



Bothwell Castle
A HISTORY *Golf Club*

Foreword by Alex F Dick - Bothwell Castle Golf Club Captain 1997

The club is very grateful to past Captain Alister Baird who initiated this 75th anniversary issue of the history of Bothwell Castle Golf Club. We are also grateful for his very generous sponsorship in publishing the book. Thanks are also due to Sheila Beckett for her research, her writing and her patience in producing the history in such a readable form.

The book contains many interesting and informative details on how the club has developed over the seventy-five years and makes very enjoyable reading.

Alex F Dick

Bothwell May 1997



Acknowledgements

In the spring of 1995 I was asked by Captain Alister Baird if I would be interested in writing a book on the history of Bothwell Castle Golf Club to be published in the seventy fifth year of the Club - 1997. A handbook had been produced for the Jubilee year of 1972 but many important changes had taken place since then and Alister thought if the first seventy five years were recorded at the present time an account of some of the events of these years could be described by the men and women who participated in them. With that in mind this narrative has been based on my reading of the Minutes of the Club and taped interviews with some of the Members. I found the Minutes fascinating and was truly impressed at the amount of effort freely given which has gone to the making of the Golf Club from the beginning right up to the present day. I have tried to keep the tone of the English used in the written record of the Club. The recording sessions proved to be extremely entertaining. A tape recorder tends to inhibit but its existence was soon discounted and the funniest stories tended to come at the end of a taping session as caution was thrown to the winds. As promised I have exercised some discretion.

All of the stories and anecdotes, which I have transcribed from the taped interviews and used in the narrative, are shown in the grey text boxes.

I would like to thank most sincerely all those who gave me their time and contributed photographs. In particular I would like to thank:-

Alister Baird, Archie Watson, J. Warnock Rennie and his wife Jennie, William and Irene Smeaton, Douglas Steedman, Jean Cadzow, Donald Hutton, Andrew Taylor, Lindsey Connell, Joyce and Charlie Scott, John Young, Sandy Sinclair, Alex Braidwood, Nicky Rennie, Andrew White, Alan Winning, Christine Moyes, Nancy Chisholm, Cathy Steel, Sadie Muir, Mrs Pugh, Jim Miller and last but not least my husband Ian Beckett who helped with the typesetting, design and production of the book.

In a book like this there are bound to be omissions and maybe some mistakes. The mistakes and omissions are all mine.

Sheila Beckett

Copyright Sheila Beckett © May 1997

Published by Alister Baird of Mill Road, Bothwell

Designed and typeset by Ian Beckett using Adobe PhotoShop, Microsoft Office 97 and an Epson 800 colour scanner.

A History of **Bothwell Castle Golf Club**

Contents

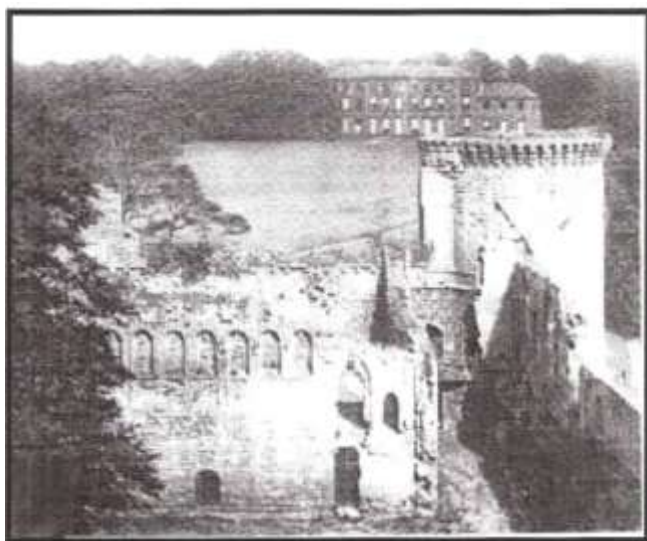
Chapters	Page Number
THE BEGINNING:	2
THE LADIES GET STARTED	7
THE EARLY MEMBERSHIP	8
OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE CLUB	9
THE REST OF THE TWENTIES	11
THE THIRTIES	12
THE LAST OF THE PRE- WAR YEARS	14
THE FORTIES	19
PEACE TIME	23
THE FIFTIES	27
THE SIXTIES	29
THE SEVENTIES	35
THE EIGHTIES	43
THE NINETIES	49

A History of Bothwell Castle Golf Club

The Beginning:

On the 26th of July 1922 a meeting was held in the Bank House Bothwell by a group of local men who had resolved to "promote" a golf club. Of the nine "promoters" two were ministers of religion, one was a doctor and the others were businessmen. Their names are recorded in fine handwriting in the first Minutes of the Club. They were the Reverend James Mackie, the Reverend S. J. Hamilton and Messrs McNab, Russell, Smith, Kerr, Gibson, Pollok and Dr. J.A. Walls. That summer evening it was Dr. Walls who was invited to take the chair. Thanks to their enthusiasm less than a year later on the 16th of June 1923 the Course was officially opened by the Earl of Home. During these months land was acquired, a Course laid out, a Clubhouse built, a Constitution drafted and Members enrolled.

By 1922 there were already many golf courses established throughout Scotland. In the nineteenth century Queen Victoria's love of Balmoral made Scotland fashionable and leisure pursuits which could be enjoyed in the Scottish landscape became popular with the prosperous middle classes. Golf courses were cut out of the rough sheep-grazed hillsides of Highland villages and golf links were an indispensable feature of seaside towns. Golf however was not just for holidays and the last decade of the nineteenth century saw the establishment of a golf club in many small towns.



It seems surprising therefore that Bothwell did not have a golf course until well into the twentieth century. The village of course was very small. Perhaps it was simply not big enough at the turn of the century and then the Great War put a stop to any

leisure development. In 1922, Uddingston, the neighbouring village, had a well established Cricket Club on land which had been provided by the Earl of Home the major landowner in the district. (The Earl was the father of Sir Alec Douglas Home who was to

"The land was provided by the old Earl of Home. He was very good to local people. Long before the Golf Club started he gave ground to start the "cricket Club. Uddingston had tennis as well as cricket so Bothwell had to have the golf."

"They wanted the clubhouse to be in Bothwell. The original members were local professional people and artisans. The Earl had a big staff. There were about thirty people employed there including masons and gardeners. The Estate was beautifully kept and the people who were connected with the Earl annually presented him with a couple of pigeons. There was a sheep dip at the Well at the thirteenth. The Mansion looked down onto Bothwell Castle near the dovecot. The House was knocked down in 1929. The gates, which have given us all the problems in recent years, were the entrance to the Estate."

become Prime Minister in the sixties.) The Minutes of the July meeting record that Dr. Walls, Mr. McNab and Mr. Pollok "had been for some time negotiating for a lease of the fields in Bothwell Castle Estates lying between Blantyre Road and the Plantation at Jacks Road which extended to 104 acres or thereby." Dr. Walls had personally met the Earl of Home, who viewed the proposal favourably and the terms had been discussed with the Earl's Factors Messrs R. Summer Smith & Son.

The terms were that "a Lease of these fields should be granted for 21 years at a rental of £200 per annum; the Club should have the grazing rights of the fields; be entitled to erect houses and shelters; make greens and bunkers and alter fences; at the end of the lease the fields and fences should be restored; that minerals and mineral rights should be reserved and that the Superior should have a right to feu"

The mineral rights were important of course. At that time there were fifteen coal mines in the immediate environs of the villages of Bothwell and Uddingston and indeed the pit owners were among the early members of the Club. There was always a possibility that the green fields covered coal. As it turned out it was not the Earl's rights to coal which was to cause problems over the years but the Club's grazing rights which put money in the bank at the cost of having sheep on the fairways.

At that first meeting it was agreed; that a private limited company should be formed and registered with a Capital of £2000 in 4000 shares of 10/- each (fifty pence in new money); that the maximum dividend on the shares should be seven and a half per cent per annum; that the Clydesdale Bank in Bothwell should be appointed bankers; that the maximum number of Members should be fixed at 600 made up of 400 men, 150 ladies and fifty juniors; and that the Members present should walk over the fields before the next meeting so that the laying out of the Golf Course could be considered as well as the type of "Golf House." Other matters such as the possibility of having tennis courts, and the actual site of the "Golf House" were discussed. Two months later in September the second meeting of the Club was held. At this meeting no less than three sub-committees were set up; one to deal with the Rules and Regulations of the Club; one with the construction of the Course; and the third with membership, entry money and subscriptions.

The first priority was to get started on the Course itself. The sub-committee "were satisfied that Mr. Adams of Glasgow would be able to lay out a Golf Course as well as any other party. His fee would be



fifteen guineas and for that he would go over the ground and stake out where the driving greens and the holes should be." Mr. Adams made an initial inspection of the fields on Friday 13th October accompanied by Mr. John Loudon. It should be noted that Mr. Loudon was not the same Mr. Loudon who was to play such an important role in the affairs of the Club in the seventies. At the end of October a report was given of the inspection of the Golf Course and it was anticipated that Mr. Adams would go over the ground again in the near future and put in pins to mark the teeing grounds and greens.

During the autumn the "Promoters" also took up the matter of appointing a green-keeper. Besides a free house and light it was thought a wage of 50/- to 60/- would be sufficient and the right to keep a store and provide refreshments would also be given to him. The greenkeeper required to be a married man and his wife would require to do the cleaning of the Golf House. Advertisements were inserted in the Glasgow Herald and Hamilton Advertiser. It was thought that three men among the applicants would suit:- Alexander McKay of Panmure Golf Club, John

Melrose of Gourock and William McEwan of Hamilton. The wage wanted by McKay of £2-15-0 was considered a reasonable wage. Mr. Melrose required a wage of over £4 which was thought high. The testimonials were all satisfactory and Mr. Alexander McKay was invited for interview. It was decided that Mr. Burr who resided on the Estate should be appointed an assistant on the Course along with Mr. McEwan who resided in Hamilton, with weekly wages of £2-5-0 each

The First Public Meeting

Such was the progress made, by the 12th of December 1922 the "Promoters" were able to hold a meeting in the Bothwell Public Hall. There was a large turnout. Lady Members were also present. Dr. J. A. Walls presided and a resume of what had taken place since the inception of the Club was given. For the founding Members it was well worn ground i.e. that the Earl of Home was agreeable that the fields on the Bothwell Castle Estate west of the Blantyre Road should be secured for a Golf Club and that a lease had been obtained for twenty one years of those fields extending in all to 110 acres at a rental of £200 per annum.

The Earl of Home had agreed to be Honorary President of the Club and Mr. James Forgie, Honorary Vice-President. Mr. John Loudon was elected as first Captain of the Club and Mr. Cadzow as first Vice-Captain. Dr. J. A. Walls was appointed President and Mr. T. D. Kerr Vice President. A Council or Committee was elected and it was agreed to proceed with the construction of the "Golf House."

The First Committee Meeting

Two days after the Meeting in the Public Hall the enlarged Council met for the first time. This was the first real Committee Meeting of the Club. The first job of the full Committee was to deal with a set back. Mr. McKay had intimated by letter that he could not accept the appointment of head

greenkeeper. One of the main objections was thought to be want of a house at Bothwell for the Clubhouse had yet to be built. Mr. McNab offered a house up till May term at 7/- a week, including rates and taxes so that this temporary accommodation might be offered to the next man to be appointed.

There was other business to be considered. Estimates for a shed of corrugated iron 24 feet by 12 feet had already been received. Mr. George Taylor's was the lowest at £39-15-0 and it was reported to the Committee that Mr. Taylor had now proceeded with the construction of the tool house.



Tools had been bought and the men were now engaged cutting turf and making four greens. Mr. Loudon also reported that he thought it might be advisable to get a horse and cart as the price of hire was too high at 16/- a day. Mr. Loudon had asked the men employed to bring their Insurance Cards so that they could be examined. The Secretary was also instructed to take out a Policy of Insurance to cover the men under the Workmen's' Compensation Act.

It was agreed to elect a Greens Committee and a Finance Committee. The Finance Committee being duly formed met officially later that Thursday evening at 10 o'clock. Mr. Adam's fee for fifteen guineas for laying out the course was submitted and various accounts for advertising and so on were passed for payment.

At the same time that evening the Greens Committee met and it was agreed that Members of the Committee should visit the Course to see the work that had been done. Mr. Loudon reported that he had obtained a turf cutter and also a small mower and with regard to the horse and cart an effort might be made to get the present charge reduced to 12/6 or 13/- a day. He also reported that Mr. Burr, one of the men engaged at present was a man likely to turn out suitable for the position of head greenkeeper.

Although he was not a player he had some experience on a private course and from the manner in which he was carrying out his work it was quite evident he knew what was to be done. The man's wife was a good cook and had done work in the way of catering for the Uddingston Cricket Club. On hearing this it was agreed that nothiilg should be done meantime for the appointment of a head greenkeeper.

It was not only the Course Construction Committee that had been busy in the last months of 1922, the Rules and Regulations Committee had also taken

important decisions.

Getting Down to Business

In the beginning six of the original Members of the Club had agreed to stand guarantor for the rent as requested by the Factors and it was agreed that they would be indemnified for any loss they might sustain. The Articles of Association of the Company were prepared and also the Rules and Regulations of the Club.

Only two amendments were made to the draft lease; one regarding the fencing and the other was with regard to the preference being given to Bothwell and Uddingston "residents." It was agreed that the definition of "residents" should be restricted to householders as "residents" was too vague a term. This was an interesting change given that Bothwell Castle was always intended to be a

Club for everyone; a Golf Club where artisans and professional men could meet with a common interest to bind them. The old Earl of Home was insistent that this should be one of the main criteria of the Club - that it should be eligible to anyone with priority given to local people. In spite of the fine distinction between "residenter" and "householder", most Club Members today would agree that in the end the Earl's views prevailed and it is a matter of pride at Bothwell Castle that our Membership represents a fair cross section of the local community unlike many golf clubs which prefer to be exclusive.

The Membership and Subscription Committee had also been busy. The Earl had stipulated that preference was to be given to people who were not Members of other Clubs and that the Club was primarily for residents in Bothwell Village and district. This clearly included the village of Uddingston but this requirement in the Lease was to have repercussions as the years passed, for as housing developments pushed into the green

Thereafter the applications from the Ladies and Gentlemen from outside districts were considered and as the number of applicants altogether was under 500 Gentlemen and 200 Ladies it was decided that they should all be elected. The Secretary was instructed to send a circular to all the applicants intimating subscriptions payable

It had already been agreed that members should be allowed to join on payment of entry money of £3 and a subscription of £2-5-0. The ladies should pay £1-10-0 of entry money and £1-5-0 of a yearly subscription while youths should pay an annual subscription of 15/- up to eighteen years of age without entry money. These figures had been arrived at on the assumption that the grazing of sheep would defray some of the costs of maintaining the Course and an agreement had been reached with Mr. John Speir who had offered £110 for the grazing of sheep for the year 1923.

It is worth noting that when Bobby Watson



fields of Lanarkshire, newcomers into Bothwell were automatically included in the desirable catchment area but several would-be golfers in the village of Uddingston found themselves beyond the Pale, for the Constitution gave the Committee discretion in its definition of the district. Although this became a sore point from the sixties onwards in the very early years of the Club some Members came from as far away as Paisley and Cardonald.

The Membership Committee placed notices in the Glasgow Herald and the Hamilton Advertiser informing the public that applications for membership for the new Golf Club were being received and over one thousand application forms were sent out. Applications from both Ladies and Gentlemen were submitted and it was agreed that all applications from householders resident in Bothwell and Uddingston should be considered first and all of them were elected.

one of the future Captains of the Club joined in 1936 the entry money had risen to a mere £4 -4 -0 and the subscription was £2-5-0 and one of our present Lady Members, Cathie Steele paid entry money of only £3 and a subscription of £2 when she joined the Club in April 1949. At the same time the construction of the Clubhouse was in hand. It was thought that a sum of £1800 to £2000 would be required for that purpose. Mr. Lochhead, Architect, of Cullen, Lochead and Brown, Hamilton, was asked to submit a plan and Mr. Dow, Measurer, Blantyre, was appointed "Measurer."

The Election of the First Full Committee

Thus at the all important meeting in the Public Hall in December when the Members voted for the office bearers and Committee they also agreed to proceed with the construction of the "Golf House."

When that first Committee met on the 14th of December the infrastructure was in place for the running of a golf club. There was a Constitution. There were Members. There was a Captain and Vice-Captain. There was a Committee. There were Sub-Committees. A tone had been set and a great deal of work had been done. But there was no Clubhouse and most important of all there was not yet a Golf Course.

Raising the Money

he founding Members were determined that the finances of the Club should be sound. The first full meeting of the Finance Committee took place on Tuesday 6th February 1923. There were at that date 180 Full Members , 136 Lady Members and 20 Junior Members with a total fee income of £1320-15-0. The Expenditure to that date totalled £266-3-0 with outstanding accounts of £37 -1-6 from Mr. Bell for carting and about £10-0-0 for postage. A letter was read out to the Committee from the Rev P. Murray of Blantyre stating that he had been removed from the Church there to another district and requesting that the entry money paid by him should be returned as he would not be able to play. It was agreed to cancel his name from the Roll of Members and to return the £3 paid. This request was to come up again and again over the years with varying degrees of success.

It was evident that the cost of the Clubhouse would run to £3000 before it was opened. The cost of furnishing the building was expected to be around £150 to £250. and a considerable sum of money was needed to layout the Golf Course. To meet the cost of the construction of the Course and Clubhouse it was essential to have another source of income.

Debentures

It was recommended that an offer of Debentures of a minimum sum of £5 each bearing interest at four per cent should be made to the Members of the Club for the purpose of paying the cost of the Clubhouse. It was considered that at least £3000 of Debentures should be issued. The payment would be taken as and when required.

At the next Committee Meeting it was agreed that debentures to the value of £2500 be issued and on the Members present being asked to subscribe, debentures amounting in all to £1000 were taken up . . The Secretaries were instructed to issue a Circular inviting Members to take up the remainder.

The issue of Debentures proved to be a success. The sums offered ensured that the cost of the Clubhouse would be met. By the end of February the total amounted to over £2000 with more to come in. At the March meeting the Treasurer submitted statements of the accounts and also the names of the Debenture Holders who had paid their calls. Mr. William Pattullo McNab, the Honorary Treasurer of the Club was appointed Commissioner with full powers to borrow sums of money in the name of the Club and to execute Debenture Bonds for the sums so borrowed.

A report from the Finance Committee stated that after defraying the cost of the Club House there would be a deficit of £908 on the first year's working and that the sum might be wiped out by the issue of further Debentures. It was agreed that the matter should be brought before the AGM Mr. Kirkwood Brown offered by letter to cancel his Debenture of £10 and he was duly thanked. In those early years the issue of Debentures was the chosen method for raising finance. Eventually all Debentures were redeemed.

It was also approved that the Secretaries be paid £50 and the Treasurer £20 for the services rendered by them during the year, these payments to be given in the form of Debenture Bonds. This Honorarium was eventually paid in money not Debentures but the remuneration grew very slowly over the years and it was not until 1995 that the work of the Secretary and Treasurer was combined into the job of Club Administrator. 1923 ended with the necessity to overdraw the Bank Account to meet the outstanding accounts.

Building the Course

At the beginning of 1923 the task was begun of transforming grazing land into a Golf Course By the early spring the greens had

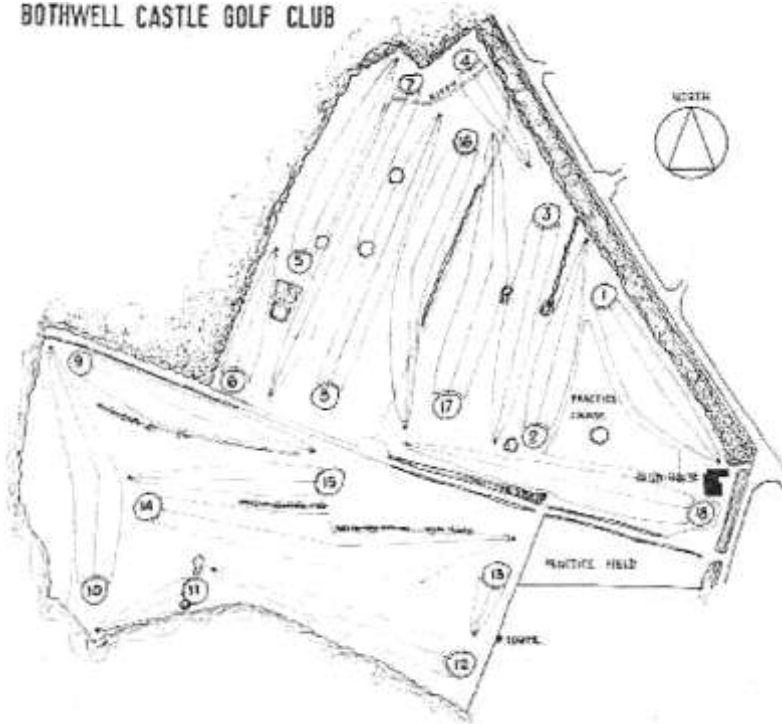
all been completed except the 18th where no turf had been laid as the weather had been too wet. Bad weather had retarded work but by March the men were working nine hours a day. The pay was 1/- an hour. The small toolhouse had been erected and generally the Greens Committee could report that the work was proceeding satisfactorily. It was also reported that the site for the Clubhouse had been agreed upon.

