at one time existed as an adjunct to the farm of Inverpeffer to the north of the course, and a little to the west of the Dowrie Burn. No vestige remains of what was at one time a joiner's shop, a little croft, and a cosy homestead. Bailie Steven, of Blairgowrie, who died a nonagenarian the other day, was born at this interesting little holding. At one time a man named John Thomson, or, as he was more commonly called, "Johnnie Tamson," conducted the duties of the joinery, and farmed a little bit of land adjacent. Through the courtesy of the late Mr Alexander Bowie he was allowed at one time to cultivate about an acre of ground to the east side of the Dowrie Burn at the part where our present eleventh and thirteenth greens are, and it is curious to know that at one time he annually cultivated an acre of carrots on that level portion of the links. After

leaving Dowrie Bank, as the pendicle was called, he migrated to the Muirside of Kinnell, to which interesting parish his wife, Kitty Renny, belonged, and it is only a few years ago since, at a ripe old age, he was gathered to his fathers. Mr Swan used the house of Dowrie Bank for many years as a shepherd's cottage, but it was latterly entirely demolished, and if the golfer allows his eye to leave the ball for a few moments as he strays in his keennesss along the course, he may observe a little hedge on the far side of the Dowrie Burn, and farther up an old ash tree which is always late in adorning itself with its summer foliage. Near there is an old well, and on the higher ground was the little pendicle of Dowrie Bank. But its tenants have disappeared, the cottages are now, alas! a matter of history and story, and there is no stone left to tell the tale.

The lands of Inverpeffer were gifted about the year 1200 by King William the Lion, the founder of Arbroath Abbey, to his brewer, whose name was Walkelyn. In the "Registrum Vetus Abbacie de Aberbrothoc" (page 165) we find a charter giving "Walkelyno, Braciatori," the lands of Inverpeffer, "with all just pertinents in bush and plain, in meadow and pasture, in water, and in all other rightful pertinents." The word "braciator" is dog-Latin for brewer, the word "bracinium" being the equivalent for malt. We find the same origin in the French "brasserie," and the root of all is the same as our word "brew." It is

curious to think that William the Lion valued the services of his officer, the brewer, to such an extent that he presented to him so fine a tract of land. It is in accordance with Royal procedure in times nearer at hand in granting peerages to such men of public usefulness as Bass and Allsopp. Indeed, just as in these later instances families of power and importance in the realm have been created because of a national, or at any rate a universal beverage, so Walkelyn of Inverpeffer was the means of founding a family which rose to considerable importance as the centuries rolled on.

Nicholas of Inverpeffer, also "braciator regis," probably the son of Walkelyn, is a witness at the confirmation of the Church of Panbride to the Abbey of Arbroath in 1214.2 David of Inverpeffer was a witness to a charter by Christian Valognes of Panmure, an ancestress of our present Lord Dalhousie, to John of Lydel about the middle of the thirteenth century. It is likely that he was a grandson of the brewer. For many years after that the family "de Inverpeffer" owned lands and flourished in no small degree in the county and elsewhere.

With regard to the further proprietorship, it is convenient to diverge for a little and consider an aspect of their early holding which cannot but have a bearing upon certain matters with a present day connection. When

¹ Reg. Vetus., p. 163.

² Ibid., p. 21.

³ Warden's Angus, V., p. 128.

William the Lion granted the lands of Inverpeffer to his brewer, he at the same time stipulated that they should be held, not of the Crown, but of the monks of the Abbey of St Thomas the Martyr of Aberbrothock, as superiors. There is little doubt that the monks caused this detached portion of arable property to be incorporated with the parish of St Vigeans, that church being at the time the Parish Church of Aberbrothock. As Miller in his "Arbroath and its Abbey" 1 says, "The strange shapes of parishes and the origin of their detached portions are subjects that are capable of explanations by an attentive perusal of these old monastic records. There is no evidence that the detached Barony of Inverpeffer . . . formed part of the shire (parish) of Aberbrothock when it was granted in property by King William the Lion at the foundation of the Abbey. But the Chartulary bears that the same King afterwards granted the lands of Inverpeffer in property not to the Abbey but to Walkelynus, one of his officers, to be held of the monks as superiors. The conclusion then is evident that after the monks acquired these tracts of land they disjoined them from the parishes to which they had originally belonged, namely, Inverpeffer, from Arbirlot, &c., and annexed them to the nearest of the other parishes which consisted of Abbey lands in their own possession."

¹ Miller's Arbroath and its Abbey, p. 26.

Up till the time, about fifteen years ago, when the Boundary Commissioners under the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1889, declared that Inverpeffer should, for registration and other purposes, belong to the parish of Panbride, the lands to which we are referring continued through those many centuries as part of the parish of St Vigeans. The detached portion of St Vigeans parish which existed in the neighbourhood of Hospitalfield became at the same time absorbed into the parish of Arbroath. The following is the report in detail:

- "I.—The detached part of the parish of St Vigeans, containing 133.9 acres or thereby, situated at or near Hospitalfield and adjoining the parishes of Arbirlot and Arbroath, shall cease to be part of the parish of St Vigeans, and shall form part of the parish of Arbroath.
- "II.—Another detached part of the parish of St Vigeans, containing 1108 acres or thereby, situated at or near Inverpeffer and adjoining the parishes of Arbirlot and Panbride, shall cease to be part of the parish of St Vigeans, and shall form part of the Parish of Panbride.
- "III.—So much of the parish of Arbroath as lies to the north of the road leading from the Arbroath and Forfar highway past Woodville Feus to Cairnconan, and also so much of the parish of Arbroath as lies to the east of the Arbroath and Forfar highway and to the north of the parliamentary boundary of the burgh of Arbroath, shall cease to be part of that parish, and shall form part of the parish of St Vigeans."

The alterations made by the Boundary Commissioners took effect as to registration of writs in the divisions of the

[&]quot; Parishes of Arbroath, Panbride, and St Vigeans.

General Register of Sasines on 15th May 1892. Teind law is difficult to understand, but at the present time Inverpeffer still pays its due to the church of St Vigeans, and until 1886 we have records of funerals from that detached portion of the parish having taken place at the pretty churchyard of St Vigeans.

Therefore the deed granted by King William the Lion bears fruit even at the present time, and for seven centuries that little portion of our golf links has been offering its teind sheaves for the ecclesiastical upkeeping of the ancient church of Aberbrothock.

If the reader will turn his attention to the conveyance of the Elliot Golf Links granted by the Earl of Dalhousie, he will observe that the Town Council, holding the links for the town, is relieved of all burdens, such as parsonage and vicarage teinds.

By looking at our map the reader will observe that the Dowrie Burn is not quite the correct boundary between the parish of Arbirlot and that of St Vigeans or Panbride on the other side. It will be noticed that about twenty yards from the railway the stream takes a slight bend, and at that bend a dotted line marks the boundary of the parishes and is continued on to the sea. It is therefore possible to stand on the north or north-east side of the Dowrie Burn and yet be in the registration parish of Panbride and the ecclesiastical parish of St Vigeans. At one time the Dowrie Burn found its way to the sea by

passing to the west from that point where it meets the present railway. Its course ran about five hundred yards almost parallel to the railway, and it found an exit into the sea opposite our eighth tee, or nearly opposite the very farthest corner of the links. It is believed that the original proprietors of the chemical works diverted the course of the stream, and it now falls into the German Ocean at a point directly opposite the buildings.

It has already been mentioned that on the flatter portion of the links to the north side of the Dowrie Burn, and near the railway, the joiner of Dowrie Bank cultivated an acre of carrots by permission of the Mains of Kelly tenant, Mr Alexander Bowie. It is not generally known that as early as the beginning of last century this little bit of land was called by the exquisitely Scottish name of "The Threap Neuk." How or when it came to obtain that curious designation it has been impossible for the author to discover; but the tradition of the district simply maintains that at one time "twa lairds threapit about the boundary." In view of what has gone before, the imagination cannot but run rife and picture to the vision two irate landlords discussing, with all the solemnity of law, their respective rights and titles as to this seemingly unimportant strip of benty foreshore, and possibly after great expense a decree being given by the highest authorities that the boundary should be, as it is certainly decided at the present time, at or about a line drawn as has been given on our

map. It is likely that this little traditionary story may yet be supplemented by more accurate detailed information as to who the angry neighbouring lairds were, and as to the time at which they gallantly fought or "threapit" for their rights, and any fact of however seemingly small importance might greatly assist in unravelling the tangled skein. Many years ago, so it is said, there were march stones on the north side of the Dowrie Burn at the little corner of the "Threap Neuk." These stones had letters carved upon them to indicate some fact in regard to the boundary, but it is long since these have disappeared, and their history is a tale untold.

About half a century after these lands had come into the brewer's possession, a question arose as to whom the proprietor owed superiority, whether to the Crown or to the Convent of Arbroath. Thirteen jurors sat at Forfar on the 17th day of February 1250, and decided that the monks and convent were the feudal superiors. The enquiry was conducted by men with landed interests in the neighbourhood, and several signatures, such as Ramsay, Ogiluillum, Konan, and Lur, indicate names of families or places still in use at the present day.

The name "de Inverpeffer," as has been said, became a common one in Forfarshire, but it is uncertain how long the Inverpeffers of that Ilk held the lands of that name,

¹ Reg. Vetus, p. 190.

and when they disappeared from the home that had belonged to their ancestors. We find that Sir Thomas Hay of Errol was served heir to his grandfather, Sir John Keith of Inverpeffer, on 11th January 1389-90. The Earl of Errol was proprietor in 1494, and Andrew, seventh Earl of Errol, had a charter of Inverpeffer in 1565. In 1527, and for some time thereafter, Robert Lesly, Procurator for the Abbey of Arbroath, and Christiane Wardlau, his spouse, under liferent, were owners. As the Chartulary says,1 "The Abbot grants to Robert Lesly of Inverpeffer for life a yearly pension of £10 Scots on condition that he shall appear as Procurator for the Abbot and Convent in all cases against all persons except those by whom he has been previously engaged before the Lords of Council, Session, and Parliament, and give them his counsel in the same as often as required." A charter of the same date, namely, 5th December 1527, also "lets for 19 years to Robert Lesly and Christiane Wardlau, his wife, and to their heirs and assignees of no higher degree, the teind sheaves of Inverpeffer belonging to the said Robert in heritage, and lying in the parish of Arbroath and Diocese of Sanctandros, paying yearly 4 bolls of wheat, 10 bolls of bear, and 18 bolls of meal, to be delivered at the granall of Arbroath." It will be noticed that the parish is mentioned as that of Arbroath and not St Vigeans, because, as has

¹ Reg. Nig., p. 474.

already been said, the parish of St Vigeans is in reality, correctly speaking, the parish of Aberbrothock. But by this time the lands had been divided into two parts, Easter and Wester Inverpeffer, and for some time thereafter they remained subdivided. Henry Maule was designed of Easter Inverpeffer in the year 1613. About 1638 the western portion of Inverpeffer was owned by Sir Andrew Fletcher, a Senator of the Scots College of Justice. In that year he purchased Saltoun, and the Lords Saltoun are his descendants. He assumed the title of Lord Inverpeffer on his elevation to the bench, and died in May 1650.

It is unnecessary to follow further the lordship of the western portion of these properties. In 1662 George, Earl of Panmure, the heir of Earl Patrick his father, was retoured in the lands of Inverpeffer, Hatton, &c., and by this means they came into the possession of the Panmure family, who in the person of the present Earl of Dalhousie still remain the noble proprietors.

THE OLD STAGE-COACH ROAD.

There is every reason to believe that the old stage-coach road, which had been used for centuries as the highway from Arbroath to Dundee, passed from Elliot to East Haven along the west or inner edge of our Golf Course. Parts of it still remain, and are enough to give us sufficient evidence, along with other information at our disposal, of how that

old and forgotten highway pursued its course in ancient times. It must be remembered that until the passing of the great Road Act in 1790 the roads in Forfarshire, as indeed throughout most of Scotland, were little more than bridle-paths, scantily looked after, and barely attended to even by those whose greatest advantage lay in their proper upkeep. But at the date mentioned an Act of Parliament was obtained by the county of Angus, being in the twenty-ninth year of the reign of George III., "for converting the statute labour into money to be levied upon the different classes of the inhabitants, and to be applied under the direction of Trustees, being proprietors of land or liferenters of the value of £100 Scots in the county books, to the making and repairing of the roads and bridges within the county." 1 The great turnpike road from Arbroath to Dundee was made immediately after the passing of this important Act,2 for it is stated by Warden that as this new road had to pass through the parish of Arbirlot, "very much good was expected from it" as allowing of more advantageous facilities for distributing the produce of the district. Further evidence that the only existing road from Arbroath to Dundee was the primitive pathway which will be described in detail later, is provided by the now historic map prepared by Rev. Robert Edwards, the minister of Murroes,

¹ Warden's Angus, I., p. 190. ² Ibid., II., p. 378.

in the year 1678. This map was dedicated "D. Georgio Comiti de Panmure," and is valuable to us in these later days as showing the main roads of the county, and the important means of communication between the burghal centres. "The King's-Way betwixt Dondei and Brechin" is the name given to the great road passing by way of Murroes and Kirkbuddo and Idvies to Brechin. The road to Forfar from Dundee, and the road to Brechin from Forfar, as well as others of equal importance, are delineated on this rare memento of past times; but to us it is of more significance in showing that the great road from Arbroath to Dundee passed near the sea between Inverpeffer and the ocean, almost in a direct line from Arbroath to East Haven. The names Ellot, Kelle, and Innerpeffer are duly inserted, and indicate the spelling which prevailed of these place names at that time; but so far as our ninety-six acres of golf course land are immediately concerned there is no further information to be gathered from the sheet, unless that which we may consider negative. There is no indication of any road passing in a more direct line to Dundee from Arbroath, as it does to-day by way of Muirdrum and Claypots.

It has already been mentioned that the little bridge over the Elliot near the Kelly Bleaching Works was erected in the year 1786, so that it is reasonable to conclude that about four years elapsed between the making of the bridge and the construction of the great turnpike road. Robert Burns visited Arbroath in the autumn of 1787, having come from Montrose, and having visited Auchmithie, the Gaylet Pot, and the cliffs en route. He passed through Arbroath direct to Dundee, and we can vividly imagine him, along with his irascible friend Nicoll, pursuing his way in his hired post-chaise across the newly-made bridge at Elliot, and thence along the edge of our present links round the elbow of the Corse Hill, and along the seashore to East Haven. A weary journey in those days it must have been over a primitive road, not too well adapted even for the conveyance of a great national poet. As Currie said, "Mr Nicoll and our poet travelled in a post-chaise which they engaged for the journey, and passing through the heart of the Highlands stretched northwards about ten miles beyond Inverness. There they bent their course eastwards across the island and returned by the shore of the German Sea to Edinburgh." In a letter to Mr Gilbert Burns, his brother, dated 17th September 1787, after speaking of seeing his relatives in Kincardineshire, the poet says-"The rest of my stages are not worth rehearing. Warm as I was from Ossian's country, where I had seen his very grave, what cared I for fishing towns or fertile carses."

It is now proposed to ask the reader's attention to another map of the county prepared from a survey by James Knox in the year 1831, and designated "The Map of the Basin of the Tay, including the greater part of Perthshire,

Strathmore, and the Braes of Angus or Forfar, with parts of the Mearns and Fife." The railway from Arbroath to Dundee was completed in or about the year 1838. It is therefore of some importance to us to scrutinise this later print in the hope of gaining something relative to our theme. Here the great turnpike is clearly limned. The Peffer Burn is seen in its course from the high lands to the sea; the Penston Burn is given but not named. At the same time there is a clear road marked extending from what is called the "mouth of Elliot water" in a direct line to East Haven. At this period it is obvious -and those who run may read-that the ancient road was still in use, and was of sufficient importance to be included in a map. But the making of the railway at the time already mentioned was the means of practically ending the existence of this old-time highway, and the subsequent years have made it even difficult to recognise that such an artery (as roads are sometimes called) was ever employed by the inhabitants of the district for purposes of travel. It is probable that the road diverged from the present turnpike a little beyond Elliot Bridge, and passed into the links at or about where the present Artisan Club House is situated. Its course from that point to the wicket gate, which has already been mentioned and is to be seen on our map, is somewhat uncertain, but from the wicket referred to onwards for about half a mile the road is abundantly evident. The tenants of Mains of

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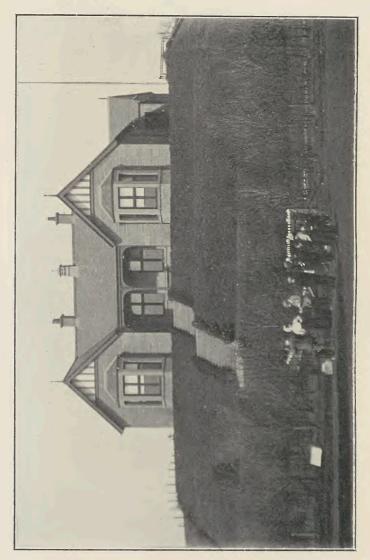
Kelly have never ploughed up the old twelve feet roadway, and, as will be seen in our map, it coursed along the edge of the links over the Penston Burn until it reached the Dowrie. It then entered the links for some hundreds of yards, but soon climbed a gentle incline until it reached the borders of the real links again, from which point it followed its way on to the farthest corner of the links where it crossed the ground on which the railway was laid, and under the shadow of the Corse Hill pursued its course till it reached East Haven. This road was met by branches at various places. The Penston farm road joined it a little short of the burn; a road from the Dowrie pendicle met it near where the bunkers are at the fifth hole. Another from the isolated homestead of Dowrie Bank joined the highway at a point where, as will be seen by our map, a small triangular portion of arable land was taken into the links by consent of the proprietor at the time the lands were bought and conveyed to the town's keeping. One more cart-road, namely, that from Inverpeffer farm, joined the main way on the higher land to the right of the sixth hole. For many years after the construction of the railway the pendiclers of Dowrie and Dowrie Bank, as well as the cottar people at Inverpeffer and the Cotton, used this way as their means of access to Arbroath; and occasionally even yet the cottars may be seen utilising the unused part at the low edge of the Mains of Kelly lands, bringing their

butter and eggs to the Saturday market. The only part which may be said at the present date to be used at all for any vehicular traffic is the westmost part where it curls round towards the railway, for this portion is still employed by the tenant of Inverpeffer for carrying seaware for his farm lands. It will be seen that his right is allowed to be maintained, because the railway company has left the means of access by two large gates, the opening and closing of which are now entirely and only at the disposal of the tenant of this farm. It is worth the golfer's while to look at that part to the right of our seventh hole where the old stage-coach road had been at one time built up by very primitive architecture with stones, unhewn, and at the present day crumbling into dilapidation. A few strong wooden supports had been added to the masonry, but even these show that, as it was no one's business previous to that famous Act of 1790 to keep the roads in repair, the work which had been done by some one interested in the permanent way was of the most elementary and unscientific character.

In the conveyance of the links to the town of Arbroath by the Earl of Dalhousie, given on another page, it will be observed that certain rights are retained to the tenants for the purpose of cartage of seaware for their various holdings. The initials given in the deed of conveyance are inserted on our map: B-A indicate a road which the tenant of Balcathie may use, in the east corner of the links; D-E

indicate a road, limited to 24 feet wide, which the tenant of Mains of Kelly is entitled to use for the above purpose. There is also a right to cross from F to E, which is part of Mr Bowie's present privilege; but with great consideration and kindness, and as he has already sufficient means of attaining access to the sea by the former track, he has allowed the links to be undisturbed. Those therefore who in playing over the course are at a loss to understand the meaning of the existence here and there of double gates, one on each side of the railway at different places, will now understand the significance of them. It may be observed that these rights-of-way are entirely the privilege of the tenant farmer, and that it is not within the right of anyone who chooses to utilise these for his own private purposes. It is fortunate that these tracks do not in any way interfere with the amenity of the Golf Course. Indeed, it is possible that many who are almost daily habitués of the links know little or nothing about them. It is well, however, to have these matters explicitly detailed, partly because of their extreme interest, and partly because it is useful to have an accurate record of these wayleaves and privileges for future generations.





