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DUNFERMLINE GOLF CLUB

Official Handbook

By AND. S. CUNNINGHAM,

Author of
"Inverkeithing and the Naval Base,"
"Golf round Largo Bay," etc.



Ed. J. Burrow and Co. Ltd., Cheltenham and the Kingsway Information Bureau, 93, Kingsway, W.C.

James Norval, F.R.P.S., Photo.

THE CLUB HOUSE.

Dunfermline Golf Course

A Delightful Course on Picturesque Hills.

Dunfermline Golf Course is situated on the picturesque hills of North Queensferry, is within six miles of the ancient city, two miles of the great naval base of Rosyth, and 111 miles by rail of the capital of Scotland. The hills are a mass of igneous rocks which rise abruptly out of the Forth to a height of from 200 to 250 feet. Here and there, on the acreage embraced in the Golf Course hillocks, gentle slopes and considerable stretches of flat ground are met with alternately, and all through are covered with excellent turf. At an early stage of the club's life the course was described in a daily newspaper as "one of Scotland's finest inland courses." Complimentary as the epithet was, it was promptly protested against by Dr. W. B. Dow, who has the distinction of being not only one of the earliest members, but has seen more summers than any other members, on the ground that the course "ranked among the golf links of the 'kingdom' of Fife on the fringes of the Forth."

Dr. Dow was right. On the northern slopes of the hills three of the greens are formed on ground only a few feet above the level of the sea, while at every turn on the higher ground the Forth bursts into view. The giant arms of the Forth Bridge rest on the southern spur of the hills, and immediately to the West are the naval base; the ferry by which Queen Margaret travelled in her frequent journeyings to and from Dunfermline-the Passagium Reginæ (the Queen's Ferry)-and a little further up the estuary, is the village of Limekilns, to which Robert Louis Stevenson brings David Balfour and Alan Breck, who were both "tired and hungry." Away beyond Limekilns the windings of the Forth are seen as far as Stirling, and looking down the estuary, eastward, glimpses of the city of Edinburgh, Inchcolm, Inchkeith. North Berwick Law, the Bass Rock and the towns on the Fife shore are obtained. It is such a scene as Scott

had in view when he penned the lines :-

"Yonder the shores of Fife you saw, Here Preston Bay and Berwick Law. And broad between them rolled The gallant Firth, the eye might note Whose islands on its bosom float, Like emeralds chased in gold."

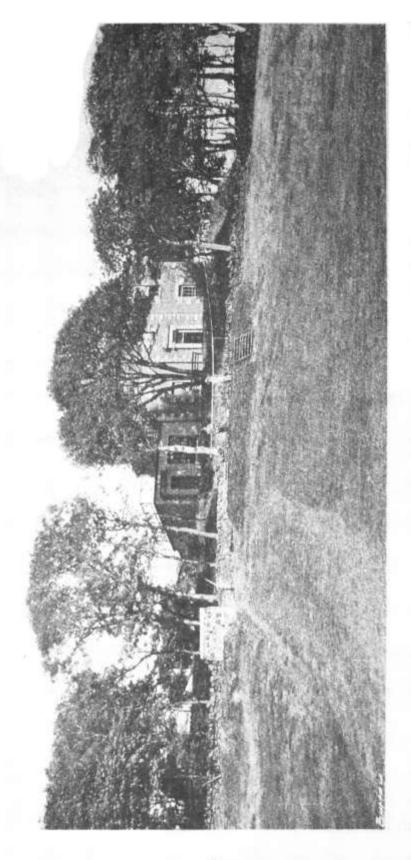
DUNFERMLINE GOLF COURSE.

A story is told of Dr. Robert Chambers of "Chambers' Journal," who was one of the best golfers of the last century. In a final match on one of the Fife courses Chambers lingered on two greens running, and expressed admiration of the scenery. With nine holes to go he stood spell-bound for a third time. This was more than his opponent could stand, and lifting his clubs he muttered: "We've come to play gouf, an' no to stand and admire scenery." Tempting as the scenery aspect of the course on the Ferry Hills is, I feel I cannot devote more space to it, and must turn my attention to the History of the Club.

History of the Club.