The first privilege of the Course was granted..... a request was submitted from the Bothwell Harriers for the privilege to use the Course for a Scottish run in connection with the Championships. In view of the fact that the Earl of

Home had given permission to run over portions of the Estate, the Committee agreed on condition that that the Harriers should run round the edge of the Course as much as possible and further that all scraps of paper should be removed.

Simpson was appointed head greenkeeper and his wife appointed to take charge of the Clubhouse. The wages were £3 per week, free house, coal and light. Mr. & Mrs. Simpson were to

BOTHWELL CASTLE GOLF CLUB



By late spring the greens had all been cut and the whole of the tees except one. At this point it became clear that a large mower and some lighter rollers for the greens would be required. It was decided that a Ransome Triple Mower and one seventeen inch mower for the greens should be bought and eighteen earthenware boxes should be obtained for the tees along with bogey hole tins and flags for the greens. Mr. Loudon was empowered to get the flag pins for greens constructed by the blacksmith if they could be done cheaper that way. It was also agreed that cast iron pins with numbers should be ordered for the tees. A considerable quantity of sand and special manure was acquired for the greens but the Greens Committee advised that the turf had not yet bound together and it would still be some time before they could be used for play.

Mr. Loudon, the Convenor of the Greens Committee had already given two small books to both Mr. McEwan and Burr so that they could keep the times of any men that might be employed as labourers. Of course the labourers would only be paid for the time they worked while both Mr. McEwan and Burr would have regular weekly wages. Mr. Loudon also recommended that the wages of the two foremen, Burr and McEwan should be increased by 2/6d. He thought it was only right that the two principal men should receive at least 4/- more than the ordinary labourers wage.

pay for the gas used in cooking and to receive the profits of the catering. Essentially the same principle applies today

Mr. Forgie and Mr. Jarvie called on Mr. Loudon with regard to the high-tension electric cable which crossed the Golf Course. As there was nothing in the Lease entailing any burden on the Club with regard to this cable it was agreed that the club do nothing at all. The onus for protecting the cable lay on William Baird & Co. Ltd. but during the summer unbreakable insulators were placed on the poles carrying the electric cables at the points where there would be a danger of balls striking the insulators and wires. The estimated cost was between £20 and £30.

At the end of the year it was reported that there were problems on the fourteenth fairway which was waterlogged and part of it had to be lifted and laid with ashes. Nothing changes!

Decisions were taken at the same brisk pace throughout the rest of the year. Mr. George

The Clubhouse

In the meantime the "Golf House" was under construction. Early in the year Mr. Loudon suggested that a provisional date for the opening should be fixed as that might hurry on the contractors. An official opening by



the middle of June was approved.

Messrs Shaw & Gibson were given the contract to carry out the electric lighting work for the Clubhouse since they had put in the lowest bid at £63-11-4d. By April the roof was on and attention turned to the furniture and fittings of the Club. In connection with the furnishing it was suggested that the ladies be consulted before ordering anything.

The floors of the Club Room and Tea Room were laid with Nairns Super Walto Linoleum extra thick brown half inch with a border of blue running a foot from the wall. An ordinary closed range about three feet six inches by forty eight inches was to be purchased for the kitchen along with cutlery and dishes. Three dozen roller towels were to be ordered as per sample submitted to the Committee. The Committee met with Mr. and Mrs. Simpson and after hearing Mrs. Simpson's views resolved to build a washhouse with boiler and tubs for her use.

The outside of the Clubhouse was not forgotten.

A larch flagpole 37 feet long (30 feet above ground) was obtained for £14. It was decided that the flag be a St. Andrew's Cross bearing the letters B.C.G. C. By June Dr. Walls reported that he had got a flag for 29/6d; Mr. Loudon, on the architects advice, ordered a base for the flagpole to give it better proportions. Four seats were procured for the front of the Clubhouse at a cost of £4 -15-0 each. The Clubhouse was ready for the grand opening.

The Ladies get Started

Many of the Lady Associate Members of the Club were wives of Members but there seems to be a disproportionate number of single ladies in the early Membership lists. Some were sisters and daughters of Members but it is probable that the Great War played its part in encouraging women to participate in activities which previously had been the preserve of men. At any rate the Ladies Section required its own organisation - a Club within a Club.

It was necessary to hold a meeting of the Ladies to appoint office bearers for their section. A meeting was

called in the Lesser Public Hall in Bothwell for this purpose. This meeting was held on a Friday evening in the spring of 1923 Dr. Walls, the President of the Club occupied the Chair. The Members of the Committee, or Council, as it was still called were also present. After discussion it was decided that the number of the Ladies Committee should be nine- consisting of Captain, Vice-Captain, Secretary and six members. The following were appointed:-

Captain- Mrs. Stedman Brown

Vice Captain- Miss Orrock Adam

Secretary - Miss Catherine Geddes

Committee Mrs. J arvie, Mrs. Murdoch and Miss Gladys S. Forgie of Bothwell and Miss Gray, Mrs. McEwen and Miss Helen Stewart Miller of Uddingston.

Ladies Playing Times

1922 there had been discussion on the Regulations for ladies playing and it was decided that " ladies should be allowed to begin games with one another daily from Monday to Friday except between the hours of 5.15p.m. and 7p.m. and on Saturdays except between 1.30p.m. and 3p.m. On Saturdays ladies would be allowed to play between these hours if partnered by gentlemen players." These hours were never implemented and it is not clear what the permitted hours were in these early days but it is interesting that they are remarkably similar to the hours available in 1996. There was of course no golf for anyone on Sunday.

For the rest of the Twenties the Ladies are mentioned only occasionally in the Minutes of the Club. In 1923 they requested a footbath for the Ladies Room; later in the decade they requested more playing time and a restriction on the three and four ball games being played by the men on Mondays and Thursdays; they also suggested that a cover for the cycle rack should be considered. All of these requests were turned down. On the other hand the proceeds from the Whist Drives organised by the Ladies section was received with great appreciation and the proposal of the ladies to have a game with the gentlemen was agreed to

The Early Membership

the Committee meeting in March 1923 the Secretary submitted the Membership Books. There were 271 male members, 200 lady members and 37 junior members. It was thought advisable that an advertisement should be inserted

I was considered too young at that time but I think I was made a member when I was five and then of course we stayed Members for the rest of our lives. We went to Elie every year for our holiday and I can remember getting wee cut down clubs. It was all wooden shafts in those days and they just cut a bit off the top of daddy's clubs and took a bit of the weight out. The house that we had was right on the golf course at the back and after everyone had stopped playing, daddy took us out onto the fairway and we would hit balls up and down. That's my earliest recollection of golfing. Goodness knows how old I would be. About five or something like that. It was in the family. Everyone played. Mummy started to play because daddy was so keen and she had a lovely saying she used to say I've been a promising player for thirty years and I'm still at the promising stage.

in the Glasgow papers pointing out members were being enrolled up to 31st March at the reduced rate. In April the membership of ladies and gentlemen had reached practically 500 and it was agreed to extend the date for the admission of members at the reduced rates to 31st of May since it was impossible that there could be any play on the course by that time. But later in the year it was agreed to increase the entrance money to £4 - 4 - 0 for gentlemen and £2 for ladies. By September membership consisted of 343 gentlemen, 260 ladies and 67 juniors. In future members seeking admission would be requested to fill up application forms and proceed as laid down in paragraph V⁽¹⁾ of the Constitution

Public Transport to the Course

Unlike many Golf Clubs, Bothwell Castle is easily accessible to the local people but even in the early

days when few people had cars the Committee could advertise for members from further afield because of the convenience of public transport.

The London Midland and Scottish Railway Company offered to issue Golfers Tickets in £5 lots to the Club the return fare from Glasgow being 1/6d first class and 11d third class.

The London and North Eastern Railway had not replied by July but since it had the most convenient service it was resolved to await their reply and to purchase £5 worth of their tickets and if a sufficient number of members indicated their desire to travel by train a

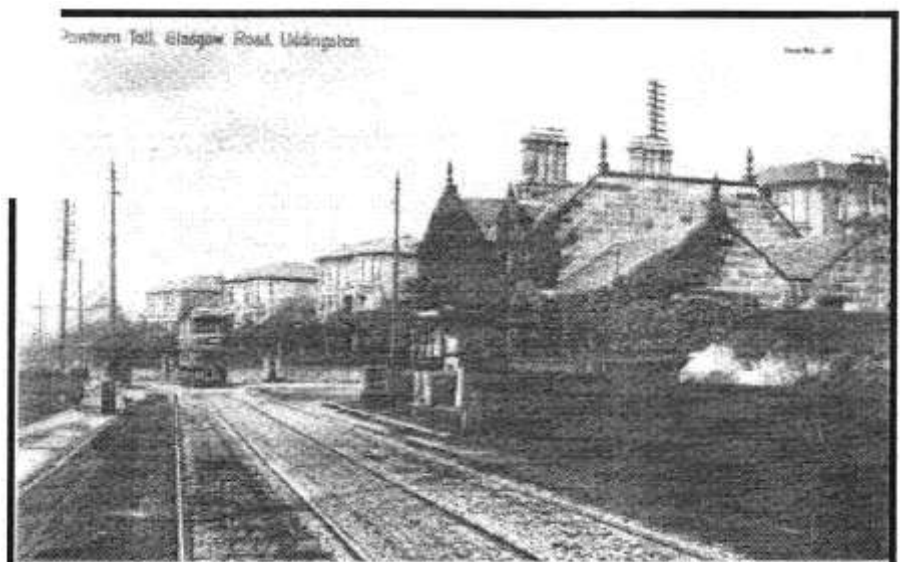
There were two railway stations in Bothwell. Where Edgecombe Peebles is now that was the old Cally Station and it ran into Central and where the walkway goes right down under the bridge behind the Hotel, that was the N.B. railway line and the station was just before the Bridge on the left hand side. Both were very handy for the Golf Course. The people coming from Glasgow would come by train. We didn't have a car at that time. Daddy would walk round to the golf club.

block of tickets from the London Midland and Scottish Railway Company would be purchased also.

Several of the members in the Twenties came from as far afield as Shettleston and even Cardonald and Paisley. One must remember that one of the stipulations laid down by the Earl of Home was that membership was to be offered only to those who were not already a member of a Golf Club and at that time there were already several Golf Clubs in the county with a solid local membership. On the whole the original members of the Club were local business and professional people.

Official Opening of the Club

It had been agreed for some time that the Convenor of the Greens Committee should make an endeavour to have the Golf House pushed on so that it could be opened on Saturday 23rd June 1923. It was hoped that the Earl of Home would perform the opening



ceremony. The Secretary wrote to the Earl inviting him to honour

EARL OPENS NEW SCOTS GOLF COURSE



The Earl of Home opened the new golf course at Bothwell Castle on Saturday. Here he is seen driving the first ball. A large number of golfers and others were present at the ceremony, which excited much interest in the neighbourhood.—"Bulletin" Photograph.

the Club by performing the opening ceremony

In April a letter from the Earl was received stating that as the Eton and Winchester Cricket Match was down for the 23rd of June he would be unable to open the Golf Club House on that date

ceremony was fixed for three o'clock. Reporters of various newspapers were issued invitations and the Bulletin was asked to send a photographer to take an official photograph.

An exhibition game was held after the official opening. It was played by:- Mr. W. Tulloch, Cathkin. Mr. J. Kennedy, Jnr., Cambuslang. Mr. D. Phimister, Drumpallier and Mr. J.G. Rowan also of Drumpellier. Each of the players was presented with a pocket book bearing his initials as a memento of the occasion. Messrs Tunnock and Austin supplied the teas and Captain Despard was asked to have policemen to take charge of the gate. The opening drew large crowds and eleven months after the first meeting was held by the Promoters, Bothwell Castle officially became a Golf Club.



As it turned out the Eton and Winchester cricket match was postponed so the Secretary wrote once more to the Earl inquiring whether it would be possible for him yet to open the Course on the 23rd.

A telegram was then received intimating that the Earl could attend the opening if it were held on the 16th of June. This was agreed and a Sub-Committee was formed consisting of the President, Captain, Vice-Captain, Treasurer and Secretaries. The opening

NEW GOLF COURSE FOR LANARKSHIRE

Features of the Round at Bothwell Castle

If Young Lochinvar were to come out from the West to-day it would be safe to hazard that his broadsword would give place to a well-balanced golf club. The inducement in the number of courses would almost compel it. To the long list which has sprung up mushroom-like within the past year or two falls to be added that of the Bothwell Castle Club.

The course, which, it is expected, will be open for play about the end of April or the beginning of May, promises exceedingly well. One feature is that it is entirely walled-in, thus precluding the intrusion of pedestrians who have come to be of so much annoyance in other places where, in the matter of locale, promoters have not been so fortunate.

Mr David Adams, of Glasgow, who has planned the course, has done his work well. True it is that mind and matter have been mutually fortunate, for here nature could be moulded to the needs of the architect in much lesser degree than in many places. The course, which lies just alongside the car route from Uddingston and contiguous to Bothwell Railway Station, is endowed with turf of unusual quality, and with a ~~various~~ variety of wood and water, the golfer as well catered for.

An Interesting Round.

A glimpse of the lay-outs convinces one right away that an interesting round is in prospect, and one which will call for all kinds of strokes except bad ones, and for these latter stern justice has been provided. Although no hazards have been laid down, nor are likely to be for the first year, the obstacles provided by hedges, woods, roads, etc., are likely to prove troublesome enough for the player who may stray in their direction.

The adventure of the round will not in its opening phase overtax the player, but from the third hole onward the difficulties increase

and individual fancy will pick and choose as to which of the holes are more interesting than others.

There are three short holes, the fourth, the sixth, and the eleventh, with one or two of moderate length, and remembering the popularity of the short hole, one is not disposed to argue about their number. There are at least eight long holes where direction as well as length with wood will be called for, and from their position the gain in variety is indisputable. It promises an excellent test of the game.

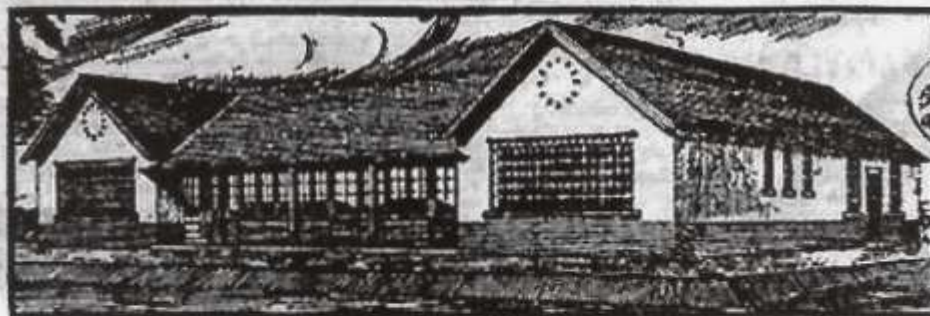
The greens, the surface of which nowhere ~~etc~~ in scantiness, have a fine coating of velvety turf. They are for the most part undulating in character, and thus demand that the putts shall be firmly hit.

Length of the Holes.

The course may just be to the long side, and time may cause a curtailment. In the meantime the yardage works out a little over 6500, and is distributed as follows:—

	Yds.		Yds.
1.	315	10.	370
2.	300	11.	150
3.	350	12.	400
4.	175	13.	510
5.	340	14.	540
6.	250	15.	290
7.	410	16.	430
8.	440	17.	390
9.	425	18.	440

Membership for the new club, fixed at 500, has been rapidly taken up, and only a few members are required to reach the maximum. The clubhouse, of which we reproduce a sketch, is to be built of brick and rough-cast, and will be fitted with all conveniences. The cost is estimated at between £2000 and £3000, and it is expected to be ready for next year. The captain of the club is Mr John Loudon, and the secretaries are Messrs W. and J. C. Pollock, writers, Hamilton.



Sketch of the proposed Club-House at Bothwell Castle.

A Contemporary Newspaper Report

The Rest of the Twenties

Some of the events recorded in the twenties are as

The Origin of Trophies

The Earl and Countess of Home each offered to present a Cup to be played for annually by the Ladies and Gentlemen's sections of the Club respectively, the Competition to be conducted on the Handicap Knockout principle. Each year these Trophies are presented to the Champions.

Mr. Summers Smith, factor to the Earl of Home also offered a Cup for Competition. This was to be played for annually in foursomes competition.

Miss Hill, Mount Pleasant, Bothwell presented a cup to the Ladies Section and handed Dr. Walls her cheque for £20 to purchase same. Miss Hill was appointed an Honorary Life Member of the Club.

There were other gifts. Mr. J. Wilson Paterson now an Honorary Vice-President of the Club expressed a desire to present a panel to contain the names of the Captains of the Club. A Notice Board bearing the name of the Club was be erected near the entrance.

Scottish Golf Union

Bothwell Castle Golf Club became a member of the Scottish Golf Union. Towards the end of the decade the Scottish Golf Union asked for a subscription for five years towards the cost of forming and maintaining an organisation to take up the question of scientific research into greenkeeping problems. It was agreed to make a promise of an annual subscription of £3 for five years provided a sufficient number of other Clubs contributed to make the project feasible

"Bothwell was started two years after the Scottish Golf Union which started in 1920. Bothwell sends a representative to the Lanarkshire Association and they then elect someone to go the Scottish Golf Union and that's how the thing works. The first level of organisation is the contact between Bothwell Castle and the Lanarkshire Association. The next level is between the county and the Scottish Golf Association. The Scottish Golf Union was started to provide teams to play various countries and at the start that was England. That was their main function."

New Debentures

It was recommended by a sub-committee that Members be invited to subscribe for new debentures to payoff the present debentures, the new debentures to bear interest at 5% and be repayable at the end of the lease. After

discussion it was agreed that the date of repayment should be ten years from the date of issue. It was also agreed to give a promise that should payment be required before a debenture fell due through death of a holder or any exceptional circumstances the Committee would give favourable consideration to such a request.

Caddies and Visitors

During this time caddies made themselves available for hire. The Greenkeeper was appointed Caddie Master. The fees for caddies were fixed at 1/- per round while the Caddie Master received a fee. The caddies lasted until the Second World War but another innovation from that time has lasted in one form or another to the present day. It was decided that members introducing visitors should pay 1/- per day in respect of each visitor introduced.

Miscellany in The Twenties

When the Secretary William Crawford was appointed Depute Town Clerk of Hamilton the monthly meeting of the Committee was changed so that the date would not clash with that of Hamilton Town Council.

The Meeting held by the Committee on 29th October 1928 was routine in every way but is memorable in being the last Minute to be handwritten. Thereafter the records are typed.

Honorary Vice President William Smeaton, has a membership which covers the time from the handwritten Minutes of the twenties to the computer generated

"I came here when I was three. I was born in '21. My old man wasn't always a golfer. He was gassed during the First War and he had to get outside and get fresh air for his lungs. He played golf at Burntisland and one thing led to another. He went to Crail for a year then he came to Bothwell where he was the Greenkeeper till he died in 1944."

handicaps of today. As a boy he lived at the Golf Course for his father was Greenkeeper in the Twenties right through to the forties.

During 1929 there are a series of Minutes in which it is reported that Members of the Club are resigning although no reason is given for this. Possibly the initial enthusiasm had gone or maybe it was a sign of the times. For whatever reason the Committee agree to advertise for new Members in the 'Times,' 'News' and 'Citizen.' There was a substantial admission of new Members.

The twenties ended on a subdued note but perhaps that was unavoidable after the excitement of the early years.

The Thirties

The first years of the Thirties passed unremarkably. There were complaints of slow play with certain four balls. Some things never change

In 1930 a Lanarkshire Championship for professional golfers was held which was won with a score of 74.

A fixture booklet was published.

In 1931 the price for orange and lemon crush was reduced to 3d. per bottle . There was no alteration on the price of beer in spite of the increase in duty. The following June it was decided to reduce the price of proprietary whisky from 1/6d to 1/4d per glass.

Up to the left of the first tee, there to be a caddie shed and they got paid a shilling or one and six a round, two and six for two rounds. There were a lot of unemployed. There used to be a dozen or two dozen at times. It was commonplace to go out with a caddy. They were not schoolboys, they were unemployed men. Some were in there teens or twenties but some might have been sixty. Some members had their own caddy. For instance, Major Coutts had his own caddy.

A suggestion that a wireless installation be procured for the Clubhouse was considered. It was turned down.

In 1932 permission was granted to the Ladies to hold an afternoon Bridge Party early in October and again in the spring. It was agreed that on these occasions the Ladies should be allowed to use the whole of the Clubhouse.