ARBROATH GOLF CLUB HOUSE. FIRST TEE.

THE ARBROATH GOLF CLUB.

ITS HISTORY.

THE ARBROATH GOLF COURSE owes its origin entirely to the Arbroath Golf Club, a body which came into existence thirty-two years ago, and which today is a powerful organisation. For many years, indeed until the acquisition of the lands by the town of Arbroath, the arrangements for golf were entirely conducted by this club, and golfers of the present day owe to it a very great and undischarged debt of gratitude. The knowledge of the original idea of having golf played in the neighbourhood of Arbroath does not rest on any traditional statement, but on the authority of some of those to whom the initial conception occurred, and who are, it is pleasant to think, still with us.

In the autumn of 1877 four members of the scholastic profession played a friendly golf match on Carnoustie links. These were Mr Henry Corstorphine, Mr R. Moodie, Mr R. Crichton, and Mr A. M. Davidson. As they were chatting over a cup of tea before departing by train, one of them suggested that there might be a chance of having links of greater convenience for Arbroathians than those

at Carnoustie or Montrose. The idea took root, and we find it chronicled that a meeting in connection with it was held in the Arbroath Burgh Court-Room on the 19th November 1877, this meeting having been called partly by circular and partly through the press.

The gathering was an enthusiastic one, and resulted in a firm foundation being laid for the future club. Mr Claud Strachan Carnegie of Tarrie was called to the chair. Mr Henry Corstorphine then announced that Messrs Alexander Bowie and James Finlayson had arranged to grant their links land for the use of the club, and that Colonel Guthrie, of Carlogie, Lord Dalhousie's factor, had confirmed the same.

It is pleasant to think how willing not only the proprietor but the tenants were to comply with the expressed desire. "During his Lordship's pleasure, and subject to your getting consent of the tenants," reads the letter which Colonel Guthrie sent in reply to Mr Corstorphine. These were the earliest charters of our Golf Course. They were charters—though not in the strict sense, of course—of "liberty" only, and long years had to elapse before the more tangible charters of "independence" were granted and received, and the golfers earned the well-merited reward of their arduous toil and patient waiting.

The office-bearers were then and there elected. Mr Claud Strachan Carnegie became the first patron; Mr C.

W. Corsar, the first captain; and Mr Henry Corstorphine, the first secretary. The position of treasurer was agreed to be a separate one, and the late Mr J. B. Webster, of the Commercial Bank, accepted the position. The members of committee elected at the meeting were:—Messrs R. Moodie (High School), Alexander Pirie (Spring Gardens), Alexander Kydd (Ladyloan Public School), Robert Crichton (High School), and Peter Corsar (manufacturer, Millbank).

It was agreed to request Tom Morris, even then a great name in the golfing world, to come and inspect the ground and suggest a course for development.

The success of the meeting can be gathered from the statement that thirty-four members joined the newly-fledged club, and that great enthusiasm prevailed regarding its future possibilities. How these potentialities became realities, and how many trials and troubles were endured and eventually overcome, it will be the humble attempt of this narrative to set forth.

The "Arbroath Guide" did its part by way of encouragement, and on November 27, 1877 published an editorial article in which the following sentences occur:—

"The want of a golf course has always been a real want. Thanks to the liberality of the Earl of Dalhousie and his tenants here, a course has been obtained at Elliot. The course may be made as good a one as any in Scotland. We hope to see on it before long as keen and practised golfers as are to be met on Bruntsfield Links, or on

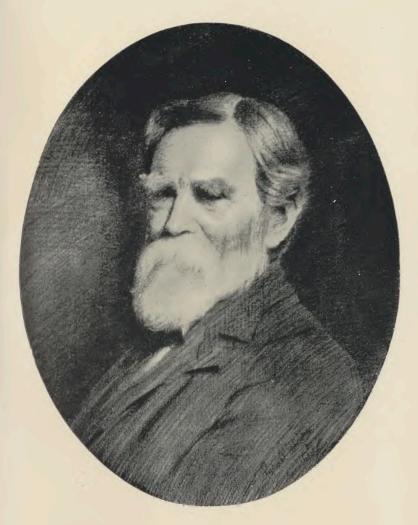
the links of Musselburgh, Montrose, St Andrews, or Carnoustie."

But before the good ship of golf had been fairly launched on the community by this decisive meeting a great deal of quiet work had been done, and the gratitude of succeeding generations must not be denied to the names of those pioneers to whose enthusiasm and zeal we owe in these days more than it is possible to tell.

Foremost amongst them was the late Mr Henry Corstorphine, the first secretary of the club. We are privileged to reproduce here an excellent likeness of the English master, after a splendid crayon drawing from life by one of the most promising students of the now flourishing Hospitalfield Art School, Mr T. Percival Anderson.

Of Mr Corstorphine's work in Arbroath, his unfailing tact and quiet though strengthful resource; of the great place he held and still holds in the hearts of hundreds of Arbroath quondam school boys, many of whom still cherish him as a dear and precious memory; of his kindly nature, and his sincere and helpful interest—it is only necessary to say that these were characteristics of him which added to the power he had of imparting to, and as it were incubating in his pupils a real love for, as well as a splendid knowledge of, the great and imperishable work of English literature.

Mr Corstorphine continued in the office of secretary until the 25th October 1879, when he voluntarily retired,



HENRY CORSTORPHINE,

FIRST SECRETARY, ARBROATH GOLF CLUB.



and his position was accepted by Mr Robert Moodie, the mathematical master of the Arbroath High School.

We are also enabled to give a striking portrait of Mr Claud Strachan Carnegie of Tarrie, whose early interest in the Golf Club was manifest and unremitting. At a meeting held on the 23rd November 1877, immediately following the one already described, Mr Carnegie intimated that, "regarding the patronage, after mature consideration, he considered there was one who he thought had a prior claim, inasmuch as to him the club owed its very existence, namely, the Earl of Dalhousie." "As, however," the minutes continue, "the Earl was patron of the Carnoustie Club, he begged to propose Lord Ramsay, the heir to the title."

John William Ramsay, son of the twelfth Earl of Dalhousie, then became the first patron of the Arbroath Golf Club. His father, Earl George, well known as the "Admiral" Earl, succeeded to the titles and estates on the death of his cousin, the famous politician, Fox Maule, in the year 1874. The greater part of his life was spent in the naval service, and for some years he acted as Commander-in-Chief on the South American station. He died at Dalhousie Castle in 1880, and was succeeded by the Lord Ramsay mentioned above, who had married, in the same year as the Golf Club was inaugurated, Lady Ida Louisa Bennet, daughter of the sixth Earl of Tankerville.

Arthur George Maule, the present Earl of Dalhousie, is the eldest son of this union. It is only necessary to allude to the tragic occurrence in November 1887, when at Havre, in France, on their journey home from a visit to America, first the Countess, then within a few hours the Earl, after brief illnesses departed from this life, causing profound and heartfelt sorrow in the county where they had endeared themselves to rich and poor alike.

On the 25th October 1879, on the retiral of Mr C. W. Corsar from the office of captain of the club, Mr Claud Strachan Carnegie was elected to that position, and continued to interest himself in all that pertained to the Elliot links until by virtue of his regretted departure from the district he relinquished the office in favour of the Hon. F. J. Bruce of Seaton on 25th September 1890. Thus for eleven years Mr Carnegie controlled to a large extent the destinies of the club, and constantly showed his unselfish devotion to this as well as to so many other of Arbroath's possibilities of welfare. If only by showing that his kindly attachment to his native neighbourhood, and the continuation of that feeling of active participation in the old burgh's aspirations after improvement, have a full response in the hearts of his fellow-townsmen, this modest remembrance of his golfing enthusiasm will have served some useful purpose.

The crowning act of his zeal in and enthusiasm for the noble game was the gift of the far-famed "Carnegie Cup"

on 24th April 1879. It is well to reproduce in abridged form the conditions attaching to this handsome silver trophy. The various rules, drawn up by the donor, were agreed to with slight changes at the meeting.

- 1. The cup is played for annually by holes.
- 2. The competitors will ballot for opponents. The winners will ballot again, and so on, till only two are left to play off the final match.
- 3. If at any ballot there is an uneven number of players, the same player must not be odd man two ballots running.
- 4. The last match is to be two rounds of the links, the test one, and if three players are left in at the end, the last two matches will be two rounds each.
- 5. The cup is not to be played for AT ALL unless there be at least 8 couples in the first draw, but will remain for the year in the hands of the captain of the club.
- 6. The first draw is to be during the first week of May every year, and another draw once a fortnight till the cup is won.
- 7. Any couple not playing their match during the fortnight will be considered out of it, unless one player can show that he was ready to play. The first player drawn will be considered the challenger, and must arrange to have the match played off within the prescribed time.
- 8. Every player shall give notice to the secretary before

the last Saturday of April, and pay 1s. entry money—the money to go to the good of the club.

- 9. All disputes are to be settled by the captain of the club for the time being, and his decision is always final.
- 10. The ballots or draws are to be carried out by the secretary and at least two members of committee, under the direction of the captain of the club.

Year in and year out since that historic date the Carnegie Cup has been the first tournament of the season, and as the summers pass the keenness and the skill displayed are only equalled by the sportsmanship and healthy rivalry of the participating members. In October 1903 Mr Carnegie generously substituted a beautiful silver cup, not to replace the old one indeed, but to give, as he may have probably thought, a still finer trophy on the occasion of the acquisition of the links. Yet the old and simply designed cup must hold many dear memories to those who in former days triumphed by virtue of their prowess. Both cups are preserved in the club-house along with the other trophies. The names of those who fill the roll of honour are given on another page.

But it is better now to resume our consideration of the earlier difficulties regarding the course. Tom Morris came from St Andrews on the 8th December 1877, and surveyed the land available for play. He suggested the drainage of part of the course, and particularly that of the Inverpeffer

portion, where a little stream at one time trickled in from the higher ground.

At this time of day it is impossible to get sufficient information to guide us in forming a definite idea of how the original course was laid out, but we are aware that for some time at least Mr Finlayson did not see his way to grant the use of his portion of the links, and the course was laid out on those parts of Mains of Kelly and Inverpeffer which lay both to the north and to the south sides of the line. Mr Alexander Bowie handsomely declined to receive any rent for his part, and we can gather from the information at our disposal that Mr James Swan behaved in the same generous way towards the inaugurators.

We note that a room was taken near Elliot Bridge for the use of the Golf Club as early as the 15th December 1877. The club had by that time reached a very considerable position, as seventy-four gentlemen had been enrolled as members. On 9th March 1878 a course of eighteen holes was opened on the Elliot links. It was a gala day in the history of golf in Arbroath, and we find it chronicled that Tom Morris and Rob Dow, the great professionals, played a round to the delight and pleasure of the onlookers. Mr C. W. Corsar, the captain of the club, had the honour of driving the first ball. In his remarks he said that many years before that time Arbroath had a golf course and a club, but that the railway had been the means of breaking them up. It has been thought by

some that Mr Corsar referred to an ancient primitive golf course on the Common: but it is unlikely, from all the facts within our knowledge, that at any time previous to this epoch-making year of 1878 the game had ever been played on the links at Elliot.

On the opening day a large number of players took part in a competition, and we find the scores recorded as follows:—Mr A. Kydd, 92; Mr Lindsay Carnegie, 96; Mr C. S. Carnegie, 96; Mr James Corsar, Hyde Park, 98; Mr A. Pirie, 98; Mr John Smith, 99; Mr John Collier, Hatton, 107; Mr P. S. Corsar, 109. About a month before this happy occasion, when, it may be said, golf had really its commencement at Elliot, Mr C. W. Corsar, the captain, had presented to the Arbroath Golf Club a handsome and valuable gold medal—the first trophy of its kind which was ever presented to Arbroath golfers. It has been played for year by year since that date, and has been generally spoken of as "The Captain's Medal." It is a pleasure to remember that this medal owed its origin to one who at all times took a great interest in the welfare of the citizens of Arbroath, whose sportsmanlike disposition and keen enthusiasm led him into taking an active part in the origin and development of the early history of the golf links, and who has left behind him not only a tangible token of his interest in the club, but many memories of associations that will linger long in the neighbourhood of his birth. We are



C. W. CORSAR,
FIRST CAPTAIN, ARBROATH GOLF CLUB.



glad to be enabled, through the kindness of a member of his family, to reproduce an excellent likeness of the Arbroath Club's first captain.

On 11th April 1878, Provost George Shield and Mr W. K. Macdonald, Town Clerk, were elected honorary members of the club.

At a meeting held on 2nd May of the inauguration year it is amusing to observe that it was agreed by a majority, if not unanimously, to recommend the players to wear a coat of navy blue. This suggestion on the part of the club has been long since forgotten, for at the present time even the red coats of twenty years ago are few in number, dotting their red spots over the greenery of our courses.

During the next few years the course consisted of holes on both sides of the railway line, and when the opening day came in the year following the inauguration, namely, 1879, there were nine holes arranged on the north as well as nine on the south side of the line. Play was carried on only during the summer and autumn months, for during the winter it was impossible to retain the ground in proper condition to permit the game to be played, even by the most enthusiastic members of the newly formed club. By the spring of 1880 we find it mentioned in the "Arbroath Guide" (of March 6th) that "the new arrangement of holes seemed to give general satisfaction, and if players would only turn out in force and work the greens

down the links would become as smooth as could be wished." It is, however, a rather sinister commentary on the course to find it mentioned that on 1st May, when a match was played between members of a Monifieth golf club and the home team, "the visitors felt a little put out by the style of play required on the Elliot links, where the only safe course is through the air, and the ball must touch ground as seldom as possible." As the minutes of 30th October of the same year record the club's thanks to Messrs Finlayson, Bowie, and Swan, it is reasonable to suppose that by that time the links lands of Balcathie, Mains of Kelly, and Inverpeffer had been all introduced as playable ground, and that the course had considerably changed, and holes been laid out on all these various divisions.

Enthusiasm at this time was evidently reaching a high level, for a great club dinner was proposed to be held in the month of December. Various dates were suggested and preliminary arrangements made, but we have no record now of the dinner ever having been held, and it is likely that as Christmas came on the idea was lost sight of and forgotten.

The earliest greenkeeper on record was Mr Mason, who continued to keep the links for several years. In March 1881 the modest sum of £5 per season was agreed to be paid to him for his work. He remained in the office of greenkeeper until the end of the year 1885,

when the following gentlemen, members of the club, volunteered to take charge of the course:—Messrs Alexander, Brown, Corstorphine, Moodie, Crichton, Finlayson, Salmond, Duncan, and H. Fraser, under the following arrangement:—(1) Messrs Fraser and Duncan—Beginning to the wicket; (2) Finlayson and Salmond—Wicket to the burn; (3) Corstorphine, Moodie, and Crichton—The burn to the fence; (4) Alexander and Brown—The fence to the end.

To those who remember the line of the course as it then existed these regulations will bring many memories. This shows how the strenuous-minded members in the early days of the Golf Club met their difficulties with great courage and a full realisation of their pecuniary position, and as they were unable to afford the wages of a satisfactory greenkeeper, laid their hands to the work themselves, and by this means carried out their schemes with credit to themselves and to the club to which they belonged.

The year 1881 was notable in this respect that on 26th March Mr William Alexander, solicitor, was appointed to the honourable office of secretary. On 30th September 1882 Mr Moir was appointed treasurer in room of Mr J. B. Webster, Commercial Bank, and he continued in that capacity until 29th September 1883, when Mr Alexander also undertook the duties of treasurer. As is well known amongst us, Mr Alexander has continued up till the

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present moment to fulfil his duties not only with honour to himself and to the club, but with the greatest and most important influence on every phase of development both of the Golf Club and of the course. It is not invidious to others who have done much to foster the noble traditions of golf in our midst to say that no one, either in the past or in the present, has occupied quite the position that Mr Alexander fills in the hearts and minds of the golfing section of the Arbroath community. He is recognised on all sides to have done more to bring the great golf club at Elliot to its present high standing than any other person in the neighbourhood. He has been enabled through length of years to witness vast improvements from the days when he and others, as has been mentioned, laid a willing hand to the actual gardening of the greens; and it must be to him some satisfaction to know that in the opinion of all his activity and resource and unfailing courage in times of seeming darkness and insurmountable obstacles have been the means of steering the good ship of golf to a sure and sheltered haven. The photograph of him which we are privileged to reproduce is a copy of one enlarged by a crayon process in Milan—which was, in the presence of his fellow-members of the Arbroath Golf Club, presented to him by Mr James Campbell, the captain, only the other day. This enlargement, itself a very striking work of art, occupies a prominent position above the fireplace in the new club-



WILLIAM ALEXANDER,
SECRETARY, ARBROATH GOLF CLUB.

Photo by Geddes & Son, Arbroath.



house, and will remain there as a lasting testimony to Mr Alexander's lifelong loyalty and devotion to a club to whose high success he has from year to year so constantly ministered.

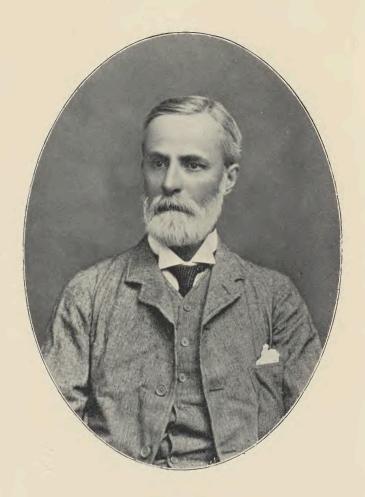
THE HOUSING OF THE CLUB.