The Club only dates back to July, 1887, but if tradition is to be credited golf was played in Dunfermline hundreds of years before this. James VI. and his consort frequently lived in the Palace of Dunfermline, and Charles I. was born in the "City by the Crooked Stream." It was while following the cleck and the ball on the golf links at Leith that Charles had a letter placed in his hands informing him of the insurrection and the rebellion in Ireland. Rightly or wrongly, the people of Dunfermline have long clung to the idea that Charles learned his golf under his Royal father in Fife; and what gives strength to the tradition is the fact that from time immemorial a ridge on the northern boundary of Dunfermline has taken the name of "The Golf Hill." The few votaries of the Royal and ancient game who formed the Dunfermline club of 1887 took a lease of some fields to the east of the city.

A wag once wrote that there are "links which are sporting, links which have no hazards, and links which are all hazards." The Dunfermline course of the closing years of the 'eighties came within the latter category, and it was soon decided to seek out "pastures new." During the summer of 1890 the Committee visited the Ferry Hills, made an inspection of the plains and the hillocks, and having reported favourably a nine-hole course was laid out without delay, and was formally opened on September 6th, 1890. The change to the Ferry hills brought in many new members from Dunfermline, Inverkeithing and Edinburgh, and within two years an eighteen-hole course had been opened. On May 20th, 1897, the original Club house was abandoned and possession taken of Cruick's House, which had for many years been occupied by the proprietor of the lands on which



James Norval, F.R.P.S., Photo.

HISTORY OF THE COURSE.

the Golf Course is laid out. These changes were made at the very time when a wave of golfing enthusiasm was passing over East Scotland, and so much was the membership increased that the Council soon found themselves compelled to add a spacious dining room to the old mansion and carry out other reconstruction improvements.

During the War the course was a "playground" for the officers of the great naval fleet which at intervals lay on the Forth in St. Margaret's Hope. The officers were delighted with the hospitality accorded them and on more than one occasion showed their appreciation in a tangible way of the Club's kindness. Several naval souvenirs of the awful days of trial find a place among the treasured trophies in the Club house.

The Course described from Hole to Hole.

Adding the distances between each green, one gets a total of 5,021 yards. The aggregate falls considerably short of the total of some courses, but what is wanting in length is made up by variety and features which provide genuine sport. The opening hole is comparatively "plain sailing"; but the road which forms the western entrance to the clubhouse and a double hedge are immediately in front of the second green. The hazards provide an excellent test of the pitching capabilities of the players. A topped drive is punished by a hedge on the way to the "Garth Hill"; but if the hedge is negotiated without trouble there is little to prevent a golfer, who can handle his driver and brassey with ordinary skill, snatching a hole now and again from "bogey."

Players must not run away with the idea that the fourth green is protected by a tunnel because the hole takes the name of "The Tunnel." An explanation is to be found in the fact that while on the green a very sensitive golfer may hear the "roar" of a train in the railway tunnel which leads to or from the Forth Bridge. If the player takes care not to pull his drive he will pocket a hum-drum four. "The Basin" is a deep hole which has been scooped out on the highest point of the hills by the denudation of far-off days. From a neat pitch the ball may drop right into the basin and a two may be registered, but a miss is punished by whins and the remnants of a dry stone dyke, while a bad "slice" may send the "globe" down the northern slopes

of the hill, and the last position of the player may be worse than the first.

Going to the sixth green the player drives from the high ridge to a flat stretch which lies at least 50 feet lower than the "Basin." Just beyond a hedge the green lies on the top of one of the eminences of the hills, which, during the South African War, some players persisted in designating "Spion Kop." For the beginner "Spion Kop" is a severe test, and he has often to exercise a good deal of patience before he reaches the goal on the top of the "Delectable Mountains." The ordinary player will find that a drive, a short iron, to be twenty yards back from the hedge, and a nice "loft" will pay best. Two hedges and a road lie in front of the driver to the "Long Hole." Hazards vanish after the drive, however, and the player who gets "well away" should reach the green in three comfortably. To equal "Bogey" he needs to putt.

From the eighth green a charming view of Inchcolm and other "emeralds of the Forth" is had, and so the hole takes the name of "Inchcolm." A simple bunker protects

the green and provides the only difficulty.

The ninth is a "tricky little hole," which lies at a much lower altitude than the tees. Being surrounded by bunkers, a "trickle" down hill is often punished, and a wrist shot

from a lofter will be found to be the safest play.

"Homeward" marks the beginning of the return on the homeward journey. Players do well to keep in mind that there is a dyke just beyond the hillock in front of the green. With care a very ordinary player should be able

to procure a useful 5, or a 6 at the most.

