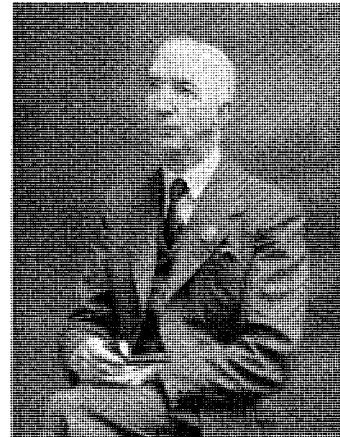


The Story of
LANARK GOLF CLUB
from 1851 to 1951

By A. D. ROBERTSON, M.A.



John S. Bryce (Captain, 1951)

CENTENARY HANDBOOK

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LANARK GOLF CLUB

LANARK MOOR—ABOUT 1830 A.D.

"The only place of sterility, in the immediate vicinity, is the Moor of Lanark, about a mile from the town. But even this dismal waste is not without its use: the cows belonging to the burgesses are pastured here under the charge of a hind, paid by the owners of the cattle."—Wm. Davidson's "History of Lanark." Third edition, 1835.

Lanark Moor, in our time, with the sun shining and a mild breeze blowing from the west, is the most beautiful sight in the world: this is the opinion of all of our club-members whose minds are in a sound state of health. It is not sterile: it grows a praiseworthy kind of grass, and the ball sits up in a most inviting way. It is not dismal by any means, for every dip, ridge, hollow and curve brings its own enchantment and thrill. There is no waste, because that has become our rough, and if you like rough, it is very good rough. The chapters which follow attempt to describe the conversion of a wild moor, over a period of one hundred years, into a most likeable course, full of tantalising attractions, and this by the efforts of a long series of great-hearted club-officials.

FOUNDING OF THE CLUB.

The first annual general meeting of the Club was held on 4th October, 1851: twenty-one members were enrolled, and they could anticipate happy days spent on their six-hole course. About seventy years later, however, James Annan and J. Arthur Vassie, separately, quoted family tradition to the effect that in the earliest stages there were four members and four holes, and when a new member joined they added an extra hole. In those days they hung their spare clothing on the branches of trees, their earliest club-house. The speakers referred to Golf on the Moor prior to 1851, and our starting-point in that year represents a departure from Arcadian simplicity and the establishment of an organised body ruled by fixed laws and regulations. The four heroes, who played "before the Club," and founded it, were Robert Lithgow, William Lithgow, John Vassie and Thomas Purdie, whose portraits still hang in the shadows of the Club-house corridor.



ROBERT LITHGOW
(Stanmore)



WILLIAM LITHGOW
(Stanmore)



JOHN VASSIE
(Crofton Hill)



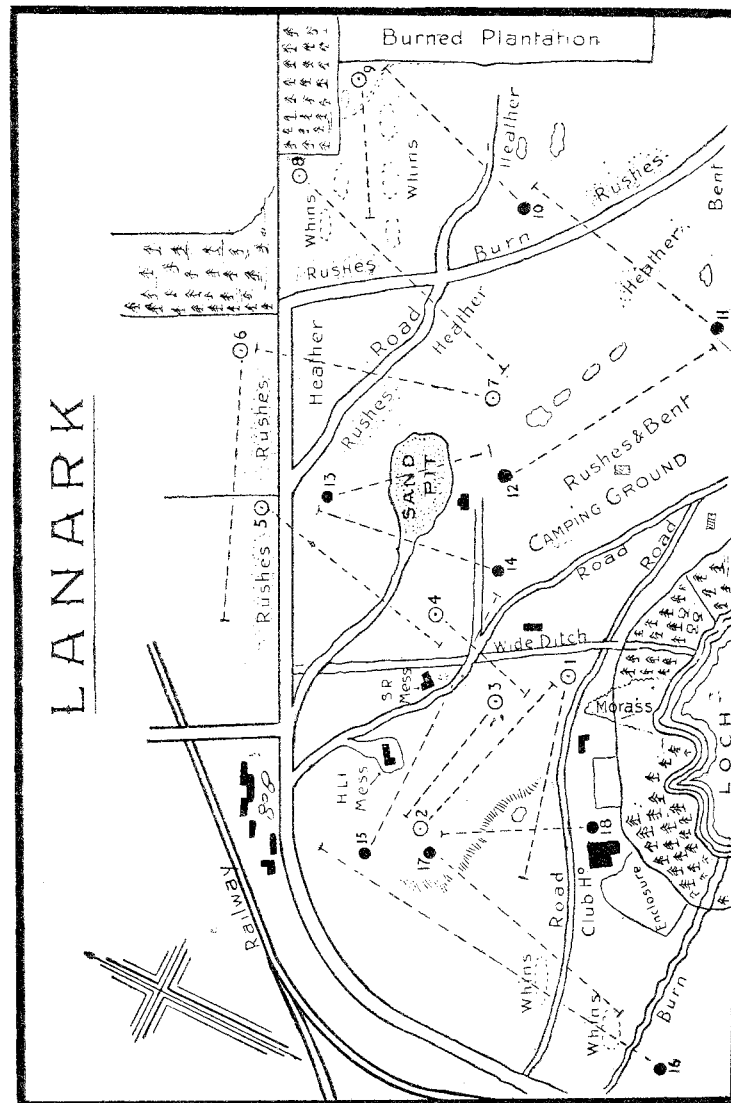
THOMAS PURDIE
(Castle Cliffs, St. Andrews)

In 1851 the Loch was the main reservoir for Lanark : the cottage, which still serves as an inconvenient hazard for moderate players, was the pumping or engine-house : a sand-quarry occupied most of the space between our fourteenth fairway and the second green : this quarry was let to the occupant of the newly-erected Moor Cottage, which was also known as the Crystal Palace : most of the rest of the moor was a wilderness of heather and whins.

In 1853 the course was shortened to five holes ; in 1857 it was extended to ten, and it remained at that till 1869, when three extra holes were added. A fourteenth hole was laid out in 1885. For medal purposes players went round the five or six-hole course three times, and two rounds were played on the longer courses. Scores from 1870-1896 were naturally high, as the players were holing out on twenty-six or twenty-eight greens. In 1897 the full round of eighteen holes was played for the first time : sites for the greens had been selected by George Sayers, but the plan was finally arranged by Tom Morris, who received £3 10s. 0d. for his services ; he, in turn, was aided—or rather instructed—by J. Arthur Vassie and Hugh Renwick.

Prior to 1897 the course did not extend beyond the present second green, but it incorporated ground now utilised for the nine-hole course, and the green for the long hole—"The Burn"—was over the little stream behind the Junior Club-house. The "Wide-ditch" at our second hole was a daunting obstacle in the general lay-out. There was a "Ditch-out" hole and a "Ditch-in," followed by the "Paraffin."

Holes three to eight of the present course were then "Mr. Elliott's fields" ; but after 1897 our fifth green was in the marshy hollow in front of our present third tee : the sixth hole was played along that hollow towards our eighth fairway. At this time also, the hillside of the ninth fairway and all the area of our eleventh and twelfth holes were brought into play ; but for a number of years this part was not popular, as it was very rough. The Templeton medal was gifted to encourage people to play the full round, but there was general agreement that, in especial, the short hole on the top of the hill, the "Roman Camp," was a very bad one.



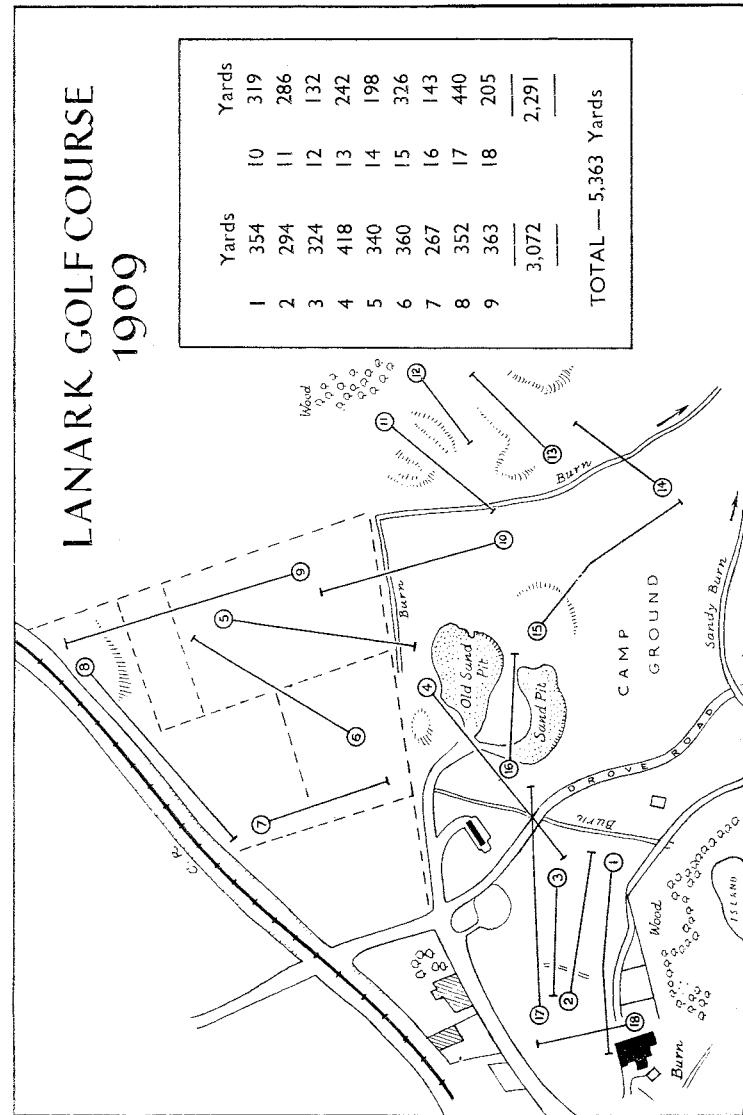
The remaining part of "Mr. Elliott's fields" was acquired in time for the new plan of 1909, and the course began to assume its modern appearance, except that greens were generally in hollows whereas we now have them on plateaux, and the holes are now longer. Instead of our short seventh and long eighth, there were in 1909 two holes of almost equal length with a green placed where a good drive down the middle now finishes at the long hole. Ben Sayers, who received £3 for his labours, devised this new course, and included in it a "Quarry" hole, played over a dump of tin-cans and other debris: the Council, in compliment, named this hole the "Sayers," and apparently he was unable to dissuade them.