For the first few years of its existence the club rented a room in various cottages near Elliot Bridge. The members were buffeted about from one to another, at first occupying a room in Carrie's house, but having to betake themselves in the beginning of 1881 to Mrs Grant's cottage. From there they migrated to a cottage tenanted by a Mrs Angus, who, leaving Elliot in the beginning of March 1884, could no longer give them accommodation. At a meeting of the club held on 20th March of that year it was agreed to erect a small brick building 15 feet square, with walls 8 feet high. The estimate for erection was the modest sum of £28 8s, and Mr Alexander Scott, joiner, Arbroath, duly performed the necessary work. It was arranged that yearly instalments of £5 from the general funds of the club should go to the reduction of the initial debt which in the secretary and treasurer's hands was a general debt on the club's finances. Money was raised in part, however, by five-shilling subscriptions in the form of shares, and we find the share-list given in the minutes of the club as follows: - Messrs Proudfoot, 4 shares;

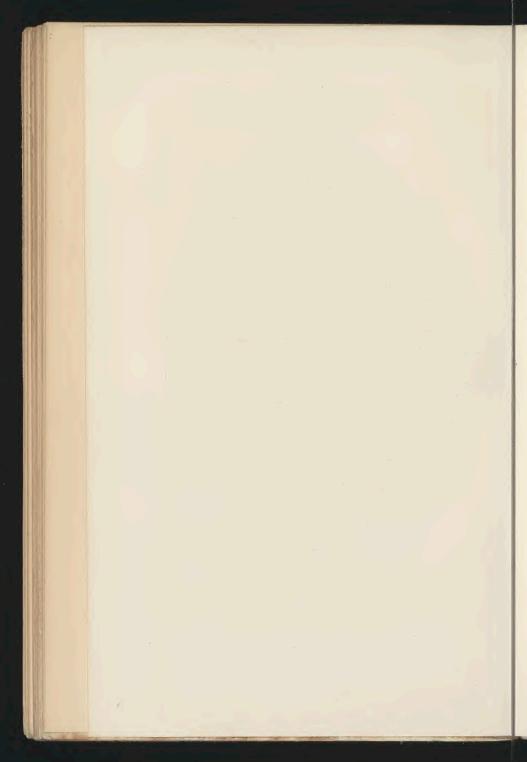
Corstorphine, 4; Herald, 4; Davidson, 4; Strachan, 2; Brown, 2; Duncan, 1; Greig, 8; Lindsay, 2; Mackay, 4; Alexander, 20,—in all amounting to £13 15s. balance due to the treasurer on this humble commencement of a golf-house is mentioned as £13 19s 9d on 3rd October 1885, but by the end of 1889 we find the sum reduced to a little over £3. This little brick building did duty as the home of the golfers for the long period of eleven years, but on 27th April 1896 it was agreed to enlarge it by adding a considerable wing, and the estimates for the proposed expense came to £80 7s. This, in turn, with suitable boxes and a convenient water-supply, performed its function as a shelter for the club until the year 1903, when the large and commodious club-house which gives dignity and importance to the present Arbroath Golf Club was opened on 19th August with appropriate ceremony. During the early years of the first decade of the century the negotiations for the purchase of the links from the Earl of Dalhousie, to which further detailed reference will be made, had culminated satisfactorily, and on the date already mentioned the course at Elliot was opened and the club-house inaugurated, a cake and wine banquet following the introductory It was an auspicious day for the development of golf in the community of Arbroath when Provost Grant, who had all along evinced a most hearty interest and activity in the purchase of the links, putted the first ball with a presentation putter, and formally opened the course as the new possession of the community. money which was expended upon the new Golf Clubhouse was raised by loans from the members, repayable, as the constitution dictates, from the profit made from The total expense reached the large year to year. sum of nearly £1800, and at the present date, 1909, already £500 has been wiped off the debt incurred, and there is every prospect that within a few years the Arbroath Golf Club will be on such a sure and sound basis that its financial success may justly be computed to be now established and secured. The building was designed and the work carried through to the utmost satisfaction of the committee by Mr Robert Scott, architect. The committee of the club, elected in February 1902 for the carrying out of the preliminary negotiations in regard to the building of the club-house, was composed of Mr A. D. Lowson, the captain; Mr W. Alexander, secretary; Mr W. J. Rollo; Mr Adam Oliver, S.S.C.; and Mr R. C. Kinloch. Their labours were greatly facilitated by the gift of a site for the new house by the Earl of Dalhousie, to whom the cordial thanks of the club were duly conveyed. At the annual general meeting in October 1903 it was agreed to appoint the following gentlemen as honorary members of the club: Lord Dalhousie, Hon. C. M. Ramsay, Mr John Shiell, Provost Grant, Mr William Dowall, Mr Charles Miln, Mr Claud Strachan Carnegie, and those who had given £5 and over for the purchase of the links and were resident over thirty miles from Arbroath. The family of the Hon. F. J. Bruce were at the same meeting admitted life members in respect of a donation of £100 by them to the club.

THE CAPTAINS OF THE CLUB.

Mention has already been made of Mr C. W. Corsar as the first captain, and of his successor in office, Mr Claud Strachan Carnegie. The third captain was the Hon. Frederick John Bruce of Seaton, who was elected to that office on 30th September 1890. He retained the position until the annual meeting in 1894, in that period having done yeoman service in the interests of the club, and having presented a very beautiful and valuable silver medal for competition amongst its members. The names of the winners will be found on another page. On the latter date Mr Bruce was appointed patron of the club, and has continued in the honourable office up till the present day. In all matters pertaining to golf he takes an active and decided part. From time to time he has also by his great influence and timely encouragement materially added to the strength of those forces which were slowly evolving the splendid course and magnificent club-house to-day so happily associated with the name of Arbroath. On Mr Bruce's retiral from the duties of captaincy,



HON. F. J. BRUCE,
THIRD CAPTAIN, ARBROATH GOLF CLUB.



Mr A. D. Lowson, a keen, enthusiastic golfer, took command, and during the anxious years which followed he did much to pilot the craft through the troubled period previous to the acquisition of the links and the building of the club-house. He resigned his post in October 1904, having for ten years devoted much of his valuable time to all that pertained to the success of the various enterprises which at the time of his demission of office were practically accomplished. He was followed by Mr James Campbell, teacher, Arbroath, who at the present moment is the highly respected and enthusiastic holder of this important position. In all the duties which have fallen to him to perform, Mr Campbell has shown himself to be imbued with a high ideal of the influence which a captain may be said to rightly strive for in actuating the highest sporting qualities of the golfing brotherhood.

THE PURCHASE OF THE LINKS.

EARLY DIFFICULTIES.

TT is now about ten years since the Arbroath Golf Club seriously tackled the very grave problem of the purchase of Elliot links. Difficulties of an almost insurmountable nature loomed ahead in the consideration of such a scheme. but, as will be shown in the following narrative, these were gradually and successfully overcome. At a meeting of the Arbroath Golf Club on 8th November 1899 a letter was read from the Town Clerk of Arbroath in regard presumably to some previous negotiations, in which communication it was stated that the Town Council had resolved to do nothing regarding the purchase of the links. It was stated, however, that Provost Grant, who was then Chief Magistrate, had expressed the hope that some opportunity might still present itself. In view of this gratifying suggestion the meeting resolved to thank Provost Grant for the great interest he took in the matter, and in order that the opportunity should not be disregarded a committee was elected to meet the Provost, the following being appointed members, namely, Hon. F. J. Bruce, Messrs A. D. Lowson, Adam Oliver, S.S.C.,



A. D. LOWSON,

FOURTH CAPTAIN, ARBROATH GOLF CLUB.

Photo by Milne, Arbroath.



C. Y. Myles, W. J. Rollo, W. J. Greaves, and W. Alexander, Mr A. D. Lowson, the captain, convener, —with power to add to their number. By the 29th November of the same year the minds of the principal members of the Golf Club had been at work, and a scheme of purchase had taken definite form. The following is "The Arbroath taken from the minutes of that meeting. Golf Club have for many years been desirous that the course at Elliot should be purchased for the town, but owing to the ground being under lease, and other causes, it has been found impossible to effect an arrangement with the proprietor. The proprietor, however, has indicated that he is willing to sell, and it is proposed to raise the price by loans and take a conveyance of the ground in favour of trustees for the lenders. A bazaar was agreed to be held twelve or eighteen months after to clear off or reduce the loans, and the course will then be handed over to the Town Council subject to the balance unpaid; or if the Town Council decline to accept it, the trustees for the lenders will hold for behoof of the community in the same terms or under such other conditions as may be agreed on by the lenders." The basis of this scheme being the provision of loans by those interested in the acquisition of the links, no time was allowed to elapse, and as early as 10th January of the following year (1900) it was intimated that £2025 had been subscribed in that way for the purchase. It was agreed to offer the trustees

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£2500 for the links, but in June of the same year came the staggering information that nothing less than £3000 could possibly be accepted. In all it was found impossible to raise more than £2125 in the way that has been already indicated, and it is significant to know that this sum was obtained from twenty-two members of the club, and eight non-members. Lord Dalhousie's agents had indicated that the loss to the estate would be about £100 per annum, and that nothing less than £3000 could be accepted. The committee, to whom had been entrusted the negotiations up to that time, came to the conclusion that they could not recommend the club to go on with the matter in view of "the public and the Town Council not assisting." A fear was expressed at the meeting that the interests of golf would severely suffer owing to the abandonment of this scheme. The meeting adjourned, no doubt feeling that after all their heroic endeavours their ambitions might be baulked and their enterprise stemmed in the tide of its success. Hope, however, rose triumphant in the hearts of those who had laid their minds to the great scheme of the purchase of Elliot links for the town and community of Arbroath. Quietly and unostentatiously a movement was inaugurated for the close tackling of the Town Council, and it is recorded that a deputation visited the Council on 9th November of that year (1900), the visiting members being the following-Messrs Andrew Bennet, J. B. Salmond, A. Oliver, W. J. Greaves, John

Herald, J. B. Craig, and G. R. Wallace. Mr Wallace introduced the deputation, whereupon Mr J. B. Salmond addressed the Town Council in favour of the acquisition of the links for the town. He said "that a golf course was necessary if Arbroath was to get full advantage of its other resources as an attractive resort for summer visitors." His second point was "that Arbroath should be made as pleasant a place as possible for all who find their labour, living, and home in the town." "The Elliot Course was fit," he said, "to be made without a superior on the East Coast." Mr Adam Oliver asked for a measure of support from the Town Council. He pointed out that the Golf Club had possession on sufferance. Therefore the Elliot Course had not been a great success because it was subsidiary to agricultural interests. He suggested that a committee of the Town Council should be appointed to act with the committee appointed at the public meeting in arranging details of a scheme. A committee was thereupon chosen, consisting of Provost Grant, Bailies Alexander, Melvin, and Duncan, and Messrs M'Wattie, Thomson, Lorimer, and Dorward—this on the motion of Councillor Lorimer. A great step had thus been taken, and the commencement of some measure of success assured; and in apportioning credit among those far-seeing and public-spirited individuals who, with grave difficulties ahead, put their "stout hearts to the stey brae," it cannot be invidious to single out the name of Provost Grant of Woodside as being the

one upon whose kindly assurances of goodwill much of the ultimate solution depended, and to whom the golfers looked with eager anticipation.

Matters had come to some considerable issue by 8th June 1901 when at a Town Council meeting held on that day the committee appointed in the November of the previous year made a report regarding the purchase of the links. It having been considered advisable to get a professional's opinion on the nature of the ground proposed to be applied for the purposes of golf, it was reported that the professional had agreed that "the portion of the links used was excellent natural golfing ground, but it was too short, and to make a really first-class golf course a field lying to the east side would require to be taken in and various new holes made."

The professional was Mr A. N. Weir, then officiating in that capacity at Cruden Bay, now the esteemed supervisor of the Turnberry Golf Course in the West of Scotland. Born in Arbroath, he has risen to an honoured position among golf professionals in Scotland.

It was found, however, that the field to the east of the links was not available for the purpose in view, and the committee came to the conclusion that the matter should be proceeded with "on the assumption that in addition to the proposed means of access sufficient ground can be obtained to provide a carriage road to the golf course from the Arbroath to Dundee highway, and to afford a site for a golf-house."

THE GENERAL PURCHASE COMMITTEE.

All those various activities resulted in a meeting held in the Town Hall on 20th June 1901, when a large number of the most important gentlemen in Arbroath and district formed themselves into what was called a General Purchase Committee for the acquisition of the Elliot links. Provost Grant presided at the meeting, and was very greatly the means of indicating the active interest which the Town Council by that time was displaying in the creditable ambition of the golfing section of the It was agreed, on the motion of the community. chairman, "That this meeting, having regard to the desirability of acquiring Elliot Golf Links for the community of Arbroath, and to the offer by Lord Dalhousie to sell the same to them for £3000, which offer is to remain open until Whitsunday 1902, resolves that an earnest and determined effort be made to raise the necessary funds to acquire the Links, and for that purpose nominates the following gentlemen to act along with the members of the Arbroath Town Council (who will act in their individual capacities), and such members of the Arbroath Golf Club as may be chosen by the club, as a Committee with full powers to take whatever steps they

may consider necessary and expedient for carrying out the object in view; to add to their number; and to appoint an Executive Committee from amongst themselves." Oliver then read the names, and Mr A. D. Lowson, the captain of the club, seconded the motion. Mr Samuel Fairweather, Mr W. J. Rollo, and Mr George Wallace supported the motion. Mr Alexander said the links were "long enough and broad enough for the best professionals," and Mr James Doig considered that "the Elliot course was second to none in the world. It was the finest course he had ever seen." The "Arbroath Guide" of 22nd June in a leading article said: "A first-class golf course such as can be had at Elliot would be an element in the prosperity of the town, as it would add materially to its attractions as a health and a pleasure resort."

An organised attempt was thereafter made to obtain subscriptions in aid of the scheme of purchase which had been agreed to, and it is remarkable to record that within a very short time the magnificent sum of £902 18s 6d had been obtained from private sources alone. There were no fewer than 16 subscriptions of £25 each; 268 sums were received above 10s, and 49 under 10s. Altogether 333 subscribers gave their quota in hard cash; and when it was recognised that nearly £1000 had been raised by this means alone golfers began to think that assuredly the ultimate end and aim of their desires would be accomplished

at a date not far removed. The following is the list of subscribers of sums of £3 and over:—

Provost Grant,	-	-		£25	0	0	
S. Fairweather & Sons,	-	-	-	25	0	0	
W. K. Macdonald,	-	-	-	25	0	0	
John Tullis & Son, -	-	-	-	25	0	0	
Alexander Balfour of Inchoc	k,	-	-	25	0	0	
A. D. Lowson, -	-	-	-	25	0	0	
David Corsar, The Elms,	-	~	-	25	0	0	
W. Webster, Bellevue,	-	-	-	25	0	0	
F. Webster & Sons, -	-	-	-	25	0	0	
D. Fraser & Sons,		-	-	25	0	0	
D. Corsar & Sons, -	_	-	-	25	0	0	
Alexander Gordon & Co.,	-	-	-	25	0	0	
D. S. Cargill, Glasgow,	-	-	-	25	0	0	
Hon. F. J. Bruce,	-	-	-	25	0	0	
John Fraser, Port Elizabeth,	, -	-	-	25	0	0	
C. Strachan Carnegie, -	-	-	-	25	0	0	
Anderson & Chalmers,		-	- '	15	0	0	
Wm. Alexander, Solicitor,	-		-	10	0	0	
D. & W. Chapel, Solicitors,	-	-	~	10	0	0	
Dr J. A. Dewar,	-	-	- 7	10	0	0	
H. M'Grady, -	_	-	-	10	0	0	
S. Aitken,	-	-	-	5	0	0	
Bailie Alexander,	-	-	-	5	0	0	
A. Bennet,	-	-	-	5	0	0	
Jas. Cuthbert,	-		-	5	0	0	
J. R. W. Clark, -	-	-	-	5	0	0	
Friend,	-	-	-	5	0	0	
Dodds & Bathie, -	-	2	-	5	0	0	
Duncan & Wright, -	-,	-	-	5	0	0	
Jas. Falconer,	-		-	5	0	0	
W. J. Greaves,	-	1	-	5	0	0	
Hugh Gavin,	-	-		5	0	0	
Hill & Rennie, -	-	-	-	5	0	0	
James Jamieson, -	7-0		-	5	0	0	

D C 77: 1 1						
R. C. Kinloch, -	-		-	£5	0	0
Sir Leonard Lyell, Bart.,		-		5	0	0
Miss Annie Lowson,	-	-	-	5	0	0
R. Melvin,	-	- '	-	5	0	0
W. B. Morrison,	-	-	-	5	0	0
C. Y. Myles,	-	-	-	5	0	0
W. F. Malcolm & Co., Lt	d.,	-	-	5	0	0
Mr Morrison, London,	-	117.1	-	5	0	0
James M'Wattie,	-	-	-	5	0	0
G. D. Nicol, -	-	-	-	5	0	0
A. Oliver,	-	- 1.65%	-	5	0	0
W. J. Rollo, -	-		-	5	0	0
W. G. Robertson,	-	-	-	5	0	0
Samuel Renny, -	-	-	-	5	0	0
W. R. Sharp, -	-	-	-	5	0	0
G. W. L. Sturrock,	-	-	-	5	0	0
Alex. Smith,	~	-	-	5	0	0
Strachan, Wallace, & Why	rte,	-	-	5	0	0
G. R. Thomson,	-	-	-	5	0	0
John Thornton,	-	-	- 5	5	0	0
D. W. Webster, .	-	-	-	5	0	0
Jas. Watson & Co., Dunde	e, -	-	-	5	0	0
J. H. A. Peebles-Chaplin of	of Collis	ton,	-	5	0	0
John Collier, Hatton, -	-	-	-	5	0	0
Colonel Rait,	-	~	-	5	0	0
A. A. Symon, -	-	-	-	4	4	0
D. E. W. Shanks,	-	-		4	0	0
S. Banks,	-	-	-	3	3	0
Charles Brown,	-	-	-	3	3	0
George Dorward, -	-	- 1	-	3	3	0
David Greig,	-	0.	-	3	3	0
W. & J. Mackintosh,	~		-	3	3	0
Scott & Graham, Ltd.,	-	-	-	3	3	0
J. B. Webster, -	•	-		3	3	0
A. Moir & Sons,	-	-		3	3	0
Jas. Nicoll,	-			3	3	0
David Hutchison, -	-	-	-	3	0	0
Dr Kelly,	-	-	-	3	0	0

Dr Laing, -	-	- 0	-	-	£3	0	0
D. Moneur & Co.,	-	-	2	-	3	0	0
John Robertson,	1 -	-	-	-	3	0	0
Andrew Scott, -	-	- "	-		3	0	0

At a meeting on the 27th June the committee appointed Provost Grant, Bailies Alexander, Duncan, and Melvin, Messrs Alexander, Kinloch, Oliver, and Lowson to carry out the purchase of the links, and to arrange for the community possessing the course not later than Whitsunday 1902. The following were appointed an executive committee: - Provost Grant, Bailies Alexander, Melvin, and Duncan, Hon. F. J. Bruce, Messrs W. Alexander, R. C. Kinloch, Adam Oliver, A. D. Lowson, Andrew Bennet, W. J. Rollo, G. R. Donald, Samuel Fairweather, sen., C. Y. Myles, Dr Gilruth, G. R. Thomson, J. B. Craig, W. B. Morrison, James Doig, G. R. Wallace, J. M'Wattie, G. Harris, W. J. Robertson, James Cuthbert, James Campbell, W. Chapel, Dr Duncan, James Hood, and James Jack. Mr Oliver, was appointed general secretary of the Executive Committee, and Mr Alexander was appointed treasurer of the Bazaar Committee.

BAZAAR.

Mention of the appointment of a treasurer of a Bazaar Committee will serve to introduce some account of a second project of the General Purchase Committee, viz., the promotion of a grand bazaar. Messrs J. C. Dewar and D. W. Fairweather were appointed the secretaries, and immediately began to organise for the function taking place in September 1902. "A grand bazaar in aid of the purchase of the golf links at Elliot, near Arbroath, will be held in the Drill Hall, Marketgate, by kind permission of Colonel W. A. Gordon, on the 18th, 19th, and 20th September 1902." So ran the advertisement which declared to all and sundry that a further effort would be made to draw the necessary shekels of silver and of gold from the pockets of the Arbroath townspeople. The work in connection with the bazaar proceeded quietly and unobtrusively, but none the less forcefully and energetically. It was an important day in the history of the Arbroath Golf Course when a great concourse of people met in the Drill Hall in Marketgate to see the start off of this now locally famous bazaar under the auspices of Lord Camperdown. Venetian masts with many-coloured streamers were erected all down Marketgate from the Brothock Bridge end as far as the hall. The decorations were carried out on a lavish scale. Every form of entertainment, including ping-pong (at that time a fashionable indoor pastime) shooting galleries, and palmistry, was provided. The stalls were full of lovely works of art, and a refreshment and flower stall added to the artistic effect of the tout ensemble.

Colin Grant, Esq., Woodside, Provost of Arbroath,



Ex-PROVOST GRANT.

Photo by Maull & Fox, London.



presided over the opening ceremony. The Earl of Camperdown, who had been asked to perform the initial function, gave a charming and cultured speech. are told," he said, "that there is a great hunger in these days for land all over the world, and I am of opinion that you in Arbroath have done right in determining not to be too late in acquiring the golf links before all the land is gone." Referring to his Lordship's opening remarks, the "Arbroath Guide" of 20th September 1902 said: - "In Arbroath we are not going to look to golf for making business lively; but, to say nothing in particular about the legitimate requirements of individual recreation, something is to be gained by adding to those charms and attractions which, as Lord Camperdown correctly says, the town possesses.' To the surprise of all, the magnificent sum of £1200 was announced as having been received at the close of the opening day.