In 1934 the notices prohibiting smoking in the tea-room were withdrawn and the byelaws were amended accordingly. The racier members of the Club appear to have had the upper hand. Smoking remained controversial right up to the 1990's when the Ladies had a lively debate at their AGM on the issue of smoking in the locker room. Whist and bridge have remained popular winter pastimes in the Club.

Sheep Grazing and Caddies

The sheep on the Course was a constant source of irritation and complaint so that by 1933 the Club requested the tenant to give up his right to grazing. The revenue was simply not worth the trouble. The tenant Mr. Clemsonn wanted compensation equal to one year's rent. The Committee could not see their way to paying this. He was therefore allowed to graze his sheep the following year.

It was reported in 1934 that since the sheep came on, "the Greenkeeper had been driving them away from the greens upon which they were in the habit of lying after darkness had set in. This proved to be satisfactory but now the days were lengthening it was too much for the Greenkeeper."

We must presume that the sheep were then allowed to "lie upon the greens" during the night

Another source of complaint was the behaviour of the caddies. The exact nature of this bad behaviour is not

spelled out in the minutes but in 1934 an instruction was issued that the caddies should stop playing on the Course or in the practice field. This apparently addressed only part of the problem of the caddies' conduct. A sub-committee was set up to consider the whole question of control. By 1936 this sub-committee had produced a report.

"There was a distinct improvement in the behaviour of caddies after they appointed a starter and a caddy master. The caddies used to fight. There were no formal arrangements to control them. They could just walk in"

It was decided that, "The charge for a round of 18 holes or less shall be 1/6d and this charge shall include cleaning of clubs. A caddy engaged for two or more rounds shall receive 6d. for lunch or tea. These charges must be strictly adhered to."

"i remember when I started playing in competitions we had caddies and a lot of local men who were unemployed would turn up at the ladies competitions and we just went round and booked a caddy.

That disappeared after the war but not completely, most of the team ladies in Bothwell played in county matches and played on different courses and for these matches you depended on your caddy for the distances and things like that. There were good caddies who could tell you the distances and what club to play, they were not club carriers they were men who really knew the game of golf and they knew the shot that they wanted you to play. When we went up to Dornoch to play, the schoolboys used to caddy. They came from the wee fishing villages but some of them didn't even know not to stand in front of you when you were swinging a club. Some of the older boys played themselves and had good handicaps."

The report also concluded "that it is too much for the greenkeeper to do the work required of him and give adequate attention to the caddies and to act

as starter on competition days and on busy evenings. The answer was to appoint an assistant greenkeeper. The report continued "The work should be fairly divided among the caddies. A practice has crept in of certain members attaching themselves to certain caddies and of caddies refusing to carry clubs for anyone but the person to whom they believed they were permanently attached. It was recommended that caddies go out in the order in which they arrive at the Course and that no member should consider himself entitled to the services of a particular caddy."

Memoir of an Early Member

2.

Andrew Taylor was born in 1911 and was one of the early members of the club. He had caddied at another Club before becoming a member at Bothwell

I was a caddie at Calderbraes Golf Club and I used to caddie for a Mr. Muir and he sponsored me to become a member at Bothwell.

I became a member and in one of the early days I was drawn to play a match against a Mr. Rodgers so I turned up and shook hands and there were a lot of people watching. My opponent teed off and played a magnificent drive and I thought 'oh boy I've got a problem here'. However I got on with the game and on the twelfth had a bad shot and forgot myself and had a good curse. In the end I won two and one and we went into the cloakroom to get brushed up after the game and there stood Rodgers - putting on the dog collar. He was the local priest. I was mortified.

On another occasion I was in the locker room and there was this fellow who had a terrible reputation for cursing and swearing. I could hear him shouting 'I'll break your so-and-so neck.' I went to get Smeaton and said you'll have to come quick there's someone getting murdered in there and we found this fellow with his putter in both hands trying to twist the head off the shaft.

In the beginning I was ashamed to turn up with my clubs. They were very old with hickory shafts. The clubs I had were a driver, a brassie (2 wood) a baffie (3 wood) a cleek (1 iron) a mashie (7 iron) a niblick (10 iron sand wedge) a

Jigger (a broad based club similar to a putter but with an angled face) and a putter with an canvas bag which was held together with tape. Eventually I did get good clubs and the plus fours.

My handicap at Calderbraes was 2 but when I joined Bothwell I was started at ten. Then I played in a greenkeeper's benefit match and was cut by three immediately.

The members were very friendly – all they cared about was how you played the game.

Miscellany

During the mid thirties the Course was closed during the winter and a suggestion that the Greens be not completely closed for play during the winter months was remitted to the Greens Convenor for a report. In November 1934 a report on the Course was published in the 'Evening News' in a series of reports on golf courses being contributed to the paper by Theodore Moone. There is a copy of this enclosed with the Minutes for that month.

In 1933 a draft was submitted of the particulars required to be lodged with the Scottish Golf Union so that the Standard Scratch Score of the Course might be fixed. In the event the Standard Scratch Score was reduced from 77 to 75. It was remitted to the Match and Handicap Committee to fix the holes from which the two strokes should be taken.



It was agreed that small posts showing the distance of each hole should be provided for both Ladies and Gentlemen's tees.

In 1935 Major Courtts the Club's representative in the Western District of the Scottish Golf Union explained that it was the intention of the Union to change the basis of the levy of subscriptions. The new method would be compulsory and based on Club membership so that every Club would pay its due portion instead of the voluntary contributions as had been the practice in the past. Bothwell Castle would thus be in the position of giving less than before. The representatives of the following Clubs formed the County Committee:- Hamilton, Lanark, Bellshill and Bothwell Castle.

A letter was read from the Secretary of the Scottish Golf Union recommending that the Club should adopt two resolutions passed by the Union.

One dealt with the definition of 'amateur' as defined by the Royal and Ancient and applied to condition of entry to open amateur competitions.

The second dealt with the adjustment of a player's handicap by the home club should a player return a net score less than the standard scratch score of the club holding the competition. It was unanimously agreed to accede to the request.

The Last of the Pre-war Years

In 1936 there was the first hint of war. In March of that year there was submitted a letter from a Mr. Rolland drawing attention to the cases of

Army Officers who were temporarily stationed in the district and enquiring whether any special arrangement could be made for their joining the Club as temporary members without paying entry fees. It was agreed that Army Officers temporarily resident in the district should be admitted on payment of the annual subscription only.

In retrospect it seems like a dream world. A special mention was made in the Minutes of the tastefulness of the decorations provided for the celebration of the Coronation and the Secretary was instructed to thank an those concerned. In 1938 there were plans for the Empire Exhibition which was to be held in Bellahouston Park in Glasgow. Bothwell Castle Golf Club agreed to the request of the Scottish Golf Union to offer the courtesy of the course to visitors from overseas attending the Empire Exhibition and who also produced evidence of membership of a golf club abroad. The green fee was fixed at 2/6 a day.

The everyday business of a Golf Club continued. The committee approved a request to run a medal competition on Wednesday afternoons the day of the

competition being the Wednesday after the monthly medal and the starting times being the hours between 1 and 4p.m.

A Junior British Champion

In spite of his youth, William Smeaton, Jr. on account of his proficiency in the game, was allowed the privilege of playing on the Course

during the hours reserved for full members of the Club and he was allowed to take part in the Competitions of the Club.

I always had good equipment. I had good equipment when nobody else had. You could get an average club for about 12/6d and a good one for about fifteen or sixteen shillings. 15/-d was dear. That was when people were earning three pounds a week. Matched sets weren't really on the go but you could play with as many as you wanted. I used to play with a mid iron, a mashie, a niblick and a putter. They had hickory shafts. I thought my first irons with steel shafts were great. There is still a Smeaton made hickory shafted club in existence.

In 1938 William won the British Boys' Championship, a remarkable achievement and this was celebrated by a presentation and function in the Clubhouse



●

A black and white portrait of a young man with short, dark hair, looking slightly to the left. He is wearing a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a dark tie. A white pocket square is visible in his jacket pocket. The background is a plain, light-colored studio backdrop.

Home was not inclined to give his sanction to Sunday play but promised to reconsider the matter at the end of the present season.

RECORD				RECORD			
YARDS	PAR	HOLE	SCORE	YARDS	PAR	HOLE	SCORE
350	4	1	4	130	3	10	3
315	4	2	4	485	5	11	4
401	5	3	4	333	4	12	4
162	3	4	3	420	4	13	5
438	5	5	5	370	4	14	4
433	5	6	4	183	3	15	3
380	4	7	4	520	5	16	5
150	3	8	3	396	5	17	5
370	4	9	4	431	5	18	3
1000	37	Score for First Half	35	3270	38	Score for Second Half	36
						First Half	35
						TOTAL	71
TOTAL				6270 YARDS			

A motion was put down on the Agenda for the AGM to the effect that a plebiscite of the members of the Club be taken so as to ascertain whether they were in favour of this change.

That, however, was not the end of it. Sunday had traditionally been a day of rest for the staff who worked for the Club. The greenkeeper's emoluments came under discussion. A meeting was held in Bothwell Public Hall on 29th June at 9.15p.m. to consider the financial and other arrangements that should be made. After general discussion a decision was taken by vote that only the locker rooms should be opened on Sunday and that a sum of 10/- should be paid for the work of collecting the green fees. It was remitted to the Secretary to arrange



either with Mr. Smeaton or with any of the men to take over the duties of collecting the fees.

The Earl of Hume (left) our feudal superior.

It seems extraordinary that weeks away from the outbreak of the Second World War so much time was spent on the whole issue. In fact the negotiations rumbled on into 1940. In March while war was raging in Europe the Clerk wrote to the Earl of Home asking that he should withdraw the restriction regarding Sunday Golf and allow play during the whole day. In April a letter was read from the Earl's Factor stating that his Lordship was still of the opinion that play should not commence on Sunday before one o'clock.

The feudal approach to the Earl was mirrored in the relationship of the Club with its employees. At this time they were referred to in the Minutes as "servants." By the end of the war they had become "employees."

The Cash Crisis of 1938

This was a difficult year for those who held office. The history of the Club over the years shows that the good times very often paralleled those in the real world and the bad times were shared accordingly. 1938 was not a good year

November 1925 to the end of 1937. The study was to include

The income of the club
the expenditure for the same period
an analysis of the item 'Upkeep of the Course'
a statement showing the surplus; the
Debentures paid off; the cash in hand and the
overdraft at the end of each year from 1930-
1937

The study was completed and an estimate was made based on the previous year's experience showing the expected income and expenditure for 1938 and a list of the Debenture holders.

The final report showed that the Club faced a financial crisis.

The following recommendations were made.

On the income side it was thought that the falling off of new members might be due to the uncertainty regarding the renewal of the Lease which was due to expire in 1943. The Secretary was instructed again to approach the Earl of Home's Factor with a view to obtaining a more definite assurance with regard to the future.

The need for entry money was seen as a deterrent in attracting new members. It was recommended that gentlemen may be allowed to spread this payment over three years and the ladies over two.

On the expenditure side it was reported that rent, rates and taxes, Clubhouse expenses and miscellaneous expenses had remained practically stationary during the whole time of the Club's existence. (This was no doubt a reflection of the economy in the 1930's.)

No change was suggested for subscriptions or in the charge for visitors or for lockers or for grazing.

Some revision of bar prices was required and it was thought that this should be remitted to the Convenor of the House Committee.

The item to which the Sub-Committee devoted most of their attention was the item 'upkeep of the Course'. Wages had gone up from £476 in 1930 to £662 in 1937 and it was felt that this increased expenditure was not justified.

"However important it may be to keep the Course in first class condition, it is thought that the

In February a Sub-Committee was set up for the special purpose of looking into the finances of the Club. The period to be investigated was to run from 30th

wage bill is higher than is necessary and it certainly is higher than the Club can afford at the moment."

The Sub-Committee's recommendations were as follows; that one man be dismissed at once and that, during the winter, only two men be employed on the Course. If the recommendation to dismiss a man instantly was approved, the Sub-Committee would prefer that the choice of the person to be dismissed should be fixed by the Committee. On the matter of seeds, manure, sand, oil, petrol, renewals and repairs the strictest supervision should be exercised on the costs.

However on the question of bar prices the Convenor reported that he had gone into the question of how the profit from the bar might be increased and pointed out that one method would be to increase the prices to members but, "the Committee were unanimously of the opinion that generally speaking no increase in the price of drinks should be made." With regard to soda water it was agreed that some change was essential but the Committee decided to retain the price of whisky at 8d. and 1/4d. for a small and large whisky respectively.

The Committee went through the report clause by clause and after discussion it was adopted. The member of staff to be dismissed was chosen and the Secretary was instructed to write to him and give one month's notice.

It was decided to advertise in suitable newspapers the fact that there were vacancies in the membership and that the Secretary should issue along with the Fixture Cards a short intimation of the new terms for payment of entry money.

The holders of current Debentures which were due to be paid on Whitsunday, were approached with an offer to renew them on the same terms for a period of five years. Of the nine Debenture holders, three whose Debentures amounted in all to £300, asked for repayment. Other members of the Club took these up so that the amount borrowed still remained at the sum of £1000. In later years all the Debentures were paid off and at the present day there are no longer any held by members of the Club.

It was feared that these measures would prove insufficient. The Club approached the local branch of the Clydesdale Bank to arrange an overdraft to meet temporary needs from time to time of an amount not exceeding £500.

Head office however informed the "bank agent" that a personal guarantee would be necessary from the members of the Committee to cover the overdraft. Surprisingly the Committee was not at all keen on this! They suggested that the Bank should not insist upon a formal guarantee. The bank agent reported back that his head office could not see their way to depart from the need that the Committee should give their personal obligation in security of the Bank overdraft. It was agreed to approach the Bank to enquire whether they would be prepared to waive their demand for the personal guarantee of members of the Committee if steps were taken to reduce the Bank

overdraft by a sum of not less than £300. The issue of Debentures achieved this result.

By March 1939 the Secretary could write to the Bank pointing out that the measures taken by the Committee had already resulted in a considerable diminution of the Overdraft, a process which was likely to be a continuous one, and enquiring whether, in these circumstances, the Bank might allow the matter of security to lie in abeyance in the meantime.

In April the Clydesdale Bank replied that they were willing to leave the question of security for overdraft for a few months. By May the balance in the Bank was approximately £20 in credit. The Club had weathered the storm.

Renewal of the Lease

As early as 1937 the question of the renewal of the Lease had been raised. It was not due to expire until Martinmas 1943 but it was felt, as noted in the discussions on the cash crisis of 1938, that uncertainty about the future of the Course might be having an adverse effect on potential new members.

A letter was written to the Factor for the Earl of Home enquiring what the position of the Club was. The Factor intimated that he was not in a position to reply to the letter but he would take the first opportunity of consulting the Earl regarding the request for renewal. It was not until the end of 1938 that the Factor wrote to say that his Lordship would gladly agree to renew the Lease.

Preparations for War

The Factor in turn had a request. At around the same time as the promise of the renewal of the Lease was given, he intimated that it

was desired to put down an Observation Post in connection with the Defence Plans for dealing with Hostile Aircraft. The Club Captain informed the Committee that he had been present when the site was identified and explained that the situation of the Post would not interfere with the use of the Course. The suggestion was approved.

In May permission was asked by the 56th Searchlight Regiment to utilise parts of the Golf Course, if required, in connection with their training. It was agreed that the use of the Course be granted but that it be confined to the practice field.

Also in May, and perhaps a sign of the times, a past member of the Club wrote explaining that he had been obliged to resign from the Club owing to his being out of employment. Having now returned to employment he wished to rejoin without payment of entry money. The Committee agreed.

Chairman of the Golf Club at that inaugural meeting in the summer of 1922, was elected an Honorary Life Member.

After only seventeen years of existence the future of the Club looked bleak.

The Outbreak of War

The weather in September 1939 was glorious. As war broke out in Europe the Greens Committee made reference to the favourable

weather conditions which had contributed very largely to the good condition of the greens and fairways but inevitably discussions in the Clubhouse took on a more sombre turn. The question of darkening the windows of the Clubhouse was brought up and it was unanimously agreed that it would be inadvisable to incur the expense of having this done. Consequently the Clubhouse would be closed during the hours of darkness.

In view of these lighting restrictions arrangements were made for the presentation of the prizes at an early time. A suggestion was made that the function might take place on a Saturday afternoon.

At the September meeting of the Committee a general discussion took place as to the effect of wartime conditions. There was a strong possibility that the ground might be taken over by the Board of Agriculture. This was in connection with the Government scheme for bringing more land under cultivation. The view was expressed that it would be wise to try to pre-empt this by making arrangements for grazing sheep. The Captain and Secretary were asked to find out if it would be possible to enter into such an arrangement.

Suddenly a return of the sheep seemed a better alternative to having the Course ploughed for crops.

By October 1939 the Captain had made arrangements with Mr. Clemson, the previous tenant, to take over the grazing of the Course for a period of three years at a rent of £50. Arrangements had also been made for stobs and the necessary wire for fencing. The cost of the wire alone amounted to roughly £30.

The Secretary also made enquiries as to the use to which the Course might be put for agricultural purposes. He had been able to inform the authorities of the arrangement for the grazing by sheep. The Captain and the Secretary were asked to deal with any matter which might arise under this heading, keeping in view the importance of meeting the wishes of the Agricultural Committee and at the same time preserving the Course from irreparable damage.

Also in October the Club was registered with Messrs. Robertson, Paterson & Co., Ltd. under the Fuel Control Regulations. Getting petrol for the Club would be a problem from this point on.

At the same time as the war regulations were imposed, Dr. Walls, who had been the first

The Forties

It was a struggle to keep the Golf Club going during the war years both in terms of maintaining the land in the shape and form of a golf course and in running the affairs of the Club with fewer people available to serve as office bearers. The Committee agreed to suspend the Membership of all persons serving with the Forces or evacuated for the duration of the hostilities. A number of applications were considered from other members who found it difficult owing to War work and the restriction on travelling facilities to visit the Course and who wished to have their membership suspended during the War. It was decided that each request to rejoin the Club would be considered on its merits at the end of the War.



George Paton - Held the post of Club Captain from 1941 to 1946

On the suggestion of Major Coutts the Committee unanimously agreed that no further meetings should be held during the 'black out' unless it appeared to the Secretary that business of sufficient importance to justify a meeting had arisen. The Secretary and the Captain were given the authority to carry on normal routine business. Since some members of the Committee were presently on War Service and since the Secretary in terms of the Constitution had received no nominations, it was agreed to

recommend to the AGM that the present Members of Committee be continued in office for another year.

The courtesy of the Course was granted to the County Treasurer's staff in order to hold a competition for the raising of funds for HM Drifter 'Golden Thyme.' No fee was charged. Mrs. Smeaton had to obtain a Caterer's Licence from the Food Controller.

The survival of the Course

The survival of the Course was in danger on two fronts; from the lack of petrol for the machinery and the requirement from the government to put the land to productive use.

Petrol Rations

At the beginning of the conflict the Secretary reported that he had been pressing the Petroleum Officer for a larger ration of petrol and he was hopeful that this would be forthcoming. In fact the Secretary received an allocation of petrol equal to 50% of the previous year's consumption. Over the next two years the problem inevitably worsened. In July 1943 a special meeting of a Sub-Committee met to discuss the condition of the Course which was badly in need of being cut. The problem was petrol. The Secretary submitted the following figures showing the position.

Petrol purchased in 1939 - 1008 gallons;

Petrol allocated in 1940 - 474 gallons;

Petrol allocated in 1941 - 241 gallons;

Petrol allocated for the period January to July 1942 - 55 gallons.

Mr. Smeaton was called in to the meeting and asked to explain the position. At that moment he had only 19 gallons of petrol. Given ordinary conditions that was only 6 gallons in excess of the amount which would be required to cut the greens and tees and the margin might even be reduced in the event of abnormal growth due to rain and a rise in temperature. He reported that he was able to obtain a quantity of paraffin which could be used for cutting the Course if a suitable tractor could be obtained. It was stated that the Club's own tractor could be made to run on paraffin but this would require an adjustment costing about £30. The sub-

committee favoured another suggestion - that is a tractor should be hired for the purpose. At yet another meeting "a full and open discussion took place." The petrol problem was explained but it was the opinion of the Committee generally that thistles had been allowed to remain uncut and weeds around the Clubhouse gave it a most untidy appearance. It would seem Mr. Smeaton had an impossible task.

Department of Agriculture and the Demand for Land

The agreement with the Department of Agriculture had to be re-negotiated every year and this continued even after the war ended.

In 1941 the Department required the Club to cultivate a portion of the Course: the area normally required in the case of an 18 hole Course was 15 to 20 acres. The Secretary and the Captain, in anticipation, had already made an examination of the Course and had a plan prepared showing a total area of about twelve acres which could be ploughed, involving the loss of the 10th hole only.

The ground would be fenced off and access left for cutting and attending to it during the course of cultivation. The grazing tenant was prepared to do the ploughing and to pay an additional £10 in respect thereof. It was also part of the proposed arrangement that the £2 subsidy should be paid to the Club, who would provide the seed for sowing down the Course at the end of the rotation. The Committee approved.