In 1926-27 the thirteenth and fourteenth holes were constructed under the supervision of James Braid, and the "Quarry" hole was eliminated. At the same time, the present tenth hole was constructed and the next two holes made into one to form our eleventh. Since then minor modifications have been made from time to time: early in the War, before the Greenkeeper went on service, a new twelfth green was built; since the War we have had a new fifth, a new sixth—carved by sheer physical force out of soggy clay, and a new ninth.

In 1931 much of the original golfing ground on the Whitelees was incorporated in a new nine-hole course, opened by the then Captain, Wm. F. Loudon. It was meant for ladies, boys and maturer players with a liking for the "penny-a-hole" game. In an Eclectic Competition, Geo. Findlater once proved to be the winner with 31—15=16. Although the course is a short one, it is nevertheless pleasantly testing.

On the main course the first hole and the last one have remained practically unchanged since 1851, although the tees have been altered slightly.

Subsoil.—The subsoil of the course was deposited about ten thousand years ago when two glaciers, converging from the regions of Douglas Water and Culter Fell, filled with their icy waters a great loch, into which was carried gravel and sand which accumulated in kames. The sand-quarry on the ninth still gives evidence of carboniferous scrapings carried by water from the



Douglas coal-field. Over this porous subsoil ultimately grew, after the waters subsided, the short heath grasses which provide us with inviting lies; and we can bless the glaciers for a dry course and enjoyable winter games. Mr. W. Scott, B.Sc., has prepared a descriptive list of the wild-flowers found on the course, and any members interested in our heath violets, wild thyme, and eyebright, can view the list on request.

Greenkeeping.—It was lucky that the grass was short and wiry, because the only implement used on the course till 1880 was a scythe. After that date, lawn-mowers were acquired, and a roller was bought in 1882; but there is no mention of a horse-drawn mower till 1897; fairways must have been left in their natural state till then. In an 1882 minute there is a statement that, owing to the wet summer, the growth had been luxuriant, but by September the grass had been "mostly trodden down or eaten up." The eating was done by the burghers' cows under the charge of a hind or cow-herd. On occasion he was given "backsheesh" by the Club, no doubt for driving his charges out of the line of play. The cow-herd, the mole-man and the grass-boy are shadowy characters who appear at brief moments on our pay-roll for small sums; it may be the impish grass-boy's spirit who causes our best puts to slide round the hole.

Costs.—Greenkeeping costs amounted for a long period to only a few pounds yearly, representing the work of a scythesman for a day or so before each of the four annual Club-days. The first contract, but not on a full-time basis, was with "Wilson of the Cottage" in 1889, and this caused costs to rise steeply to £17 6s. 2d. His wife had for some time enjoyed an annual income for placing the flags in position and retrieving them at the end of the day. For this she received 17s. 4d. per year, but in 1882 her salary was increased to £1 10s. 0d.

Refinements.—Those who are interested in such trivia may be gratified to learn that sand-boxes were introduced in 1890. The ground near the tees had been disfigured by the holes dug by players in search of sand. Metal linings for the holes date from 1901, and the length of

the holes was first painted on the sand-boxes in 1912. In the early period, the length of the hole varied from time to time: it depended on which area the scythesman selected as the green.

Greenkeepers.—The first regular Greenkeeper, Peter Hamilton, was engaged in 1896 to help in the construction of the extended course. The contract was given to Borland of Lesmahagow, but Peter Hamilton was a stout aid. He resigned owing to ill-health in 1904, and was succeeded by Adam Mackie, who got 22s. 0d. a week, for a nine-and-a-half hours' day. He was not entirely satisfied, although the fairways were now cut for him by "Swan, of the Cottage" with "His horse and our mower." Mackie went to Elie in 1910, and was succeeded by Adam Moffat, who died in 1916. A professional, Anderson, was engaged in 1910. Charles Christie succeeded Adam Moffat and did much good work till 1922, when he left for Kingsknowe. He was succeeded by Robert Moffat, who gave faithful service till 1938; the present capable, energetic, and highly popular Garry Gibson was appointed in that year. For a number of years before the war, Willie Spark was the Professional on the course and did much to improve our swings; and for a brief period at the beginning of the War, we had the services of Wilson Rankin.

Holes and Hazards.—Although special names were given to all the holes from the earliest days, none has found popular acceptance. We think rather of the fourth hole than of the "Houston," and while various bunkers are described with forceful imagery from time to time, not one has a permanent title. The depression to the left of the home green, however, was till 1910 the cottage garden, and was generally stocked with cabbages. We still pull into the "Cabbages," although the turf there has long since been well-established. A popular ex-Captain of the Club, Andrew Frew, had a habit of slicing his tee-shot at the fifteenth towards an unfriendly grassy bank. That is "Frew's Corner" for all time to come. But "the other side of Pandy" means nothing to moderns, and while we may guess "Samson's Ribs" to be the old rig and furrow markings on the home

fairway, the title is in disuse. The green known for long as "Little Arthur's" may be the circular one still to be discerned at the beginning of the fifteenth fairway. Here, in the long ago, J. Arthur Vassie, as a young boy, holed out in one.

The Jubilee Year.—An Open Tournament was held in 1901 to mark the Jubilee of the Club. Advances, but not open-handed ones, had been made to Braid, Vardon, Taylor and Herd to play exhibition games for two days on the course. As the total offering for their distinguished services was £25, they showed no enthusiasm, and an Amateur Tournament with prizes to the value of £20 was held instead. The winner was J. G. Macfarlane, Glasgow, with 79, 77=156. P. E. Soutter, of Hamilton, was second with 76, 81=157. The course was only 4,550 yards in length, and the comparatively high scoring was accounted for by the fact that, while the Club "had transformed a wilderness of heather," bad lies were fairly common. With one exception (the Roman Camp) the greens were described as "very fine," and the home green as "unsurpassed." John Vassie was present as a spectator: he had been nominated as Captain, for the third time, for the Jubilee Year, but he declined.

Rights on the Moor.—In 1883 the Club began charging non-members a fee for playing on the course. Money had been spent by the Club, during thirty years, on improvements, and the Council felt that non-members should contribute towards the cost. But the Moor was public property and the Club paid no rent, and it remained difficult during the following twenty-five years for the Club Council to present lucid and cogent arguments why their special privileges should be established and preserved. When the Town Council, in 1890, suggested that the Club should pay £5 a year to regularise the position, we sought legal aid and replied in noble, but possibly unwise terms, that "we would not be doing justice to ourselves or to those who might come after, if we admitted liability to pay for as a privilege what we held as a right." The Town Council, on the other hand, had an uneasy feeling that in course of time the Club might be conceded rights by use and wont, and several attempts were made to put

things on a proper footing. The Club actually paid 1s. 0d. one year, in acknowledgment of the superior rights of the Town Council; but when James Annan, a loyal and enthusiastic golfer, but, alas for his fellow members, a most conscientious Town Clerk as well, had the Club entered on the Valuation Roll as paying 1s. 0d. yearly, we went to law about it and triumphed.

The Militia, who camped almost yearly on the Course, with men's quarters on our thirteenth and fourteenth fairways and officers' quarters on the Knoll beside the trees at the fifteenth, were always a bone of contention between Club and Town Council. The Club wished the camp to be moved clear of the playing area: the Town Council regarded the Militia with a mercenary affection, since they paid a comfortable sum, directly, as rent, and indirectly caused a lively stimulus to local trade. On occasion, the siting of the huts was used as a happy move in the quiet and long-drawn-out manœuvres between the two parties. In 1888 an extension of the officers' quarters put one of our greens out of action. The sequence of holes had to be hastily altered: four new greens were actually constructed and the waste sand and gravel made into hazards, in the course of a month. The Club was still licking its wounds when it received a sharp reprimand from the Town Council for altering the surface of the Moor without permission. One can sense a certain haughtiness of manner on the part of our representatives at this period, and a quiet satisfaction among the Town Councillors when they succeeded in baulking the efforts of these prosperous upper-middle-class gentlemen.

On the other hand, the Militia officers were always willing to oblige the Club when they could; many of them were keen golfers, and both regiments, H.L.I. and Cameronians, presented trophies for our members' pleasure. The Town Council became aware also of the attraction that a good golf course had for summer visitors, and finally, in 1907, in order to obtain support for a Provisional Order, they invited the Club Council to meet them to discuss future arrangements. It was a very happy meeting. The Club Council were delighted with the friendly and courteous welcome they received. There

was talk of a lease on generous and encouraging terms, of power to charge visitors and so on; there was agreement on general principles, and all that remained was the discussion of details. Two years later, in 1909, the lease was finally signed, between the Town Council and the Golf Course Company, a body which had been hastily created for that special purpose. By that time the Town Council was riven into a number of warring septs; the Golf Club contained a dissident party; and all were nervously suspicious of the purposes and possible stratagems of their opponents. The citizens of the Burgh entered the fray with zest, and a number of local poets achieved fame with their witty rhymes on the burning question. "Spasms" by McSpasm is still treasured by a number of local students of Burgh history.

The Club got a twenty-five years' lease, at a reasonable rent, based on membership, with the right to charge non-members. The Militia, thanks to Lord Haldane's re-organisation of the Army, disappeared. Sheep replaced the cows, which the golfers had found to be unaccommodating. Local anger was due to the suspicion that a clique of prosperous citizens had deprived the populace of their rights on the Moor; the rent was considered to be inadequate, and it was felt that the scheme had been carried through by means of Club influence within the Town Council. Some golfers were convinced that the whole thing was a plot on the part of the Town Council to get the Club to make, at great expense, a first-class course which the town would take over as a municipal course at the first opportunity.

Practically all the suspicions and forebodings were proved in the end to be unfounded. The Club now had confidence enough to spend money on the course. Instead of remaining rigidly exclusive, it abolished the entry fee in 1913 and nearly doubled its numbers. It became more democratic in tone, and local players found that they could join our Club, the Ladies' Club, or Lanark Junior Club, and enjoy, at cheap rates, play on an excellent course. The only loss the outside public sustained was the right to play without paying. The Town Council showed no desire to carry their suspected sinister plotting

to fruition. The Club apparently won the long-drawn-out debate, but in effect the town and the Town Council secured all the benefits that could have been derived from a Municipal Course, without the cares and responsibility of management.