On the second day J. B. Don, Esq., of Maulesden, Brechin, opened the bazaar, with Bailie (now Provost) Alexander, Hyde Park, presiding. "When I was a boy," said Mr Don, "it was the age of long spoons and short spoons. There was no insinuation in those days of a long spoon and the Devil, although it was a devilish implement all the same." He continued to say that "since that time twenty years ago they had had what he might call an English invasion. The English awoke to the fact that golf was a game—in fact the king of games—of youth

and declining years, and Englishmen took possession of it, or rather it took possession of them, and there were now golf courses throughout the length and breadth of the land."

The Hon. F. J. Bruce presided on the Saturday at noon, when Henry M'Grady, Esq., of Kelly Castle, did the bazaar the honour of inaugurating its opening. In the course of some wise remarks he said that "the Arbroath golfers must make a reputation for the Elliot links." He thought the way to do that, as the links were to become public property, was for every member of the public to look upon the links as his own, and do what in him lay to preserve the links and improve them, and also to improve his own play. this way," he said, "the links would shortly become known as one of the best links and possessed by the best players along the East Coast of Scotland." To the ladies he said he could assure them that "the best of all correctives was a round of the golf course. It brought roses to the cheek, the sparkle to the eye, and the lightness of step which assisted nature to make up the graces we so much admired in femininity."

Late on the Saturday night it was announced that £1850, truly a magnificent sum, had been raised as the result of the energetic endeavours of those who were responsible for the bazaar. Votes of thanks were cordially awarded to Messrs J. C. Dewar and D. W. Fairweather for devoting so whole-heartedly and so magnanimously a

very large portion of their valuable time to making the bazaar the huge success which everyone agreed it had been. It was also duly acknowledged that Mr Alexander had, by his careful and methodical treasurership, in no small measure contributed to the highly satisfactory result.

TOWN COUNCIL GRANT.

By means of private subscription £920 10s had now been raised by the energetic committee appointed for the purpose of collecting money for the acquisition of the links, and with the addition of the large sum, roughly about £1600, (after deducting expenses) which was obtained from the bazaar the sum of nearly £2500 was practically at the disposal of the committee as part payment of the purchase price. After further expenses in various ways had been deducted from the original sums, it was seen that in order to pay £3000 to Lord Dalhousie's agents about £550 would be required to complete the amount. In the beginning of November 1902 it was proposed by Provost Grant, at a meeting of the Town Council, that, owing to the deficiency in the money to meet the price of the links, the Town Council should pay the sum of £550 out of the equivalent grant, and this motion was unanimously agreed to.

SCHEME OF ADMINISTRATION.

In the meantime a joint-committee chosen from the Town Council and the original Purchase Committee had been at work arranging a scheme of administration for the golf course. During the negotiations it was unanimously resolved that the whole adjusted scheme should be inserted in the conveyance of the links; and after many meetings to and fro between the aforesaid subcommittees, at a meeting of the Town Council held on 8th June 1903 the Provost's committee reported the further negotiations which had taken place, and that the scheme had been adjusted with the purchase sub-committee. The minutes of the Provost's committee were approved of by the Town Council, and the members of the purchase subcommittee understood that this was an expressed approval by the Town Council of the scheme. On the instructions of Provost Grant, a meeting of the general purchase committee was held on 26th June 1903, when the Provost presided, and the adjusted scheme was submitted to the meeting and finally approved of. It was understood by every one that the scheme had received the approbation of the Town Council and its final sanction, and great joy was felt as well as expressed that such a happy conclusion had been reached after the many labours of the various parties. The adjusted scheme appeared in the "Arbroath

Guide" on 27th June 1903, and the following is a copy thereof:—

"Scheme for the Management and Administration of Arbroath Golf Course.

"1. The course is to be named 'The Arbroath Golf Course,' and to be vested in the Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council of Arbroath for behoof of the community of Arbroath, and for the purpose of playing the game of golf, no power being granted to sell the links or burden the same with debt.

"2. The management of the links will be placed in the hands of a Committee of Management to be elected annually in the month of November, and to consist of eight members, four of whom shall be chosen by the Town Council of Arbroath from among their own number, and shall include the Provost for the time, and the other four by established Golf Clubs; and until there are other recognised clubs than the Arbroath Golf Club, as after provided, these four members shall be wholly chosen by the Arbroath Golf Club from among their members, the Provost or one of the other representatives of the Town Council to be Chairman of the Committee, and to have a casting as well as a deliberative vote, with power to the said Committee of Management to make and enforce rules and regulations for the use of the golf course and the

management of the same, subject to such rules and regulations being first approved of by the said Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council.

- "3. In the event of the establishment of other golf clubs than the Arbroath Golf Club in Arbroath, the Town Council shall have power to substitute for members of the Committee of Management, to be in the meantime appointed by the Arbroath Golf Club, representatives of such other golf clubs when in the opinion of the Town Council these clubs have attained such a position in respect of numbers of members and otherwise as to entitle them to representation in the Committee of Management, provided always that the members to be chosen by the Arbroath Golf Club shall not be reduced to less than two.
- "4. The scale of charges for playing golf on the links shall be regulated by the Committee of Management from time to time, but, until otherwise determined, these charges shall be in conformity with the scale hereto annexed.
 - "Scale of Charges referred to in foregoing scheme:
- "1. For all bond fide members of recognised Golf Clubs playing over the course, and also for adult residenters in Arbroath and district (including a radius of five miles from Arbroath)—Annual subscription from 11th November (yearly), 5s; half-yearly subscription from 15th May, 3s.

- "2. For ditto under eighteen years of age, one half of above charges.
- "3. For the following periods for all players not falling under Nos. 1 and 2:—Adults—Single round or part of a round, 2d; single day, 6d; one week (including day of issue), 2s; fortnight, 3s; one month, 4s; two months, 6s; three months, 7s 6d; six months, 10s; year, 15s. Juveniles under eighteen years of age, one half of above charges."

For some time after this arrangement had been formally concluded the management of the course was conducted according to the scheme which has been given, and as the committee of management did not fall to be elected until Martinmas 1903, it was arranged at a meeting of the Town Council that the members of the purchase sub-committee should act as an interim committee until that time, when the scheme itself came into operation. In November 1903 four members of the Town Council were elected in terms of the above, and four members of the Arbroath Golf Club. The same procedure took place in November 1904 and in November 1905, when, at the last mentioned date, the Town Council, in virtue of clause 3 of the scheme, conferred on the Artisan Golf Club power to elect one member, and reduced the number to be chosen by the Arbroath Golf Club to three.

DELAY OF CONVEYANCE.

But in the meantime the conveyance was delayed in its completion owing to unforeseen causes. At a meeting of the Provost's committee of the Town Council held in December 1903, the Town Clerk submitted to the consideration of the committee a question which had arisen in regard to the conveyance of the Elliot links. Lord Dalhousie's agents had struck out of the draft conveyance the right of access to the links by the existing road, and proposed to restrict the same to the road to lead from the Dundee and Arbroath road at the top of the brae beyond Elliot. The committee agreed that they could not entertain for a moment the suggestion that the conveyance of the Elliot links should be taken to the town without the usual and proper right of access to the links. In August of the following year (1904) the Town Clerk read to the Provost's committee his further correspondence with Lord Dalhousie's agents, but the matter was left over for further consideration and enquiry. In September 1905 the Town Clerk reported that he had had a meeting with Lord Dalhousie's agents in Edinburgh regarding the terms of the conveyance, and he read an amended clause proposed to be inserted in the conveyance. The committee, after considering this, resolved that the proposal should be accepted so far as the right of access was concerned. After

this long period of delay the conveyance of the links was approved by Lord Dalhousie's agents, and it may be presumed that the disputed right of entrance was abandoned. At the meeting of the Arbroath Town Council on 12th February 1906 the Town Clerk reported that the conveyance of the Elliot links had now been completed and signed by the Earl of Dalhousie, and delivered accordingly. The conveyance (known in legal language as a "disposition") is dated 29th January 1906, and the following is a copy of the document as given in the minutes of the Town Council of Arbroath:

DISPOSITION 1

BY

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE EARL OF DALHOUSIE
IN FAVOUR OF

THE PROVOST, MAGISTRATES, AND COUNCILLORS

OF THE

ROYAL BURGH OF ARBROATH.

29th January 1906.

I, the Right Honourable Arthur George Maule Ramsay, EARL OF DALHOUSIE, Baron Ramsay of Kerington and Glenmark, heritable proprietor of the lands and others

¹ The Deed is printed as revised by Lord Dalhousie's agents and executed.

hereinafter disponed: IN CONSIDERATION of the sum of THREE THOUSAND POUNDS sterling already paid to me as the price thereof, of which sum I hereby acknowledge the receipt, renouncing all exceptions to the contrary, do hereby under the declaration aftermentioned SELL and DISPONE to the Provost, Magistrates, and Councillors of the Royal Burgh of Aberbrothock or Arbroath, as Trustees and in trust for behoof of the community of the said Burgh, and with and under the conditions and provisions after mentioned, heritably and irredeemably, ALL AND WHOLE that piece of ground consisting of parts of the Farms of Balcathie, Mains of Kelly, and Inverpeffer, lying partly in the parish of Arbirlot and partly in what was formerly the parish of St Vigeans, and now the parish of Panbride and county of Forfar, situated to the northwest of the Dundee and Arbroath railway, and commonly known as the Elliot Links, extending to 96.071 acres or thereby imperial measure, all as now fenced off and delineated and coloured on the plan annexed and signed with reference hereto: Together with the Teinds of the said land, both parsonage and vicarage, and free ish and entry by all existing roads, and likewise by a road 30 feet wide to be made by my Disponees at their own expense, which road is coloured red on the said plan, from the Arbroath and Dundee road to the northwest corner of the said Links, as shown on the said plan; which lands and others are parts and portions of the Baronies of Kelly,

Inverpeffer, and Panmure, being part of the Lands and Baronies of Panmure, Brechin, and others in the County of Forfar, particularly described in the Extract Decree of Special Service by the Sheriff of Chancery in my favour as the eldest son and nearest and lawful heir of tailzie and provision in special of the Right Honourable John William Maule Ramsay, Earl of Dalhousie, Baron Ramsay of Kerington and Glenmark, K.T., in the said Lands and Baronies of Panmure, Brechin, and others, dated the 30th and recorded in Chancery the 31st days of July, and recorded in the Division of the General Register of Sasines applicable to the County of Forfar, the 5th day of October all in the year 1888: Together with the whole parts, privileges, and pertinents of the said lands and others hereby disponed, and my whole right, title, and interest present and future therein: Reserving always to me and my successors and my and their tenants the right of passage across the said links between the severed parts of the farm of Balcathie at the points marked A and B on the said plan, and between the severed parts of the said farm of Mains of Kelly at the points marked C and D and the points marked E and F on the said plan, for conveying cattle or sheep to the ground on the south-east side of the said railway, and also for the purpose of carting manure, seaware, sand, and gravel from the said ground on the south-east side of the said railway to the parts of the said farms on the north-west side of the said links, which right

of passage shall be exercised in as direct a line as possible between the said points A and B, C and D, E and F as the configuration of the ground will permit, and the right of passage shall be exercised over a space not exceeding 24 feet in width and in such a way as will do the least damage to the ground; and in no case shall the golf putting greens be crossed, encroached on, or interfered with: But it is hereby provided and declared that the said lands and others are hereby disponed with and under the real burdens following, viz.: First,—That the said lands and others shall be held by the said Provost, Magistrates, and Councillors and preserved by them for the use and behoof of the community of the said Burgh and for the purpose of playing the game of golf. Second,—That it shall not be competent for the said Provost, Magistrates, and Councillors or their successors in office to alienate the said lands and others or any part thereof either onerously or gratuitously, or to burden the same with debt. Third,—That the management of the links shall be placed in the hands of a committee of management, to be elected annually in the month of November, and to consist of eight members, four of whom shall be chosen by the Town Council of Arbroath from among their own number and the other four by established golf clubs; and until there are other recognised clubs than the Arbroath Golf Club, as after provided, these last four members shall be wholly chosen by the Arbroath Golf Club from among their members,—

one of the representatives of the Town Council to be chairman of the committee, and the chairman to have a casting as well as a deliberative vote. Fourth,—The said committee of management shall have power to make and enforce rules and regulations for the use of the golf course and the maintenance and management of the same, subject always to such rules and regulations being first submitted to and approved of by the said Provost, Magistrates, and Councillors. Fifth,—In the event of the establishment of other golf clubs in Arbroath besides the Arbroath Golf Club, the Town Council shall have power to substitute for members of the committee of management to be in the meantime appointed by the Arbroath Golf Club, a representative or representatives of such other golf clubs when, in the opinion of the Town Council, these clubs have attained such a position in respect of number of members and otherwise as to entitle them to representation in the committee of management; Provided always that the members to be chosen by the Arbroath Golf Club while the same exists shall not be reduced to less than two. WITH ENTRY on the first day of January 1902 notwithstanding the date hereof: And I Assign the Writs, but as they contain lands of greater value than those hereby disponed, they are not delivered herewith, but I bind myself and my heirs and successors to make the same so far as specified in the inventory of writs annexed and signed by me as relative hereto furthcoming to my said

disponees on all necessary occasions on receipt and obligation for redelivery thereof within a reasonable time and under a suitable penalty; And I Assign the Rents; And I Bind myself to free and relieve my said disponees of all feuduties, casualties, and public burdens; And I GRANT WARRANDICE, but excepting therefrom current leases and missives of lease if any; And I consent to the registration hereof for preservation. In WITNESS WHEREOF these presents written on this and the two preceding pages by William Macintosh, Clerk to William Kid Macdonald, Town Clerk of Arbroath, are, together with the inventory of writs and plan hereto annexed, subscribed by me at London on the 29th day of January in the year 1906 before these Witnesses, Frederick Green, my Butler, and George Tait, my Valet (Signed).

(Signed) FREDERICK GREEN, Witness.

(Signed) DALHOUSIE.

GEORGE TAIT, Witness.

DISPUTE REGARDING CHARGES.

Very shortly before this a difficulty had arisen regarding the increase of charges at the Elliot Golf Links, for on 12th January of the same year (1906) the following representatives of the golf clubs met the Provost's committee to discuss the question at issue, viz.:—Mr W. Alexander, Mr A. D. Lowson, and Captain Ellis, as representing the Arbroath

Golf Club, and Mr F. W. M. Bennett, as representing the Artisan Golf Club, with Mr J. C. Dewar, the secretary of the committee of management. The financial position of the committee of management was explained, and the Provost's committee agreed that they would consider the information and explanations which had been submitted to them, and take up the matter again at an early date. In March 1906 the Town Clerk received a letter from Mr J. C. Dewar enclosing an excerpt from the minute of a meeting of the committee of management of the Elliot Golf Links, in which letter it was stated that there was considerable divergence of opinion on various points; that the golf course committee had in the course of their management since 1903 incurred a large necessary expenditure which the revenue had been insufficient to meet, and which the golf course committee considered themselves personally liable for, and which they had no means of meeting unless by a rearrangement of the charges for playing golf. After consideration the committee agreed to recommend to the Town Council that they authorise the committee of management to revise the scale of charges from time to time so as to make the revenue equal to the expenditure. The Town Council agreed also to allow the committee of management to revise the scale of charges; but on the 9th April Mr J. C. Dewar, as secretary of the golf course committee, replied to the Town Clerk, stating that he was instructed by the

committee of management that they did not require the authority of the Council to fix the rates for playing over the course. A meeting of the Town Council was held in private to consider this matter, and it was agreed in the meantime to refuse to allow the position taken up in the letter from Mr J. C. Dewar then before the meeting, and to remit to the Council's representatives on the committee of management to maintain the rights of the Council. As a result of the position taken up by the Town Council, the representatives on the committee of management sent by the golf clubs refused to act further as members of committee, and at a subsequent date, namely, 8th October 1906, five representatives of the Arbroath Golf Club and five representatives of the Artisan Golf Club met the Town Council with a view to settling their differences. Mr J. C. Dewar made a lengthened statement to the Town Council setting forth their position and contentions. As a result of these negotiations the Arbroath Town Council agreed to the following "determination" which it was considered met the difficulty.

"ELLIOT LINKS AND GOLF COURSE.

"DETERMINATION BY THE TOWN COUNCIL.

"First. That it be recognised that the ultimate right of regulating the charges for the use of the golf course must rest with the Town Council.

- "Second. That on or before the 31st day of December annually the committee of management shall cause to be prepared an estimate of their receipts and expenditure for the ensuing year, and submit the same to the Town Council for approval.
- "Third. That the estimates for the ensuing year having been so approved of, the members of the joint committee of management shall be under no personal liability for any deficiency in the annual account of receipts and expenditure, and the Town Council undertake to relieve the committee of management thereof.
- "Fourth. That any revenue derived from the golf course or links, after meeting the annual expenditure, shall be spent either
 - (a) For the maintenance and improvement of the golf course or otherwise in connection with the Elliot Links property, and
 - (b) In lowering the rate of charges for the use of the golf course.

Provided that, with the approval of the Town Council, the committee of management may apply or set aside the whole or such part as they think fit of the surplus revenue for any year to a reserve fund for the purpose of meeting extraordinary expenditure."

By this time feeling was beginning to run high in various quarters, but it is not the intention in this work to enter into the relative rights in regard to the dispute. It was felt by many who had the good of golf at heart in the community that some means of settling what was quickly verging into a matter that could only be decided by the law courts could be obtained by an amicable settlement and a suitable compromise. It was further argued that the golf clubs had no locus standi in the disputed issue. An arrangement had been made between the general purchase committee and the Town Council, the sub-committees of both of these bodies having substantially agreed to a certain The general purchase committee had agreed to a particular scheme in June 1903, and it was clearly evident that some misunderstanding had arisen with the Town Council. By request of a number of the original members of the purchase committee a meeting of that disbanded organisation was called for 8th November 1906, and it was agreed to resuscitate the committee in view of the difficulties which had arisen. This was acquiesced in in spite of the fact that Provost Grant had, at the meeting of June 1903, without any written authority on the part of the original members of the said committee, as much as said that there was no further use for the committee continuing, their task having been accomplished. this meeting in November 1906 it was arranged, after hearing a lengthy statement by Mr Adam Oliver, S.S.C., the original secretary of the committee, to appoint a few of their number to attempt a compromise with the Town Council. On 17th January 1907 Mr Adam Oliver, Dr Gilruth, and Mr J. R. Mackenzie, draper (Mr Watson Baird being unable to be present), met the Provost's committee of the Town Council, and on behalf of the meeting which they represented Mr Oliver addressed the committee at length, submitting a sketch of the alterations on the determination which they desired. The Provost intimated that the committee would consider what had been stated, and Mr Oliver duly sent to the Town Clerk the terms of the compromise which had been suggested by them. It is sufficient to relate that with some few alterations the compromise was accepted by the Town Council; and the dispute, which at one time threatened to involve the golf clubs as well as the Town Council in a legal war of great magnitude and of grave difficulty in solution, was eventually ended to the great satisfaction and subsequent harmony of all concerned. The following is the memorandum embodying the compromise which was effected between the Town Council and the general purchase committee, and which was agreed to at a meeting of the Town Council held on 12th August 1907, Councillor Dundas not only dissenting but requesting his dissent to be entered:

[&]quot;(1) That on or before the 31st day of December annually the committee of management shall cause to be

prepared an estimate of their receipts and expenditure for the year ending on the following 11th November, and submit the same to the Town Council for approval; with this proviso, that the scale of charges for the year then current shall be, and remain as, fixed by the committee. (2) That the estimates for the year having been so approved of, the members of the committee of management shall be under no personal liability for any deficiency in the annual account of receipts and expenditure, and the Town Council on receiving such account shall relieve the committee of any such deficiency. (3) That the revenue derived from the golf course or links shall be applied as follows: (a) in meeting the annual expenditure required for the proper maintenance and improvement of the golf course; and (b) as regards any surplus revenue, in liquidating from time to time a balance of £161 11s 4d standing at the debit of the course in the books of the Town Council, and thereafter in lowering the rate of charges for the use of the golf course; provided that, with the approval of the Town Council, the committee of management may apply or set aside the whole or such part as they think fit of the surplus revenue of any year to a reserve fund for the purpose of meeting extraordinary expenditure on the course."