In January 1942 a call was received from members of the Agricultural Executive Committee for Lanarkshire who asked that a further area of the Course be ploughed and also that provision be made for grazing cattle. The Golf Club Committee were of the opinion that every effort should be made to avoid further ploughing in respect of the length of time which would be required after the War to bring the fairways back into reasonable condition. The opinion was unanimously expressed that an offer should be made to graze the Course with cattle rather than to have it ploughed and it was remitted to a sub-committee to interview the Agricultural Executive Committee and to make the best bargain possible.

By March 1943 an order was received from the Department of Agriculture requiring the Club to plough approximately thirty acres. In view of the restriction of the Course consequent on the ploughing it was decided that none of the usual Club competitions should be held that year. It was agreed, however, that a monthly sweepstake should be held of which 50% should go to the War Charities' Fund of the Club.

Later in the year Mr. Lambie of Peel Farm Uddingston offered to graze the Course with dairy cattle and plough more arable land at his own farm should the Club be asked to plough more that winter. Apparently the Agricultural Committee were not satisfied with the current arrangement and a

request was made to meet with their representative to discuss the matter.

The sub-committee met with representatives of the Department of Agriculture and of the Lanarkshire Agricultural Executive to discuss the question of grazing. The Secretary reported a conversation with the Secretary of the Agricultural Committee in which he stated that, in terms of a recent order, Golf Clubs must plough at least 50% of their Course, or alternatively, make arrangements for grazing the Course with dairy cattle in milk production. The Committee confirmed their previous resolution to the effect that they would not be prepared to let the fields in the following year to the present tenants and the Sub-Committee were instructed to proceed with arrangements as indicated by the Secretary of the Agricultural Committee.

Later we learn that" With the approval of the Agricultural Committee the portion of the Course presently under grass should be let for the grazing of dairy cattle. The part presently ploughed would still remain as arable land but steps would be taken so that the rotation of crops would permit of the ground being sown down in grass as soon as possible after the end of the War. The arrangements for grazing are that the Course shall be divided into two, one portion being let to Mr. Adam Lindsay, Easter Farm, Uddingston and the other portion jointly to Mr. Neil Dalrymple, 15 Langside Road, Bothwell and Mr. G.H. Lambie, Peel Farm, Uddingston."

The rental asked was 30/- per acre.

Arrangements were made with the outgoing tenant to purchase the fence which he had erected round the arable land. The sum paid was £50.

There must have been occasions when the Committee felt they were running a farm not a golf course.

During these years of shortages of fuel, food and labour it became increasingly difficult for the Course and Clubhouse to be maintained. For instance it was necessary to write to the grazing tenants to ask permission to cut the Course and if their consent was received it was then necessary to get permission from the Agricultural Committee. By July 1943 in collaboration with the Agricultural Committee and the grazing tenants, a portion of the Course had been cut.

There were fewer people available to take on the running of the Club and there was a shortage of everything.

At the Eighteenth Annual General Meeting in January 1941 there was no printed Report and Balance Sheet submitted, an abbreviated form of the Income and Expenditure having already been sent to members. The Captain explained that printing of the full accounts had been dispensed with for reasons of economy. The meeting approved the Committee's recommendations that the current Committee should stay in office for another year and that the ordinary monthly meetings of the Committee should be discontinued with special meetings being held from time to time as might be required.

More Lease Discussions

The Lease which had been signed in 1922 was due for renewal in 1943. When the twenty-one of Home's Estate wanted to postpone the signing of an

Down where the groundkeeper's hut are they had an ARP spotting place. Major Coutts and a crowd of them used to watch for German planes. They used to go up to the clubhouse after the watch and have a noggin of Keith's Cadzow blend. Sir James Keith had his own blend of whisky and that was the only blend of whisky allowed in the club. The supply was collected from Sir Keith in a brown paper bag. They had a monopoly on whisky supplies in Bothwell. They also supplied the church for social events.. Other people were told "sorry there is no whisky". We always had whisky. The bar was a hole in the wall, a hatch. You got nothing after 10 o'clock at night no matter who you were. The hatch slammed down at ten o'clock. You had to watch your fingers.

agreement.

At a meeting held on 14th November 1942 the Secretary reported that he had been in communication with the Factor for the Douglas and Angus Estates with regard to the Lease. The Factor indicated that he did not anticipate any difficulty in arranging for a new Lease but he was not in a position at the present time to discuss terms and would prefer that this be left over until the end of the War. A Committee Member then raised the possibility of purchasing the Course, the Secretary was instructed should an opportunity arise, to put the point to the Factor. Thus November 1942 is the first mention of the possibility of purchasing the Course.

Turning Points

There was a positive side to the enforced economies. Since there was nothing to buy, money couldn't be spent. At the beginning

of 1943 the surplus in hand in the accounts, including the surplus for the year transferred from Income and Expenditure Account, amounted to £843-4 A. and it was agreed to write off the following amounts from the assets; Clubhouse £310, Implement Shed £48, Furniture and Fittings £8, Implements Tools and Utensils £20 and the Tractor £12 leaving a balance to be carried of £445 -4 -4. It was a major turnaround from the financial problems of the thirties.

These six months covering the end of 1942 and the beginning of 1943 saw a decisive shift in world affairs. In October 1942 the victory at El Alamein was of huge significance as was the elimination of the German Sixth Army on the Eastern Front in the first months of 1943. The course of the war turned in favour of Britain and the Allies. This turning point in the nation's fortunes reached into every aspect of national life providing an inner belief that the struggle would end and the outcome would be victory.

The changed mood of the nation is quite evident in the records of the Golf Club. By September 1943 it is clear that a crisis had passed. Once more Committee Meetings were held on a regular monthly basis. The Minutes began to resemble in tone and subject matter those written before the War. Before 1943 concern for the protection of the Course was tempered with the patriotic duty to support the war effort. After 1943 minds were directed to the post war reconstruction of the land. The membership list was also a problem for so many people had required that their membership be suspended it was unclear what the actual numbers would be at the end of the war.

Although the mood changed there was still a long way to go. At the twenty-first Annual General Meeting in January 1944 it was agreed that those members of the Committee as were still in the district should continue to act as the Committee for the current year.

The failing health of Mr. Smeaton the Greenkeeper, throughout the summer of 1944, culminated in his death in August of that year after nineteen years of service with the Club. He had had the unenviable task of trying to provide a playable golf course without the means to do it. It is to the shame of certain members of the Club at that time that even during his last illness there were complaints made about the condition of the Course. It is to the credit of the majority that strong disapproval was expressed of these complaints. The behaviour of some members of the Club has not always been creditable.

We had cows on the course during the war and big fences. There were fences over the fairways with entrances for the greens.

I've hit a cow.

We got rid of the cows and then we had sheep. I can always remember one of the girls stood on what was the 4th that the time, now the sixth. There was no burn and the sheep were grazing just in front of the tee. She struck the ball and the ball went under the sheep and into its fleece. It shoot about two feet into the air. It was like a vertical take off.

~ -

By the close of 1944 the Secretary had been in touch with the Military Authorities with regard to the removal of the fences which had been erected during the time of the threat of invasion. He hoped that these would be removed soon.

Mr. and Mrs. Hunter were appointed Greenkeeper and Clubmistress. £200 was transferred from the Revenue Surplus Account to an Account to be known as 'Reconstruction Reserve Account.' The Committee agreed to recommend at the AGM that the present members of Committee remain in office for another year or until the end of the War in Europe, as might be agreed.

Peacetime

During 1945 Bothwell Castle Golf Club slowly began to return to a peacetime footing.

Dr. T. Gow Brown took on the duties of Match Secretary and it was agreed to hold a monthly competition that would take the form of a Medal round the first Saturday of each month.

The Club was approached by the Bothwell Welcome Home Committee to grant the use of the Course on Saturday 29th September for an Exhibition Match in aid of the funds of the Committee. It was agreed that the Club should meet the expense of entertaining the participants.

A quantity of seed was ordered to sow out the twenty-three acres that the Agricultural Committee had agreed should be returned to permanent pasture. This was the start of a process that slowly restored the entire course to its original purpose and condition.

Whisky Rations

Some of the deprivations of war were to last long after hostilities ended and some were more serious than others. Rationing was a way of life. In 1945 it was suggested that while the whisky shortage lasts,

"a fixed quantity should be allowed per member and that each member should sign to avoid dispute."

It was subsequently decided that this was impracticable but every endeavour was made to see that the monthly quota of whisky allowed was spread over the period and that it was fairly distributed when on sale. It was also suggested that a supply of draught beer should be obtained. Practical difficulties were raised over this, such as the, "securing of a beer engine and the provision of a suitable place for keeping beer."

In 1947 Messrs. James Keith Ltd. intimated that they would be obliged to restrict the quantity of whisky sold to the Club owing to recent regulations. The Convenor submitted a statement of the quantities of whisky supplied to the Club in the years 1939 and 1946 which showed the Club had actually obtained from Messrs. Keith a larger amount of whisky in 1946 than they had purchased in 1939. The allocation now offered to the Club would be 18 bottles of whisky per month or roughly 4 bottles a week. It was agreed to conserve the supplies and to ensure that there should be a fair distribution amongst members, to restrict the sale of whisky to one bottle on Wednesday and three on Saturdays. It was also agreed that no large whiskies be supplied.

Visiting Clubs playing competitions over the Course were made to bring their own supply of liquor and the greenkeeper was authorised to take charge of it and serve it to those taking part in the competition.

The Department of Agriculture

The Department of Agriculture still had an interest in the productivity of golf course land. The problems with bureaucracy were not over and with peace restored it was harder to bear. A letter was received from the

Lanark Agricultural Executive Committee intimating that the Department of Agriculture for Scotland had decided that the grazing of dairy cattle on golf courses should be continued during 1946. The Secretary wrote protesting against the decision and urging that the restrictions on the use of the Course by members should be withdrawn.

In reply the Agricultural Executive Committee expressed regret but reiterated the necessity for the continuance of the requirement for cattle grazing in view of the urgent national necessity for milk production. Major Coutts who was to attend a meeting of the Scottish Golf Union, which had resumed all its activities, agreed to take up the matter there with a view of having concerted action amongst the Clubs with regard to this matter. The Scottish Golf Union later promised a memorandum on the question of compensation in respect of War Damage to Courses.

Mr. James Hamilton of Sweethope Farm made a proposal that he would, "graze the part of the Course sown out with young grass, with sheep only, that he would fence the three greens at his own expense with the assistance of the Club's employees, and that he would be prepared to graze the remainder of the Course with dairy cattle and would not ask for any restriction on the amount of cutting to be done by the Club."

The rent offered was 25/- per acre. It was agreed that the Greens Committee along with Dr. Cameron and

Laurie Duff's father was a cattle dealer and Laurie got the right to graze sheep on the golf course. This was during the war and the club had to give up seven holes. Laurie put sheep in what we call the old part of the Course where the houses are now. there were fences round the greens. It caused a lot of controversy.

Captain George Paton should offer to meet the Executive Officers of the Agricultural Committee.

Later we learn that the same James Hamilton of Sweethope Bothwell offered £110 for the grazing, the Course to be grazed with not more than eight score of sheep. The Committee were of the opinion

that Mr. Hamilton should take a crop of oats during the current year, sow the field down in permanent pasture and cut it in hay next year.

There was correspondence with the Earl of Home's Factor regarding the charge for water supplied to troughs for the cattle. The charge made by the County Council was £1 per trough per annum and the Factor was prepared to accept that amount. There were three troughs and they had been in operation for four years. The Committee agreed, therefore to pay a sum of £12 in respect of the water used for the cattle to the end of season 1946.

The Department of Agriculture offered after negotiation £250 in settlement for restoring the Course after the ploughing which had taken place because of the War. It was agreed to accept the Department's offer.

It was March 1955 before the grazing of sheep finally came to an end.

The Staff

The long years of service to the Club provided by Mr. and Mrs. Smeaton was not to be repeated. The Greenkeeper and his wife submitted a letter resigning their appointment because of unpleasant behaviour by some of the members of the Club on a Saturday night.

The unpleasantness had arisen on account of members having brought liquor into the Clubhouse with the intention of consuming it there.

The miscreant agreed to write a letter apologising to the Captain and members of the Committee for his part in the incident and also expressing his regret to Mr. and Mrs. Hunter. However their resignation stood.

Mr. and Mrs. David Hartley were offered the appointment. Mr. Hartley made a request that the terms of appointment should be amended so that he and Mrs. Hartley should receive separate wages. This was agreed. This is the first occasion when there was a separation of these two roles.

Mrs. Hartley complained that she was not getting a sufficient allocation from the Food Office. The Secretary agreed to look into the matter but rationing still prevailed.

Mrs. Hartley pointed out that the work of keeping the Clubhouse in order, attending to the bar in her husband's absence and to the catering was too much for one person and suggested that the difficulty might be solved by the appointment of a maid. The Committee agreed to meet the whole cost of employing a maid.

Hartley was allowed time off to play in the Northern Open Tournament but had to take his holidays during the Scottish Tournament.

The club used to run a "Staff Day" event where members paid entry fees for a game. The proceeds from the staff day were allocated as a bonus to the staff. This was typically worth one week's wages to each of the employees. It was now thought that this was no longer a satisfactory way of showing the Club's appreciation for their servants. At the beginning of 1948 it was resolved that the usual Staff Day Competition should be abandoned and that if the club wanted to give the staff anything by way of an additional payment some other means should be adopted. It was decided that instead of handing over the proceeds of Staff Day Competition as in former years each member of staff employed by the Club should receive an additional week's wages as a bonus.

Golfing Issues

With the return of normal play and competitions there was concern that the handicaps of the members at Bothwell Castle were too low. This was based on the high average medal score of players; the high score of winning medals; and the performance of the club team against other teams of equal or rather higher handicap. The Minutes record that the Match Committee -

"Therefore intend to increase handicaps gradually over two seasons. The Committee consider that 2 scores in anyone of the last 2 years is the minimum on which they can be expected to handicap.

They do not want to cause offence so they do not want to cancel handicaps so they propose that for those who have not returned a score in a competition for years their handicaps shall be left in the handicap book but they will be marked to show they are out of date and handicaps so marked may not be used to win a prize in any Club sweep or competition.

They do not want to penalise those who are unable to play in Saturday competitions and therefore they are quite prepared to accept scores which are made on days other than medal days providing these scores are marked by a member and that the weather conditions in which the score was made are marked on the back of the card. The Standard Scratch Scores are based on spring and autumn weather but with the clay soil at Bothwell the summer conditions at Bothwell are very much easier. The Committee propose to neutralise that effect by fixing a scratch score which will vary with the condition of the Course. They also recommend that the ninth hole be shortened from 430 yards long and bad 5, to about 400 yards and a good 4. They

also recommend an appeal to the Scottish Golf Union for a reassessment of the Standard Scratch Score."

In 1949 the Match Committee reported that a complete revision of the handicaps had been made and they now believed that the handicaps were now more in conformity with the rules governing national handicapping.

The Committee approved generally to join the proposed League in Lanarkshire which would consist of East Kilbride, Cambuslang, Hamilton, Kirkhill and Bothwell Castle. The games to be played in the first season would be one game with each member of the League.

As the Club returned to normal the usual type of complaints were made. It was reported that members failing to replace

turf would be reported to the Committee and severely dealt with. A practice of commencing play on Sundays at an earlier time than that arranged for with the Earl of Home had crept in and it was agreed that the attention of members and of the Greenkeeper should be called to this and care taken to see that the time of starting off was strictly adhered to.

There were complaints on the night of the Mixed Foursomes Competition in May 1949. There was a shortage of gin.

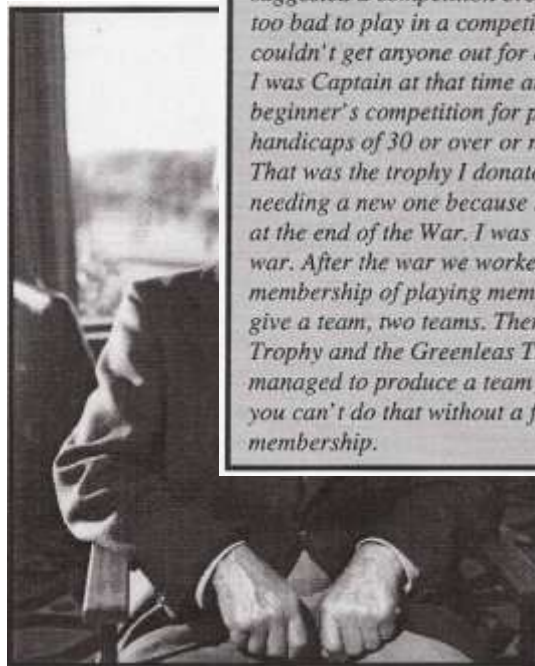
The Ladies

The Ladies do not appear often in the Club records but during this time it is recorded they made a number of requests. One was

that they should be allowed to continue to play off on Saturdays after 3p.m. as they had been allowed to do during the War. Another was that the Club

would continue to give a ball to the winner of the Monthly Medal Competition. Yet another request was that they receive permission to play off certain

There was a very small Ladies Section. It was not too bad before the War but after the War when we came back nobody had been playing and nobody had handicaps and when you suggested a competition everyone said I'm far too bad to play in a competition. You just couldn't get anyone out for a medal or anything. I was Captain at that time and I said we'd start a beginner's competition for people with handicaps of 30 or over or no handicap at all. That was the trophy I donated. We must be needing a new one because that was away back at the end of the War. I was a V.A.D. during the war. After the war we worked up quite a big membership of playing members and enough to give a team, two teams. There was the Park Trophy and the Greenleas Trophy and we managed to produce a team for both of these and you can't do that without a fair playing membership.



Albert Harris

Albert Harris was the local dentist and a keen golfer.

Just after the war he had an old car, an Armstrong. It was fitted with a secret switch so that, in the event of invasion, the Germans could not use it. One evening he came out after his golf and it would not start so he got a group of us and said if you give it a wee push it will start. So we got behind it and pushed and pushed. We pushed him through the gates and out onto the main road and still it wouldn't start and we were down about the gas works before Albert remembered to put the switch off and away he went.

He used to give golf lessons in his surgery. Whenever a golfer came in he had always a theory of golf. If you had an anaesthetic when you came to you'd here thumping on the mat. It wasn't your ears thumping but him hitting a golf ball.

ties on evenings other than those upon which Ladies were permitted to play. All of these requests were turned down.



More on Administration

At the twenty fourth Annual General Meeting, after considerable discussion the proposal to start a Reserve Fund was adopted. That entailed placing at least half of all entry fees into a special reserve fund which should be separately invested as the Committee should decide and the sum thus accumulated should not be used except with the sanction of the members given at a general meeting of the Club. It was agreed that the sum of £323-19-0, being the amount in the Reserve Fund should be invested in the Glasgow Savings Bank.

The Royal and Ancient intimated a scheme by which all Golf Clubs in Britain would contribute annually a sum not exceeding the yearly subscription of one member for the purpose of raising funds to defray the expenses of the Walker Cup Team and the expenses of touring teams sent to and entertained from the Dominions. The Committee formally resolved to become contributors to the scheme.

In 1949 The Secretary and Treasurer Mr. William Crawford reported that owing to circumstances he would have to resign. He had served the Club from 1925 - 1949. He was made an Honorary Life Member of the Club. It was the end of an era.

The Fifties

In January 1952, the death of the Earl of Home was minuted. This was to prove an event of far reaching consequences. The new Earl of Home

had a less benign attitude towards the club.

In the same year 1952 Mr. Alex Donaldson was appointed Head Greenkeeper. The first Captains and Vice-Captains Match was held on 18th October and it was also in 1952 that a building licence to build an extension to the locker room was received. This was

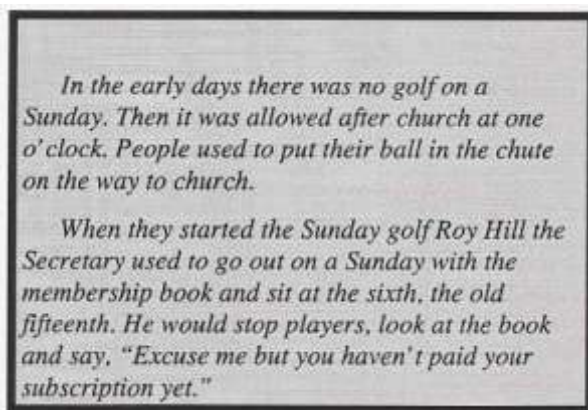
completed in 1953 at a cost of £1,100. The withdrawal of £1,000 from the Special Reserve Account caused some considerable discussion and argument among the members. There were those who thought this should be used for a possible purchase of the Course.



Neil Stirling with Sandy Donaldson

At the AGM in 1953, Mr. A.E. Harris proposed a Ladies Day; the first, however, was not held until 17th September 1955.