Golf Course Company.—The Golf Course Company was created in 1909 on the advice of Sheriff Wilson, who expressed doubts to James Annan as to the propriety of Club members who were also Town Councillors voting on a matter in which they were personally concerned. The Company, whose shares of £350 were held by Club members, assumed responsibility for the management of the course, and the three clubs paid the Company an annual sum according to their membership. This arrangement came to an end in 1947: the Company's funds had become exhausted and the Directors suggested that the Club should take over the lease. The moment being opportune, all three clubs amalgamated, and the lease was taken over in the name of Lanark Golf Club. In these negotiations, as in 1934 at the first renewal of the lease, the Town Council dealt with the Club in a business-like but friendly way, and we have reason to be grateful to that body for sympathetic and generous treatment, especially during the War. In return, the Club has always been conscious of its duty to provide healthy recreation for Lanarkians, at the most reasonable rates.

THE CLUB HOUSE.

In a minute of 1863 there is a dignified reference to a meeting in the "Club-house." It was, in fact, a section of Moor Cottage, cramped quarters even for a committee meeting. Nevertheless, it is solemnly recorded that in 1871 and 1872 the Club dined there, and after the Airdrie match in 1879 the teams had lunch together.

In 1882 permanent quarters were secured during the dynamic Captaincy of Sir W. J. Carmichael-Anstruther. The building was designed by Mr. Murray of Biggar, measured 24 feet by 14 feet, and was built of stone and lime: the plans were passed by the Club Council on 11th March, and the Club-house was formally opened on 24th June. There is an abruptness in these proceedings

shocking to our modern conceptions of the dignity of leisurely planning and soporific building. The cost was £126 18s. 0d.; but they had extras, as we have. It was found necessary to install a tiled fire-place, linoleum, an "apparatus for the lavatory," and a communicating bell. But all these were obtained for £21.

By 1894 the zealous Sir Windham was urging an extension: agreement was reached, and Mr. Murray designed an addition of six feet on three sides of the building and twelve feet on the loch side. Thirty poles of ground were acquired from the Town Council, to make the home green ours. The new Club-house was opened in 1895: costs had risen considerably, for the bill was £428 18s. 5d. Lady members were provided for, in a very humble way: they got a shed at the rear of the building, where no one would notice them.

In 1901 we read of the nineteenth hole for the first time. The annual balance of that year shows that, during a period of three months, beer to the value of £1 16s. 0d. had been bought: sales came to £2 10s. 6d. A search of the members' lockers might, however, have revealed a lot of bottled treasure.

In 1922 the Captains' Board, designed by Mr. McBeth, Architect, was made and presented to the Club by Wm. Brown, a member of the Club Council. A little later he procured for the Club, at bargain rates, the carved mantelpieces which adorn the dining-room and the Gentlemen's Smoke Room.

In 1923-24 the Club-house was re-modelled to a design by Messrs. Cullen, Lockhead and Brown of Hamilton, at a cost of £1,700. This sum was raised by voluntary loans from members.

In 1932-33 extensive alterations were made: the Smoke-room was panelled, windows were enlarged and the bar re-designed at a cost of nearly £800. Little acts of piety by various members have added to the furnishing of the premises—a clock from Alex. Keith, the "Tom Morris" from Sheriff Shaw, photographs from W. D. Brown, a barometer from Dr. Adams, a library of fifty books on Golf from Wm. Wilson. The latter was a well-known writer on Golf; his nom-de-plume was

CAPTAIN'S BOARD

1851		
FOUNDERS		
Robert Lithgow	William Lithgow	
James Johnstone	Charles McGibbon	
Capid Stodart	Thomas Purdie	
	John Vassie	
CAPTAINS		
1851 ROBERT LITHGOW	1885 JAMES BROWN	1919 C.H. GILCHRIST
1852 ROBERT LITHGOW	1886 RONALD JOHNSTONE	1920 ANDREW FREW
1853 JOHN VASSIE	1887 HUGH DAVIDSON	1921 JOHN W. LOCKHART
1854 MAJOR ALEX. MACD.	1888 HON. J.H.C. HOZIER	1922 ALEXANDER KEITH
1855 LOCKHART	1889 HON. AV BINGHAM	1923 A.W. PATERSON
1856 ALEXANDER FIELD	1890 DAVID W. STEWART	1924 ALEXANDER MOWAT
1857 WILLIAM LITHGOW	1891 JOHN VASSIE SNR.	1925 WILLIAM J. FERGUS
1858 THOMAS PURDIE	1892 JOHN SMITH	1926 D.V.M. ADAMS
1859 DR M ^{QUEEN} GRAY	1893 JAMES ANNAN	1927 JOHN NICOL
1860 A.D.W.R.C. BAILLIE	1894 ROBERT FRAME	1928 WILLIAM H. COX
1861 JOHN GIBB	1895 WILLIAM RENWICK	1929 WILLIAM P. SCOTT
1862 ROBERT CLARK	1896 T. WATSON JNR.	1930 JOHN M ^C CLEMENT
1863 WM. GREENHILL	1897 G. J. MILLER	1931 W.F. LOUDON
1864 JOHN SIBBALD	1898 REV. D. MACKINTOSH	1932 JOHN S. BRYCE
1865 WM. ANNAN	1899 JOHN M. DAVIDSON	1933 JAMES K. HUME
1866 ROBERT WATT	1900 JAMES TEMPLETON	1934 DAVID W. BROWN
1867 SAMUEL HALKET	1901 SIR W. ANSTRUTHER	1935 WILLIAM AITKEN
1868 JAMES FORREST	1902 JOSEPH MONTEITH	1936 RODGER BRYCE
1869 DAVID M ^G GIBBON	1903 REV. WM. VASSIE	1937 THOMAS BROWN
1870 DAVID STODART	1904 REV. WM. SMITH	1938 ANGUS M ^C LEAN
1871 DAVID CROAL	1905 WM. ANNAN JNR.	1939 WILLIAM LAWSON
1872 JAMES NEWTON	1906 SHERIFF T.A. FYFE	1940 JOHN ROSS
1873 WILLIAM CAMERON	1907 ARCH. M ^C MARTIN	1941 WM. PATERSON
1874 CHAS. LINDSAY	1908 JOHN HAMILTON	1942 JOHN ORR
1875 T. SOMERVILLE M.D.	1909 JOHN HAMILTON	1943 A.H. M ^C EWAN
1876 JOHN VASSIE JNR.	1910 JAMES A. VASSIE	1944 JAMES UROUHART
1877 ALEX. PATERSON	1911 JOHN HOUSTON	1945 A.D. ROBERTSON
1878 ALEX. H. GRAY M.D.	1912 COL. R.K. STEWART	1946 JOHN ANDERSON
1879 SIMON L. KELLO	1913 ROBERT JACK	1947 JAMES C. WALLACE
1880 JOHN HADDOW	1914 WM. D. BROWN	1948 AND. LIGHTBODY
1881 MAJOR THORNTON	1915 RODERICK M ^C L ^A Y	1949 IAN V. PATERSON
1882 SIR W.C. J.C.	1916 T. SCOTT HODGSON	1950 SMITH CAMERON
1883 ANSTRUTHER BART.	1917 WILLIAM SHAW	
1884 HUGH RENWICK	1918 HUGH DAVIDSON	

• MAGNUS AB INTEGRO •
SAECLORUM NASCITUR ORDO

"Bulger." Our capacious brass ash-trays, which no one should miss even under the stress of Club-house emotion, were practically invented by W. F. Loudon. The large stone set in the wall of the Club-house, near the entrance, and purporting to be the Burgh Coat-of-arms, was presented in 1924 by James Muir, who received it from Mr. Emery. It is not, however, an accurate rendering: it omits the bell, and the fishes, and the lions or hounds are wrongly placed.

In this, the Centenary Year, a new flag has been presented by Dr. T. Gow Brown, and a new Captains' Board, dating from 1951, has been installed by the Captain, John S. Bryce.

No account of the social life in the Club-house would be complete without a stray recollection of the girdle scones and other good things supplied by "Granny" Moffat, and her daughter Violet, and the present gracious and kindly supervision by Mrs. Gibson.



THE CLUB HOUSE

HOLES AND BOGEY TABLE.

OUT.			IN.		
	Yards	Scratch		Yards	Scratch
1 Loch - - -	360	4	10 Tintock Tap -	155	3
2 Dodger - - -	458	4	11 Butts - - -	400	4
3 Newlands - -	404	4	12 Valley - - -	363	4
4 Houston - - -	453	5	13 Drove Road -	357	4
5 Stanmore - -	287	4	14 Quarry Knowe	377	4
6 North Faulds -	381	4	15 Vassie - - -	456	5
7 Gorstane - - -	133	3	16 Anstruther -	333	4
8 Tinto - - - -	523	5	17 Whitelees - -	305	4
9 Whinny Knowe	360	4	18 Home - - - -	210	3
	<u>3359</u>	<u>37</u>	In - - - -	2956	35
			Out - - - -	3359	37
			Total - - - -	<u>6315</u>	<u>72</u>

Standard Scratch Score—71

Table showing at what Holes Strokes are to be taken.

Strokes	Holes
1 .. 10	
2 .. 2 10	
3 .. 2 8 15	
4 .. 2 8 10 15	
5 .. 2 4 8 10 15	
6 .. 2 4 8 10 11 15	
7 .. 2 4 6 8 10 11 15	
8 .. 2 4 6 8 10 11 15 17	
9 .. 2 3 4 6 8 10 11 15 17	
10 .. 2 3 4 6 8 10 11 13 15 17	
11 .. 1 2 3 4 6 8 10 11 13 15 17	
12 .. 1 2 3 4 6 8 10 11 12 13 15 17	
13 .. 1 2 3 4 6 7 8 10 11 12 13 15 17	
14 .. 1 2 3 4 6 7 8 10 11 12 13 14 15 17	
15 .. 1 2 3 4 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 17	
16 .. 1 2 3 4 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	
17 .. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	
18 .. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	

MATCH PLAY—

Singles, $\frac{3}{4}$ of difference of Handicap.
 Foursomes, $\frac{3}{4}$ of difference of Handicap.
 Half-stroke or over counts as One Stroke.