The following letter was sent to the Town Clerk by Mr Adam Oliver after the compromise had been duly agreed to by the general purchase committee:

BROTHOCK BANK HOUSE,
ARBROATH, 9th October 1907.

DEAR SIR,

Elliot Golf Course.

With reference to your letters of 13th and 23rd August last—the latter enclosing Certified Excerpt from the minute of meeting of the Provost's Committee of 27th May last—I have to state that your letters and the said excerpt were submitted to a meeting of the Purchase Committee held last night, when it was unanimously resolved to accept the arrangement, without entering into any formal Agreement, but on the express understanding and condition that the Memorandum contained in the said minute is to be final and binding on both sides, and is to form part of the Scheme for the management and administration of the Links, in the same manner, and to the same effect, as the other conditions contained in the Conveyance of the Links by Lord Dalhousie in favour of the Town Council, and that no part of said Scheme, including said Memorandum, shall be subject to alteration by either side in the future.

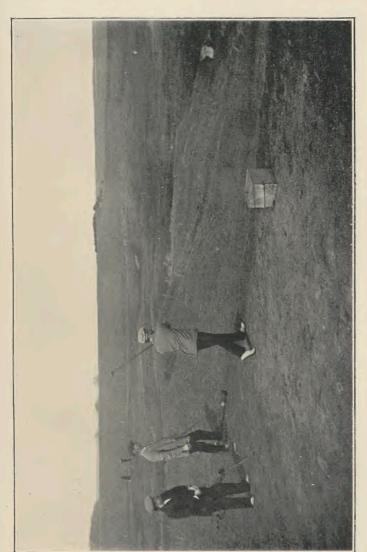
Yours faithfully,

(Signed) ADAM OLIVER.

Thus ended the long and intricate dispute regarding the management of the Arbroath Golf Course.

THE PRESENT COURSE.

T is not too much to say that the links at Elliot are preeminently adapted for the playing of the game of golf. A cursory glance even from the train as it hurries along towards Arbroath's new station will convince those who know anything of seaside, not to speak of inland, facilities that here abounds the very quality of land which in other places has been the means of making, as it were, the basis of courses which have attained to great and lasting The links are entirely "seaside" in their celebrity. nature, and natural bunkers abound in all parts. "Heichts and howes" form a pleasing prospect on every hand. Indeed the undulating character and absence of sameness and prosaic levelness tend to make these ninetysix acres an ideal spot for such a game. Not only so, but few courses have the inestimable advantage of no fewer than three admirable streamlets splendidly situated at excellent distances the one from the other. In summer days, when the golfer most enjoys the exercise of his favourite sport, he will think of those gentle streams, with the plashing of light and living water, as being an added joy to the exquisite delights which are always associated with his pastime.



FIFTEENTH TEE-PENSTON BURN.



In a practical way the Balcathie, Penston, and Dowrie burns form hazards of such a delicate nature that the Arbroath golf course owes to them something of its individuality and power to please; and it is at any rate an easy conclusion that had not these burns imparted a much desired element of difficulty in the various lines of play it would have been necessary to make artificial hazards to compensate for their loss. The links land, however, is unfortunately not altogether ideally adapted for the arrangement of an eighteen-hole golf course. Had these acres extended to, say, half a mile farther along the coast, even although the breadth of the land had not been quite so great, it would have been possible to arrange the holes so that the outgoing and the incoming would have been along the north and the south side of the course respectively. As, however, the shape of the ground is both too short and too broad, it has been found necessary to double at the far end into the centre of the course in order to When, almost two overcome this obvious difficulty. years ago, the golf course committee of management decided to employ that noted expert in golf courses, Willie Fernie, of Troon, they had in view that the course then played on fell somewhat short of the ideal because of this very difficulty; and when it is mentioned that there were no fewer than seven greens on the Inverpeffer portion of the links—practically speaking, onefifth of the land at the disposal of the course—it will be

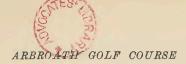
seen that the distribution of the holes and the arrangement as to lengths could not be held to be all that was desirable. Fernie, however, at once put his finger on the difficult problem to be faced, and with his usual ability indicated to the committee in what way this obstacle could be surmounted. The result to-day has been to make the course exceedingly playable, and has fully borne out the good sense of the committee in yielding to a high authority the right to dispose of the disputed subject. As the golfers are becoming accustomed to the new arrangement, they are more and more perceiving that the wise and eminent professional has been the means of greatly increasing the sporting value and the golfing possibilities of the Arbroath Golf Course.

Of late years the planning of golf courses has developed into nothing short of a fine art. The value of the works of Harry Vardon ("The Complete Golfer," 1905), and of James Braid ("Advanced Golf," 1908), in giving expression to the up-to-date opinions of really advanced art in course-laying seems to us incalculable. In these excellent text-books on golf the planning of courses is considered in practical detail, and for those who are interested in the most advanced opinions regarding the distribution and arrangement of holes nothing could improve their point of view and clear their mental vision in regard to these matters more efficiently than their consulting and carefully assimilating the words of wisdom which

they will find there. It is generally agreed that the number of short holes on any full-length course should be restricted to three or four. By short holes are meant such holes as can be reached with one shot on a calm day with wood or iron. A fourth hole should always be of a little greater length than 200 yards; but while these holes should be made as difficult and as different as possible, holes of over, say, 230 yards and between that and 300 yards are not to be recommended. "These holes of from 230 to 330 yards with which so many courses abound," says Vardon, "are not good holes in my opinion because they give an almost equal chance to the man who is driving well and the man who is driving badly." As it is the case that at Elliot the ground has not yet become sufficiently tramped upon to allow of the long carry which we obtain on such classic links as St Andrews and North Berwick, we may conveniently consider that on the Arbroath course the lengths are in comparison really greater. Holes of 300 yards to 400 yards constitute what are called good two-shot holes, that is to say that it requires on the part of the skilful golfer not only an excellent drive from the tee, but that the tee shot will take the ball to a position which will guarantee that the next shot, if accurately played, will reach the green without any difficulty. Holes of over 400 yards are again not good unless they reach a limit of 500 yards. when they may be considered as good three-shot holes.

These observations are made with regard to Elliot, and must be taken as keeping in mind that for some years to come there will be little possibility of a long run at the end of any shot, be it from the tee or through the green.

To come now to the arrangement of the Arbroath Golf Course, in view of what has been already said it will be seen from a glance at our inset map that the fourth, seventh, fourteenth and fifteenth holes are what may be described as short holes. According to the official plan, the fourth and the seventh alone constitute short holes, but as at the fourteenth and sixteenth the tee may frequently be placed at such a position as to make the hole considerably shorter, these four holes may be taken as giving a complete variety in the way of short holes and sufficient to elicit the very finest skill and dexterity on the part of the player. It will be observed that as at present arranged there are no very long holes at Elliot. Should, however, the half-dozen acres of very bad land lying between the seventeenth hole and the railway ever be made possible for golfing, it is likely that they will be used in order to provide at least one lengthy hole on the links. The remaining holes, fourteen in all, are splendid examples of the two-shot idea, and the variety of play both from the tee and through the green is such that there is never any staleness or want of interest from hole to hole,



but on the contrary a constant pleasing change which appeals to every one conversant with the ideal to be attained on any golf course. The length of the course at present is given as 5700 yards, or 3 miles and 420 yards. But it is easy to see that this estimate is on the principle of a comparative course, and that while in many cases the tees may be varied in order to protect the good teeing grounds, and on the other hand many holes may be lengthened even to increase that estimate up to 6000 yards, at no time is it possible by such exchanges of tees and consequent alteration of lengths to disturb the generally distinctive plan, which makes for a complete realisation of an almost ideal golf course and the true delight which is associated therewith. The Arbroath Golf Course can hold its own in respect of length, in respect of distribution of holes, and also in respect of the arrangement of the one to the other which must never be left entirely out of account. Up to the present date those in charge of the links have wisely hesitated to insert too many bunkers, so that as it stands now the Arbroath Course may be said in comparison with others to lack that essential feature in its development. At the same time it should not be forgotten that a process of evolution is slowly and advisedly proceeding, and it would be a vast pity for bunkers to be inserted on the beautiful undulating ground without the fullest consideration and approval. When it is considered

how much has already been done, and especially during the last decade, to bring the course into line with the great courses throughout the world, it will be conceded that further improvements should be carefully and critically considered before being finally adopted.

ROUND THE COURSE.

The following notes on the individual holes may prove of interest and use to golfers.

First hole (350 yards).—The first hole is one which requires dexterous play to be reached in two shots, and as the ground is open it allows the players to get easily away from the tee on crowded days. It is guarded by an excellent bunker in front of the green.

Second hole (400 yards).—The second hole may be played from the tee considerably back, with the Balcathie burn as a hazard 220 yards in front, which few will attempt to cross. But as in the ordinary conditions of play this tee is situated at about 160 yards from the burn, the stream affords a splendid hazard and one which taxes the power of even the best disciple of the game. The burn having been crossed, the green lies to the inner side of the flat ground, and is part of a double green to which we approach on our homeward journey, namely, the fifteenth. This hole is at present difficult enough without any artificial hazard, and a four recorded here, which is one

less than "Bogey," will satisfy and please the aspirant for a score.

Third hole (325 yards).—The third hole again allows of some elasticity in length, and it is considered of very great sporting quality. The play from the tee is over the left of two bunkers, and a well-driven shot should land in a hollow which was at one time designated "the Dennie." This little valley, if it may be so called, was once the scene of a gruesome tragedy. In former days it was always filled with water, and the story goes that a man was one night wending his homeward journey in a cart when, as luck would have it, he took the wrong turn and landed in the watery morass and was drowned, horse and all, in the blackness of the night. The green is of large extent short of the Penston burn, and although to some degree a "blind" hole, it necessitates a dexterous second shot to place the ball in a suitable position for holing out.

Fourth hole (160 yards).—The fourth hole is one of the most difficult and sporting on the course. The little Penston burn ripples round the green, and, hidden to sight, pursues its tortuous way diagonally across the field of play, forming as it does a splendid permanent hazard for the unwary slicer at all points in its winding course. The green, situated over a little ridge, requires a most skilful cleek or iron shot before the ball reposes securely on its bosom. Between the green and the burn at its northmost corner is a little hollow known as "the Lint-

pot," where in olden days the cultivators of the raw lint used this little embrasure in order to wash and purify this product of the soil, thus completing its primary process of manufacture.

Fifth hole (380 yards).—The tee shot at this hole has to carry a bunker about 100 yards away, and if this is done the Dowrie burn appears in the full front of the hole, which lies on a gentle incline on the farther side. On a calm day, with the wind at least not from the prevailing west, it should be possible to reach this green with two long shots, when a par 4 can be recorded and the "Colonel" duly beaten.

Sixth hole (370 yards).—The sixth hole is one of exquisite sporting quality. A little hill of 30 yards in length lies slightly to the left of the line of play and about 120 yards from the tee. It is desirable to cross this ridge with the tee shot, and woe betide the slicer who finds attraction in the rough bent and coarse ground to the right. Over the tumulus the flag becomes apparent on a gently sloping green, and on the other side a natural bunker, much to be avoided, awaits the player who has driven his ball too far. The gentle undulations of a ditchlike nature close to and in front of the green make this hole one of great difficulty for approach, but add to the delight experienced when the ball is seen safely on the green slope where the pin reposes.

Seventh hole (150 yards).—The tee may be either on

the lower part or up beside the fence on the higher ground. From either position the shot has to be played most skilfully in order to reach the valley-like green, guarded as it is by two bunkers on the left. This is the last hole going out, and to the right of it may be seen the built-up portion of the old stage-coach road to which reference has already been made.

Eighth hole (350 yards).—Having now reached the farthest limit of the links, with the Corsehill behind us,—a mass of piled-up sand upon the raised beach, covered with fine soft turf, round which little eminence the railway disappears in the direction of Dundee,—we face again towards Arbroath, and play along the railway side. The green, about 60 yards from the railway, is seen lying in a hollow portion of the ground, and with two good shots it is posssible to register a par 4.

Ninth hole (345 yards).—The tee is placed to the inner side of the course and again facing towards the Dowrie burn and the shelter. It requires a dexterous shot to reach a suitable position whereby the burn can be carried and the green reached with an equally effective second.

We have now reached the end of the first half, and if we are fatigued with our arduous exertions and choose to linger before facing the homeward journey the shelter is near at hand and a comfortable seat provided for those who care to rest. The shelter is a prominent feature on the links landscape, with its neatly built verandah-like 106

roof, topped with a lightning conductor which guards the pavilion in case of summer thunderstorm. It is situated on the raised edge of a large crater-like formation which at one time was utilised by the farmer of Mains of Kelly as the regular sand-pit for use on his holding. At one time it was a vast yawning bunker, but some years ago those in authority, in view of the blinding sandstorms which swept out of the great pit of sand, caused a suitable grass to be carefully sown, and now the sandstorms are affairs of the past and the links have profited by the foresight shown The position of the shelter is well on that occasion. adapted to the needs of the golfer, as it is placed at such a point as almost to be in the centre of the most played on part of the links, and can therefore become a safe refuge in case of sudden and unforeseen thunder-showers.

Tenth hole (300 yards).—Still facing towards the town, but playing more to the right and avoiding the fourth green, which is easily seen to the left, it requires a good raking drive and a skilful iron shot to make the ball repose on the greensward which lies short of the Penston burn, on the other side of which the third green cannot fail to make itself evident. To the west of the tenth green the careful observer will notice the remains of what had at one time been a little house with enclosing dyke, the foundations being clearly marked on the ground as we approach the green. This is the only remaining vestige of the pendicles or crofts which once stood on our 96 acres of

ground. It is impossible to discover from any, even the oldest, inhabitant of the district at what period this old-time cottage had been demolished, but it is thought that the "Lint-pot" in the near neighbourhood must in some way have been connected with and attached to this isolated dwelling. This, of course, is matter of mere surmise, for it is long since the "Lint-pot" ceased to have any significance or to be put to any practical use. Between the rude mounds which delineate the ancient homestead and the gate through which the Penston road would naturally pass, one can detect evidences of an ancient bridge, a few stones on each side of the waterway being the only relics of a useful means of passage.

Eleventh hole (310 yards).—Here we again, as it were, retrace our steps and direct our play to a green situated to the left of the great sand-pit and the shelter. It reposes comfortably on the east side of the Dowrie burn and almost opposite a prominent telephone pole.

Twelfth hole (330 yards).—Taking up our position at the tee not far to the east of the shelter, play has again to be directed over the Dowrie, and it requires every endeavour of the art of golf to secure the two shots to carry us home. The green at the twelfth is at present situated in a hollow and may be termed a "blind" hole, but at an early date a large inclined green near the railway will be used as the usual putting green, with the hollow one held as a reserve.

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Thirteenth hole (400 yards).—Beside the railway this tee forms again a turning point, and with the railway as a hazard and the Dowrie Burn to cross, an excellent hole requiring splendid judgment takes us to a point almost opposite the eastern end of the chemical works. In negotiating the approach we pass over that interesting historical ground already described in detail in another part of this work. The "Threap Neuk" might readily suggest itself as a most appropriate appellation for this hole, but it is best perhaps to leave to future generations of golfers to decide as to how far their fancies have been stimulated by the suggestive story of the "twa lairds threaping" about the boundary.

Fourteenth hole (230 yards).—The tee to this hole is placed beside the railway and adjacent to the double gates at the side of the chemical works. The hole is one of the most charming on the links. A yawning bunker faces the indiscreet driver, and the green is placed on a plateau (with a narrowed neck), with a bunker to the right. At one time this green formed the termination of a long hole known to all by the name of "The Secretary." It still retains that cognomen although much shorter than before. It is commonly stated that it received its name from the length of the hole being comparable to the physical stature of the respected secretary of the Arbroath Golf Club, who, as has already been mentioned, has at all times deserved well of the sportsmen of the links, even to

the extent of having a name dedicated to his personal memory.

Fifteenth hole (300 yards).—At this point the golfer may be asked to tee his ball at one or other of several positions. The most common is a raised tee to the railway side of the "Secretary" green, and the player has below him the little trickling Penston Burn as a menace to his topping propensity. Another tee on slightly higher ground is used at times, while to vary the course and to maintain the surface of the made teeing ground the professional frequently changes the point of drive to a position over the burn. The green is a double one, the white and red flags denoting the second and fifteenth greens respectively.

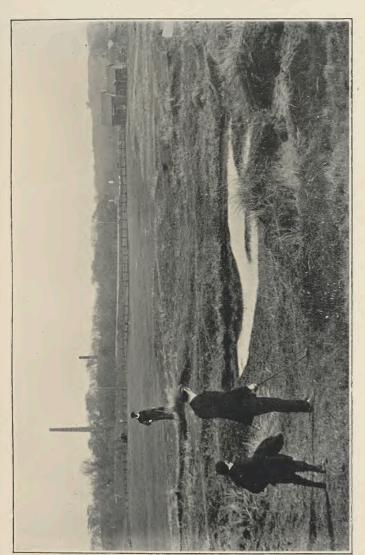
Sixteenth hole (220 yards).—This hole has always been a favourite amongst the Elliot golfers. The green is situated in a charming hollow, and rarely does the average player reach the green with his tee shot. If he fail to do so, the delicate pitch to the green will depend greatly upon the position which he may reach with his drive.

Seventeenth hole (390 yards).—At last we face homewards, and to those who are in difficulty as to the line of play a good guide is the Arbroath club-house or the professional's cabin. Even in ordinary days with wind behind it is a clever golfer who can notch a four at this hole, the green being a sloping one and requiring considerable care in approach.

Eighteenth hole (390 yards).—The home hole has, as our photograph will show, a piece of rough territory in the foreground, having passed which (as at present there are comparatively few bunkers) it is an easy journey to the green. At some future date it is likely that the authorities will consider the advisability of making the last hole a more difficult one; but as anyone can see at Elliot there are numberless improvements which will yet have to be effected, and as the years go on these chapters which describe modestly, yet it is hoped, accurately, the leading features of the course as it is in the autumn of 1909 will require to be rewritten.

THE MANAGEMENT OF THE COURSE.

The Arbroath Golf Course is managed by a committee composed of four members of the Town Council, one of whom is the Provost for the time, and four representatives of the established golf clubs. There are three members from the Arbroath and one from the Artisan Golf Clubs. According to the arrangement which the reader will notice is given in the conveyance of the links to the Town Council of Arbroath, the Provost, or one or other of the representatives of the Town Council, is appointed annually as chairman of the committee, with the privilege of a casting as well as a deliberative vote. The committee is empowered "to make and enforce rules and regulations for the use of



HOME HOLE.



the golf course and the management of the same, subject to such rules and regulations being first approved of by the Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council of Arbroath." The following constitute the present committee:—Provost Alexander, ex-Bailie Duncan, Treasurer Dundas, Dean of Guild M'Wattie, from the Town Council; Dr Gilruth, Messrs W. Alexander and J. Tulloch, from the Arbroath Golf Club; and Mr F. W. M. Bennett, from the Artisan Club—Provost Alexander, convener. A sub-committee, known as the green committee, undertakes the more immediate supervision of the links. Dr Gilruth, Provost Alexander, Dean of Guild M'Wattie, Messrs W. Alexander and Bennett form this committee, Dr Gilruth being convener.