One of the earliest players on the Ferry Hills named the eleventh green "The Captain." The name suggested itself through the fact that the cottage on the western fringes of the green was owned by an "old salt" who had battled with many storms on the North Sea and other waters. The Captain often peeped over the dyke and counted the strokes beginners took to hole out, or noted the inauspicious beginning some players made on driving for "The Potteries." The Captain has gone—peace to his ashes!—but the green remains, and so does the name. A bail driven well to the right pays at "the Potteries." There is a straight run of 290 yards, but the green is situated in a twenty yards square "Sheep's pen," which turns off the line northward. A pulled

THE COURSE DESCRIBED.

ball either from the tee or through the green is fatal, while

a bad slice may prove the reverse.

A great yawning quarry lies immediately to the left of the tee for the thirteenth hole. All the player needs to do is to give the quarry a wide berth in driving, and with a comparatively short pitch he will get on to the green in two. "Bogey" claims "the Quarry" in four. Even ordinary amateurs should be able to register a half with "Bogey."

"The Trap," the fourteenth hole, takes its name from the fact that it is situated in an abandoned quarry, which lies 30 feet below the level of the course. For some years after the green was opened balls were often "trapped" as they were sent over the face of the quarry. The playing of years has reduced the chances of the "globe" being caught in its descent, and if players keep well to the right from the tee onwards they will get full value for their shots, and now and again may take a stroke off "Bogey."

The fifteenth hole is situated within the shadow of an old powder magazine, and hence the name "The Magazine." The tee is situated in "The Trap," and many players keep their eye on the square quarry face in front rather than on the ball. The quarry face is a good test of nerve in driving, although Tom Morris—old Tom—who once honoured the Dunfermline Club with a visit at the Ferry, took up the position that "driving out of a quarry was not golf." A "Bogey" three is frequently registered by Members.

"The Cruickness" green lies at the foot of sloping hills which run to the water's edge. To the left there are troubles, and the most formidable of all is the fact that a pulled ball from the tee may bound down to a creek from which it is impossible to pitch on to the green. My advice is "Keep well to the right," and if this course is followed the rest will

be easy.

Between "Cruickness" and the seventeenth hole "Barnbougle," there is a rise on the ground of about 150 feet. For the whole distance there is a steep descent to the left. The view of the Forth from here is delightful, and it is interesting to recall the fact that it was on the shore, just at the foot of the sloping hills, where Cromwell's Ironsides rested before the battle of Inverkeithing. Men who want to get on to the green in four, however, will do well to leave an inspection of the historic ground alone until a more convenient season. Concentrating their minds on golf rather than on scenery or history, players should all through take a line well to the west of the steep slopes of the hills. A dyke

TEE FOR THIRD HOLE.

James Norval, F.R.P.S., Photo.

THE COURSE DESCRIBED.

marks the southern boundary of the green. Some players like to bound back from the fence on to the green. I prefer to pitch up quietly and take my chance of lying "dead" and giving "Bogie" a fright. The home hole is on the fringe of the garden of Cruick's House. Bunkers lie in front of the green, but drive to the right is the play. To the left there is a risk of being faced with the dictum "out of bounds," and, perhaps, worst of all, a "lost ball;" to the right there are no "traps," and from any spot beyond the ridge, which should be given the name of the "Shepherds' Knowe," there is a chance of a fine approach, if the human machine plays its part.

A feature of the course is the fact that the turf is near the trap rock, and the drainage is thus so perfect that play may go on without the slightest discomfort after spates of rain, but in the summer and autumn months spates of rain are few and far between. Rain clouds often break over the Forth, and while people resident on the shores of the "Kingdom" and in inland towns and villages may be experiencing thunder torrents, golfers on the Ferry hills may now and again play a full round without having to seek

the shelter of the comfortable Club House.

On the day of the disastrous battle of Dunbar, Leslie gave ear on Doonhill to his ecclesiastical critics, and forsook a strong position. While he moved down the slopes of Doonhill Cromwell exclaimed "They are coming down; the Lord hath delivered them into our hands." If golfers on the slopes of the Ferry hills do not want to "deliver themselves" into the "hands" of "Bogey" they must keep the hints I have given in mind.

Officers of the Club.

The following are the names of the office-bearers for 1920:—President, Mr. George Graham, Edinburgh; Vice-President, Mr. W. H. Reid, Dunfermline; Captain, Mr. H. M. Wallace, Edinburgh; Council—Messrs. D. A. Fraser, G. S. Jacob, Geo. Kellock, D. R. Tullo, J. R. Menzies, and W. Wilson. Mr. W. Reid, Solicitor. 1, Douglas Street, Dunfermline, is the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

Length and Bogey of Course.