THE CONSTITUTION.

After the first election of office-bearers on the fourth of October, 1851, it became the custom of the Club to elect a new Captain at the Annual General Meeting, who in turn chose four Councillors to assist him in the performance of his duties. As there was no Club-house and no permanent staff, the management could devote its thought to the simple problems of scything, of collecting subscriptions, and of making arrangements for competitions and for the Annual Dinner.

It would seem that the Council of four tended to become a permanent body, unchanging in its membership save for the accident of death or removal from the district ; but with the opening of the Club-house in 1882 new problems of management arose, and some members felt that the Constitution needed revision ; in fact, they had the revolutionary idea that government by an oligarchy should be tempered by some concession to the spirit of democracy.

John Smith, Jun., was the village Hampden who dared to move in successive years from 1885-1889 that some slight modification should be made annually in the composition of the Council. On the first occasion he was sharply rebuked with the reply "the Council could not be improved," but he gathered supporters, including the powerful Mr. Renwick, and returned every year with unabated zeal to the attack. In 1889, after he had given notice of motion that no one should be a Member of Council for more than three years, the Council resigned as a body in protest. Feelings were ruffled, but ultimately they agreed on a compromise. The motion was withdrawn—as were the resignations—and it was agreed that one Member of Council should retire annually. John Smith, Jun., was elected at the first opportunity, and as he was also offered the Captaincy in 1890, he must have had strong support and many members must have grown tired of the oligarchy. He declined the Captaincy on that occasion, but was in a later year Captain of the Club.

The party of re-action was, however, quick and ingenious in its counter-attack, and by two shrewd moves completely nullified the first mild concession to Democracy. In 1890 it was moved, and carried, that a permanent President and a permanent Vice-President be appointed. The gentlemen proposed, Lord Home and Sir W. Carmichael-Anstruther, were of such standing that opposition was not to be thought of, and it was decided that in future the President, and failing him the Vice-President, should take the Chair at all Council Meetings. The Captains were thus relegated to third place in the order of precedence. As Lord Home was a non-attending President, and remained as such till his death in 1918, the permanent Chairman was the gallant baronet, who reigned as a benevolent despot till he died in 1898. In 1893 again it was decreed that the retiring Captain—"if a golfer, and a local man"—should be elected to the annual vacancy in the Council, so that for a few years at this period fresh blood in the management of the Club could be found only in the person of the new Captain who, in fact, was chosen by the Council, although his election had to be approved by the Club.

The oligarchy had become a benevolent despotism for a brief spell, but opposition was bound to arise. In 1897 the retiring Captain was not elected to the Council. In 1898 Sir W. Carmichael-Anstruther died and no successor was appointed, as J. Arthur Vassie pointed out that the post had been created for him and "it derogated from the importance of the Captain." The retiring Captain of 1899 was elected to the Council, but it was carefully recorded that this was "as a man" and not as an ex-Captain. It was decided at this time also that the retiring Senior Councillor should be ineligible for re-election until after a period of a year. The Secretary and Treasurer, one and the same person till 1905, in the person of J. Arthur Vassie, was elected annually, but any change was considered absurd, despite occasional suggestions to that end by the official concerned. He had held the double office since 1877, and while he resigned the Treasurership in 1905 to W. Annan, he remained as Secretary till 1910.

In 1907 the number of Councillors was increased to six, the two Senior Councillors retiring annually, and no change of procedure has been found necessary from that date till now. Anyone elected serves for three years, and as the Captain and the Vice-Captain—the latter post having been created in 1938—are usually experienced Councillors, continuity of purpose is assured, especially as the Secretary and the Treasurer are semi-permanent officials. We now have a democratic form of government, but one with a strongly Conservative bias. For many years it was the custom to nominate the retiring Captain for one of the two places vacant in the Council, and it was considered polite to vote for him and ensure his appointment. During the last two years, however, 1949-51, neither retiring Captain has sought election to the Council, and the rate of change has been slightly accelerated in consequence. The Vice-Captain is chosen by the Council, and recommended to the Club at the Annual General Meeting. That submissive body of men invariably approves the choice with some fervour, and the new Vice-Captain can look forward with confidence to further promotion in the following year and to even more enthusiasm. That the members of the Club are, at the Annual Meeting, largely a consenting body is in the main due to their complete confidence in their officials and Council: for many years the Club has been well led and managed by conscientious and energetic men enthusiastic in working for the general well-being of our members.

Some have given outstanding service: J. Arthur Vassie has already been mentioned as Secretary from 1877-1910; Alex Keith, in the same post in the 1920's and 1930's, was a popular and devoted worker. The Treasurers of the Club have all been men of enduring loyalty: John Vassie was Treasurer from 1851-1864; Robert Lithgow from 1864-1872; A. Paterson from



Photo—A. Brown and Co., Lanark

CLUB COUNCIL, 1951—52

(Left to right)

R. SPIERS (Hon. Treasurer), **R. WALKER** (Hon. Secretary), **W. P. GIBSON** (Greenkeeper), **JOHN S. BRYCE** (Captain), **W. J. STEELE** (Match Secretary), **T. J. AITKEN** (Vice-Captain), **D. W. BROWN, Jun.,** **W. PATON, T. FRAME, Jun.** (House Convenor), **A. LIGHTBODY, J. ORR**

1872-1877; J. Arthur Vassie from 1877-1905; W. Annan from 1905-1920; and John Nicol from 1921-1946. Mr. Nicol acted as part-time Treasurer during the year he was Captain. It is to be hoped that the present incumbents, Dick Walker, Secretary, and Robert Spiers, Treasurer, will rival the efforts of their most notable predecessors in longevity.

for which he competed ; he often arrived from Edinburgh, played in the competition, kept his winning card in his pocket and greeted the winner. He was the first winner of the Claret Jug, in 1857, and he won the Gold Medal at Prestwick in 1862.

Mr. William Maxwell, recently Managing Director of R. & R. Clark Ltd., informed me that their Mr. Clark liked to play for a pound a hole and filled his pocket with jingling gold-pieces as a lure and temptation to opponents. In the "Golf Annual" one reads that Robert Clark, playing at Musselburgh, late in the evening, hit a tee-shot at a short hole, and as both he and his caddy failed to find it, he gave up the hole to his opponent ; after he had uttered the fatal words his caddy found the ball in the hole.

Robert Clark became a member of the Club Council in 1858, and was elected Captain in 1862. In that year he instituted the Captain's Prize with a gift of "a handsome whisky jar in a silver basket"; in 1863 he was entrusted with the purchase of the Gold Ball, so that he had a major responsibility in founding two out of our three oldest competitions. The institution of the Captain's Prize led to competition in generosity from year to year among the Captains, and in 1869 we find Clark wisely suggesting that a limit be set to the value of the prize, or that it be paid for by the Club. This was agreed to in Committee, but it was not put into practice, owing to the weakness of human nature.

But it was as handicapper that Robert Clark stood out as a man completely trusted and respected by his fellow-members. At one time he was the sole handicapper, and apparently there were no grumblers. Twice he sent the competitors out under sealed handicaps, and when, at the end of the day, the necessary deductions were made and Robert Clark emerged as the winner, the Club members were apparently still quite satisfied that justice had been done.

He led the Lanark team, as late as 1875, against the Glasgow Club and beat his man.

While helping to build the fortunes of Lanark Golf Club, he was also busily engaged in creating what became one of the most famous printing firms in the World :— Shaw, Hardy and Stevenson were some of the authors set up in print by him, and the boast of the firm was that it never had a traveller : the head of the firm looked after that side of the work. In 1946, their centenary year, the management of the firm handed over all the shares as a gift to Edinburgh University, whose printers they now are.

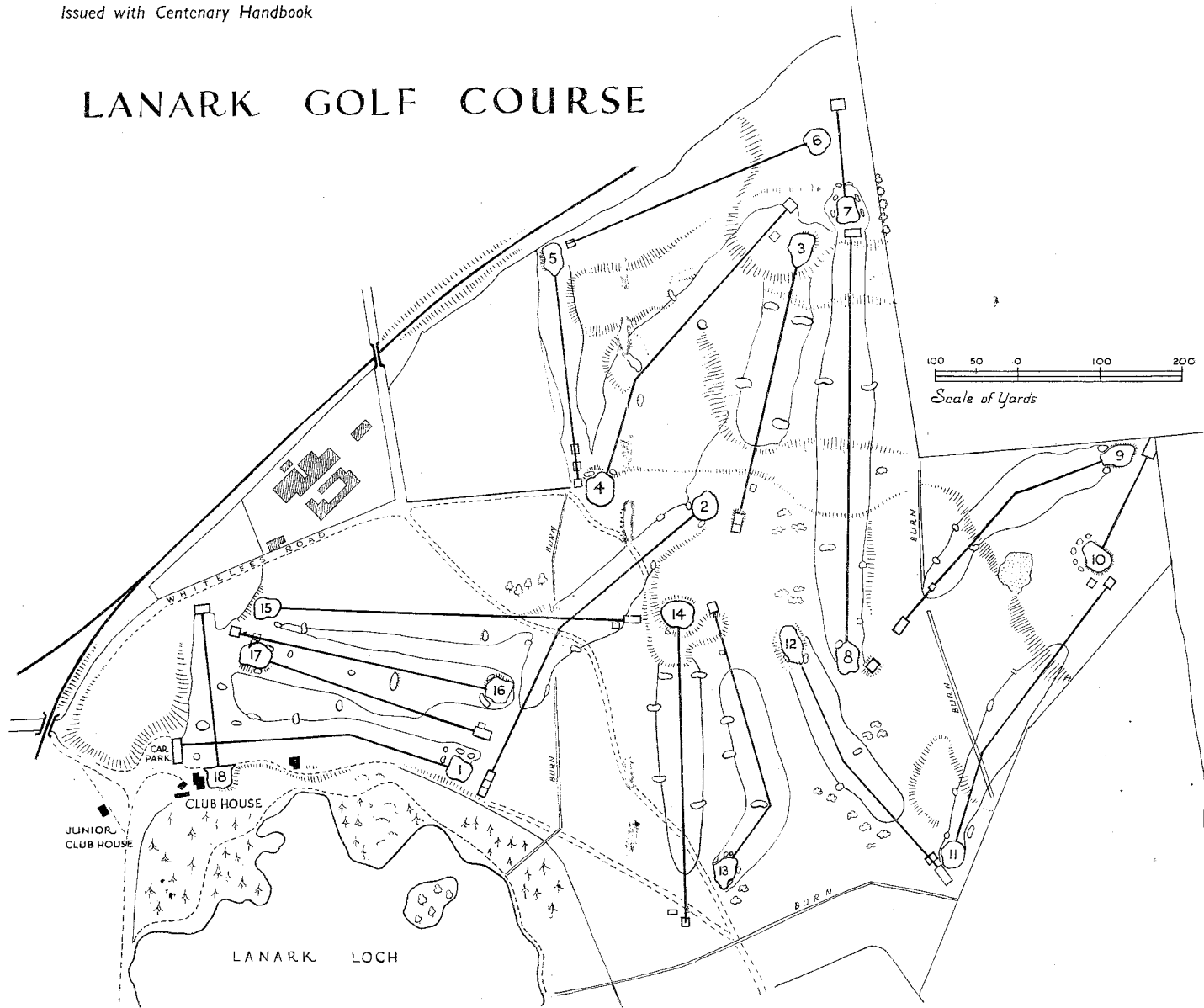
THE VASSIES.