The acquisition of the links had virtually taken place, and matters reached a practical termination in the month of June 1903, when the Town Council took upon itself the duty of indicating the method of management of the course. At a meeting held on 8th June of that year the Magistrates and Town Council resolved "that a temporary arrangement for the management of Elliot links should be made," and an interim committee was appointed consisting of the following gentlemen:—Provost Grant, Bailie Alexander, Bailie Melvin, Bailie Duncan, Messrs Adam Oliver, A. D. Lowson, Wm. Alexander, solicitor, and R. C. Kinloch, four to form a quorum, and Provost Grant was appointed convener. Pending the meeting of Town

Council in November of that year, as well as the appointment of representatives from the golf club, the Town Council appointed the aforesaid gentlemen to see that the links were properly governed. A scale of charges was agreed to. During the intervening months the green committee, composed of Bailie Alexander, Bailie Duncan, Mr Alexander, and Mr Kinloch—Mr Kinloch, convener attended to the practical details. Mr Adam Oliver was appointed secretary, and Mr W. Alexander, treasurer, until the following Martinmas. The members who represented the Arbroath Golf Club, Messrs Lowson, Alexander, Kinloch, and Oliver, were appointed to this position owing to the fact that during the negotiations between the purchase committee and the Town Council, these gentlemen had acted as members of the purchase sub-committee, and had, along with a Council subcommittee, brought the negotiations to a satisfactory conclusion. We have already referred to the important work performed by Messrs Lowson and Alexander in another part of this book. It does not seem out of place to mention in passing that the two other members of this original committee, Messrs Adam Oliver, S.S.C., and R. C. Kinloch, fulfilled their parts with distinction in the previous strenuous work, and were both extremely useful in forwarding the scheme of the links acquisition.

Mr Oliver was one of those who at a very early period gave his whole heart and soul to the idea of having a golf

course for Arbroath. As has been already mentioned, he was at the first meeting of the purchase committee appointed secretary of that organisation; and until the month of June 1903, when the final arrangement was consummated, no man wrought harder, or threw himself more indefatigably into all the proceedings which had for their end a satisfactory and amicable conclusion. He was the first secretary of the management committee of the course, and he retained that office until November 1905, when he was obliged, owing to his business engagements, to intimate that he was unable to attend the meetings of the green sub-committee on the links, and that in consequence he would prefer that another should be appointed. From June 1903 till November 1905 Mr Oliver gave his services without stint to all that pertained to the interests of Elliot Golf Course. During that time the bye-laws for the regulation of the course were prepared by the committee and approved by the Town Council. These will be given in another page.

Mr R. C. Kinloch, the first convener of the green committee, laboured as few laboured to develop the course and improve its various greens and tees. Much good and solid work was done by him, and it is no exaggeration to state that to every minute detail Mr Kinloch applied his finest golfing intelligence. In November 1905 he did not seek re-election as a representative member for the club, and during the following year Mr William Alexander,

solicitor, was appointed convener of the green subcommittee. For two years Mr Kinloch also acted as treasurer of the golf course committee of management.

As mentioned in another place, the course was formally opened by Provost Grant on the afternoon of 19th August 1903. Invitations were sent to the members of the Town Council, the Town Clerk, and the Town Chamberlain. Messrs Robert Simpson, Carnoustie, and W. Auchterlonie, St Andrews, played an exhibition game over the course, and the occasion was one of much congratulation.

A few weeks before this date Mr J. G. Henderson, Carmyllie, was appointed greenkeeper, and it was considered a satisfactory arrangement that he was also appointed as club-keeper in the beautiful new club-house. Mr Henderson occupied the position of greenkeeper until 12th October 1908, when Mr R. H. Henrit, St Andrews, was appointed as professional and greenkeeper, his duties being entirely controlled by the committee of management. who now occupies the position of greenkeeper and professional, learned his golf and his greenkeeping at St Andrews, where he occupied the responsible position of greenkeeper on the ladies' course. He has thrown himself with great enthusiasm into all that pertains to the development of the course, and besides being an excellent golfer and holding the record of the course at 72, he is always willing to give his advice gratuitously as to clubs most suitable for beginners struggling with the difficulties of the game.

At the moderate charge of 2s per hour and 2s 6d per game his services as professional and coach are at the call of any habitué of the green.

As early as January 1904 the committee of management recognised that the Artisan Club was beginning to develop into a real force, and it was agreed at a meeting held in that month to allow Mr Robert Guthrie, 20 Green Street, who had been nominated by the Artisan Club at the committee's request, to act on the green committee. In December 1904 the Artisan Club had not reached a position of sufficient importance to entitle it to claim representation on the committee of management, but it was agreed to appoint Mr F. W. M. Bennett to act for the year 1905 as one of the members of the green committee. On the 29th November 1905, however, a meeting of the full committee was held, when the Town Clerk attended and intimated that the Magistrates and Town Council had appointed their own representatives on the golf course committee. He also stated that he had received intimation that the Artisan Golf Club, which had been found by the Town Council entitled to representation on the committee of management, had been authorised to appoint one of their number, and that Mr F. W. M. Bennett had been appointed for that post. Mr Bennett has continued to represent the Artisan Club to the present date (October 1909).

BYE-LAWS OF THE COURSE.

A draft of the proposed bye-laws for the use of the course was adjusted by the committee of management on 19th April 1905 and was duly approved by the Town Council.

The following are the bye-laws:-

- "1. No person shall play the game of golf on the links except along the course, as laid out from to time by the committee of management.
- "2. All players shall begin at the 'teeing ground' for the first hole, as may be fixed from time to time by the committee.
- "3. The head greenkeeper shall regulate starting and playing, and shall have full control of the order of starting, and shall determine the order by placing a ball in a receptacle for this purpose at the 'teeing ground' in the order received.
- "4. The ball of any player not ready to start in his order shall be lifted and placed behind all others in the receptacle.
- "5. In starting for each hole every player shall tee his ball within the marks indicating the 'teeing ground,' and no player shall, in teeing a ball, raise the turf of the "teeing ground."

- "6. No person shall tee a ball for playing until the immediately preceding players have played off.
- "7. No person shall play a teed or other ball until each of the players immediately in front shall be out of danger, unless when a ball having been lost by the preceding players the search for same delays the players, in which case the players following shall, after waiting two minutes, be entitled to pass the players who have lost their ball or balls.
- "8. All players shall, in playing, maintain the proper order of the holes, and shall not play or pass from one hole to another out of that order.
- "9. Players playing two-ball matches shall at starting have precedence over those playing one, three, or more balls, and the latter must allow players playing two-ball matches to pass them on the course whenever requested by them to do so.
- "10. Any turf cut or displaced by a stroke in playing must be at once carefully replaced by the player, or caddie, and pressed firmly down with the foot.
- "11. No person shall play a ball on a putting green except in putting, but shall lift the ball and drop it beyond the edge of the green. No person shall pierce the turf within 30 yards of any hole with any golf club bag support, or flagstick, or mark the green with the flags.
- "12. No player shall drive a ball, if any non-player or

person is in a position of danger from the same, without first shouting the warning word 'Fore' in such a manner that the person addressed can hear the warning and has moved out of danger, or signals to drive.

- "13. When a ball is played out of bounds the ball must be considered a lost ball, and the player must drop a ball from the place where the lost ball was played and lose distance. Members shall not be entitled to enter the fields bordering the course.
- "14. Any ground marked as under repair shall not be played upon, but a ball lying on same shall be lifted without penalty and dropped on the course.
- "15. Every person walking, sitting, or otherwise using the golf course shall be bound to move, after being duly requested, out of the line of play.
- "16. Ladies and children shall give place to players requesting them to do so on Wednesday afternoons, and on Saturdays.
- "17. The caddies shall be under the sole control of the head greenkeeper, who will keep a register of all caddies entitled to carry on the course, and supply badges to those on the register. Caddies must apply to the committee to have their names entered on the register.
- "18. All players must engage and pay their caddies through the greenkeeper and not otherwise. A

member will, however, be entitled to select a named caddie if he is not otherwise engaged. Apart from selection the caddies must be taken in the order of rotation.

- "19. Caddies will receive for each round or part of a round, including cleaning clubs, the sum of 9d.
- "20. Caddies when not engaged must remain beside the workshop, and after carrying, must clean their clubs at the shelter provided for that purpose."

In April 1909 the nineteenth bye-law was altered by the committee of management, and thereafter agreed to by the Town Council, to the effect: "There shall be two classes of caddies; the charge for caddies of the first class to be 1s 1d, and that for caddies in the second class 10d, for each round or part of a round, including the cleaning of clubs."

At the meeting of the committee of management held on 29th November 1905 Mr J. C. Dewar, solicitor, Arbroath, was appointed secretary and treasurer to the committee of management. Since that date Mr Dewar has acted in these capacities, and has given much of his time and attention to the financial and secretarial work which has devolved upon him. In every respect Mr Dewar has shown himself interested in the work of the committee of management, and successive committees have not been slow to congratulate themselves that their work has been

performed by such an efficient and capable official. It should be mentioned that Mr Dewar has all along held his appointment entirely in an honorary capacity.

During the year 1906 the dispute between the golf clubs and the Town Council had caused a good deal of friction. Due prominence has been given to the whole matter in an earlier part of this book, so it may suffice to say here that in November of that year the committee of management practically became defunct owing to the resignation of the members who represented the golf clubs. From that date until 29th October 1907 no meeting of the committee of management was held. During the intervening period the arrangements of the golf course were carried out by Mr J. G. Henderson on the links, the finances being duly attended to by Mr J. C. Dewar, the secretary and treasurer. After the final happy arrangement in the autumn of 1907, when the Town Council concluded an amicable agreement with the golfers, details of which have already been given, a new committee came into existence in October of that year, composed of the following members:—Provost Alexander, ex-Bailie Duncan, Dean of Guild M'Wattie, and Councillor Dundas from the Town Council; Dr Gilruth and Messrs Corstorphine and Jack from the Arbroath Golf Club; and Mr F. W. M. Bennett from the Artisan Club. This combination continued in office until November 1908.

The year 1908 will be remembered in the history of the

Elliot Golf Course, because in the beginning of that year the committee decided to employ Mr Willie Fernie, of Troon, the well-known golf professional and expert, to examine the courses, and report thereon. About the middle of January Mr Fernie spent several days on the Elliot links, and after giving great consideration to the various points brought before him by the committees finally laid before the management a scheme which embodied large alterations. Throughout the summer great diversity of opinion was shown as to the advantage, or the reverse, to be obtained by such considerable deviation from the former line of play; but as the year passed the difficulties were gradually surmounted, and with Mr Henrit, the new professional, at the head of things it was seen towards the end of autumn that many improvements had been effected by carrying out Mr Fernie's suggestions, while much if not all of the best of the previous course had been retained. The Arbroath Golf Course as it now is, and as delineated in the inset map to this book, owes not a little to Mr Fernie's ability and perspicuity. It is not surely too much to say that the foresight of the committee has been abundantly justified, and that the course, although still far from being complete, can even already take a prominent position amongst the seaside courses of Scotland. With a united and whole-hearted committee there is every expectation that in the early future much will be done to develop still

further the resources of the course, and elevate the Elliot links to a position of world-wide fame.

At the request of the committee of management Mr P. C. Smith, Burgh Surveyor, Arbroath, surveyed the links at Elliot aid prepared a useful drawing of the course, showing in cetail the alterations which Mr Fernie proposed. Mr Smith, along with his assistant, Mr Leitch, spent much time and trouble over the survey of the land. The plan, which we have pleasure in giving in our map, was prepared from the work of the Burgh Surveyor. It is the official plan of the golf course committee of management. At a meeting of this committee held on 3rd April 1908 the secretary, Mr J. C. Dewar, was instructed "to convey the committee's thanks for, and appreciation of, Mr P. C. Smith's painstaking work in making so elaborate a plan."

SCALE OF CHARGES.

The following is the scale of charges for play on the Arbroath Golf Course (October 1909):—

 For all bona fide members of recognised golf clubs playing over the course, and also for adult residenters in Arbroath and district (including a radius of 5 miles from Arbroath), annual subscription from 11th November, yearly, 5s; half-yearly subscription from 15th May, 3s.





JAMES CAMPBELL,
FIFTH CAPTAIN, ARBROATH GOLF CLUB.

- 2. For do. under 18 years—half of the above charges.
- 3. For the following periods for all players not falling under Nos. 1 and 2 adults, single round, for residenters, 3d; single round for others, 6d; one week, including day of issue, 2s; fortnight, 3s; one month, 4s; two months, 6s; three months, 7s 6d; six months, 10s; year, 15s.

Juveniles under 15 years of age, one-third of above charges.

This scale of charges is liable to be altered by the committee of management in the first month of their year of office in each year.

ARBROATH GOLF CLUB.

Office-Bearers-1908-9.

Patron, Hon. F. J. Bruce; Captain, Mr James Campbell; Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Mr Wm. Alexander, 62 High Street.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT.

Messrs A. Oliver, J. M. Meffan, A. D. Lowson, J. D. Gilruth, J. M'Wattie, J. Tulloch, and the Captain and the Secretary.

House Committee.

Messrs W. J. Rollo, J. C. Dewar, C. Y. Myles, R. C. Kinloch, J. G. Dorward, and the Captain and the Secretary.

COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE.

Messrs A. Maccallum, J. M. Meffan, J. Tulloch, G. R. Edward, C. Y. Myles, jun., and the Captain and Secretary. Membership, 225.

THE CLUB-HOUSE.

The Arbroath club-house is a commodious and attractive building of Carmyllie freestone, and splendidly adapted to the various necessities of golfers. The main entrance for the male section is from the north-east. A handsome smokingroom with large oriel window faces the sea, while adjacent to it and in the central part of the building there is a capacious dining-room. The south-western portion of the building is devoted to the uses of the Ladies' Club. A large room similar to the gentlemen's smoking-room, with an oriel window at its far end, constitutes the dining and committee room for the ladies. There is ample accommodation in the way of boxes for the storage of golf clubs and requisites in both sections. The club-keeper's premises are conveniently situated to the rear of the building. The lavatory annexes and dressing-rooms are bright, cleanly, and up-to-date in every respect. Mr and Mrs Anderson, the steward and stewardess of the club, are attentive to the needs and requirements of the members. The cuisine, moderate in price and excellent in quality, is such as to satisfy all ordinary demands. Under the superintendence of the house committee, the very best and purest quality of refreshments is selected, and as the club is fortunate in possessing an ample water-supply the house in every department exhibits a bright and pleasing appearance, reflecting the utmost credit on the management of the committee. In the dining-room a telephone, connected with the central telephone exchange in Arbroath, is an acquisition of great convenience to the members. An elegant glass case contains the beautiful trophies of the golf club. These are enumerated on another page, with the lists of names adhibited of the winners of the various cups and medals. Some years ago Mr Claud Strachan Carnegie of Tarrie gifted several ancient golf weapons to the Arbroath Club. A driver made by Philip and used by Fox Maule, Earl of Dalhousie; an iron, belonging originally to William, Lord Panmure, and afterwards used by Fox Maule; and a spoon, an early specimen made by MacEwan, are interesting relics of olden golfing times. In addition to these, the gifts of Mr Carnegie, there is a long-faced driver of curious antique pattern ade by the late Tom Morris and presented by Mr J. R. W. Clark, solicitor, Arbroath.

The walls of the dining-room are decorated with interesting photographs, amongst which may be mentioned the following:—Portrait of Tom Morris (bearing the autograph of the famous St Andrews golfer, whose early association with the Arbroath Golf Course has already

been mentioned), given by Mr John Joss, Arbroath; portrait of Mr Ben Sayers, North Berwick, at the finish of his golfing swing, presented by Mr F. W. M. Bennett; a sketch of Mr Walter Travis, the famous American who won the Amateur Championship in 1904; "Lord Kitchener's Home-Coming," a large engraving which occupies a position over the fire-place; and a photograph of ex-Provost Grant making the first put at the opening of the course on 19th August 1903. A portrait of Mr William Alexander, who has so long and so honourably filled the office of secretary and treasurer of the club, occupies a distinguished place in the large smoking-room over the mantelpiece.

THE VIEW FROM THE CLUB-HOUSE.

The Arbroath golf club-house stands high above the links and looks over a wide expanse of the North Sea. It faces south-east, and far away on the horizon the Bell Rock Lighthouse, famed in legend and in verse, keeps its solitary watch, guarding the precious lives of those who "go down to the sea in ships."

Far on the bosom of the deep,
O'er these wild shelves my watch I keep,
A ruddy gem of changeful light
Bound on the dusky brow of night:
The seaman bids my lustre hail,
And scorns to strike his tim'rous sail.

Looking due south, the eye meets the well-known promontory of Fife Ness, and if the day be clear, just to the left of it, in the Firth of Forth, may be descried the "Tam o' Shanter"-shaped islet of the May. Behind, the hills of East Lothian and Berwickshire rear themselves above the water, and in days of clear pellucid atmosphere the eve may wander far along the Berwick high-lands till the cliffs of Fast Castle and St Abb's Head terminate the undulating outline of the land. Following westwards from Fife Ness, the cathedral towers of St Andrews become plainly visible, and with a good field-glass one can easily detect the ruins of the castle, with foam-tipped waves washing round its rocky seat; while farther to the west the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, the Grand Hotel, and the magnificent frontage of houses that faces the first tee of the "Mecca's" links become apparent. A continued view of the Fifeshire coast is not permitted to us owing to the Corsehill at the far end of our links. We are now looking almost directly south-west, and between us and the Corsehill stretches the long green tract of land which forms the Elliot links.

Behind the club-house, and about a mile or more away, lies Bonnington Hill, crowned with the farms of Bonhard (in ancient times the seat of a county magnate), Braehead, Easter and Wester Knox, as well as the school which supplies the wants of the parish of Arbirlot. At a nearer distance the farmhouse of Balcathie, with

the farm buildings and neat cottages, reminds us that we are standing on ground which once was part of that holding. Rearing its Scottish baronial tower above a long, well-planted wood, we gain a glimpse of Kelly Castle, one of the dower-houses of the Panmure family. It is at present tenanted by Mrs David Corsar. A fine example of the old Scottish baronial keep, the castle is surrounded by delightful gardens and cosy shrubberies. It is probable that the Castle of Kelly was erected by Sir William Ochterlony in the beginning of the seventeenth century. For many years it stood, as the Rev. Mr Headrick says in his Account of the County of Angus written in the first decade of last century, "a gloomy ruin near Arbroath, embosomed among ancient trees." A little over half a century ago it was "re-edified with skill and taste," and is now a beautiful specimen of old Scottish architecture and a most comfortable and attractive residence. The line of trees is continued down the far-famed Kelly Den, following the course of the Elliot water. Behind the wood, if you look slightly to the north-east, or, let us say, out of the side window of the gentlemen's club-room, the stalk of the bleaching works rises high above the foliage. A little to the left of the chimney, and rather less than a mile away, the square tower of Hospitalfield appears in its wooded environment. the stranger there is no house in or near Arbroath which constitutes such an attraction as this mansion, erected as it is on the site of the ancient hospitium of the Abbey. It

would be out of place here to do more than mention the magnificent gallery of pictures, the graceful and varied architecture, and the charming garden surroundings, all of which have, by the trust disposition of the late Mr Patrick Allan-Fraser, been made possible of inspection by strangers and others on certain days in summer. Hospitalfield is the accredited Monkbarns of "The Antiquary," and around it are many old-time associations.