In June, 1953, an Exhibition Match between Bobby Locke and Hector Thomson was held when the entry money was 3/6 and the Car Park 2/6. Bobby Locke's score of 65 was a Course Record, Hector Thomson went round in 72. Mr. Berm, the steward, was given permission to erect a tent near the putting green for sale of spirits etc. It was later reported that Mr. Berm had lost £25 as a result of



his catering venture. The Committee agreed to pay Berm £10-10-0.

The summer of 1954 was so wet the Course was *in* a sodden condition for several months and was frequently closed.

First Winners of the Cadzow Cup



Roy Hill; I. Wardrop; Molly Stewart; David Watt; H. Learmouth; Sir Norman Cadzow

In 1955 the last traces of the war disappeared with the de-requisition of the Royal Observation Corps post. In March the grazing of the sheep was finally discontinued. This period appears to have been a time of calm between the rigours of the war years and the upheavals of the sixties.



Formal Dance

Lease and Purchase Proposals

In the mid fifties concern was expressed about the tenure of the land. The Jubilee Handbook states that in 1956 the Committee fully

discussed the purchase of the Course. They were advised that the Douglas and Angus estates might sell for £6,000.

In putting forward his proposals for raising this sum Mr. Ray Hill, the Vice-Captain, stated that part of the cost would be met by increasing subscriptions by £1, for members, 15/- for ladies and 10/- for juniors

Unfortunately there is no record of the outcome of these discussions but it must be assumed that the proposal was dropped as the subject does not appear again in the Minutes until October 1959.

Then it was reported that at a meeting with the Factor, three alternatives were discussed; to purchase the Course; to sign a new Lease; or to await events.

It turned out that the Factor wanted to sell the course with all the attached marginal lands. The club could have bought what are now the "Policies"

The committee felt that the cost was prohibitive and decided in favour of a new Lease. This turned out to be an unfortunate decision.

The historical record for most of the fifties is scant. The club minute book for the period has been lost.

The Sixties

If the fifties were a decade of consolidation and recovery then the sixties were a period of change and difficulties. Many members of the club would work long and hard to see the club survive.

A New Lease and a New Landlord

At the AGM in 1960 it was reported that an extension of the lease for 21 years as from Martinmas 1959, had been agreed at a rent

of £500 per annum with an option to purchase at market value during that period. The lease had been agreed but not signed. The Sub-Committee involved was warmly thanked by the members.

By November, however, intimation was sent to the Club that the Bothwell Castle Policies had been acquired by Mr Loudon, a builder (not the same Mr. Loudon who had been one of the Founding Members of the Club) and that he had accepted the extension to the Lease. Suddenly and unexpectedly the Golf Club had a new landlord.

Miscellany

In the meantime the affairs of the Club continued to evolve.

At the AGM in January, 1963 the Constitution was amended to form a Youth Membership for all male members between the ages of 16 and 18 years.

At the AGM of 1964 it was agreed to install a gaming machine. Over the years the gaming machines have brought in a substantial amount of revenue to the Club.

It was in the sixties that the Annual Dinner Dance was established and country dancing which took

place in the Clubhouse on Thursdays was a popular winter activity. It was also in those years that 1,000 trees and more were planted on the Course as well as 100 roots of broom and gorse.

In 1966 a Ways and Means Committee was formed "to consider all aspects of Income and Expenditure." When this Committee reported, a Special General Meeting was called in November

to consider their proposals. From this a financial basis was set for the Club's requirements over the next few years. Since then the Ways & Means Committee have played an increasingly important part in the affairs of the Club.



Fancy Dress Party Night at the Club

In May 1968 Mr. & Mrs. Graham were appointed Steward and Clubmistress. This turned out to be a popular choice for the Grahams were held in high regard by everyone and are still remembered with affection by the older members of the Club. At the meeting which confirmed their appointment the Captain was asked why two ladies had attended the Sub-Committee meetings held to interview applicants for the vacancy. The Captain gave assurances that they were there as observers only and not as Committee members with voting power. The objector felt that this was not desirable but allowed the matter to drop after registering his protest.

During this period of the late Sixties it was proving

In those days the juniors were very low key. There were very few competitions and a very small number of junior members so I applied for senior membership when I was sixteen. The committee looked favourably on it at that time. So I paid senior fees when I was seventeen. There was no waiting list. Until about 1957 it was known for people to apply for membership, get a reply by return and play in a medal on the Saturday.

My father was a fifer. He was in insurance He moved to Glasgow in 1940. He made enquires to become a Member and he went along for the once over and they played the first and the second and then they said I'll think we'll just play up the eighteenth and that was the interview over.

difficult to attract suitable staff and it was thought it might be necessary to review the wage

structure as the higher wages earned in factories was having an adverse effect on staff recruitment. After consideration the wage for an assistant greenkeeper was set at £14 per week plus 10/travelling expenses. Other changes were required to keep up with the times.

The Committee investigated the possibility of hiring a colour T.V. set for the golf programmes once a week.

There was less agreement on other matters. The dress code was a matter of controversy then as it is now. The House Committee recommended that the notice regarding dress should be replaced with a large notice to be affixed to the door of the lounge stating that; no studs should be worn; jackets must be worn; and after 6p.m. ties or cravats must be worn.

Golf

The real activity of the Golf club continued to flourish. Mr. Don Hutton broke the Course record with a round of 67 but throughout the Sixties there was serious concern over the Lease and the extension of the Clubhouse.

The loss of Holes and Changes to the Course

When John Loudon bought the Castle Policies from the Douglas and Angus Estate in 1960 he agreed to honour the Lease which had only months before been renewed but he was a builder and it was understood that he planned to build on the land not covered by the Golf Course. However in June 1962, the Committee learned of the proposals to utilise that part of the Course on which the 9th - 15th holes were laid out, for housing.

The next few years were dominated by the uncertainties of the arrangement. By 1967 there were still some who wanted to try to buy the land but it was decided that the Club was not in a financial position to buy now that planning permission had been granted for house building. It was thought the Club would have to accept Mr. Loudon's offer of alternative ground for the lost holes. A Sub-Committee was elected to consider all necessary plans for the development of the Course.

The Future of the Clubhouse

Decisions also had to be made about the Clubhouse. It was felt it should be extended and modernised Of perhaps even rebuilt.

Mr. Loudon wanted the Clubhouse moved so that the entrance to the Club would be at the Castle gates. The members were understandably reluctant to spend money on any of this until the situation as regards the course and the lease was clarified.

Planning for the Course Changes

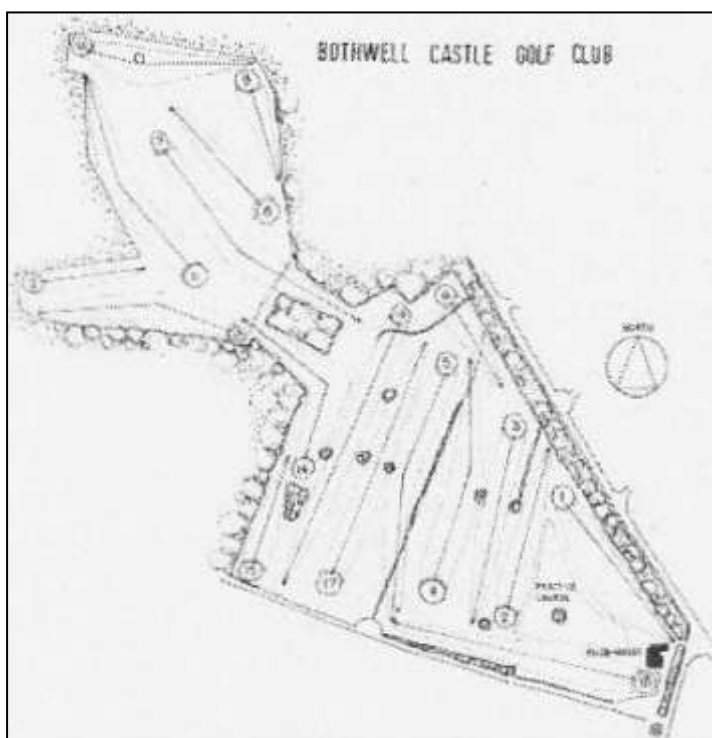
Mr. T. F. Lyon, an architect, was asked to draw up a provisional plan showing the proposed layout of the new Course which

was to be exhibited on the Club Notice Board so that members would be able to make suggestions as to possible improvements and Messrs. Ross, Harper & Murphy were appointed Law Agents of the Club to negotiate the best terms possible in any transaction with Mr. Loudon regarding the Lease. Professor Fletcher of Strathclyde University undertook to give the Club advice about the soil of the area for redevelopment.

A plan was prepared and submitted to Mr Louden.

In April Mr. Lyon reported that the plan for redevelopment had been turned down as Mr. Loudon wished to retain part of the area for housing.

A fresh plan was drawn up and it was hoped that this would prove acceptable. The new plan would depend on the re-siting of the electricity pylons and would also have to consider the possibility of an alternative site for the Clubhouse as planning permission might not be granted for the site near the old entrance to the Castle Grounds.



It was understood that Mr. Loudon would be responsible for the clearance of trees and replanting where necessary. Mr. Lyon was instructed to contact the Planning Officer and try to obtain

information regarding the possible site for a Clubhouse.

In May Mr. Lyon reported that no progress had been made on fixing the boundaries of the Course and it was unlikely that the Electricity Board would move the electricity pylons as their policy was to deal only with projects which would involve a profit. The only entrance to the Golf Course acceptable to the planning authorities would be the present entrance or from the roadway at Uddingston Cricket Club. Planning permission would not be given for an entrance at the old gateway on the Glasgow road.

Eventually the suggested layout of the new Course -was approved subject to certain modifications. The new boundaries would result in a loss off approximately 4 acres. Mr. Loudon made the following requests; that the Club should consider at a later date applying for permission for the resiting of the Clubhouse near the castle gates; that the cutting down of trees would be kept to a minimum and only with Mr. Loudon's prior consent; and if planning permission was granted for the resiting of the Clubhouse the Club would be prepared to allow the boundaries to be altered in Mr. Loudon's favour at the site of the present Clubhouse. The Committee agreed to those requests. Mr. Loudon intimated that there would be no change in the rent of the Course.

Clubhouse Improvements

As the Clubhouse would not be resited for at least 5 years the House Committee was instructed to consider what steps should be taken to improve the amenities. A decision had to taken as to whether money should be spent and the Clubhouse improved.



Mr. Loudon wrote to the Club. He granted permission to extend the Clubhouse on its present site. He indicated he would still have preferred that the Clubhouse be moved but he was willing to accept the decision of the members if they wished to extend the present Clubhouse. Although the minimum boundaries of the Course were now agreed the final boundaries could not be fixed until the plans (which were at present only demonstrative) were finally fixed. He agreed any adjustments in boundaries would be in favour of the Club to allow a safer margin in the areas adjacent to the houses.

A new lease would be granted for a minimum period of 21 years. All the houses built would be sold freehold and a written guarantee would be made to the purchasers that the golf course and other open land would not be altered at any time in the future.

At a Special General Meeting on 16th November 1968 at which approximately 130 members were present, the Captain explained that before they went on to consider the proposed alterations to the Clubhouse it was necessary that members should be advise on security of tenure. It was explained that..

- the present lease had been granted by the Douglas & Angus Estates Co. in 1959 for 21 years at a rental of £500 per annum. This lease included a resumption clause which also gave the Club powers to buy at the current market price on giving the owner 3 months notice. The Estate had been acquired by Mr. J. Loudon and the Lease transferred to Wm. Loudon & Son Ltd. Mr. Loudon had sought planning permission to build 500 houses in the Estate and with this in view had in January 1967 given the Club formal notice that he would exercise his right of resumption of the area comprising the 9th - 15th holes. In exchange he would grant an adequate area to be laid out for 7 new holes. The boundaries of the Course had now been agreed.

Mr. Loudon had been sent a copy of the proposed extension to the Clubhouse and although he was of the opinion that a new Clubhouse should be built near the Uddingston Road entrance to the Estate, he had granted permission to proceed with the plan as suggested by the Committee."

Mr. Loudon had stated that as soon as he had been granted permission from the planning authorities he would take steps to have a new lease of at least 21 years

without a resumption clause, drawn up by his solicitors. It was not intended to use this clause in the present lease.

The proposed alterations to the Clubhouse would give

increased lockers to both ladies and gentlemen, showers and more toilets and a 50% increase in the lounge which would be a mixed lounge. In addition there would be two new lounges, one for ladies and one for gentlemen.

Other additions would be a Junior Locker and Clubroom and a Committee room. The extension would be at the front and would be at the same level as the Clubhouse.

It was then explained to the Meeting that the gaming machines had subsidised the running of the Club for the past few years. Without the gaming machines the Club would have been running at a loss. It was the Committee's intention that in future 50% of the gaming machines' takings should be transferred to the Reserve Account and the subscriptions raised to a more realistic level.

The finance for the proposed extension could be raised by imposing a £10 levy for two years on the members; a grant could be obtained from the Scottish Education Department; the brewers would advance a loan; and loans either interest free or interest bearing from Members.

The Captain proposed and the Vice Captain seconded the formal adoption of the proposed plan. That on receipt of security of tenure the Committee proceed with alterations to the existing Clubhouse along the general financial and construction lines propounded to the Extraordinary General Meeting. An amendment was then put that

"the plan does not meet with the approval of this meeting and be remitted back to a specially elected building committeeto prepare plans with costs for the erection of a new Clubhouse or alternative scheme."

On a vote being taken the amendment was carried. The Committee had to think again. The whole enterprise had to be reconsidered.

The Building Committee

At the Committee meeting in November it was decided that a Building Committee must be allocated sufficient funds to enable all expenses incurred, including architects fees. It was decided to write Mr.



Alex Braidwood

Loudon to ascertain what site would be available for the Clubhouse, if this ground would be available for purchase and also if he would quote a price for the purchase of Course. It was felt that even if the Course would only be leased to the Club, it was desirable that the

Loudon was willing to feu the ground for a new Clubhouse and car park. A new lease to run for at least 21 years from Martinmas 1969 was assured although details were not yet available. Mr. Hill then relinquished the Captaincy handing over to Mr. William Smeaton. It was unanimously decided that the General Committee should elect the Building Committee and that this Committee so chosen would have continuity until the completion of the redevelopment of the Clubhouse.

At his first Committee Meeting as Captain Mr Smeaton stated that the Building Committee should consider the possibility of four plans, progressing from a modest improvement to the Clubhouse, to a new Clubhouse. It was essential that the members should know the possible alternatives with costs in order that the Committee be given clear directions from the members.

There were in fact two important SubCommittees appointed. The Building Committee headed by Mr. Braidwood undertook to prepare four schemes with costs. The Redevelopment Committee headed by Mr. Steedman was given the responsibility of overseeing the development of the new Course.

Douglas Steedman



Lease Negotiations

In the meantime Mr. T. A. Grieve, the Club's Law Agent was called to give a report on the negotiations with the Law Agents of the Estate

Co. He had requested that the Club be given a longer lease than 21 years and that the lease for the immediate future be continued at the present rental of £500 as indicated in Mr. Loudon's letter of 7th November 1967 but in fact the Club were offered a new lease on the following terms.

The lease would be for 21 years; the rent for the first seven years would be £850 per annum. There

Club should own the site of the Clubhouse.

At the AGM in 1969 the Captain Mr. Hill informed the members that the Course was not for sale but Mr.

would be rent reviews at the end of the 7th and 14th Martinmas 1969; the lease would contain no clause entitling the landlords to resume ground for redevelopment; the ground to be included in the lease would be the ground on the plan dated 24th June 1968. Considerable discussion took place and Mr. Grieve was instructed to negotiate a longer lease and to try to get a reduction in rent.

Clubhouse Extension is Approved

On the 30th of April a Special General Meeting had been called. There were approximately 160 members present. In his introduction the Captain said that the Clubhouse which had been erected 47 years before had been one of the best of its type but the time had come to improve it. It was felt that by improving the amenities the members would be induced to make much greater use of the facilities.

Mr. Braidwood, the Vice Captain, then outlined the four schemes to the Members and the costs which were £9000, £18,000 and £27,000 respectively with the fourth option being the erection of a new Clubhouse at a cost of £60,000. He went on to explain in detail the extra space and amenities which would be provided by the various options. Mr. Ingham on behalf of the Ways & Means Committee gave details of the financial outlay which would be involved in the four schemes.

After discussion and questions it was agreed by the meeting that the new Lease must be signed before any reconstruction should begin and a vote was taken on the various options. It was decided that scheme three should be adopted and that the work should be done in two stages, part one in 1969/70 and part two in 1971/72. Financially this would mean a cost for the men of £16 spread over three years and £10 for ladies over three years provided no other sources of income were considered. In the end the work was done in one stage.

In November Mr. Steedman read out a letter to the committee from Mr. Loudon's lawyers stating the conditions of the Lease. There were

eleven paragraphs and after discussion it was decided to accept it as the best offer that could be obtained after nine years of negotiation although disappointment was expressed that it had not been possible to obtain a longer lease than 21 years. The Secretary was instructed to write accepting the Lease and it was decided on this basis to proceed with the reconstruction of the Clubhouse.

years of the lease; entry of the lease would be **The Work of the Redevelopment Committee**

in the meantime the Redevelopment Committee had been pushing forward with the construction of the new holes. They received quotations for

the construction of the greens in the new part of the Course and these ranged between approximately £7500 and £4500 the latter being subject to the supply of adequate infill material. It was decided to accept the latter.

By the autumn the Redevelopment Committee reported that the area in the woods had been cut, the greens designed and 3000 cubic yards of infill had been obtained and more infill material was being transported from the bingo. The new fairways had been defined and cut twice.

The new holes were well on their way to completion.

In 1969 A.A. Donaldson the Club's professional died suddenly. Tribute was paid to his long and faithful service as Greenkeeper, Professional

and Starter. His death was a great loss to the Club and it was felt his advice would be greatly missed in the reconstruction of the Course. It was decided that the plans for the reconstruction of the Clubhouse should be altered to include a shop for the Professional.

He was among the many characters in the Club at that time who are still recalled with affection

I've got a lot of old Donaldson's clubs - two drivers and a full set of woods. I was about twenty when I bought them. Sandy was about seventy and I said, "I think Sandy you better make me two drivers because I think there's a chance I might outlive you." In fact I wore one out. Donaldson was a time served tradesman. He came from Fife and he could make beautiful clubs. In these days they were four pounds a club which was a lot of money then. Sandy had his own clientele. He also had a mould for making irons. I think he traded under the name Donaldson of Hamilton. He also used to get the blades from Anstruther and from Nichols of Leven. There was no such thing as the club makers of today - the big firms.

He was a green keeper at Hamilton before he came to Bothwell. He used to spread black ash on all the greens. He got it for nothing from the Gas Board. He layered his ash every year. He spiked the greens and laid them with ash and if you cut down into it you could see it like the rings on a tree, layers of ash for every year. His theory was that this black ash had a sulphuric content and as people played the course in the winter they walked it in. So he encouraged people to play on the greens in the winter. You walked it in and it was good for the grass. We had tremendous greens, really nice. On a flat course you've got to have some features and it was agreed we would feature the greens and we made a lot of bunkers on the fairways.

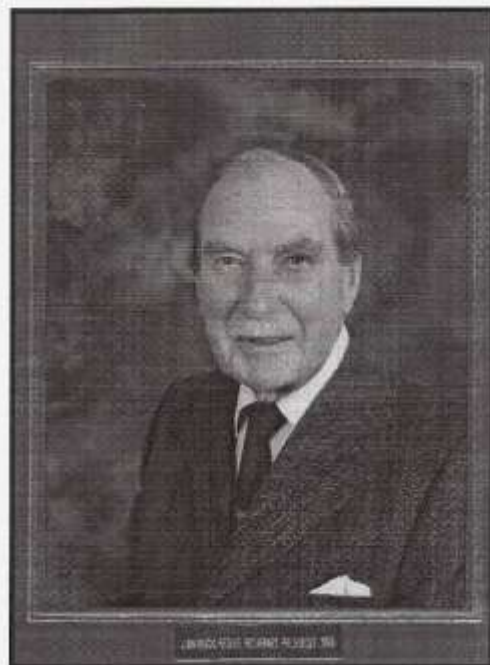
He also used to take blaze from the bing and all these silver birches that you see round the Course. All the silver birches used to grow at the Bothwell Castle colliery. The bing was on the site of the primary school. It was a red blaze bing and we used the red blaze for the fairway bunkers, not the green side bunkers; they were sand.

"Terry Grieve and Jim Miller and I were on the House Committee and we got a complaint to investigate - why was Talisker whisky being sold at the same price as blended whisky.

We looked at each other and said," what's Talisker?" Ben, the steward at that time, told us, "There's only one man in the Club drinks Talisker whisky and when I need a bottle I go across to Keith's and buy it." The original James H. Keith was the Provost of Hamilton for many years way back in the 1910s 20's and he had the corner shop across from the Church going round to the bowling green. Now its an Indian carry-out. That was Keith's corner. So the whisky was bought one bottle at a time. It turned out it was for the parish minister T.K. Campbell. Some member of the Club had noticed that it was being sold at the same price as blend."