John Vassie's picture, which hangs alongside those of the other three founder members, in the corridor of the Club-house, shows a man contrasting sharply with these reverend seigneurs. By reason of their gravity and dignity these others might be confused with serious-minded members of the Cabinet ; but John Vassie, with a curling-broom stuck in jaunty fashion under his arm, and with a challenging twinkle, supported by the energy of his eye-brows and his mouth, still seems of a mind to make a match of it with any of our degenerate race.

He himself was a member from 1851-1905 ; he was our first Treasurer : he was twice Captain and declined the honour for the third time, in the Jubilee Year, only on account of age. He made himself an excellent player, of the tough, enduring type, a courageous fighter. Although always a fair player, it was not till about 1867 that he seemed to find his best form, but from then onwards he was never far from success, and as late as the eighteen nineties, in the opinion of the late Tom Hodgson, who was at that period a scratch player, he was a hard man to beat.

He was the first winner of the Captain's Prize in 1863, and he won again in 1871 when he collected Mr. Croall's "Dozen of Champagne." The year 1872 may be selected as his best season, since in that year he was the back-marker ; but by then he was beginning to find stout

LANARK GOLF COURSE



The annual subscription has always been an index of Club activities and, alas, of the decline in purchasing power of the pound. Thus in 1880 the subscription was increased to 10s. 0d., presumably from 5s. 0d.; the entrance fee was one guinea; but in 1882, with a new Club-house to pay for, the entrance fee was doubled. Again, in 1895, with an extended course in the offing, the annual subscription became £1 for new members. Members elected before that year could, if they wished, continue to pay only 10s. 0d. Quite a number of die-hards decided that 10s. 0d. was enough. At the same time the entrance fee was raised to three guineas and remained at that till 1913, when it was abolished in order to attract new members. The membership increased by seventy-five per cent during that year, and has shown an upward trend ever since.

The first World War caused a rise in costs, and in 1920 there was a bitter fight over a proposed increase of the annual subscription from £1 to £1 10s. 0d., and a re-imposition of the entrance fee of two guineas. The proposals were carried, but with some difficulty, and the opposition were not pleased. The second World War and the Machine Age have now forced the subscription upwards to £4, with an entrance fee of £4, but we still receive excellent value for the money.

Competitions were at first timed to start at 11 a.m., and some of them, notably the Claret Jug, were played on week-days. Later the hour was changed to noon; and, later still, players could start as late as 1 p.m.; but it is obvious that little encouragement was given to any member who was so insignificant as to be tied to a desk during office hours. It took years of argument to produce special concessions for bankers, who were admittedly necessary for business, but were apparently of doubtful worth as members. In resenting a charge of exclusiveness, in 1909, the Council claimed that in the whole history of the Club no prospective member had ever been black-balled. No doubt men of humble rank found the conditions distasteful, and in the main from 1851-1913

the average member of the Club was a man of substance and standing. Many titled gentlemen were on the Club roll, although they were not all prompt in the payment of subscriptions, and there was undoubtedly a certain haughtiness of manner towards the Junior Club, Ladies, Children and Summer Visitors. They got in the way, and it was almost impossible to collect green fees from them. They also did not always show that reverent spirit which the high-spirited and dignified members expected.

ROBERT CLARK.

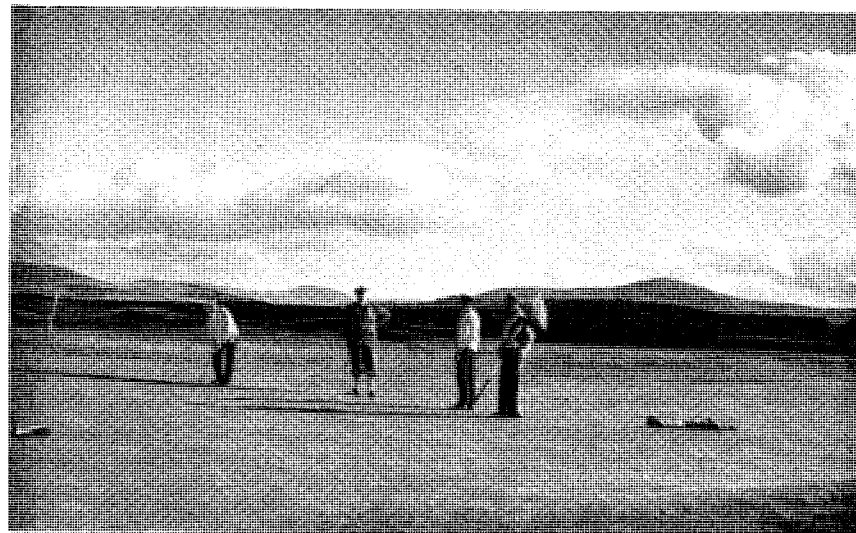
The most skilful player on Lanark Moor in the early days of the Club was Robert Clark, of Edinburgh, who was one of the original number enrolled in 1851; he remained a member, appearing at the four main "Club-days" yearly till he resigned in 1878. He printed, free of cost to the Club, the rules as drawn up by the Council in 1853: as an Edinburgh man, a printer and an enthusiastic and able golfer, he may be readily identified with Robert Clark who founded the famous firm of R. & R. Clark, Printers, in 1846; who was the author of "Golf—a Royal and Ancient Game," and once did a hole in one and lost it. Wm. Wilson ("Bulger"), the golfing journalist, many years ago stated as a fact that our Robert Clark was the author of that now highly-prized early volume on the game; and certainly, in spirit and in their approach to the game, the two seem to be identical.

He was a scratch player from the first days of our Club, and in 1857 he actually played from "plus 5." He had the honour of winning the first competition organised by the Club, in September, 1852; and while his winning score of 73 for twelve holes does not look impressive, the Course must have been very raw and rough, with bad lies by no means uncommon. His scores improved with the mellowing Course, until he could achieve something like level fours. In competition with his fellow members he was supreme. It may be said almost without exaggeration that he could win any prize

opposition from his own family. John Vassie, Jun., joined the Club in 1865, J. Arthur Vassie in 1870, William Vassie in 1874, Richard Vassie in 1880, and A. H. Vassie in 1882. Of these, John Vassie, Jun., J. Arthur Vassie and the Rev. Wm. Vassie were in their day Captains of the Club. Richard Vassie and A. H. Vassie, both brilliant players, missed the honour only because as Doctors they were living forth of the Burgh. Three of John Vassie's daughters were in turn Captains of the Ladies' Golf Club: Miss Edith Vassie was Captain from 1909-1914, and Miss Constance Vassie and Miss Elsa Vassie both held the honour a few years later.

From 1870-1890 there was always a strong probability that the winner of any competition would turn out to be a Vassie, any one of the half-dozen Vassies. As early as 1874 four Vassies played in our team of nine against Glasgow. We lost 26-10, but our points were all scored by W. Vassie and J. A. Vassie. Five Vassies played in the 1879 game with Glasgow: Wm. Vassie led the Lanark team and lost a keen game against W. Doleman, an outstanding player of that period. In 1883 five Vassies and Wm. Annan beat Edinburgh University 24-8 in a six-a-side match. Seventeen players competed for the Hutchinson Cross in 1882. It was won by the Rev. Wm. Vassie; J. Arthur Vassie was runner-up; John Vassie, Jun., was third; John Vassie was fourth. In 1883 and 1884 five Vassies, ranging from the Rev. Wm., who was at scratch, occupied the five leading places in the club's handicap list.

Between the years 1866-1886, a period which may be taken as the Golden Age of the Vassie family, they won the Claret Jug sixteen times, the Sibbald Cup nine times, the Captain's Prize eleven times, and the Hutchinson Cross ten times. These were the main club trophies at that time, apart from the Gold Ball, for which anyone could challenge at any time by paying a fee. It would be difficult to compute the number of times they won the Gold Ball. They won many trophies after 1886; indeed the last prize-winning effort by a Vassie was in 1924; but the period selected shows their best efforts as a group.



Photo—A. Brown & Co., Lanark

The Fourth Green



The Fifth Hole

The Rev. Wm. Vassie seems to have been the best golfer of them all, but Dr. Richard Vassie and Dr. A. H. Vassie were also brilliant players. The latter won the Captain's Prize in 1886 with a remarkably fine 113 for the double round of the fourteen hole course. His scoring was very steady : 32, 26 ; 30, 26. It was easily a record for that period. He created another record in 1903 with a net 75. John Vassie, Jun., and J. Arthur Vassie were a stroke or two weaker, but both enjoyed their share of success.

The endurance and fighting qualities of the Vassies in the collection of trophies is illustrated by the story of the Sibbald Cup. This was given to the Club in 1864 by James Sibbald of Edinburgh : anyone winning it for the third time was to keep it permanently. A month later, Mr. Purdie, a founder member, offered to replace the Sibbald Cup when it was won outright. J. Arthur Vassie won the Sibbald Cup for the third time in 1881, and Mr. Purdie, then living in St. Andrews, kept his promise. The Purdie Cup, to which were attached the same conditions, was won for the third time by the Rev. Wm. Vassie in 1903.