The following table shows the names of the different holes and the distances between the respective greens:—

HOLE.	NAME.		1	ENGTH.	BOGEY
				Yds.	
1	Port Laing			231	4
2	The Road	* *		314	5
3	Garth Hill			400	5
4	The Tunnel		3403	275	4
5	The Basin			154	3
6	St. Margaret's			365	5
7	The Long			462	5
8	Inchcolm	200		198	4
9	The Bay	0.00		110	3
				**	-
			Out	2509	38
HOLE.	NAME	L	ENGTH.	BOGEY.	
				Yds.	
10	Homeward			392	5
11	The Captain	• •	(*) (*)	412	5
12	The Potteries	•0.00		300	4
13	The Quarry			187	4
14	The Trap		* *	315	5
15	The Magazine			143	3
16	Crookness	****		253	4
17	Barnbougle			320	5
18	The Garden			190	4
	(4)			- Conversion	-
				2512	39
			Out	2509	38
			Total	5021	77

Club Fees.

The entrance fee is £5 5s., and the annual subscription £1 1s. Temporary members pay an annual subscription of £2 2s., and no entrance fee, while the summer visitor may

have a monthly ticket for a guinea.

With this business-like paragraph my story of the Dunfermline Golf Club and the links on the Ferry Hills ends. I wish the reader could get half the pleasure out of reading the story that I have got from a round of golf on the slopes of the picturesque hills which overlook the Queen's Ferry and the Naval Base of Rosyth.

"How sweet's the air upon the links
That stretch along the sea!....
Where bending down white clover heads
In silence sips the bee.
Our steps how light as on we speed
O'er buoyant knowes o' balm
To where our balls in distance lie
Like mushrooms on the lawn!"

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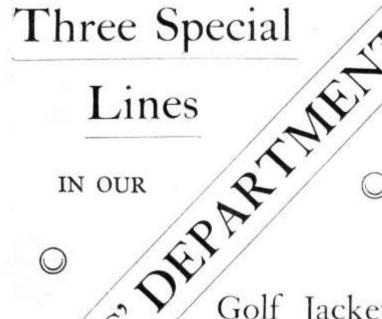
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Etiquette of Golf.

- 1.—No one should stand close to or directly behind the ball, move or talk when a player is making a stroke.

 On the putting green no one should stand beyond the hole in the line of a player's stroke.
- The player who has the honour should be allowed to play before his opponent tees his ball.
- 3.—No player should play from the tee until the party in front have played their second strokes and are out of range, nor play up to the putting-green till the party in front have holed out and moved away.
- Players who have holed out should not try their putts over again when other players are following them.
- 5.—Players looking for a lost ball should allow other matches coming up to pass them; they should signal to the players following them to pass, and having given such a signal, they should not continue their play until these players have passed and are out of reach.
- Turf cut or displaced by a player should be at once replaced and pressed down with the foot.
- A player should carefully fill up all holes made by himself in a bunker.
- Players should see that their caddies do not injure the holes by standing close to them when the ground is soft.
- 9.—A player who has incurred a penalty stroke should intimate the fact to his opponent as soon as possible.