Kennedy was playing with him and, I think it was round about the fourteenth, Wilkinson had a putt to win the hole and he missed it. Just as he missed it Kennedy says to him,

'Naebody talked - naebody moved - the wind didnae blaw - it was ye're ain bloody fault.'



Warrie Rennie

In the 1990's when in she was in her eighties, Sheena Campbell, T.K.'s wife was still playing in medals and Competitions with a handicap of 22.

The members at Bothwell Castle came from all walks of life and like the minister and his wife were well known about the village. One well-known

You know the classic story of Jimmy Kennedy. He arrived up to play and there was a guy, a new member, on the first tee and Jimmy said to him, "Excuse me, are you just yourself son?" and he was - so Jimmy said, "'right - come on - you and I'll have a game."

So the bloke got up and hit the ball and it went off to the left hand side and Jimmy hit right down the centre The bloke of course was in the rough and he hacked his way down and he finally got to the first green and Jimmy Kennedy turns to him and says,

'son, you're maybe just a new member but you've every much right to play in the short grass as I have.'

There was a guy called Monsigneur Rodger who subsequently went to the Vatican as a legal advisor to the Pope. Every time he hit a bad shot and sliced it he would say "blast that ball". he would never swear.

Jimmy Kennedy who played in his sandals and braces and I think he had the same ball for years. He used to speak with a poky accent. He played a lot of good golf and he played in the team with Monsigneur Rodger.

Jimmy was, to say the least, rather 'Orange'. They were playing in the team at Bothwell and on the last green Monsigneur Rodger had a putt of about two yards to win the game. If he missed it was a half for their game and Jimmy walked off the green. Monsigneur studied it and looked at it from all angles and putted it and missed it. Jimmy was heard to remark " its well seen there's nae power in prayer."

Monsigneur played with T.K. Campbell as well - the local priest and the local minister.

Then there was Jimmy Wilkinson - everything, no matter what he did - everything had a reason, there was always something or somebody that caused it.

The Seventies

The next five years proved, once again, to be a testing time for Bothwell Castle Golf Club. It was decided that the reconstruction

of the Clubhouse should be done in one phase. The Social Programme arranged for the winter months was cancelled as work in the Clubhouse made social events undesirable. In the meantime it was decided that catering should be suspended and that Mrs. Graham should be compensated for loss of profits. Mr. & Mrs. Graham were granted an extra week's holiday to give them a change from the depressing condition of their work place. It was decided to postpone Ladies Day.

Work proceeded on the Clubhouse

The architect, the contractor, the surveyor and myself used to have weekly site meetings in the old Clubhouse. There was a Past Captain who had been a top man in the West African Railway - Charles Glenesk - Charlie came in one day when we were having a meeting and said, "excuse me" and stood about two feet from us playing the one armed bandit.

A joiner came up to me and said, "Is that man all right?. I've spoken to him four times. I've told him we're going to take the ceiling down and there could be a lot of dust and stour up above and all he says is, "On you go, on you go and do it" Well the joiner took the thing down and fifty years of dust came down on Charlie. He just kept on playing.

When we were doing the alterations to the Clubhouse the atmosphere was tremendous. I remember the New Year's Day when the place was a mess, there was no ceiling and there was a beam, a steel beam that was to go the whole length of the main lounge to carry the roof, was on the floor and that's where all the people were sitting on New Year's Day, just having a chat and a drink and a party.



Charles Glenesk

The Rebuilt Clubhouse Opening

The Captain asked Sir Alec Douglas Home, the Honorary President, to open the reconstructed Clubhouse on Friday 30th

October 1969. As it turned out Sir Alex was not available so the opening ceremony was carried out by Mr. R. W. Jenkins, President of the Scottish Golf Union and this proved to be a great success.

On January 9th 1971 full scale catering was resumed.

Golf

In the meantime during 1970 the new fairways were being regularly cut and greens were sown. Bunkers were shaped and finalised. The area at

the trees for the 7th and 14th fairways was cleared and work done with the drainage.

The golf was excellent. For the second year running the Quaich was won by one of the Club's own members - that year by Mr. J. Nicol Rennie. Mr. W. Smeaton, Past Captain retained the Club Championship and by doing so created a new record for the Club, seven wins in all. " The spectators were rewarded by some excellent golf, the issue being settled only after two extra holes had been played."

Miscellany

There were a few problems in the day to day running of the Club. There were rats on the Course and authority was given to obtain the

services of the County to exterminate them. This was duly done.

The local schools were requested to co-operate in putting a stop to the periodic theft of flags. This problem did not go away. In 1973 the woodwork of the large trailer was smashed by vandals at a cost to the Club of £150 for repairs; the sheds were broken into and the tractor tyres deflated, seats and tee boxes thrown into the woods and pins broken. It was accepted that this would be a continuing problem and vandalism is still a nuisance on the Course.

A great deal of building was taking place locally at this time, some of it on land that had once been part of the Golf Course. This expansion impinged on the Membership. The Committee decided that in future the local list should be confined to residents of the electoral districts of Bothwell and Uddingston and that in future all new members should be invited to meet the Captain, Vice-Captain and four other members of the Committee.

It was decided that the flag would fly on Ladies Medal Days and the L.G.U. red markers were sited.

2000 - 2500 trees were planted on the Course, most had come from the bing but 500 fir trees were bought for £50.

The social programme continued to expand.

The suggestion was made to hold a Burn's Supper. It was decided to hold a dance every fortnight using a band and records alternately. Suitable records were purchased. The Country Dance Society continued to

Jubilee Celebrations

At the end of 1971 The Captain and Vice Captain were authorised to draw up a programme to celebrate the Club's Jubilee in 1972.

The Members celebrated the first fifty years with a week of events - Jubilee Week - which started on 3rd June with the Jubilee Medal and culminated on Ladies Day on 10th June. An Exhibition Match in

The country dancing started in 1967 and went on to 1983. Nancy McCall was the teacher. We had three sets. There were twenty-four of us. All the men wore kilts. It was restricted to couples only.. The music was provided by a piano. I got it for two pounds. and I thought how are we to bring it to the Club house. I hired a van and the van cost five pounds. That piano was great but there were one or two keys that didn't play. Then Bill Grey died and it was his piano that was brought in. For all I know it's Bill Grey's piano that's still there.

"I was going to be Jubilee Captain and we thought we'd have an Exhibition Match. People said you won't get anyone to play. They were wrong. Roberto de Vincenzo said he would come and I got a letter from him confirming his attendance. Peter Thompson who was the five times Open Champion was delighted to come and I saw Christie o'Conner at Royal Birkdale and he agreed to come. The fourth was Gordon Gray our local professional..

On the Wednesday before the Match I sitting having breakfast and I read the papers and there was a heading -" Roberto cancels all engagements."

be popular. Permission was granted to hold a Ladies Bridge Club for beginners on Wednesday afternoons.

The outside world continued to have its effects. Decimalisation was introduced and had its drawbacks. In 1971 Dr. Gilchrist reported that the

Receipts from the gaming machines had been adversely affected by the machines being jammed. This happened frequently and seemed to be caused by certain members inserting new pennies instead of sixpences.



WITH THE British Open Golf Championship scheduled for next month, Scottish golfers, I'm sure, will be interested in an event being staged at Lanarkshire's Bothwell Castle Club a week on Saturday.

They're also sure to pick up some useful tips, as well as enjoy a feast of good play in an exhibition match which tees off at 2 p.m.

One of the big swingers taking part is Roberto de Vincenzo, a former British Open winner and surely one of the most popular golfing visitors to our shores.

Then there's Australian Peter Thomson and the redoubtable Irishman, Christy O'Connor, who won the jackpot £2500 in the Carrolls International Tournament at Woodbrook, Dublin, at the week-end ... at the age of 47!

The foursome Castle's professionals All four club's four special prize

THE PAGE THAT PUTS PEOPLE FIRST.

TALK OF THE TIMES by IAIN MACDONALD *

It'll be a great day for the golf fans

The last time the game of golf, the club, he established a new course record.

The club was Bobby Locke, and his total was 65.

But the course has been altered since then and the record now stands in the name of Bothwell's Nichol Rankin at 66.

This figure could be broken on Saturday, for club captain Douglas Steedman is offering a personal prize of £10 for a new low total.

There is more to the day out than watching the exhibition match. Those who come along will have the chance of winning some prizes for themselves as prizes, golf, an outfit, and there will also be a lucky programme number.

Prizes here include a full set of Christy O'Connor irons and a set of Peter Thomson woods.

Proceeds from the gala match, organised as part of the club's jubilee year cele-

aid of cancer research was to take place on 8th July. Mr. A. E. Harris presented a new flag to the Club at a cost of £30. The flag has a royal blue background with the Club shield shown in the Club colours and initials with the Jubilee dates shown in yellow.

In the summer the Captain could report that Ladies Day had been most successful as had Jubilee Week.

The Exhibition Match tickets and posters were all out and all holes sponsored. Publicity for the event was to be stepped up. Then catastrophe struck. Let the Captain of the day, Douglas Steedman speak for himself.

This was after getting all of our publicity in the times. It was as if someone had punched me right in the stomach.

He was tied up with Dunlop. The Dunlop area for Britain was represented by a chap called Norman Brown. I phoned Norman and said

'What's going on?'

He told me Vincenzo was unable to play in the Open because of a middle ear infection He had to cancel everything. This was Wednesday morning and the Exhibition Match was on Saturday. I phoned Muirfield and spoke to the secretary and asked for Christie o'Conner. I

was told he was out on the Course but the Secretary went and got him. I told him the problem and asked, "Who else could we get who is an Open Champion?" and he said " Bob Charles is out here. I'll have a wee word and see if he'll come." He phoned back and said, " He'll come. We're staying in the same hotel so you can pick us both up." So that's how Bob Charles came.

There was a Committee Meeting that night and everyone said well what are going to do now and I said

"Well no problem - have another drink boys - I've got another chap to play."

The whole thing was traumatic - traumatic - to see in the papers that one of your main stars wasn't coming.

In the end it couldn't have been better. It turned out great"

The Charity Jubilee Ball was held on 22nd December 1972 in the Banqueting Hall, County Buildings Hamilton. The price of tickets was £3.50 a head. 150 tickets were sold and the takings for the Charity Tombola went to mentally handicapped children's organisations. Evening dress was worn. The President of the S.G.U. was the principle guest and speaker. In 1973 Past Captains A.A. Taylor and Douglas Steedman produced a 40 page brochure outlining the principal changes and events of the Club during its 50 years existence thus concluding the Jubilee Celebrations.

VAT and Opening the New Course

he year 1973 is notable for two reasons. The new Course came into play and V AT was introduced by the government and in

common with other golf courses Bothwell Castle levied V AT on subscriptions.

This decision was to produce the windfall of VAT repayment in 1995.

It was agreed that the we should mark the occasion of the opening of the New Course by something similar to the Exhibition Match which had been held in Jubilee Year. The Greens Committee Convenor asked if the Committee would consider inviting our Landlord Mr. Loudon to see the new holes, out of courtesy, as he had made the gesture of contributing £2,500 to their development.

As regards the change over to the new part of the Course it is recorded, " this has been dealt with very smoothly by members and the greens staff." It

was proposed that the new Course should be played as much as possible although, so far as Competitions were concerned, this was dependent on weather conditions.

A marquee was erected and a dance on July 6th began the three-day get together for the opening of the reconstructed Course. A Pro-Am Competition was arranged for Saturday 7th July and an Exhibition Match for Sunday 8th July. The Exhibition Match consisted of an International Select chosen by Sandy Sinclair, Chairman of the Walker Cup Selection Committee and member of the Club, and a Captain's Select. The Exhibition Matches in connection with the official opening of the New Course proved to be a great success as was the special dance. The Ladies Section were thanked for the floral art and the decor and their support of the event and the boy scouts for their assistance in erecting and dismantling the marquees.

The naming of the holes for the tee boxes was introduced and the list was unanimously approved:-

Hole No.

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Kirkfield | 10. One Tree |
| 2. Old Tower | 11. Curler |
| 3. Woodlands | 12. Priory |
| 4. Blantyre Mill | 13 Silverwells |
| 5. Sheds | 14 Lady J ane Gate |
| 6. MyersBurn | 15 Dyke |
| 7. Castle Gate | 16. Lomond |
| 8. Dechmont | 17 St Brides |
| 9. Douglas | 18. Home. |

By 1975 it seemed that the Golf Club had weathered the storms of reconstruction and redevelopment.

The Golf Club was a way of life. For some it was a place apart, a place of relaxation away from work and family; for others it was a place to take

Back then the Golf Club was my life. Even when I got married, it was still my life. The year I got married I played thirty-seven games of golf on thirty-five consecutive days.

I used to play in the medals first thing in the morning and then go away and play cricket. I was keen to encourage the family - it was something we could do together so I encouraged them to play golf - it was a thing that the family did and they enjoyed it.

The everyday concerns of the Club are recorded in the Minutes. It was Mr. Loudon's intention to lay his new road through the old part of the Course in a curve that would touch near the 17th green and the 18th tee adjacent to the sheds. It would mean the sheds would require to be moved. Although this lay some time in the future the Club had been granted permission in principle to place the sheds at the rear of the Clubhouse.

It was agreed that the Veteran's Section, which had been running for several years on an unofficial basis, should be recognised officially.

The Secretary wrote to Mr. Campbell Pettigrew, Secretary Mid-West Section asking for a renewal of our S.S.S. of 71 with preferred lies on the new part of the Course.

The lack of top soil on the new greens was a cause of concern and in this connection the Match Convenor suggested that all seven holes should be lifted.

Between Saturday and Sunday 8th/9th February the door of the outside store was broken in and a small amount of canned lager beer together with some small bottles of minerals was stolen. It was agreed that the outside lights would remain switched on at the back of the Clubhouse at nights in future.

All of this was the calm before the storm. Suddenly, out of the blue, the Club was in a major crisis.

The New Landlord Goes Broke

The first indication of trouble was a notice printed in the national press. A Receiver had been appointed to enquire into the affairs of William Loudon & Son Ltd.

A Special Committee Meeting was called on 5th March. A full compliment of the Committee was present. Answers were urgently required as to the legal position as regards the Lease. Both the newly reconstructed Course and the redeveloped Clubhouse - the very existence of the Golf Club were in jeopardy. Mr. T. A. Grieve was asked to write to the Receiver in order to ascertain the position. The undernoted were the main queries:-

1. Was the Club's 16 years un-expired period of lease still valid?
2. Was it possible that the Lease could be assigned to another firm without the necessity of the Landlord advising of the alteration?
3. Would the terms of Lease be binding to any new owner?
4. Could the value of the Clubhouse be taken into consideration in the possible purchase price?
5. As the Receiver would be seeking capital he could be interested in selling but he might be anxious to take in the whole acreage of some 500 acres rather than parcels of say a little

over 100 acres as in the case of the Golf Course. Would he be prepared to look at an offer for that part of the Estate covered by the Golf Course?

6. On expiry of the Lease, would the Clubhouse revert to the owner at that time?"

A Standing Committee Arrange to Purchase the Course

After Mr. Grieve left the meeting, the Captain, Dr. Gilchrist urged the necessity of appointing a Standing Committee. He then proposed the following Members to comprise the Sub-Committee giving good reasons for his choice and these were approved:-

Immediate Past Captain Ian Horn (Convenor) Past Captain Graham Ingham

Past Captain Alex Braidwood

Ways and Means Convenor George Carlton

Captain John Gilchrist and Vice-Captain Morrison were to be ex-officio Members.

The Sub-Committee was empowered to enlist the services of a Professional Valuer if this was found necessary. A proviso was suggested by Mr. John Stevenson that the Standing Committee should be allowed to continue during the whole of the negotiations. A notice was placed on the notice board advising members of the action taken.

The Special Sub-Committee appointed James Barr & Son, Surveyors to prepare a report and valuation of the Golf Course on behalf of the Club and to advise on the value of the Course which might be negotiated between a willing buyer and a willing seller. They also looked into the problem of "Planning Permission" to establish whether or not there was any possibility of such permission being adjusted should we ever have the opportunity to revert to the old seven holes. This proved not to be practicable.

A special Committee was formed to buy the Course. Ian Horn was given the job of working out a system of raising the finance and I was given the job of getting the valuation and agreeing the valuation.

We walked round to peg out the Course. Ingham was with us because he was on the Committee and Terry Grieve was also there. We walked round and said we'd like this and we'd like that and when it was all done the Receiver said well I'm going to give you that but you'll need to take over the boundary wall and that was

that

Matthew McPhail at that time was Captain of Ranfurly; Eric Forgie was Captain of Eastwood. Every single person walking the Course was a golfer and that's why we got the extra strip through the gap where the pegs are but we had to take on the bit down at the gate. The thought in my head at that time was that we were getting 24 extra acres and that 24 acres was worth a fortune if we could get planning permission. That never happened. Having said that we needed the ground anyway for it gives you a cushion, a bit of leeway.

The Valuers gave early advice that the break in our lease at Martinmas 1976 could involve a very substantial rise in rent. The way forward was to try to purchase the Course. The Convenor sought permission to negotiate with the Receiver and his Valuers to try and establish a proposed price for the Course. He further requested that he be permitted to keep the valuation confidential to himself until such time as that negotiation had been carried through to prevent any chance of the other side finding out the value which had been advised to us by the Club Valuers. This was readily granted.

On the 20th of April the Sub-Committee reported that agreement had been reached by the Valuers for both sides on a price for the Course (including the Clubhouse). The Convenor requested that with the approval of the other Members of the Sub-Committee he did not intend revealing the amount which would be subject to acceptance by the Receiver who had intimated his wish to assess the position for himself. The General Committee agreed discretion was necessary. The Committee were told that broad outlines of various methods to raise the money had been worked out but it was certain that under any of the schemes, the cost to the Members would be heavy.

In October the Special Sub-Committee could report that negotiations for the purchase of the Course had now been completed and a Special General Meeting of all members was called on 29th November. 212 Members were present. The Captain pointed out that this was probably the most momentous meeting to be held in the history of the Club and gave a short resume of the actions that had taken place to date in the negotiations with the Receiver.

The Minutes record that, "Mr. Braidwood commenced by giving a comprehensive account of the negotiations which had taken place until an agreed-on boundary was obtained. With the aid of a coloured map he showed the area of the Course as it is at present i.e. 101 acres and what it will be if we purchase the additional acres, bringing the total up to 125 acres and thus ensuring a better measure of control over the amenity of the Course. We would be in complete control of our access road. The purchase price of £70,000 was fair and reasonable and in any case was the lowest the Receiver was prepared to accept. He finished his presentation by

exhorting the Members to take this opportunity to buy."

The Convenor of the Special Committee, Past Captain Ian Horn, explained that the Clydesdale Bank was prepared to lend the Club £50,000 at the basic rate of interest plus 3% that is 14% by means of a secured loan with full compensating interest on Club funds. Also Scottish & Newcastle Brewers were prepared to lend a further loan of £2,500 at 8% interest. These together with back-up finance and with available Club funds was thought to be adequate to meet the purchase price which was payable by 1st February 1976. He went on to explain the five different methods by which the members could choose to contribute their share of the cost of purchase. He called on all members to confirm unanimously the recommendation of the General and Special Sub-Committee. There then followed a number of questions which were answered satisfactorily.

The Captain, Dr. John Gilchrist then read the Committee's resolution to purchase the Course. This was carried unanimously. Captain Gilchrist declared, "We now own a Golf Course."

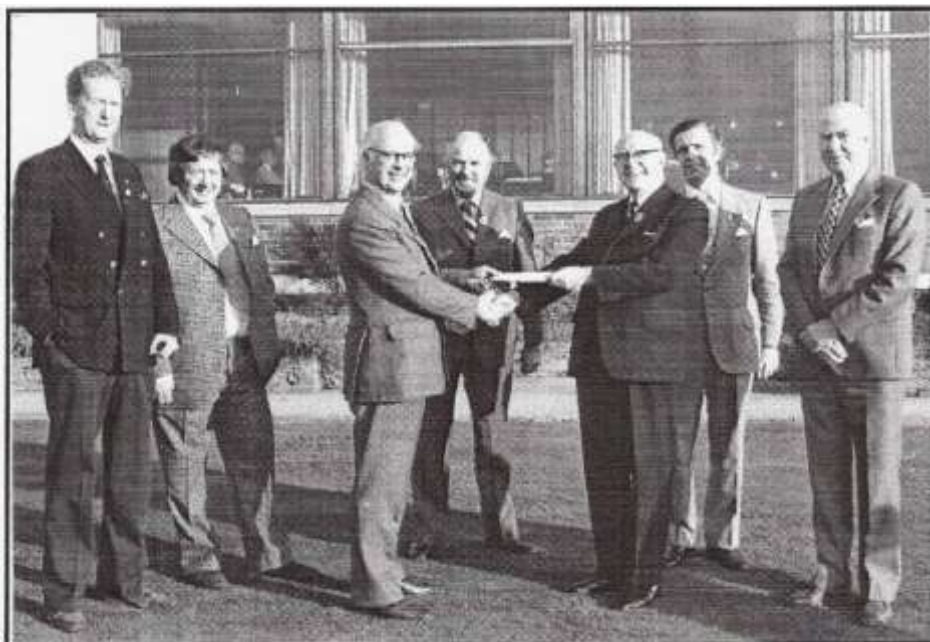
The methods of contribution were adopted unanimously. The Captain and the Members of the

Special Sub-Committee were given a hearty vote of thanks for the successful conclusion of the project.