J. Arthur Vassie was Secretary of the Club from 1877-1910, and Treasurer from 1877-1905. In 1910 he was elected Captain and also took his place as Chairman of the Golf Course Company, a post which he retained, as well as a place in the Council, till he died in 1922. He was thus for forty-five years a man in authority in golfing matters, and was largely responsible for the well-being and prosperity of the Club. Minutes written by him have an old-fashioned look to modern eyes, and his financial statements would not satisfy our experts, because they are so simple and easy to follow, but he obviously wrote as a gentleman for people whom he knew intimately and he gives not only a record of facts, but reveals also a personality, forth-right, conservative, obstinate and kindly ; and he was very fond of his golf.

For over seventy years the Vassie family studied their lies, on fairway and in rough, and played their

shots and won many distinctions ; breathing the magic air of the Moor, they enjoyed their golf hugely, and played it with fine spirit and in a generous fashion. When John Vassie cocks an eye at us from his framed picture, in perpetual challenge, he is probably thinking of his brood of golfers, Captains and record-holders, and asking us, " Can you beat it ? "

SIR W. C. J. CARMICHAEL-ANSTRUTHER.

The most influential, the most king-like figure in the Club, from 1874-1898, was undoubtedly Sir W. Carmichael-Anstruther. He was Captain for two successive years, 1882-1884, when, under his energetic supervision, the earliest version of the Club-house was erected. That enterprise, to judge from the speed and frequency with which plans were pruned, expanded, or scrapped, must have given him endless delight : even the bare-bones of entries in the minutes cannot conceal the relish which he found in decisive action : he had a great capacity for enjoyment. He was made Vice-President in 1890 : that office was a new and special one, invented solely to enable Sir Windham to act as a perpetual chairman of the Club Council meetings. In the absence of Lord Home, the President, Sir Windham took precedence over the Captain, and remained in power, a happy, quixotic, generous dictator till he died in 1898. His portrait, as large as life, or larger, hangs in the County Hall ; he stands erect, his arm is fully extended with the tips of his fingers resting lightly on a table, and he is obviously just about to startle and delight his audience with some lively utterance.

He had the advantage of distinguished social position and was always a man who had to be treated with considerable deference ; but that apart, he showed a captivating enthusiasm, was consistently generous and was a most loyal and energetic Club-member.

As a player he flourished during that great age when handicaps were inflated to noble dimensions. At one time, in 1882, his handicap was 103 ; consistent striving brought it down to 63 in 1887, but after that year the

curve ran upwards. He is possibly the only member of the Club who, aided in a competition by the useful handicap of 100, nevertheless failed to return a card. The cause could not have been petty vanity or even depression of spirits, for on another occasion, playing for the Gold Ball, he returned a card of 231-63=168, and no doubt he enjoyed every minute of the game. His score was over the twenty-eight hole course, but at that he must have found his "gutty" unresponsive.

In 1883 he took part in a notable series of Challenge matches for the Gold Ball, having found a worthy opponent in Ronald Johnstone of Sunnyside. Sir Windham won the first game with 209-75=134, Johnstone taking 206-60=146, but the latter found form in brilliant fashion in the later games, doing 172-60, and 171-60, while Sir Windham remained steady at 200-75, and 208-75. It was about the same period that he and Mr. T. Watson agreed, during the early Autumn, to play a Challenge match on handicap terms, on the last Saturday of October, wet or dry, the loser to pay for a dinner to the whole Club. His great year was 1884, when he won the Captain's Prize, plus sundry-side-bets, which he presented to the Club, with 175-75=100, and also the Purdie Cup with 178-75=103.

In 1882 he presented two medals, named the Anstruther Medals, for competition, and for a long time such medals were an annual gift from Sir Windham or his successors. We still play for Anstruther medals, but the winners must now hand them back to the Club in due course.

He was a great-hearted golfer, if not a great one.



Photo—A. Brown & Co., Lanark

The Seventh Green



The Eighth Green

MATCHES.

Our earliest games of a semi-official nature, were against our Edinburgh players at the time when many of our best performers, like Clark, Sibbald, Blyth and Croall lived in that city. These were gracious encounters with dinner at Stanmore to follow, or in a suitable Edinburgh hotel after a keen battle over Musselburgh Old Course.

Matches were played against the Glasgow Club fairly regularly from 1873 onwards, both teams being representative of the strength of their Clubs. According to "Bulger," the Glasgow Club had been resuscitated just prior to these games: if so, they may have "sucked reviving blood" from their opponents, for they were generally too strong for us. They played at that time at Alexandra Park, and there the earliest encounter took place, Glasgow winning twenty-five up. The scoring was not by matches, but by the number of holes up, and, as the teams were twelve-a-side for the first game, there was little between them. In a return match at Lanark we lost by only eighteen holes in a fourteen-a-side match, but that encounter needs its footnote. S. L. Kello, playing for Lanark, beat Baille Talman of Glasgow by twenty-five holes. As twenty-six holes represented a full round, obviously one hole was halved. It is apparent that the Baillie was off his game, but, as it was Kello's duty to score as many points as possible, one can scarcely forgive him for his slackness at the halved hole. W. Hunter of the Glasgow Club did the second round in 53, a notable achievement.

In subsequent games Glasgow generally won, though the younger Vassies were now beginning to win their matches: in 1875 we won at Lanark by eight holes, Robert Clark winning the leading game by two holes. 1879 was a discouraging year for our players. Doleman beat John Vassie in the leading game by two holes, none of our players won, and we lost by eighty-one holes in a ten-a-side game. With five Vassies playing and W. Vassie losing to Doleman by one hole, we did better in the return

match at Lanark, losing by thirty-two holes, thirteen players a side, but in 1881 we declined a game with Glasgow as we "had no chance of winning." One suspects that players then, in bearded majesty, were too dignified to tolerate a beating. We refused a match with the Crawford Club, because we learned that they were importing players in order to win. Curiously enough, we never complained about the matches with Airdrie, whom we beat 64-1, in 1879, and 43-0, seven-a-side, in 1883, and by thirty-three holes in 1885.

In 1885 a new type of match was tried against Glasgow: the Clubs selected so many players of equal handicaps to ensure a close result. We won the first game by six holes, and it is noted in our minutes that "the Secretary of the Glasgow Club had observed the conditions on which the match was arranged fairly well." We won by a similar score under the same conditions in 1886, but in 1887 the Glasgow Club refused another game, as they felt they had little chance of winning. Whatever they felt about their golf, they seemed to recognise that in the subtleties of diplomatic dealings they were our inferiors.

Our Council held very strongly that games at golf should begin in the late forenoon, never later than 1 p.m., and it was not easy to arrange fixtures on these terms. In 1896 there was every prospect of a match against the young Hamilton Club, but we learned that they could not be at Lanark before 3 p.m., so we decided that, if they could not be ready to start at noon, the match was not "desirable or advisable." The return fixture at Hamilton was equally difficult: our opponents wished to start at 2.30 p.m., so our secretary was instructed "to decline as nicely as possible." One must draw the line somewhere, and possibly our players breakfasted at 6 a.m. and regarded the outside world as having extraordinary habits.

In 1903 we began playing Hamilton in earnest, cut-and-thrust and no nonsense, and much good sport has been had since then, although, for a number of war-years, the fixture had to lapse. Both Clubs select

their best players : both have had successes, but we do not now make too much of success or feel unduly mortified by defeat.

In 1924 we had our first match with Peebles, but this fixture lapsed until recent years, when it was revived with great success. In the same year we began our series of games with the Bathgate Club. The players are unlimited in number, the teams on both sides consisting of volunteers, and a good time is had by all. In recent years Bathgate have always seemed to have an unlimited supply of strong players, and they have won rather easily, but the game is vastly enjoyed by all and in spirit is like a re-union of friends.

HANDICAPS.

Few players regard their handicaps as representing strict justice. Most club officials are regarded with respect by club-members, but those of the handicapping committee are not generally viewed with enthusiasm ; in fact, most members prefer not to know who they are, and they remain an anonymous body of men doing their disagreeable work in a spirit apparently of careful malice. But their findings are accepted like the bludgeonings of fate ; we submit as to wind and sleety rain on a Saturday, though we are not pleased. It has taken a long time to reach this state of mind, for some of our predecessors were men of spirit who did not yield readily, and methods of handicapping varied from year to year, responsive to the vocal discontent of the competitors.

The Captain and Council were given powers to fix the handicaps in 1856 for the first time, but competitions had been held frequently from 1851-1856, and one must conclude that between these years handicapping must have been done by general agreement before the start of each competition. In 1853 all players were put in five classes ranking at 0, 7, 10, 13 and 16. Later in the year, intermediate figures were introduced, and the highest limit was 24. This figure, in the interests of justice, was increased in the next few years to 30, to 37 and then to 44.

As this must have thrown some strain upon the low-handicap men, in 1856 all players were divided into two classes : Class 1, Handicaps 0-11, and Class 2 with its own scratch player, who would rate about 12, and the others graded accordingly.

The Edinburgh members, at this time, were our best players ; in 1858 the three lowest handicaps were those of players from the Capital, and Clark was playing from plus 5. The upper limit was made 32 in 1862, but this was reduced in 1869 to 30. Robert Clark was at this time a dictator of handicaps and on occasion did not publish his findings till after the return of the cards. It needed a man of great firmness of character in these circumstances to declare himself the winner, but no objections were raised. The second Friday in September, and the next day, Saturday, were the most important golfing days of the year, since the Claret Jug was played for on the Friday and the Captain's Prize on the Saturday. In 1866 it was decided to alter handicaps for the Saturday's game in the light of evidence supplied by the Claret Jug competition. Yet three years later this was rescinded and handicaps were fixed for the whole year, a clear proof that even in those good old days there were players with an eye to the main chance. Others like John Vassie, Jun., and J. Forrest, who fixed their own handicaps at 26, for the season, in 1866, were moved to do so by confidence in their improving play, and were not seeking easy victims. They apparently convinced the Council and were allowed to have their way.