If one allows the eye to follow still farther towards the sea, a long line of houses, the prominent red sandstone Water Tower, the Abbey, the Parish Church steeple, the Harbour, and many other objects proclaim the ancient burgh of Arbroath. Behind and still farther away rises the Law Hill, crowned with its tiny clump of trees, a landmark to the mariner and discernible from many far off corners not only in Forfarshire but in other counties. There tradition says that in times of feudal suzerainty and despotism many a vassal lost his life for breaking the cruel laws of "sac and soc" and "tholl and theim." It is very likely that here tradition errs. There are many "Laws" in Scotland-at Dundee, Largo, North Berwick, and elsewhere, —and the name is an Anglo-Saxon one, Hlawe, which means a hillock or tumulus. Law Hill, like Mount Zion Brae, expresses its meaning, therefore, twice. It is easily seen how the tradition, relating to feudal times, would arise. Adjacent to this hill, with its gibbet associations, lies the wooded property of Seaton, the home of the Hon. F. J. Bruce.

Almost impossible to be accurately discerned owing to the clustering buildings of the town, the far-famed Ness, where the great cliffs of Angus commence, forms a rocky headland jutting into the sea. There it is possible, thanks to the vigour and energy of that flourishing body known as "The Health Congress," to engage in the summer-time in the exercise of swimming with more safety to life and limb than in almost any other similar place on the east coast of Scotland. The members declare that so safe is the Steeple Rock it would be impossible for anyone to commit suicide there though he tried. At anyrate this may be granted at the time the "Health Congress" enjoys its morning ablution. Strangers are always welcomed, and find themselves quite safe to share in the gambols of the merry band. On some occasions during the summer mornings of 1909 there have been as many as a hundred bathers splashing together at the same time.

The bay of Elliot possesses a fine semi-circle of magnificent sand. The West Links Park, lately opened for public use, owing to the energy of the Town Improvement Association, has proved one of the greatest blessings to old and young alike. It is now possible to obtain many facilities for enjoyment which a few years ago were denied. Those who are in search of further information regarding the town and its attractions may apply to Mr Rollo S. Black, accountant, High Street, Arbroath, secretary of the Town Improvement Association, and we can assure them

that he will at all times be ready to put them in possession of all facts regarding privileges to be obtained in the neighbourhood.

CONSTITUTION AND RULES.

ARBROATH GOLF CLUB.

For the guidance of those desiring to become members or temporary members of the Arbroath Golf Club, the following is taken from the Constitution and Rules:—

Admission of Members.

Candidates (male) for admission to the club (who must be over eighteen years of age) shall be proposed by one member and seconded by another, and their names, designations, and addresses, with the names of their respective proposers and seconders, shall be sent to the secretary, and shall be posted by him on the notice-board of the club-house at least seven days before the election.

Ladies may be admitted members on payment of such entry-money and such annual subscription as may from time to time be fixed as after-mentioned; but they shall not be eligible for the committee of management or for any of the other committees, nor shall they vote in the management of the affairs, or in the election of members, of the club.

Girls under sixteen years of age may be admitted as junior members of the club by the committee of management, but only on such conditions as the committee may from time to time appoint.

Intimation of Election.

On the admission of a new member, the secretary shall notify the same to him, furnishing him with a copy of the rules of the club, and requesting him to pay the amount of the entrance-money, and the subscription for the year then current; and no member newly elected shall participate in any of the advantages or privileges of the club until he has paid the same. In the case of the entry-money and the subscription not being paid within one month of such notification, the person elected shall be considered as having forfeited his right to become a member, and his name shall be excluded from the list.

ENTRANCE-MONEY AND SUBSCRIPTION.

The entrance-money for gentlemen on admission shall be ten shillings, and the annual subscription one pound, or such other sum as may be decided upon at a general meeting of the club.

The entrance-money for ladies on admission shall be five shillings, and the annual subscription ten shillings, or such other sum as may be fixed as aforesaid.

The annual subscription payable by girls shall be seven

shillings and sixpence, but on attaining sixteen years of age they must be proposed and elected, and pay the ordinary entry-money and subscription payable by lady members.

The annual subscription shall be payable in advance on 1st October in each year, and those who have not paid their subscriptions on or before that date, shall, until payment as after-mentioned, forfeit all their rights and privileges as members. If the subscription of any member is unpaid by 1st November following, such member shall be written to by the treasurer, and if not paid by 1st December, the defaulter shall cease to be a member of the club. Payment of the entry-money and subscription confers on members the right to play over the Arbroath Golf Course and to use the club-house.

MANAGEMENT.

No excisable liquors shall be sold or supplied for consumption except to a member within the club premises, and for his own consumption; and no excisable liquors shall be sold or supplied to any person under eighteen years of age.

ANNUAL AND OTHER GENERAL MEETINGS.

The annual general meeting shall be held in October, and the committee of management may at any time call a special general meeting for the transaction of business; and in the event of a written requisition from any five members stating their object, it shall be incumbent upon the captain or secretary, within one week thereafter, to call a special general meeting of the club.

TEMPORARY MEMBERS AND VISITORS.

Any person whose ordinary residence is not within ten miles of the burgh of Arbroath may be admitted by the house committee as a temporary member of the club.

The name and address of each temporary member, along with the period of temporary membership (which shall not exceed one month), and the name of the member introducing him or her, shall be inserted by the house committee in the book kept for the purpose.

Payment by the temporary member shall be at the rate of one shilling per day, or, if longer than one day, at the rate of three shillings per week, during such time as this privilege is enjoyed.

Members may introduce visitors to the club-house, who shall remain in the club-house only whilst the members introducing them are there.

No visitor shall be supplied with excisable liquor in the club premises unless on the invitation and in the company of a member, and the member shall upon the admission of such visitor to the club premises, or immediately upon his being supplied with such liquor, enter his own name and the name and address of the visitor in a book which shall be kept for the purpose, and which shall show the date of each visit.

No person shall be introduced as a visitor oftener than once in four consecutive weeks, except in the case of visitors residing beyond a radius of ten miles from Arbroath, who may be introduced twice in the four weeks.

Such temporary members and visitors under this rule shall not be entitled to the use of the course free of charge.

LIFE AND HONORARY MEMBERS.

A patron of the club shall be chosen at the annual general meeting, and shall be eligible for re-election.

Any person shall be eligible for election as a life member of the club on payment of the sum of fifteen guineas, and only those who in the opinion of the club in general meeting have conferred or may confer signal benefit or service to the club or in connection with the golf course shall be eligible as honorary members. The same formalities as are prescribed for the admission of ordinary members shall apply to the election of life and honorary members. The latter shall not pay any entry-money or annual subscription.

CLUB HOURS.

The club-house will be open for members at seven o'clock in the morning from 1st April to 30th September inclusive, and at eight o'clock in the morning from 1st October to 31st March inclusive, and will be shut at ten o'clock P.M. and eight o'clock P.M. during these periods respectively.

TROPHIES—ARBROATH GOLF CLUB.

GOLD MEDAL.

Presented to the Arbroath Golf Club by C. W. Corsar, Esq., First Captain, 25th May 1878.

1878-J. Smith, jun. 1894-D. W. Baxter. 1879-Thos. Gilroy. 1895-A. Maccallum. 1880—Thos. Gilroy. 1896-D. Greig. 1881-Alex. Moir (78). 1897-A. Maccallum. 1882-Alex. Moir (80). 1898-Alex, Mann. 1899-D. Ramsay. 1883—Robert Morrison (81) 1884-E. Shield. 1900—A. Maccallum. 1885-D. Paterson. 1901-Alf. L. Hay. 1886-J. Duncan. 1902-James W. Brown. 1887-W. Proudfoot. 1903-No competition. 1888-D. Stewart. 1904—A. Maccallum. 1889-James Corsar. 1905-A. Maccallum. 1906-Archd, Wilson. 1890-No competition. 1891-R. H. Corstorphine. 1907—Archd. Wilson. 1892-J. Doig. 1908-J. Scott. 1909-A. Maccallum. 1893-D. Arbuthnot.

CARNEGIE CUP.

1879-Alex. Moir. 1887-James Turnbull. 1880-Wm. Proudfoot. 1888-D. Stewart. 1881-Wm, Proudfoot. 1889-R. H. Howie. 1882-Wm. Proudfoot. 1890-D. Stewart. 1883-Wm. Proudfoot. 1891-R. H. Corstorphine. 1884-Wm. Fraser. 1892—R. H. Corstorphine. 1885-D. Paterson. 1893-Wm. Edwards. 1894-A. D. Lowson. 1886-James Duncan.

1895—D. Arbuthnot. 1896—A. Maccallum.

1897—W. B. Mair.

1898—A. D. Lowson.

1899—Hon. F. J. Bruce.

1900—Stewart Tulloch. 1901—J. W. Brown.

1902-W. J. Greaves.

1903-C. H. Nutton.

1904—A. Maccallum.

1905—Alex. Cant.

1906—A. D. Lowson.

1907—Archd. Wilson.

1908—J. Fyfe Milne. 1909—W. Gauldie.

1909-W. Gauldle.

SILVER MEDAL (CLUB).

Autumn Meeting.

1878—Claud S. Carnegie.

1879-Arthur J. Weir.

1880—Patrick Finlayson.

1881—Alex. M. Davidson.

1882—William Alexander.

1883—James Duncan.

1884—James Duncan. 1885—W. Fraser.

1886—W. Fraser. 1886—David Brown.

1887—David Brown.

1888-D. B. Smith.

1889—R. H. Howie.

1890—D. Greig. 1891—R. Guthrie.

1892—G. M. Douglas.

1893-R. C. Kinloch.

1894—A. R. Low.

1895—A. P. Gibb.

1896—J. W. Brown.

1897—Watson Baird.

1898-G. R. Edward.

1899—D. Ramsay.

1900-Frank Brown.

1901—J. B. Sparks. 1902—James Kinloch.

1903—No competition.

1904-J. R. Allan.

1905—P. G. Hutchison.

1906—Archd. Wilson.

1907-W. Gauldie.

1908—J. Scott.

1909-J. M. Smith.

SILVER MEDAL.

Spring Meeting.

1881-William Proudfoot (85).

1882—Alex. Moir (82). 1883—William Proudfoot.

1884—David Paterson.

1885—David Paterson.

1886-James Duncan.

1887-James Duncan.

1888—David Greig. 1889—D. Stewart.

1890-James Duncan.

1891—R. H. Corstorphine.

1892-W. Edwards.

1893—James Duncan.	1902-No competition.
1894—W. Smith.	1903—C. H. Nutton.
1895—No competition.	1904—William Mann.
1896—Alex. Garvie.	1905—A. Maccallum.
1897—A. Maccallum.	1906A. D. Yule.
1898—Alex. Mann.	1907—G. R. Edward.
1899—J. W. Brown.	1908—Archd, Wilson.
1900James Kirkby.	1909—David Chapel.
1901—Stewart Tulloch.	

HANDICAP SILVER MEDAL.

Presented by Hon. F. J. Bruce of Seaton.

1899—C. Bruce.	1905—D. J. Scott.
1900—James Kirkby.	1906-J. A. Rodger.
1901—Alf. L. Hay.	1907—Geo. Crowe.
1902—No competition.	1908—Chas. Moore.
1903—C. H. Nutton.	1909—David Chapel.
1904_And Grant	

STORRER CUP.

1908—J. Fyfe Milne. 1909—A. R. Gibb.

ARTISAN GOLF CLUB.

The Arbroath Artisan Golf Club had its origin at the time that the Arbroath Golf Club left its simple brick premises in the summer of 1903 to betake itself to the handsome and extensive establishment on the higher ground. The smaller and less pretentious structure had done its duty well, and it occurred to some that for at least a time the housing would be sufficient for a club which would appeal more properly to the artisan section of the

community. The building, which belonged to the Arbroath Club, was taken over at the modest rent of £10 a year, and after a few years this sum was reduced to £8. A strong committee was formed, and the following were the original office-bearers: — President, Mr J. R. Aitken; Vice-President, Mr Robert Guthrie; Hon. Secretary, Mr Alf. Hay; Hon. Treasurer, Mr A. H. Mann; Captain, Mr J. W. Brown; Vice-Captain, Mr Watson Baird. During the subsequent years no small success has attended the efforts of the officials to cater for the wants of the working-class population of the town, and a number of beautiful trophies and medals have been given to the club.

With the very moderate subscription of three shillings the club soon attracted a large following of members, and there has been a steady increase to the present time. No fewer than 132 members are enrolled in the books of the club, and the enthusiasm is proportionate to its prosperity and growth.

Within the last year a movement has been made to find larger and more suitable accommodation for this thriving concern, and before long there is little doubt that a new building will be erected to meet the requirements of the artisans. It is not yet decided whether it would be advisable to take up the burden of building an entirely new structure, or, with the old brick "biggin" as a nucleus, to extend it, and add the necessary masonry. Whichever course is decided on, all the resources of the ardent artisans will

be taxed to the uttermost. It is to be hoped that in their efforts to assist themselves they will succeed in awakening some practical sympathy in the hearts of those who are more happily situated, whose share of golf is more easily obtained, and whose opportunities for enjoying the game are more frequent and less hampered. We wish the Artisan Golf Club "more power to its elbow" in the up-hill task which it has set itself.

The following is a list of the office-bearers for the present year:—President, Mr Archibald Maccallum; Vice-President, Mr William Kinnear; Hon. Secretary, Mr Arthur F. Roberts; Hon. Treasurer, Mr Alex. G. Hendry; Captain, Mr James W. Brown; Vice-Captain, Mr Robert Kerr. Committee — Messrs George Morrison, Robert Neilson, George Watson, George Napier, F. W. M. Bennett, Alex. G. Petrie, Charles M. Forrest. Representative on Course Management Committee—Mr F. W. M. Bennett. Auditors—Messrs A. K. Adamson and Alex. Mann.

TROPHIES-ARTISAN CLUB.

MACDONALD CUP.

Presented, June 1904, by W. K. Macdonald, Esq. Cup to stand as championship cup of the club. Winner's name to be inscribed upon it, and cup retained for one year. Two rounds or 36 holes to be played in the final. Winners:—

1904—Henry Ogg. 1905—Henry Ogg. 1906—James W. Brown. 1907—James W. Brown. 1908—James W. Brown. 1909—George Morrison.

GRANT MEDAL.

Presented, June 1904, by Provost Grant. To be played for in the autumn of each year as a scratch competition. Winner's name to be inscribed on same, and medal retained for one year. Winners:—

1905—Henry Ogg. 1906—James W. Brown. 1907-George Morrison.

1908—George Watson.

BROWN MEDAL.

Presented, 25th May 1904, by the Brown family. To be a handicap medal, and to be played for annually. Winner's name to be inscribed on it, and medal retained for one year. Winners:—

1905—Henry Ogg.

1908—George Dundas.

1906—William Robb.

1909-George Watson.

1907-W. G. Williamson.

GOUREPORE MEDAL.

Presented, January 1908, by two Arbroathians resident in Gourepore, India—Messrs D. Ritchie and A. Carrie. To be played for annually by match play, under handicap rules. Winner's name to be inscribed on it, and medal retained for one year. Winners:—

1908-Arthur Millar.

1909-A. J. Wilson.

CLUB MEDAL.

Presented, February 1905, by Mr John Saunderson. To be competed for annually in the second week of April and the second week in September, under handicap rules. The player with the best aggregate for the two rounds to be the winner for the year. The medal to become the property of the person winning it three times, not necessarily in succession. Winners:—

1905—James W. Brown.

1908—David Fairweather, jun.

1906—George Fairweather. 1907—George Fairweather. 1909-Andrew Smith.

MONTHLY BADGE COMPETITION.

Played for on the first Saturday and first Wednesday of each month, under handicap medal play. The player winning it oftenest during the year to be declared winner. Winners:—

1904—F.	W.	M.	Bennett.	
		_		

1905—Henry Ogg. 1906—Wm. Cowie. 1907-George Morrison.

1908—David Fairweather, sen.

1909—James Patterson.

M'LEAN BADGE.

Presented, October 1908, by Mr Wm. M'Lean. To be played for under handicap medal play. The player with the best aggregate of his four best scores in the monthly competition to be declared winner.

THE LADIES' GOLF CLUB.

As early as May 1896 a number of ladies formulated a request that a branch of the Arbroath Golf Club should be allowed for themselves. It was agreed that if the ladies formed themselves into a Ladies' Club, with a committee of management, who should be responsible for the payment of the annual subscription of five shillings per member to the treasurer of the Arbroath Golf Club, this request should be granted. During the intervening years, and until the new club-house was established on the hill, the ladies seem to have formed a somewhat small element amongst the players on the links. At the time, however, when the architecture of the new club-house was under consideration a commodious wing was proposed to be allotted entirely for the use of the ladies. When the club-house was

erected they found there a habitation of which they are naturally proud, and it is considered that in few establishments of a like kind do ladies have such admirable housing facilities as at present are granted to them at Elliot.

Miss Grant, Woodside, is the secretary of the Ladies' Club, and may be applied to for information respecting it.

At a meeting of the Arbroath Golf Club held on 3rd May 1905, the secretary, Mr Alexander, intimated that the ladies of the club asked to have a committee of their number, and had elected a provisional committee of five. It was unanimously agreed that such a committee should be recognised, subject to the following constitution:—

- 1. That the committee consist of five members elected by the ladies annually in October, after annual meeting of the golf club.
- 2. That one of their number be appointed by them convener and secretary.
- 3. That they have power to fill vacancies in their number occurring during their year of office.
- 4. That their administrative powers be limited to the fixing of lady members' handicaps and arranging matches with other ladies.
- 5. That they may make representations on behalf of the lady members through their secretary to the secretary of the club for the consideration of the committee of management.

A general meeting of the lady members was held on 5th March 1905, twenty ladies being present, and the following committee was elected: — Mrs Kinloch, Miss Nicol, Miss R. Nicol, Miss Grant, and Miss Ducat. Miss Rose Nicol was elected convener and secretary.

In May 1905 a handsome silver medal was presented to the Ladies' Club by the late Mr G. D. Nicol, Monkbarns, and the first competition on June 8th resulted in the medal being won by Miss Agnes Kinloch with a score of 51, less 5—46. In the summer of the same year a silver rose bowl was presented for competition by Miss Ducat, Warslap, the bowl to be played for annually by holes under handicap of strokes, and continued every Tuesday and Friday till finished. Mrs A. Colquhoun, Carnoustie, proved the first winner.

A monthly cup was obtained by the Ladies' Club the following year, and Mrs Parsons, having won it oftenest during the year, became the holder of the trophy.

Mr W. J. Rollo, Commercial Bank, convener of the house committee of the Arbroath Golf Club, presented a silver medal to the ladies in the beginning of the year 1906. After keen competition Miss Agnes Kinloch became its first winner.

TROPHIES-LADIES' CLUB.

The following is a list of the winners of the Ladies' Club trophies:—-

Miss	DUCA	T'S	ROSE	BOWL
------	------	-----	------	------

(HANDICAP.)

1905-Mrs Colquhoun.

1906-Miss A. Kinloch.

1907-Mrs Parsons.

1908-Miss E. Aitken.

1909-Miss A. Kinloch.

MR ROLLO'S MEDAL.

1906-Miss A. Kinloch.

1907-Miss A. Kinloch.

1908-Miss E. Aitken.

1909—Miss A. Kinloch.

MR NICOL'S MEDAL

(HANDICAP.)

1905-Miss A. Kinloch.

1906—Miss Rose Nicol.

1907-Miss E. Aitken.

1908-Miss E. Aitken.

1909-Miss A. Kinloch.

MONTHLY CUP.

1906—Mrs Parsons.

1907-Miss Campbell.

1908-Mrs Parsons.

1909-Mrs Parsons.

CLUB SILVER ROSE BOWL

(SCRATCH.)

1906—Miss A. Kinloch.