The following year 1976 the Treasurer produced the cancelled £70,000 cheque used in the purchase of the Course. Bobby Anderson arranged for this to

be framed and it was agreed that the photographs of the handing over of the cheque and the ceremony of planting the commemoration tree should be hung in the main lounge. These are the two pictures reproduced on this page.



The levy on the members caused mass resignations at that time. There were a whole lot of people who paid their fees and didn't play. The truth is that the fees were not a lot. There were dozens of social members who paid about five pounds a year.

We got such a good bargain at £70,000. We got 125 acres. When we signed the cheque we had a game of golf. We came in and sat down in the Clubhouse and handed over the cheque and that was it. It was the best thing we ever did.

I knew Jack Loudon very well. The liquidator, McPhail was the man's name, came out to Bothwell to engage in the sale of the land when Loudon decided to go into Receivership. We played a game with him and another Chartered Accountant who was doing some of the liquidation work. We came to the last green and I had a putt for the game. I said

"I've got this putt for the Course".

I made the put. It was a good game.

Some Events in 76 and 77

The year of 1976 had an inauspicious beginning. The new Captain, James Morrison died suddenly not long after taking

office. In his acceptance speech at the fifty Third Annual General Meeting he had put forward a policy of Course improvement in a comprehensive landscaping and drainage programme. This in fact was implemented and is still a commitment at the present day.

In January Mr. & Mrs. Graham the Club master and Clubmistress announced their retiral from service with effect from 23rd March 1976 and a presentation was made to them on Sunday 14th March 1976 which some 300 Members attended. This was probably the largest gathering of Members in the Clubhouse at anyone time and a fitting gesture to the high esteem the Grahams were held in and their great popularity.

The ladies could only play the Round Robin between twelve and one thirty which meant you were all more or less coming back at the same time and Mrs. Graham would have a lovely afternoon tea with baked scones and so on.

A new Steward and Stewardess were appointed but their reign proved to be short lived. By September they had vacated the Golf House and left no forwarding address.

It was proposed that a "100 " Club should be seriously considered as a means of raising money. Due no doubt to the financial burden imposed by the purchase of the Course there were many resignations from the Club but these places were quickly filled from the waiting list. Entrance Fee Income was very much higher than 1975 because of the high number of these new Members.

The Chairman gave formal approval of a request from Strathclyde Regional Council to build a school in the vicinity of the carpark.

At the Fifty Fourth Annual General Meeting of the Club, Mr. John Pollock the retiring Secretary and Mr. William Smeaton were made Honorary Members of the Club following in the footsteps of Mr. Sandy Sinclair who received that recognition for his services to golf at the previous year's AGM 1977 was notable as the year in which a most successful fete was held and as the year when it became necessary to establish a special sub-committee to deal exclusively with the drainage problems on the Course. It was also the year when Archie Watson commenced his long service as Secretary of the Club.

The fete was held on 20th August and was opened by Mr. Richard Park of Radio Clyde. An

Army and Air Display was arranged by Mr. Frank McLaughlan and one of the highlights of the fete was for a light plane to land and take off on an appropriate fairway. The event turned out to be a great success. It showed a profit of £1,302-84-0 which included £248-10-0 from the Open Championship draw. Proposals were put forward for spending the money and after discussion it was decided that £200 should be given to the funds for Leukaemia and that the remainder be used to plant mature trees on the boundary of the 11th and 12th fairways. It is worth noting that at one time the Course was almost bare of trees and many of the trees now growing to maturity were given as gifts to the Club.

Draining the New Course

The new part of the course was notorious for bad drainage. During a large proportion of the year it was a quagmire and virtually unplayable. It was decided to set up a drainage sub-committee to solve the problems.

The drainage sub-committee consisted of Mr. Harry Hollywood, Mr. Omar McDonald and Mr. James Wilkinson. They reported with two detailed proposals for tackling the fundamental problem. There was, "Simply insufficient surface drainage to transfer the rainfall to the drainage outlets, at a rate of flow, sufficient to ensure that the ground surface remained suitable for pedestrian traffic." The estimated cost was £53,000 for one scheme and £48,000 for the other. A comprehensive analysis of the problem was made and the detail which is described in the Minutes is a testimony to the work undertaken by the sub-committee Members.

When they laid out the new bit of the Course they actually did it on the cheap. Literally when you came off Bothwell you were covered in mud. I remember when I was a youngster I used to skate where the eighth green is in the winter. Water naturally collected there. So they made a green on it. There was no drainage in it at all. It had lots of clinker and I think when they tried to tine, they broke their tines because there was practically no topsoil. Eventually they had to drain every green. The original drainage cost fifty thousand pounds and it didn't really work. Well it worked but it took years. If I remember rightly we did the eighth and the twelfth first of all and it cost about nineteen thousand to do the two of them. We then started getting outside people and then it cost ten to twelve thousand per green. Then Neil (McLennan - the greenkeeper in the early nineties) did the last few and I don't know what it cost because it was in among the normal costs and he made a great job. I had great admiration for Neil.

By November 1979 it was reported that the drainage contract was almost complete with the exception of manholes which had to be done, together with remedial work which would be a continuing process for some time to come.

There was also a problem of drainage on the old part of the Course, particularly in the area of the sixth green where a drain connected with the drainage under the main Uddingston - Bothwell road. Although a letter had been written to Hamilton District Council it appeared that the



department to department with little or no result. After a lengthy discussion it was finally decided that the Club should write to Regional Councillor Malcolm Waugh of Strathclyde Regional Council asking him to take up the question of drainage under the A 74 with the appropriate department.

A meeting also took place between the Club and the National Coal Board regarding compensation from the Coal Board for the condition of the drains. Subsidence had been causing problems on the old part of the Course. The Coal Board turned down the claim on the grounds that compensation had already been paid and, with the change of ownership, the Golf Club had accepted the ground as it was. In any case any claim would be outwith the time allowable for claims since coal mining was stopped in 1949.

Concerns about Damage to Houses

The fact that houses now bordered the Course gave a new cause for concern. The Secretary was instructed to ask Terry Grieve to investigate the legal position regarding bodily or property damage caused by balls being hit from within the Course to outside it - with special

reference to the 10th hole. This is the first reference to this as a problem but not the last.

The Rest of the Seventies

At the Fifty fifth Annual General Meeting held in February 1978 which 186 members attended, it was unanimously approved that

Mr. Neil J. Stirling become an Honorary Member of the Club. He had joined as a founder Member in 1922 and had held the position of Match Secretary for a term of 12 years. Captain Miller then proceeded to make a presentation gift of £100 from the Members to Neil for his service to the Club. Mr. Stirling in his reply gave a nostalgic and humorous account of his life as a member of Bothwell Castle Golf Club which reached a climax in a standing ovation.

1978 was a year of consolidation in the Club.

The Captain of the Ladies Section Mrs. Isa Stirling requested that the Ladies Section might hold an Open Day. It was agreed that this should be held in August 1979. This has become an annual occasion and has proved to be a popular event in the golfing calendar.

At the end of the decade the main concerns were connected with the new seven holes and the condition of the Course. A complaint is registered in the Suggestion Book that there are, "Uncut greens on the new part of Course, hardly cut fairways on the old part of Course and no water in any ball washers or drinking fountains."

The work on the boundary wall, a responsibility of the Club since the purchase of the Course, had now been completed at a cost of £1,300. Mr. Skewies raised a question concerning the gatehouse opposite the Gas Works and the dangerous state of repair of this gatehouse and was advised that this was not the responsibility of the Club but came under the National Trust. This turned out to be an optimistic opinion. It was not until 1995 that this repair work was carried out with the aid of a grant from the Lanarkshire Development Association and Historic Scotland.

And so ended the Seventies. In that decade the reconstruction of the Clubhouse took place; the Course was changed beyond all recognition; a massive programme of drainage was embarked upon and its Members purchased Bothwell Castle Golf Club.

The Eighties

During the eighties the Club was increasingly run along professional lines. The turnover after all was substantial, greater than many commercial enterprises. Business methods and practice were required. There were benefits for the members in efficiency and economy but perhaps inevitably there was less of a sense of "mucking in together," than there had been in the past. Members no longer supported the team at matches. In fact many today would find the idea absurd.

At the AGM in February 1980 it was decided that Payment by Bankers' Order should start in 1981. The members were informed that the audit which was being carried out every three months was proving very successful.

The Greens Convenor Mr. A. Winning expressed his thanks to the Drainage Committee for the tremendous amount of time and effort given freely to the Club. In particular the Captain referred to Mr. Wilkinson of the Drainage Committee who had been on the Course every day at no cost to the Club, as Clerk of Works to the drainage carried out on the new part of the Course.

If the Course is good the people are there and if the people are there they spend money in the bar and they eat in the dining room and there's a good atmosphere. If the Course is poor, the people aren't there. The Course was poor for a long time. The greens were rebuilt over a period of time. We discovered round about 1981 that the new part of the Course had been constructed on a shoestring. I don't think we had the money.

A chap called Jim Arthur was brought in. He was an army agronomist. He advocated a policy of mole draining and aeration and it became a kind of unwritten game plan that the concentration of effort would be on the Golf Course and that our finances would be channelled in that direction. From 1981 the rule was that we'd get the Golf Course right.

The Ladies become more Prominent

During the eighties the Ladies were mentioned more often in the Minutes and not just when thanks were recorded for their assistance with the social occasions in the Club.

This may be due to the fact that the Ladies Team were extremely successful at county level.

In September 1980 Mrs. Prentice, Chairman of the Open Day Committee for the Ladies Section, in a letter to the Committee thanked them for the use of the Course and advised that 146 competitors had played the Course. As result of the tombola were

able to send £400 to the Lanarkshire Scanner Campaign. Mrs. Prentice made various comments on the state of the Course and in particular to the fairways not being cut. She felt that with 100 visitors to the Club, the conditions under which they and our own lady members had to play did not enhance the reputation of Bothwell Castle Golf Club.

The condition of the Course at that time must indeed have been woeful for Mrs. Prentice's criticism was echoed in the complaints of many other members.

There were two ladies called Miss Park and Miss Montgomery who were both pretty good golfers. They came from Cambuslang and they gave two trophies for inter-club competition. There is a Park Trophy and there is a Park Montgomery Trophy, for the first and second leagues respectively. It was to be played in the evening so that business people could play. The Greenlees was started to get people ready for County Golf and it was played during the day. We had ten years that were unbelievably successful. There were a lot of good players among the Bothwell ladies. Buntly Sneddon was a fine player. Ann Prentice dominated the game and today there is Mhairi McKay.

At the AGM in 1981 the Chairman congratulated the ladies in winning all their League Matches and thus the Park Trophy and also congratulated the individual success of Mrs. Ann Prentice who reached the semi-finals of the Scottish Ladies Championship and Mrs. Joyce Scott who won the Lanarkshire Ladies Championship.



Joyce Scott

I took a job fund raising for the RSPCC and I was trying to think up ways of making money. I thought we could make money out of golf. The first thing we did was to have a Tri-Am. I wanted a competition that would run every year so I thought I'll ask Clubs to run a competition on their own course. Then they'll send me a card for their winning score and I'll pick the twelve best and get them to come to Bothwell. That is six gents and six ladies - teams. When it started we made about two thousand a year but now its about three thousand and its being going now for about twelve years. There's a lot of money made for charity from golf.

Bill Smeaton played scratch golf for thirty-four years. One of the last things he did in the Golf Club was to mark in the RSPCC competition and he got these three ladies who were all about thirty plus handicap. He couldn't believe the standard of golf he was watching. This woman took out her wedge once or twice and eventually he couldn't stand it any longer and he said, "Put that damn thing away - you're not good enough to play a wedge."

The Committee unanimously agreed to the request of the Ladies Committee that Mrs. J.W. Rennie and Mrs Prentice be offered Honorary Membership.

The Ladies were doing rather well in the world of golf. Towards the end of the decade Mrs. Carlton the Ladies Captain pointed out that the Ladies had won the Park Montgomerie League five years in succession. She suggested, in recognition of their achievement, that it might be appropriate if the General Committee might consider providing team sweaters for the Club Team similar to the arrangement for the Men's Team.

The Condition of the Course

As has been mentioned the Ladies were not alone in their complaints about the Course. The condition of the Course was the subject of a complaint in the suggestion book and a special meeting of the Members was requested to discuss this.



**Alister Baird -
Past Captain**

Certainly the equipment was out of date, the last tractor having been bought in 1969 but it was the standards of greenkeeping which were most severely criticised. "Murphy's won again" was a common refrain

"The condition of the Course extended my hockey career by fifteen years. I would have given up the hockey in favour of golf long before I did but used to come in off the eighteenth and say, "The Course has beaten us again." It was horrendous. No-one who joined after '85 - '86 can have any conception of how bad it was."

in the bar after competitions. Murphy was the greenkeeper of the time.

Murphy left when Mr. Lindsey Connell was Captain and these complaints finally disappeared when Mr. Neil McLennan was appointed Head Greenkeeper. He was highly recommended and amply justified the expectations of the Committee. The Head Greenkeeper was now designated as Course Manager, a title in keeping with the standards now required of the Course. As the holder of this position Neil became an Honorary Member of the Club. By the beginning of the Nineties at the 67th Annual General Meeting Ian Coombs and his Greens Committee and our Course Manager, Neil McLennan were given credit for the high standard of the Course which was now recognised "as one of the places to play in Lanarkshire."

Raising Money

During the eighties various means were used to increase the revenue coming into the Club.

First of all subscriptions were raised - not without objections from some members.

In 1981 the '100' Club donated £600 to the Club and the Garden Fete generated £1,257.

In 1982 a proposal to allow visitors to play the Course and thus generate income for the Club was carried. The Match Convenor reported that discussions had taken place with the Professional and it was agreed that Visitors could play the Course for a day rate of £7 plus VAT and that one round would cost £5 plus VAT. For members introducing Visitors the first six would be free and thereafter the cost would be £2 per day plus V AT. The Professional taking responsibility for collecting the money. Thus a pay and play system is introduced. The Members unanimously approved the change in the Constitution that would allow the Club to have non-introduced visitors and still comply with the Licensing (Scotland) Act 1976.

Another method of generating income was with the introduction of a new category of membership - the Mid Week Playing Member or MPA. The proposed mid-week Membership was seen as a method of increasing the Club's income without detracting from the playing amenities of the full Members. Barratt were building houses on the perimeter of the Golf Club at that time and a Subcommittee meeting was held with Barratt's general management concerning membership of the Club by purchasers of Barratt property. The Company was prepared to pay either in cash or kind for places that might be made available. It was unanimously agreed that the Club would accept payment in kind and an agreement was reached with Barratt Falkirk Ltd to erect an implement shed and workshop and

in return Barratt would be allowed to nominate 36 M.P.A. (mid-week playing members.)

More Drainage Work

The revenue was balanced by the continuing expenditure on drainage which was costly. Some of this cost was met by a special levy on the Members.

The Report of the Special Drainage Sub-Committee presented to the members at the AGM in 1981 included a summary of work still to be completed and expenditure to that date of £33,261 with around £9,000 of work still outstanding. This work was confined to the new part of the Course.

Dress Code Again

The dress code continued to vex both Members and Committee. The dress code was clarified in 1987:-^{9.}

"In the Main Lounge and Dining Room up until 7.p.m., tailored slacks, collared shirt with or without v-necked sweater, fine knit polo or turtle neck sweaters will be permissible. After 7.p.m. in the Main Lounge and Dining Room with the exception of the Gents' Bar and entrance hallway, tailored jackets and slacks and collar and tie must be worn. This applies to gentlemen over 18 years of age. Not permissible in the Main Lounge and Dining Room at any time, jeans, denims tee shirts, sweatshirts, football shorts, jogging, track or leisure suits."

When you think about it even an idiot can identify a jacket - the difficulty about defining "smart but casual" is all in the interpretation. We needed these rules.

For some sartorial flair was kept for the game not the nineteenth hole

I used to spray my golf shoes. You know these cans of spray paint for cars. I used to keep cans of them in my locker and spray my shoes the colour to match my trousers before I went out. I used to wear a deerstalker with a feather in it. These were the days.

A Shortage of Members

At the 60th Annual General Meeting of the Club the Constitution was changed to read, 'The Ordinary Members shall be limited to such numbers as may from time to time be fixed by the Committee but shall not exceed 500.' The

insertion of the word 'ordinary' is of importance to the Club for, as more and more Members are eligible for Veteran Membership, if there were a corresponding decrease in Ordinary Members there would be an adverse effect on the income of the Club from subscriptions.

By 1983 the Club was once more in need of Members and the Secretary informed the Committee that we had advertised in the "Hamilton Advertiser" and associated papers that the waiting lists were again open. The response to begin with was disappointing but by the start of 1989 there were no vacancies and a healthy waiting list for membership.

Its is hard to believe these circumstances in the light of the 1997 demand for places in our club.

The building of private houses on the perimeter of the Course increasingly gave problems. Some of the householders on the perimeter of the Course had cause for complaint.

A telephone message was received from one to the effect that not only had one of her windows been broken by a golf ball but that members had been climbing the fence to recover balls. It was agreed that a notice should be erected at the 18th tee, stating that any golf ball played out of bounds should be deemed lost. In April 1983 it was announced that a large notice was to be sited on the 10th tee warning members that under no circumstances could a ball be recovered from the garden on the right hand side. The Club records note that, "It would appear that the dogs in Mr. Graham's grounds are very ferocious and the members should be warned of the position."

. There was a team match getting played and they used to have an Alsatian tied up on a chain, vicious animal it was. It broke its chain one night and it came out and bit the leg of one of the opposing players and he took a wedge to the dog's head and knocked it out. Dr. Walker Henderson who lived close by came rushing out with his bag. Rumour has it he attended the dog first.

There were other hazards for the unwary golfer. One of the more glamorous residents of Uddingston took to topless sunbathing in her back garden unaware of the havoc she was causing among the players and the consequential damage to their scorecards.

More seriously at the end of the decade one of the householders living on the perimeter of the Course was struck by a golf ball whilst in her

garden and had to have medical attention. The Club was advised by the National Golf Club Advisory Association that the law is on the side of the complainer and not the Golf Club when there is a problem of errant golf balls landing on private property. With the development of the land on the perimeter this became a major problem giving rise to a change in the positioning of tees; the erection of fencing; the cultivation of rough and a sculpting of fairways notably at the tenth and the 10. eighteenth to draw the ball away from the hazard of litigation.

Golf

It was in the Eighties that a number of fixtures in the golfing calendar were first introduced. The first Mixed Open Tournament took place on 5th September 1982 with entries from 47 different Clubs.

It was decided that a Charity Pro-Am should be held in 1985 with 30 Club Members 40 Professionals and 90 Sponsors' Guests. Cost to the sponsors was £300 per team of three.

I was approached by Alex Braidwood and Sandy Sinclair. They were involved in the Fabric and Restoration Committee in the Church - and they asked if we would consider having a Charity Pro-Am.

The original concept was that we would run a pro-am and the benefactors would be the Church Restoration Fund. They wanted to restore the church spire and also give to the RSPCC

Jack Wallace chaired the Charity Committee and we made seven thousand pounds for charity in the first year. We had an Open Championship Draw which was a bit like the Irish Sweepstake and we had sponsored teams. We set out to sell thirty teams at £300 a team. Now we have joined forces with the Ladies and one third of all the proceeds go to a Charity of their choice. If we sell the thirty teams that raises £9000 and we've got to pay the PGA about £6,000. There's about £5,500 of prize money and there's an admin fee for running the playing side. In 1995 we gave £9,000 to charity and we had to raise about £18,000 to do that. We picked the date deliberately (the final day of the Open) because we felt there would be a number of Pros that wouldn't qualify for the Open and we were always hopeful that we might get some 'names.'

A new Mixed Foursome Competition was arranged by Past Captain Charlie Scott and Joyce Scott.

In May 1985 the starting sheet was revised to its current format:- i.e. five minute intervals with every alternate odd time bookable on the day, including phone bookings, and every alternative even time available for walk-ons.

A Member is Elected Captain of the Royal and Ancient

The position of Captain of the Royal and Ancient club at St Andrews must be the most prestigious position in world golf. The club takes great pride in the fact that a Member, Sandy Sinclair, was elected into this role.

In 1989 a photograph of Sandy Sinclair in his regalia as Captain of the Royal and Ancient was presented to the Club to be hung in the Clubhouse.



Computerised Handicaps

In 1987 the Club bought a computer - a system running on an Amstrad PC 1512 and offering a complete golf administration package at a total

outlay of £2,225 which included installation, training and maintenance.