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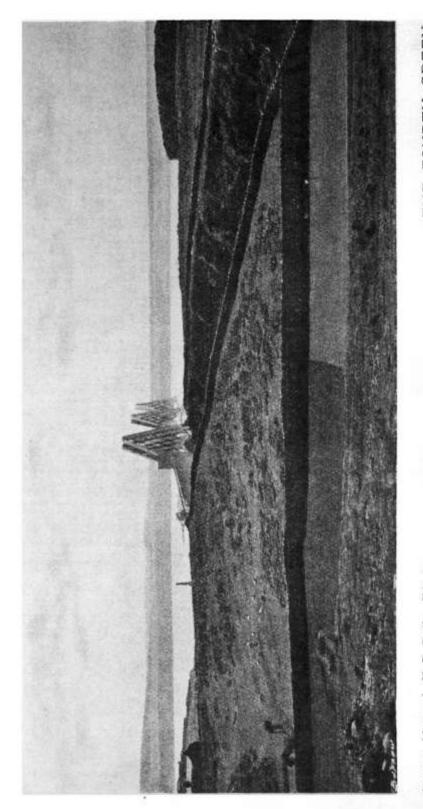
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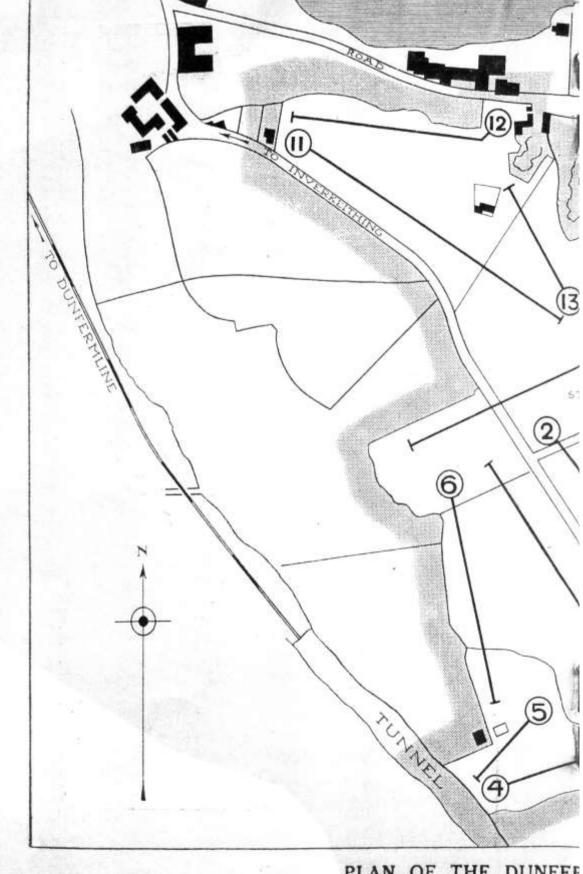
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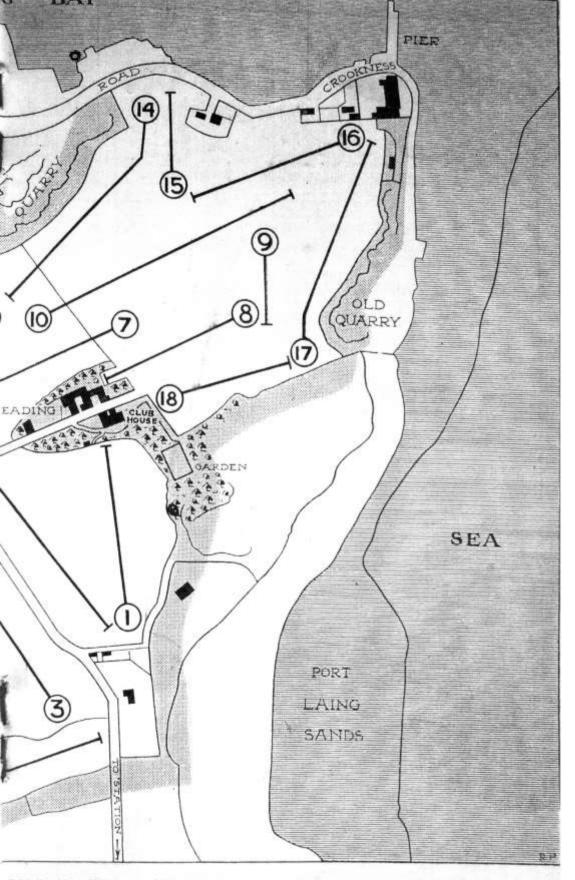
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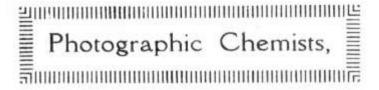
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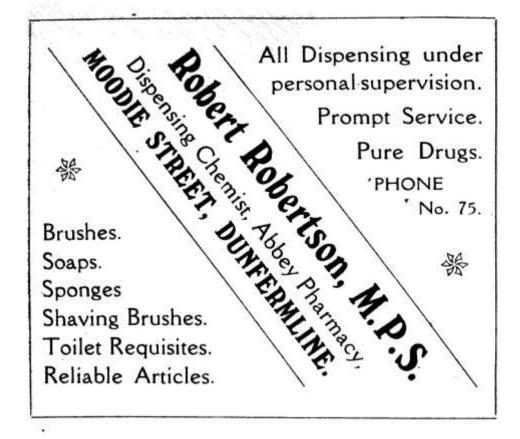
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