1907—Miss Leslie.

1908—Mrs Parsons.

1909-Miss A. Kinloch.

The committee for 1909 is composed of the following ladies: — Mrs Corstorphine, Mrs Guild, Mrs Kinloch, Mrs Parsons, Miss Campbell, Miss Mackay, Miss Grant (secretary).

The Ladies' Club has now a membership of 56, and the annual subscription is ten shillings. An entrance fee of five shillings is charged. Further information as to lady membership is given under the constitution and rules of the Arbroath Golf Club.

ARBROATH AND DISTRICT LICENSED VICTUALLERS' CLUB.

The Arbroath and District Licensed Victuallers' Golf Club has been in existence since 1905. Mr James F. Pearson took a leading part in the movement for the formation of a golf club in connection with the licensed trade of the district, and it was on 11th October 1905 that a meeting was held in the White Hart Hotel when the idea assumed a practical form. At that meeting office-bearers were elected as follows:—President, Mr James F. Pearson; vice-president, Mr Alex. Smith, White Hart Hotel; secretary and treasurer, Mr J. B. C. Black; committee— Mr James Scott, Mr John Jack, and Mr J. G. M'Kinlay. The formal inauguration of the club took place on 1st November of that year with a match between teams chosen by president and vice-president. The present office-bearers of the club are :—President, Mr James Doig; vice-president, Mr J. G. M'Kinlay; secretary and treasurer, Mr James A. Cowie; committee—Messrs A. N. Strachan, James Adam, James D. Whyte, Robert Brown, and David Alexander. The leading trophies for competition in connection with the club are the Dunville challenge cup, a handsome trophy presented soon after the formation of the club by Messrs Dunville & Co. Ltd., Belfast, and the Dewar medal, the gift of Messrs John Dewar & Sons, Ltd., Perth. Both trophies are played for under handicap conditions—the cup by match play and the medal by stroke play.

TROPHIES.

The following are the winners of the respective awards:-

		CUP.

1906—Archd, Wilson.

1907—J. G. M'Kinlay.

1908-J. G. Pearson.

1909-James Adam.

DEWAR MEDAL.

1907-J. G. M'Kinlay.

1908-J. D. Whyte.

1909-Jas. A. Cowie.

A medal presented by Mr J. Doig, Guthrie Port, was played for during the year 1909 and won by J. Adam.

ARBROATH HIGH SCHOOL GOLF CLUB.

In April 1895, the late Mr Corstorphine, of the High School, asked the Arbroath Golf Club for permission to form a juvenile club for boys at school. This was agreed to on certain conditions, which were that each member be charged 1s. 6d., and that a club be formed amongst the boys themselves with office-bearers such as captain and secretary, and with a proper scheme of regulations, to form as it were their constitution. In the scheme of the new club-house there is no provision made for such a branch, for it is one of the rules of its new constitution that until the age of eighteen juveniles are not permitted to become members of the Arbroath Golf Club.

Since the year 1895, however, a flourishing Golf Club has existed in connection with the High School. Many of the teachers, as has been already shewn, have taken a leading place in golfing movements from time to time. The School Golf Club owes much to the enthusiasm of the masters, as well as to the fine *esprit de corps* which exists in all athletic affairs in the institution.

Office-bearers for 1908-1909:—President, Mr C. W. Cochrane, B.Sc.; vice-president, Mr G. S. Robertson, M.A.; captain, Master J. M. Nairn; vice-captain, Master J. O. G. Stuart; secretary and treasurer, Master R. W. Bennet; committee — Masters T. B. Myles, A. B. Scott, and A. J. Smith.

In the spring of 1895 a beautiful silver medal was given to the Boys' Golf Club by Provost Colin Grant, Woodside. It has been competed for every year, and the names of the winners are as follows:—

1895-Frank G. Souter.

1896-James D. Paterson.

1897-W. Hutchison.

1898—D. A. Hutchison.

1899-Alfred Hird.

1900—Robert D. Neilson.

1901-Thomas S. Crichton.

1902-William E. Crichton.

1903-William E. Crichton.

1904—James S. Bonnyman.

1905—Louis B. Parsons.

1906—Ronald M. Hume.

1907—George Beattie.

1908—Griffith T. Davidson.

1909—James M. Nairn.

The girls of the High School arrange that the officebearers of their Golf Club do duty also for the Tennis Club, so that both golf and tennis are combined in, as it were, one Society. The following are the office-bearers for 1908-1909:—President, Miss Henderson; secretary, Miss Lizzie Strachan; treasurer, Miss Janet Lawson; committee—Misses Jessie Wilson, Ena Pirie, Mary Minto, and Rita Crichton.

In the early part of 1896 the late Mr George Miln, solicitor, presented a handsome silver medal for competition among the girls. The following have proved winners:—

1896—Agnes Campbell.	1903—Ella M. Crichton.
1897—Agnes Campbell.	1904—Agnes Kinloch.
1898—Agnes Campbell.	1905—Agnes Kinloch.
1899—Agnes Campbell.	1906—Agnes Kinloch.
1900—No competition.	1907—Violetta Bisset.
1901—Ella M. Crichton.	1908—Dorothy M. Marshall.
1902—No competition.	1909—Dorothy M. Smith.

BOGEY SCORE.

By agreement between the handicap committees of the Arbroath and Artisan Golf Clubs, the following is the Bogey score:—

Out, 5 5 4 3 5 5 3 5 5—40 In, 5 4 5 5 4 4 4 5 5—41—81

RECORD SCORE.

Mr R. Henrit, the professional, playing on Tuesday, 6th April 1909, created the record score as follows:—

Out, 5 4 4 3 4 4 3 4 5—36 In, 4 3 3 5 3 4 4 5 5—36—72

TABLE SHOWING AT WHAT HOLES STROKES ARE TO BE TAKEN.

1	6		200															
2	6	13																
3	2	6	13															
4	2	6	10	13		- 1												
5	2	6	8	10	13													
6	2	6	8	10	13	17									1			
7	2	4	6	8	10	13	17					Ÿ						
8	2	4	6	8	10	13	15	17										
9	2	4	6	8	9	10	13	15	17									
10	1	2	4	6	8	9	10	13	15	17								
11	1	2	4	6	8	9	10	12	13	15	17							
12	1	2	4	5	6	8	9	10	12	13	15	17						
13	1	2	4	5	6	8	9	10	12	13	15	17	18					
14	1	2	4	5	6	8	9	10	11	12	13	15	17	18				
15	1	2	3	4	5	6	8	9	10	11	12	13	15	17	18		-	
16	1	2	3	4	5	6	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	17	18		
17	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	17	18	
18	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	-																	

THE FINANCES OF THE COURSE.

When in November 1902 the Town Council magnanimously granted the sum of £550 to meet the deficiency in the money for the price of the links (p. 77), it was generally understood that that sum would be sufficient. But when all accounts were settled and the purchase price came

to be paid in May 1903, it was found that the sum of only £2950 (including the Council grant) was available. The balance of £50 was taken out of the town's money and entered in the town's books as a debt on the golf course. The purchasers had obtained possession of the links on the 1st January 1902 (p. 87), and incurred a charge of interest on the unpaid money. The sum of £71 0s 11d thus fell to be paid to Lord Dalhousie's agents in addition to the purchase price of £3000, and a further 6s 10d of bank commission was paid on the remittance to Edinburgh. In February 1906, immediately after the conveyance had been completed (p. 88), an account was rendered to the town by the agents for half the expense of preparing that document. The sum amounted to £26 10s 2d, the full account having included a stamp duty of £15, as well as other necessary fees and outlays.

From 16th May 1903 till 1st November 1906 the town had, as detailed above, disbursed £121 7s 9d, inclusive of the expense of conveyance, on behalf of the golf course. Interest at the rate of $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. was charged on this sum, the amount being £13 13s 5d. The total outlays reached £161 11s 4d at the time when negotiations were proceeding with a view to settle the differences between the Council and the golfers (p. 94). This sum therefore stands at present in the "Accounts of the Town Council" (see p. 11, Abstract of Town's Accounts) under the heading "Golf Links Committee—Balance repayable."

Under the arrangement with the Town Council in October 1907, "any surplus revenue" on the golf course is to be applied iu "liquidating from time to time" this sum of £161 11s 4d under certain conditions, which can be referred to in the copy of the document given on page 94. No further interest has been charged on this amount, and according to the Disposition granted by Lord Dalhousie to the Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council of Arbroath, it is not competent for these gentlemen or their successors in office to burden the lands disponed with debt. (See p. 86.)

There is every likelihood that from time to time, unless this debt is relieved by some other agency, the golf course committees will require to spare a portion of their revenue to clear away the incubus.

In the meantime the revenue is small enough to meet the demands made upon the course exchequer. Since 1902 by able management and careful attention to finance the income from year to year has been made to equal the expenditure. The greenkeeper's shed and the shelter, the alteration of the course, the making of new tees and greens, and the general upkeep of the links, have cost much money, and in every case the expense has been met by revenue. It says much for the successive committees of management that at the present time (October 1909) they have never incurred more debt than they were able successfully and readily to wipe off. Com-

pared with other towns everywhere spending large sums of money in laying new greens, placing new tees, extending and lengthening their courses, and introducing water-supplies, the town of Arbroath has reason to congratulate itself on its course at Elliot.

Subjoined is a note, kindly furnished by the secretary and treasurer, showing the estimated revenue and expenditure of the course for the year to 11th November 1909:—

ESTIMATED REVENUE.

Arbroath Golf Club,	-	-	**	-	£64	0	0
Artisan Golf Club,	~	-	-	-	22	0	0
Yearly and half-yearl	y ticke	ets,	-	-	15	0	0
Monthly, fortnightly,	and w	eek]	ly ticke	ets,	7	0	0
Single round course t	ickets,	-	_	**	66	0	0
Grazing rent, -	_	_	-	-	46	0	0
					£220	0	0

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE.

Wages—Greenkeeper,	£ 52	0	0
" Workmen,	109	0	0
Rates, taxes, and insurance, &c., -	10	0	0
Course requisites, including manure, -	40	0	0
Printing, advertising, and bank interest,	5	0	0
Miscellaneous,	5	0	0
	£221	0	0
	-		

THE FUTURE OF THE COURSE.

From the foregoing résumé of the finances one fact stands out in glaring prominence. The Arbroath Golf Course is almost, if not quite, the only course in Scotland which has never received a capital sum to go to its making. Over and over again in other places £1000 or more has been used (over and above the purchase price) in constructing an average eighteen-hole course. Not one penny has been spent on Elliot since its purchase but what has been derived as income. The reason is very obvious: a golf course existed on the links when they were acquired for the town. But again no one can aver that even before the date of purchase the course had ever received the treatment which is meted out to those similarly situated. And, it need hardly be pointed out, much has to be done yet to bring the course into line with those looked upon as ideal, or even nearly so. It is now of fine length, 5700 yards, and easily capable of extension to 6000 yards. The present arrangement of the holes with the short ones at appropriate intervals is judged by those who give attention to such matters to be exceptionally excellent, and with the land at disposal practically as good as possible.

The turf throughout the green is every year becoming harder and firmer owing to the tramping of the golfers. With proper cutting and rolling at the growing seasons the links are gradually improving, giving finer lies for every well-played shot on the fair-way.

Many of the greens are very good. True putting can be obtained on them, and they are large in size and carefully tended. One or two, again, much require entire returfing, especially where the original ground has not offered itself naturally for making greens. Every one of them requires, and that very urgently, the removal of the crowd of weeds, a natural product of the links. There are several methods of eradicating those hardy but undesirable little plants. Silver sand, a chemical mixture, is used on some courses, each daisy or plantain receiving a dose of the poison-powder, which kills and destroys them rapidly. The most sensible plan, however, is to have each weed removed by hand by means of a double-pronged hook, root and all being lifted out. Into the small hole created by the removal of the weed a small amount of compost, made of earth, sand, fine grass seed, and simple manure, is usually placed. It is calculated that by this means a large green can be cleared by five men in a week, their whole day-time of ten hours being devoted to the work. cost for each green would run to about £5, and to clear an eighteen-hole course the sum of £90 would be required.

Tees are constantly needing returfing, and in the autumn especially each one should be attended to and repaired. On all good courses several tees, three or even four, are to be found for each hole. At Elliot, relief tees

properly constructed are amongst the improvements much needed. To bring the course up to the most sporting level, and to introduce the possibility of niblick play, a feature of the game little called for here, the committee must tackle, as soon as the finances permit, a scheme of rational and scientific bunkering. Many of the holes present no punishment to the flagrant habits of pulling and slicing. The greens are often unguarded, and pitching accurately is thus to a less degree called for. In all later models of golf courses the bunkers are made deep with edges only slightly raised, and the beauty of the undulating land is therefore retained. Pot bunkers should be made in great numbers, but the fair-way kept to a considerable extent open.

Much will depend on the succeeding committees of management. With a membership drawn from the Town Council on the one hand and the golf clubs on the other, there is a danger that the representatives of these bodies may be led to view their respective duties from altogether different standpoints. Any antagonism between them will be apt to endanger the good of the course, and through that the value of the links as an asset of the town.

There are only two ways in which the golf course can be an acquisition adding to the resources of the burgh. The first, and meantime the more prominent, is in providing a good golf playground for the inhabitants. The second is in attracting to Arbroath a class of visitor who will spend money with profit to himself and advantage to at least part of the community.

To whatsoever a degree the course reaches the level of recognisedly great and accredited golf links, a proportionate benefit will accrue both to the golfer and to the town. The players will enjoy the better pleasure in their favourite game, and the town will draw the greater number of persons whose liking and attachment will bring them to taste the sport at Elliot. The interests of both parties are therefore the same. The end attainable can only be produced by one means, namely, the evolution and perfecting of the various elements that go to creating a really good golf course.

The great difficulty, pressing hard on those who are irritated by a slow and vexatious development, is the grave and seemingly uncompromising outlook regarding finance. There is no doubt that had the course received its due, had even a few hundred pounds been spent in laying the greens with weedless turf, and in constructing level tees and appropriate bunkers, the income of to-day would have been sufficient to carry on with. But money is required, and money must be got before Elliot can be heard in the land as the name of a really great golf course, and talked of as such in the clubs and rendezvous of sportsmen.

Where then is the money to be found? The Town Council, although possessing through its representatives

the greater power in the management, plainly says that no hope can be entertained in that quarter. The "Common Good" is of no avail; the inhabitants cannot be assessed for a golf course; the town cannot be further burdened by such measures.

There are only two other ways—or perhaps three—in which money can be obtained. The first is—it must be said -from the golfers themselves in Arbroath; to whom after all the golf course is a greater blessing than they imagine or pay for, and in whose interest much labour and trouble have been spent in the acquisition of the links. Had the golfers alone been responsible for the raising of the comparatively large sum of money, the story of which has been told in these pages, had they depended on themselves alone, would they to-day have had a golf course worth playing on? Let them then in human courtesy, and for their own good, display their gratitude to the town which supported them in their long fight, reflect upon what their friends have done, and open their purses to assist in the development of their own course.

As for the strangers who come "within our gates," it is only meet that they should pay their due share in the upkeep of the links. They have this to think, at all events, that they are helping this year the course which they can visit the next to find, under wise management, still better and more enticing golf. Indeed, their quota will not be despised! May they come and

come again, and have good cause to remember the fair links at Elliot.

The suggestion of a possible third source of supply may sound just a little like begging, a practice from which a true Scotsman shrinks. But on the principle, embodied in a very common aphorism at home, if not abroad, that "it's never lost what a friend gets," the matter may be put plainly if not bluntly. In every corner of the world, in every clime, always holding their heads high and inspiring respect and even affection, you will find Arbroath men, young and old, rich or richer, but never without a warm and tender response in their heart to any suggestion that reminds them of "the auld Abbey ruins, the cliffs, and the Common." To them, if they have perused this simple history, and reviewed with their native insight the story of the struggle and fight it has been to get things even as they are; if their heart begins to burn with memories of the old homeland; if their desire, their heart's desire, is to return to their long-lost boyhood haunts,—to them, quietly and alone in their chamber, be it in the jungle of India, or in the rich and prosperous cities of America, let me whisper one word—Do not forget the old country, the old town, and especially the Links at Elliot, and happy days spent on

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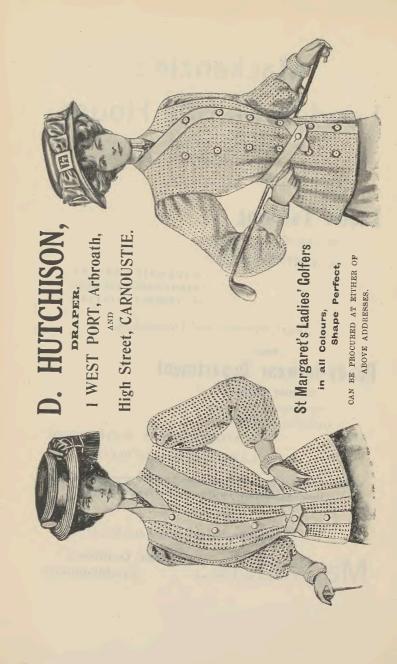
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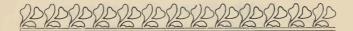
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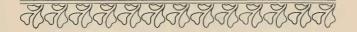
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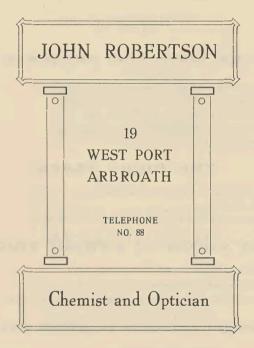
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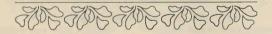
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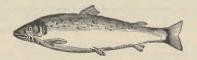
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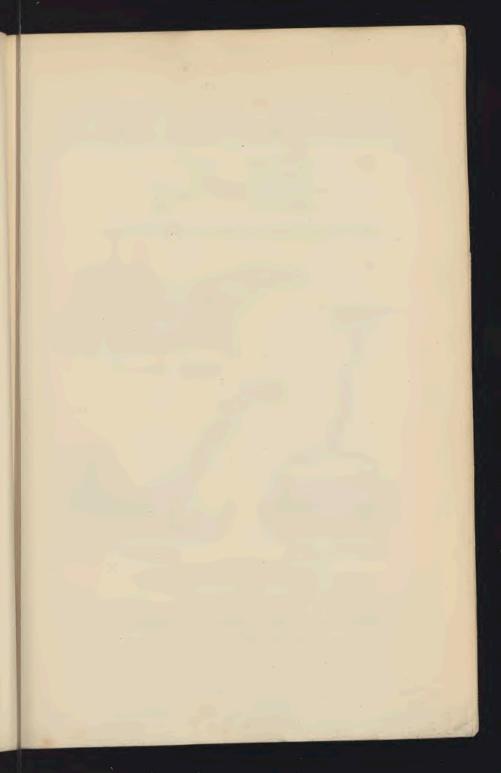
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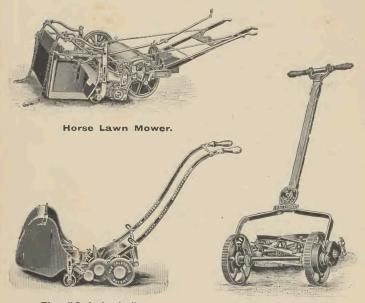
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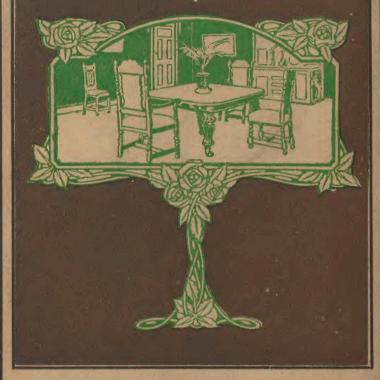
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