When the Match Committee reported in 1988 that a major change to be introduced that year was the introduction of Variable Standard Scratch calculations it was found that this was handled easily by the computer. The other innovation was the ruling by the Scottish Golf Union that full handicap difference should apply. This was being monitored by the S.G.U.

The Minutes record other items of interest: There is a mention of what was to become one of Bothwell Castle's best known members - "An application for Membership has been received from Mr. Wm. Goldie due to an accident some 19 years ago, he had lost the total left side from his hip down. He had previously been a professional footballer and he had now found out that he was able to play golf on one leg .it was agreed that Mr. Goldie, who was well known to several Members of the Committee, should be offered Membership of the Golf Club as a special case."

The planting of trees for the benefit of future generations continued. 2,000 Scots firs were planted over the area 7/8th, 7/11, 10th 11th and 12th holes but Hamilton District Parks Department advised that the line of trees from the first tee to behind the sixth green were seriously affected by Dutch Elm disease and should be felled.

There were always occasions to be marked. A presentation dinner was held in honour of the 90th birthday of Honorary Vice-President Bob Watson. Mr. Archie Hutton who had already reached the age of 90 years was invited as an honorary guest. The presentation dinner was a great success.

By the 65th Annual General Meeting in 1988 the turnover of the Club had reached just over half a million pounds.

In 1989 a new 25" Toshiba colour television was bought for the Gents' Lounge. The cost of spirits at the Bum's Supper had risen to £9 per bottle.

A letter was received from Scottish Television thanking the Bothwell Castle Committee for allowing them to film two young golfers Mhairi McKay and Michael Neil for the Scotsport programme.

The members continued to encourage the development of the game of golf.



John Young – Captain 1985

The Golf Foundation pay so much and the Club pay so much to our Professional Gordon Niven for coaching and bringing on the promising players in the Club. One of the problems-is if your father played you will get into a Club but if he didn't you'll have great difficulty. I know one or two boys in the village who would have been golfers had their parents been golfers but they weren't. A lot of Clubs have a policy that they can pick about three good golfers a year but with boys you don't know too early on. Once you see a guy has got potential you'll get helped by the Members. It's tougher now because there are more people and better equipment.

The Walker Cup Comes to Bothwell

The picture shown below shows the Walker Cup in a Bothwell flat after it had been "stolen" by a group of members.



When Britain won the Walker Cup after a long number of years the Lanarkshire Golfing Association had the Golf dinner to celebrate the fact. We went as a Club and had a table. Lanarkshire were given permission to bring the Cup to the dinner and display it at the top table. Nicol Rennie, myself and Dr. John Gilchrist and Alistair Hill devised a plan to steal the Cup. We created a diversion at the top table. We brought a suitcase and in went the Cup and we took it across the road to Alaister Hill's flat which was just across the road from the Bothwell Bridge Hotel. We took photographs of the cup and we put on the caption "acquired for the evening the Walker Cup". That's how the Walker Cup was acquired by Bothwell Castle Golf Club.

The Rest of the Eighties

By the end of the eighties the numbers playing the Course was a cause for concern. At that time almost 1100 people were

entitled to play and it was decided it would be difficult to reduce this number quickly. Reduction in numbers would also have an adverse effect on entrance fees. It was felt that a reduction in pay and play would help especially by "non-golfers." It was proposed that a certificate of handicap might be requested or alternatively a letter from a Club

Secretary.

Throughout this time a Development Sub-Committee had been looking at the possible future development of the Club. In the spring of 1988 a special meeting of the Committee was held to discuss the proposals of the Development SubCommittee. These proposals were intended to upgrade the facilities and bring the highest standards to Bothwell Castle. The project was costed at £236,000. including 10% contingencies.

The Committee supported the plan and a Special Meeting of the members was called for Sunday 8th May. The proposals which had been put before the General Committee were then put to the Members of whom there were 286 present. A number of questions were put to the Development Committee and after these were answered a ballot was taken. The proposal was defeated 33 voting for it and 231 against.

In spite of this set back the development of the Club was to be pushed forward in the Nineties with much of the finance coming from an unexpected source.

The Eighties ended with the Club in good shape. The final accounts show a surplus of £19,640. The Membership was full and the Course in fine condition.

The Nineties

One hundred and nineteen Members attended the 67th Annual General Meeting. It is perhaps appropriate as we entered the last

decade of the century that one of the first decisions of the Meeting was to appoint Mr. Norman Robson an Honorary Member of the Club. He had been instrumental in introducing the computer system. The Club's Membership was now totally computerised thanks to his expertise.

Mrs Isa Stirling was also appointed an Honorary Member of the Club in recognition of her twenty four years of service as Secretary and Treasurer and the other invaluable services she had given the Club.

Past Captain Ian Cumming presented to Sandy Sinclair on behalf of the Committee and Members a decanter which was suitably inscribed in recognition of his being immediate Past Captain of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, St Andrews and also for his decoration of OBE which he had recently received.

The Captain informed the Meeting of the setting up of the Sub-Committee formed to look into the Constitution and Rules and in October a report was submitted from this Sub-Committee headed by Mr. Eddie Gallon. Towards the end of the year a meeting was held to consider the revised constitution. The new constitution was very similar to the old one but the layout made it easier to understand. One of the items dealt with goes back to the very beginnings of the Club, namely the definition of the "local area." After considerable discussion the catchment area was agreed.

Mr. Andrew Waddington was appointed as Treasurer of the Club a task which was to prove even more onerous than expected for the early Nineties were dominated by rumours of a possible refund of VAT receipts and when the rumours turned out to be true, the Treasurer had to undertake a painstaking examination of all Club receipts over a period of years. This windfall presented a great opportunity for carrying out the development of the Club which had been hoped for in the Eighties. But that was still in the future.

Development Committee Report

In December 1992 the Development Committee reported to the General Committee. Past Captain Ian Duff started by making it quite

clear that the Development Committee was a think tank and had no powers of decision making. On the assumption that finance could be raised if required it was felt that changes might be made in two areas, accommodation and administration. It was felt that improvements to the Clubhouse should include

upgrading the toilet and shower accommodation along with the provision of more locker room space. They also suggested that a Secretary/Treasurer's Office should be built and the Steward's accommodation improved.

The review of the administration resulted in the suggestion that the Club should consider appointing a full time General Manager and a full time Secretary/Treasurer. It was also thought that the catering arrangements should be reviewed and that there should be a Professional Course Manager. The idea was also put forward that the Club look into the possibility of selling some of the adjacent land or some of the timber on that land.

There were problems about a number of these items and after several more meetings the Development Committee felt priority should be given to new toilets followed possibly by the construction of a Secretary/Treasurer's Office.

At the 70th Annual General Meeting in February 1993 Mr. Nicol Rennie in his capacity as Vice Captain of the Club gave a report from the Development Committee in which he gave an update to the Members on the overall strategy of Bothwell Castle Golf Club saying it "is primarily a Golf Club with an ever improving playing surface and layout serviced by a modern Clubhouse with up to date facilities; the Club to be professionally and efficiently run providing the Members with good golf and an appropriate and social environment." The items being assessed were:- usage of total land area; Clubhouse facilities; fund raising; Club management; utilisation of existing facilities; membership numbers and balance.

VAT Refunds

The impediment to development was, as always, finance. In 1993 out of the blue it looked as though the Club's finances might receive a welcome boost. At the end of that year the topic most discussed in the Clubhouse was that of VAT refunds. The general perception was that there was to be return on all the VAT paid on subscriptions from 1990.

The known facts were that in July 1993 a question was raised in Parliament on VAT exemption for the supply of certain services by non profit making organisations and in November HM Customs and Excise issued a consultation paper entitled VAT Exemption and Sporting Services but no definite directive had yet been decided and the precise nature of any refund could only be speculation.

A notice was posted on the notice board giving as much information as the Committee had to date. The Club decided to accept the Scottish Golf Union's offer to act on behalf of all the different Clubs regarding the cancellation of VAT for subscriptions.

At the 71st Annual General Meeting there was a general perception that the Club would receive a refund of VAT on subscriptions paid from 1990. The view of the Ways & Means Sub-Committee was that this money should be used for capital expenditure but it was the view of some members that the money belonged to them in the first place and by right should be returned to the members and not the Club.

By October 1994 it was reported that the sum sought as a VAT refund might be of the order of £86,000 plus interest. The Club's indebtedness to Mr. Drew Waddington and Mr. Jim Smith for the hours of work they put in to compiling the claim, was minuted. Considerable discussion took place with regard to whether the Club should retain the monies received from VAT or whether it should be dispersed amongst the members of the Club. It was agreed that the matter could only be decided by the members at an Extraordinary General Meeting.

This was held on the 28th of November 1994. This was attended by 187 Members with 177 eligible for voting. The ladies who had also paid VAT were of course excluded from the vote since the status of their associate membership precluded voting rights.

In his address to the meeting Captain Douglas McHenry said, "It is twenty five years since the last major development to the Clubhouse. It is just over twenty years since we bought the Course. In the mid 1980's a Development Committee was set up but the proposals for substantial redevelopment were rejected at a meeting of the Members. A further Development Committee was set up.

Following a European Union Directive that VAT should no longer be applied to sports club subscription and entrance fees clubs are now categorised as partially exempt for VAT This was backdated to 1990 and it meant that our Treasurer had to go through every item of expenditure from January 1990 to April 1994 to assess how much money we had to deduct from our claim because of this partially exempt status . our claim for £103,000 has been accepted by the authorities and with interest we should receive in the region of £120,000 but the interest will be subject to a tax element.

The Scottish Golf Union have said from the outset that the money belongs to the Clubs and not the individual members. We accept that there is another view that the money belongs to the

members but the best advice that we have would state that this is not the case."

At the 72nd Annual General Meeting in 1995 it was announced that the Club had received a cheque for £103,450 for the VAT refund.

The Status of Lady Members is Examined

In March 1993 concern was expressed about the changing age distribution in the Club for as more and more members were becoming Veterans and Life Members it was clear there would be serious repercussions on the finances of the Club.

These concerns led in 1995 to the establishment of a sub-committee to consider all categories of Membership. Captain Alister Baird asked that the special committee look at all categories of membership including the possibility of ladies being offered full membership.

This implied a rise in subscriptions for the ladies but in compensation an end to their playing restrictions and full participation in the running of the Club. Even apart from the increased revenue to the Club this overture to the Ladies was not entirely

altruistic for it was connected with the proposal to seek support from the Scottish Sports Council's Lottery Funds and this could not be granted without equality of membership. In January 1996 the Ladies Section held an Extraordinary General Meeting at which a majority of the ladies voted for the status quo. In spite of this the issue is unlikely to go away for although in the minority, some ladies feel strongly in favour of the change and they tend to be among the younger members and if the Lottery application is to succeed change must be made

In September 1994 Mr. Drew Waddington resigned as Treasurer and it was proposed that the position of Treasurer be advertised and it

was hoped that the person who would take this position would in the course of time become the Club Manager. The Secretary agreed that he would tender his resignation some time in the next year but would carry on in an advisory capacity until such time as the person who accepted the Treasurer's position was able to take over the entire position of Manager for the Club. In January 1995 the post of Administrator of the Club was offered to Dr. Ian Crawford a long standing Member of the Club.

At the 72nd Annual General Meeting Mr. Archibald D. C. Watson was appointed Honorary Vice-president.

As always there were changes made to keep Bothwell Castle up to date. The Club installed 5 channel BSB television at a cost of £387. The income from the bar was £534 in one afternoon when the Celtic v Rangers match was televised on BSB.

In February 1994 Gordon Niven was appointed as the new Professional taking over from Willie Walker. The proposal that a new professional shop should be built with workshop and indoor practice area has been accomplished and the old caddy car shed has been replaced with a new one.

On a more pessimistic note because of vandalism it was felt that the Committee should consider some form of security and stewarding of the Course. A price was obtained for the hire of two men and two dogs to patrol the Course. It was decided later that a CCTV security system should be installed. This was prompted by thefts from cars in the car park. On the other hand 3,000 bulbs were planted on the Course to give Spring colour.

As had been intended from the beginning, Bothwell Castle is very much a village club with close links with the community. The community now embraced wider horizons. In September a letter was received from the Bothwell Twinning Committee thanking the Club for the hospitality

extended to the French guests from Jouy-en-Josas in May. "The help given by the Golf Club helped to strengthen our European commitment and hopefully out of our generosity club links with proposals put forward by the Development Committee. A vote was taken first of all on whether the 2 A Team Course should be retained by the Club and a further decision was made after discussion on the 1st and 2nd Courses. The vote was 10 to 5 in favour of the 1st Course and 10 to 5 in favour of the 2nd Course. The 1st Course is now held by Barclay Howard a Walker Cup player, who scored 62 at the 1996 Bothwell Castle Quich.

The record did not last long for it was broken after a wonderful summer season by Peter Robertson. The Course record is now held by Barclay Howard a Walker Cup player, who scored 62 at the 1996 Bothwell Castle Quich.

The record did not last long for it was broken after a wonderful summer season by Peter Robertson. The Course record is now held by Barclay Howard a Walker Cup player, who scored 62 at the 1996 Bothwell Castle Quich.

The restoration and repair of the Castle gates and the boundary wall was the first priority and in the end it was agreed that the developments should go ahead in the order stated in the letter calling the meeting and it was agreed that no monies should be spent on the 1st and 2nd Courses.

The 73rd Annual General Meeting of the Bothwell Castle Golf Club was held on Sunday 9th February 1997 at the Bothwell Castle. It was a very special occasion as it marked the 75th anniversary of the Club's existence. The provision of the new Centenary was passed to Mr. Alex Dick. The Ladies held their Annual General Meeting on the following evening in the new locker room. The new Ladies Captain, Miss Fiona Scott, was elected. The new Extension to the greenkeeper's Shed, incorporating office accommodation and changing rooms, was also discussed. The issue of equality of membership of the ladies, from entrance and public areas in general to give more than fifty per cent of the men, was also discussed. The ladies were also asked to give term provision of a new building for the boys locker room and the provision of permanent office accommodation.

Both of these meetings were dominated by the issue of equality of membership of the ladies, from entrance and public areas in general to give more than fifty per cent of the men, was also discussed. The ladies were also asked to give term provision of a new building for the boys locker room and the provision of permanent office accommodation.

There was a lively debate at the Ladies A.G.M. with several ladies defending the status quo that provided reduced subscriptions and a tradition with which they were comfortable. On the other side of the argument were those who saw the status of women in the Club unacceptable and at odds with the changes in society which had occurred since the Constitution was drawn up in 1922. It was deemed important that the issue should not be allowed to provoke ill feeling either among the ladies of different views, or with the men. But it was clear that although the men would probably take into account the views of the ladies they were under no obligation to act on these views and paradoxically the ladies might have equality thrust upon them.

As the Golf Club has aged so has many of its members and the issue of the ladies membership status has a connection with the changing demography of the Club for as more and more members achieve the status of veterans with its advantages of low subscriptions the admission of the ladies is seen as a way of making up the shortfall.

The 1997 AGM was contentious in that there were moves from the floor to change the method of filling the post of Vice-Captain. The present system is that the Club Captain selects the Vice-Captain who is then automatically elected as Captain at the next AGM.

The motion from the floor proposed that the Vice-Captain should be elected by a free vote at the AGM. The proposal failed to get the required two-thirds majority and was rejected.

The year of 1997 has seen the administration of the club continue to evolve. With the retirement of the Secretary and Treasurer, Jan Crawford, the committee agreed that the new incumbent should have greater control over the running of the bar and of the catering. It so happened that the steward and stewardess, Ken and Margaret Buckton, resigned and allowed the committee's ideas regarding the management of these facilities to be put into immediate effect.

11.

Robert and Wilma Law were appointed as the new Steward and Stewardess on a profit sharing basis.

Mr David McNaught, who is a Chartered Accountant, was appointed as the Club Administrator. One of his duties will be to oversee the new commercial arrangement for the bar and catering services.

These arrangements prompted the committee to raise a proposal for a voucher system for the purchase of food and drink in the clubhouse. This system effectively forces all members to spend a minimum amount of money in the clubhouse. The proposal was put to the AGM and passed with a handsome majority. This was the third time such a proposal had been made by a committee. Third time lucky.

Changes were also necessary when Gordon Niven, our professional for almost four years, left Bothwell Castle to take up a new post at a new course near Kelso. The club appointed Alan McLoskey as the new professional and he took up the post at the beginning of the 1997-playing season.



Honorary Vice President Archie Watson



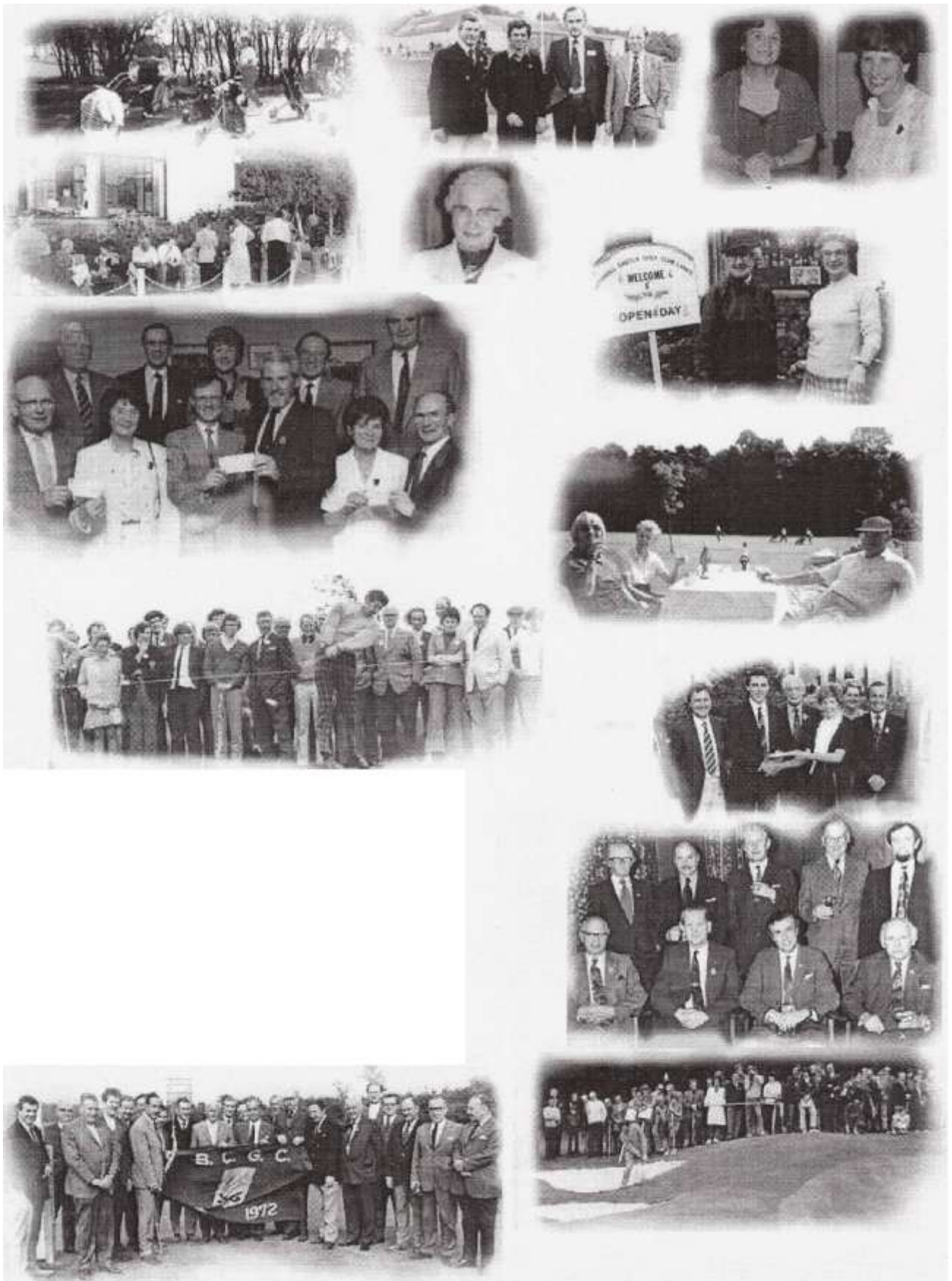
Honorary Vice President Bob Watson

As the seventy fifth birthday of the Club draws near Members can take pride in the fact that they and their predecessors overcame the financial crisis of the thirties, the depredations of the Ministry of Agriculture during the war years, the change of ownership of the Lease in the sixties and the subsequent development of the new holes with all its attendant problems and expense of drainage.

The great challenge of the seventies was to overcome the catastrophe of the Landlord's bankruptcy but the Membership rose to the challenge and the Special Committee which was appointed was given the authority to make the best deal possible if there were a deal to be made. At a purchase price of £70,000 the Members bought a Course which today has a tremendous six thousand two hundred and forty yards. Situated for the most part among wild woodland but with four of its holes bordered by substantial modern houses it is a fine example of a parkland course. I am sure the men who met in the Bank House Bothwell on the evening of 26th July 1922 would be well satisfied.

Sheila Beckett

May 1997



12.