It was characteristic of the Vassie family to wish to cut their own handicaps while offering almost unlimited odds to the weaker players. J. Arthur Vassie, A. H. Vassie and John Vassie, Jun., in 1885-86 were all clamant that their handicaps should be lowered in view of their past successes. The Council refused in the case of Arthur Vassie, but accepted the proposals of the other two. On the other hand, the Council proposed cutting the handicap of Mr. Paterson, but he objected so strongly that they had to submit. It was in 1882 that John Vassie, by a successful motion in Council, ushered in the great age

when every man received the handicap he needed and the upper limit could reach infinity. This was the age of cold truth. There were no rabbits in handicap competitions in those days: the back-marker had food for thought, when he surveyed his cheerful opponent wearing a handicap of 95 like a halo. By 1887 there were eight members playing from 82, and Sheriff Birnie led the field at 106. These handicaps need some qualification, since the full round was over 28 holes and the scratch score was 118, but they are still impressive. It was as well that the Council had ordered in 1883, and probably with just cause, that all scores must be recorded by the player's partner, and all puts must be holed out. It is also significant that, in 1891, for the Orchard Shield Competition, it was decided that scratch players should get special consideration, to give them a chance.

The pendulum swung to the other extreme in 1916, when the maximum was made 18: since then we have once again eased the lot of the cheerful incompetents, but only to a limited degree. There would be considerable support for the decision of 1905 to cut Mr. Watson's handicap from 22 to 18, after he had won the Forrest Cup; the reason given was that "it was unfair that a player who came out so seldom should have such odds as to win." Others would now argue that no long-handicap player should ever win anything.

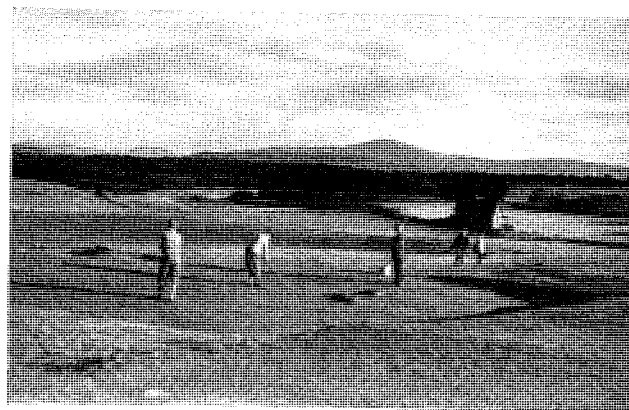
In 1908 the Secretary was asked, at a meeting, what method the Committee adopted in fixing handicaps. He replied with dignity that he, personally, kept all the scores in a book, and handicapped from the best scores returned, or an average of the best scores. Such paternal government of the best type ought to have satisfied all, but in the following year the Committee devised a method which had, and still has, much to commend it. Players were divided into three classes: 0-6; 7-14; 15-22. For first-class players the figure arrived at was the average of the three best scores returned by the player, less 74; for the second-class players the average was taken of the two best net scores, while for the third-class player the best net score counted. The scratch score for the course had been reduced to 74 in 1905.



Photo—A. Brown & Co., Lanark

The Thirteenth Green

Recently our handicaps have been nationalised, like many other things, and we know now how we stand relative to the Amateur Champion, unless there is a flaw in the reasoning somewhere; but in our private encounters most of us will continue to register sorrow at the unfeeling actions of the responsible Committee.



Photo—A. Brown & Co., Lanark

The Sixteenth Tee with Tinto in the Distance

CLUB TROPHIES.

1. **The Claret Jug.**—This was bought from Club funds in 1857 and was first competed for in that year. It was originally a scratch award and produced in effect the Club Champion. Later, for a period, it was awarded as a handicap prize, but it is now given for the best scratch score. The Claret Jug was played for on the second Friday of September: from 1863 the Captain's Prize, handicap, followed on the Saturday, and the Annual General Meeting and the Dinner took place in the evening.

2. **The Gold Ball.**—Purchased by Robert Clark in 1863, on behalf of the Club, and re-cut in 1878, it was twice lost and twice restored by absent-minded winners. For many years anyone could challenge the holder of the Gold Ball by paying a small fee to Club-funds.

3. **The Captain's Prize.**—This is not a trophy, strictly speaking, but the competition is third in order of age and the prize is highly esteemed. Instituted by Robert Clark in 1863.

4. **The Hutchinson Cross.**—A gift from Lieut.-Col. Hutchinson of Harperfield in 1873 "for the highest score," it is now awarded to the player returning the lowest scratch score.

5. **The Forrest Cup.**—James Forrest was Captain of the Club in 1868, and after his death, his sister, Mrs. Lindsay of Bellfield, presented this trophy in memory of him, in 1882.

6. **The Anstruther Medals** were first gifted in 1882 by the Captain, Sir W. C. Anstruther. They were renewed for a considerable period, every year, by Sir Windham or his successors, but the winners now hand them back to the Club in due course.

7. **The Orchard Shield.**—This was presented on 22nd December, 1883, by James Brown of Orchard, by Carluke, for an annual competition on New Year's Day. Low and high-handicap players are paired and they play two-ball foursomes. The winners at one time received crosses as souvenirs; later, ordinary souvenirs were provided by the Club.

8. **H.L.I. Cleek.**—This silver cleek was presented by the officers of the H.L.I. in 1891 "on account of the pleasure they had had on the course." It was won outright by John Haddow in 1907. He joined the Club in 1865 and won the H.L.I. Cleek in 1891, 1903 and 1907. His widow returned it to the Club in 1925.

9. **The Gibson-Carmichael Casket.**—This trophy was one of several gifts to the Club by Mr. Gibson-Carmichael. He presented it in 1892. It has been known by various names, such as, "the Gibson-Carmichael Snuff-box," "the Gibson-Carmichael Bon-bonnière," and "the Gibson-Carmichael Casket."

10. **The Templeton Medal** was originally offered to the Junior Club by Mr. Templeton of Stanmore, as a prize for residents in Lanark only. The Junior Club refused to accept it on that footing, and it was given to our Club unconditionally in 1897. It was hoped that it would encourage play over the new holes of the extended course. It was endowed in 1902 by Mr. Templeton, with £20, to purchase a souvenir, annually, for the winner.

11. **The Lithgow Vase** was given by Miss Purdie of Stantslane on 3rd September, 1898. She also presented a cheque for £50, to be invested in Railway Stock in order to provide souvenirs annually.

12. **The Hamilton-Houldsworth Cup** was given to the Club on 12th December, 1908. The donor, Mr. Hamilton-Houldsworth, also gave the Club £300 on easy terms, to repay the loan from Mr. Renwick, who had largely financed the extension of the course to eighteen holes. Anyone who wins the trophy in three successive years can claim possession outright.

13. **The H.L.I. Cup.**—This was presented by the officers of the H.L.I. on 1st August, 1912. It is a handicap competition: originally two qualifying rounds were played, followed by medal play. It was won outright in 1920 by J. Gilroy: he returned it to the Club.

14. **The Newlands Trophy, 1912.**—A valuable trophy for open competition among low-handicap players, "to make the course well-known to established players." It was presented by Lord Newlands, who became President of the Club in 1918 and remained in office till 1929.

15. **The Annan Rose-Bowl or President's Prize** was a gift from James Annan, Town Clerk of Lanark, who was President of the Club from 1930 onwards. The Rose-Bowl was gifted in 1931, when Mr. Annan was already the oldest ex-Captain, and a member of long standing.

16. **The Jerviswood Plate.**—Presented in 1931 by Mr. George Findlater, for competition on handicap terms among players over 55 years of age. The donor was anxious that it should be played for by members over sixty-five years of age, but was persuaded to accept a reduction in the age-limit in order to secure a larger entry. He then insisted that the terms be put in writing, to prevent future Councils "playing tricks." Souvenirs were given at one time, but the trophy is not endowed.

17. **The Winston Trophy** was presented in 1945 by the officers at Winston Barracks who had enjoyed their golf on the course, and the hospitality of the Club.

18. **The Aitken Trophy.**—This trophy was given in 1947 to the Club by Mr. Wm. Aitken, Captain in 1936, for a pairs competition, each couple comprising one entrant from Winston Barracks and one from the Club.

19. **The Cameronian Bowl.** This massive trophy was presented to the Club in 1947 by Col. Buchanan-Dunlop, on behalf of the regiment, in view of their long connection with the Club and course.

20. **The Championship Quaich,** of imposing dimensions, was given by R. B. Dick, Jun., in 1949. This is a scratch competition for players with a handicap of nine or under; two rounds are played.

THE NEWLANDS TROPHY.

An important event of the Club's Summer programme is the Amateur Scratch Competition for the Newlands Trophy, together with six valuable prizes.

Full particulars as to date and conditions will be supplied on application to the Hon. Secretary, Richard Walker.

Here is a list of previous winners:—

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 1912—J. A. McGlashan and
H. D. Kirkwood.
<i>Douglas Park.</i> | 1930—A. T. Kyle.
<i>Peebles.</i> |
| 1913—William King and
Robert Lockhart.
<i>Lanark.</i> | 1931—Rev. D. S. Rutherford.
<i>Lanark.</i> |
| 1914—E. B. Rattray.
<i>Drumfellier.</i> | 1932—Peter B. Angus.
<i>Glasgow University.</i> |
| 1915-1919—
<i>No competition.</i> | 1933—James W. Adams.
<i>Douglas Park.</i> |
| 1920—J. A. McGlashan.
<i>Douglas Park.</i> | 1934—Rev. D. S. Rutherford.
<i>Lanark.</i> |
| 1921—John Caven.
<i>Cockrane Castle.</i> | 1935—J. C. More.
<i>Glasgow University.</i> |
| 1922—W. Douglas McLeod.
<i>Glasgow Golf Club.</i> | 1936—J. M. Ritchie.
<i>Greenock.</i> |
| 1923—W. Douglas McLeod.
<i>Glasgow Golf Club.</i> | 1937—Smith Cameron.
<i>Lanark.</i> |
| 1924—Andrew Boon, Jun.
<i>Prestwick St. Cuthbert.</i> | 1938—J. M. Ritchie.
<i>Greenock.</i> |
| 1925—Robert S. Rodger.
<i>Knowenoble.</i> | 1939—W. S. McLeod.
<i>Old Ranfurly.</i> |
| 1926—James Kennedy, Jun.
<i>Cambuslang.</i> | 1940-1947—
<i>No competition.</i> |
| 1927—James Brocm.
<i>Bathgate</i> | 1948—T. W. Fraser.
<i>Peebles.</i> |
| 1928—J. A. Lang.
<i>Erskine.</i> | 1949—James Gray.
<i>Cambuslang.</i> |
| 1929—Andrew Boon.
<i>Prestwick St. Cuthbert.</i> | 1950—A. Sinclair, Jun.
<i>West Kilbride.</i> |

THE CAPTAIN'S PRIZE.

The competition entitled "The Captain's Prize" rivals in popularity that for the Orchard Shield, but while most members consider it a pious act to attend at the Club-house during some part of New Year's Day, to greet old friends and to be stimulated by the good-will and kindness which prevails, not all face the rigours of eighteen holes that day; on the other hand, it is a mannerly act to compete for the Captain's Prize, and there is a large entry of members who wish to show their respect for him. There may be a mercenary element in it as well, as this particular prize, which is won outright, has always, thanks to the generosity of the Captains, been of a very acceptable nature. The winner generally collects various other dividends of a pleasing kind, and with one thing and another the Club-house on the evening of this competition is a very cheerful place with much evidence of goodwill from one member to another.

A survey of the prizes gifted by our Captains reveals a change in manners and a change in taste. Most of the early prizes are described as "massive" or "handsome," the latter word implying a torturing of silver into all sorts of fantastic shapes. For a long time it was the convention to assume that the winner had a deep interest in alcohol; his tastes were assumed to be masculine with a leaning towards the jocular. Thus, Robert Clark set the fashion by giving, as the first Captain's Prize "a handsome whisky jar, in a silver basket." From then onwards any expert player who specialized in liquid refreshments might have collected a most imposing and comforting assembly of objects for his side-board. Clark's prize could have been balanced by "a neat little whisky barrel on wheels"; these could have formed the centre-pieces for a circle of silver flasks, jugs and goblets with David Croall's delightfully simple "Dozen of Champagne" ready in waiting for any admirers. John Vassie had his share of these treasures: he won Clark's "handsome whisky jar" and he also received with thanks the dozen of champagne. The last of these uncompromising prizes, given by stout supporters of old times and old customs,

were the "Silver Liqueur Cup" given by Sir W. Carmichael-Anstruther in 1883, and the "Claret Jug" given by Hugh Renwick in 1884.

With the passing of the years the prizes, while still valuable, became less ornate, and one can mark the utilitarian spirit creeping in. Silver ink-stands, muffineers and hot-water jugs give evidence of the slackening of family discipline and the growth of feminine influence. In recent times these prizes have tended to become streamlined, without unnecessary ornament, and they almost always possess high domestic value.

EXTRACTS.

8-7-1854.—The Rules of the St. Andrews Club were read and generally approved. The Council was requested to revise them and to have them printed.

14-3-1863.—Rev. Mr. Syme, Carluke, elected a member. (Mr. Syme, a St. Andrews graduate, played for Prestwick in the famous match in 1856 against Captain Molesworth and his three sons. This match was the fore-runner of the Amateur International matches. Syme won by two holes.)

15-9-1877.—A good day for the Vassies! Wm. Vassie won the Captain's Prize, the Gold Ball and three clubs; J. A. Vassie won two clubs; J. Vassie, Jun., won one club.

12-9-1879.—Statement of accounts:

	£	s.	d.		
Assets: Cash	10	7	5		
59 balls at 10d.	2	9	2		
Stamps.. .. .	0	4	6		
Arrears	15	12	0		
	£	s.	d.		£ s. d.
Balls bought.. .. .	4	0	0	Greenkeeping	1 0 8
Balls sold	1	0	0		

(Continued overleaf)

10-9-1880.—Greenkeeping, 1879-1880, cost £2 7s. 11d.
Entertaining, 1879-1880, cost £6 9s. 6½d.

10-9-1881.—R. Watt got one ball "through the inadvertence of the Secretary's substitute's deputy."

2-9-1886.—To Corkscrews 1s. 0d.

28-3-1903.—All players disqualified. Owing to a gale of wind and heavy showers, only six competitors set out. None of them won: two had taken shelter, two returned cards after the prescribed hour, one, a beginner, had played several holes before starting, and the sixth was a previous winner.

9-5-1908.—A letter of reproof was sent to Lord Dunglass, who had given Lizzie Duncan 1s. 6d. for carrying his clubs. The proper sum was 6d. plus an optional payment of 1d. for lunch and 1d. for cleaning clubs.

13-5-1908.—A submissive and polite reply from Lord Dunglass.

CAN YOU BEAT IT?

T. J. Aitken has done the fifteenth, 456 yards, in two.

The ninth hole, 278 yards, has been done in one, by Elliot Jackson.

A, Fraser once drove out of bounds at the fifteenth.

Eric Gregg drove the first green, 365 yards, and holed the putt for a two.

David Brown, Sen., and A. D. Robertson have driven "doon the lum" at the first hole. Robert Cooper has driven down both "lums."

THE AIRDRIE INVASION.

In June, 1902, the country was greatly excited about the impending coronation of Edward VII: the coronation had been delayed owing to his illness. The Club, prompted by a sense of loyalty, proposed holding a special competition to mark the happy event. Moved by similar feelings of loyal devotion, several hundreds of people from Airdrie decided to come to Lanark for a picnic. The events coincided in time and place, and the course "west of the ditch" was covered by what the Club Council described as "a most uncivilised picnic." The two parties were at variance, each thinking the other most unreasonable. The day was hot and sunny, and the picnic party, broken into cheerful little groups, occupied all the pleasant corners they could find, including greens. The terraces at the home hole were in shade and were therefore extremely popular. Man must eat and refresh himself, and the Club Council in its protest to the Town Council listed broken bottles, food, papers, orange skins and boxes as forming part of the litter disfiguring the course and causing annoyance to the players. Members of the picnic party, on the other hand, preparing for slumber on a carefully-selected smooth piece of turf, were incensed at being awakened by the vicious thump of balls landing in their midst. They held that it was a dangerous practice as well as being inconvenient, and in their wrath they picked up the balls, used violent and abusive language and finally assaulted one of the players.

The Club Council, stung to anger by this lack of respect for a Royal and Ancient game, wrote to the Town Council in blunt fashion, pointing out that "it was most impolitic of the Council to grant permission for such a picnic "seeing the Club had spent so much money and care on the course. The Town Council replied politely that "the trippers were not meant to interfere with the actual course," but proceeded, with some asperity, to "deny the rights which the Club seemed to assume."

THE LADIES' CLUB.

Women golfers were formally recognised by the Club in 1895, and they were even given a room of sorts for their own use. But however pleasing they might be as human beings, they were not viewed with whole-hearted enthusiasm on the Golf Course. They were just young persons very much under the thumbs of their male relations, and the Club formed regulations protecting genuine golfers from any cluttering up of the course on the part of inefficient and wayward women players.

In the first place, any prospective member of the Ladies' Club had to be approved and elected by the Club Council; thus the Club was assured that all lady members would be well-disposed and properly submissive. The subscription was fixed at 5s. 0d., as was the entrance fee. As few women earned salaries then, the cost would come out of male pockets. Lady players were not to play on Competition days, nor on Saturdays, between mid-day and five p.m. They were also instructed to let men players pass them if they wished. In 1897 the Ladies' Club was allowed to play a match against Wishaw on a Saturday afternoon, but the rule about letting men players pass was enforced, and the ladies were told that the permission to play such a match was not to be taken as a precedent.

In 1909, and the date is significant, for at this time the cry of "Women's Rights" was being raised, the Ladies' Club broke away from the parent-body and formed an independent Club, paying dues for their room and lockers. In the years that followed, Miss Edith Vassie was Captain for five successive years, while Mrs. Hamilton Houldsworth held office as President for nearly forty years.

In 1947 the Ladies' Club joined forces once again with Lanark Golf Club and is now in a fairly strong position.

LANARK JUNIORS.

This Club, which finally amalgamated with Lanark Golf Club in 1947, was founded in 1893. Until the formation of the Golf Course Company, it played by permission of the Senior Club, as regards the use of tees, greens, etc., without financial obligation. After the Company was formed, each Member's annual subscription included his green fee, as was the case with the Lanark Club. Many sound players were produced and the Club was well endowed with trophies.

After the amalgamation, the term "Junior" referred for the first time to age. Juniors are now those under twenty-one years of age, and they are rich in Competitions, as they have retained all the trophies which the Club possessed. They are likely to provide the Senior Club, in time, with many competent golfers.

GREEN CONVENORS.

The first notable Green Ranger was Hugh Renwick, who superintended operations when the course was extended to eighteen holes in 1897. He and his brother were consistent benefactors to the Club: they financed the extension and gave many gifts in kind for the Club-house. A lasting monument to Hugh Renwick is the road which winds its way round the right-hand side of the cottage at the first hole. Originally this road was at the other side of the cottage and went down the middle of the fairway, with the first tee, in consequence, on the hill-side instead of in its present position.

Tom Hodgson, a member of the Club for fifty-six years, a scratch player in his time, and to the last a straight-backed, trim figure in plus-fours, was Green Convenor in the years after the formation of the Golf Course Company and as such was largely responsible for the extension of the Course. He was Captain in 1916, and was made an Honorary Member in 1943.

His successor as Green Convenor was John S. Bryce, Captain in 1932 and Captain again in the Centenary Year, 1951. Indefatigable in seeking improvements wherever they could be contrived, he loved his job. No other Member of the Club equals him in respect for the game or in reverence for those who have excelled at it. He is full of golfing lore and knowledge and is willing to discuss shots at any time, in any place. A unanimous choice for his present post, he will, we trust, find much joy in the various duties incidental to the Centenary Year.

END-PIECE.

There are members of the Club with so little sense of propriety that they can stand on the third tee listening to the skylarks singing; they linger fondly over the variegated carpet of cropped heather on the eleventh, and nod with approval at the thyme and heath violets on the sixteenth; some even gaze foolishly at the pale blue hills beyond the Black Mount. But your true golfer sees only the delightful ridges and the long hollows full of lovely lies and goes about his business, with seemly concentration, of collecting material for excited stories told in the Club-house, before a restless audience, of scores that should have been.



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