



# Scotland's 'other' golfers

David Hamilton  
St Andrews



# Lisnice, Czech Republic

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# 'Other' or Artisan' Golf

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- ▶ A specific term in English/European golf
- ▶ A subsidiary club-within-a-gentlemen's club
  - for local less well-off players
  - restricted facilities
- ▶ In Scotland the 'artisan' (humbler birth) players from earlier times used the free municipal town links
- ▶ They could not afford expensive equipment

# 'Long' and 'Short' Golf

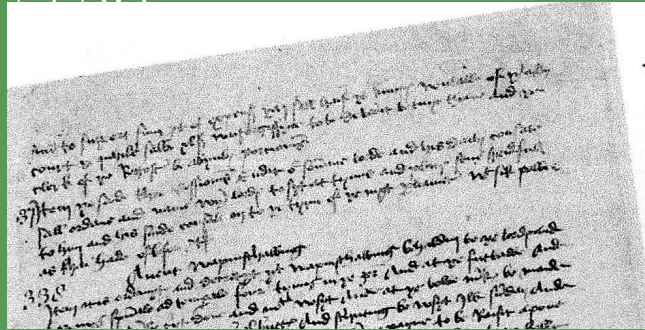
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- ▶ All early societies had simple stick-and-ball games
- ▶ Two kinds of early Scottish golf
- ▶ Long – like modern game
  - expensive clubs and balls (King's purchase 1503)
- ▶ Short – simple sticks and balls



# Long and Short

- ▶ The 1475 Act



## Anent Wapinschawing

Item it is ordanyt and decretyt that wapinschawing behaldin be the lordis and baronys sprituale and temperale four tymes in the yeir And at the futbawe and the golf be vterly criyt done and nocht wsit And at the bowe markis be maide at all parochkirkis a paire of buttis and shutting be wsyt Ilk Sunday...

- ▶ The Game – popular throughout Scotland
- ▶ Must be a short stick-and-ball game
- ▶ -short golf
- ▶ Not kolf, not colf



# 1600s evidence of 'Short Golf'

- ▶ Glasgow 1589 'golf' banned from churchyards all week
- ▶ Aberdeen 1613 prosecutions for church damage by 'golf'
- ▶ Kelso 1632 death in churchyard as result of 'golf ball' strike
- ▶ St Andrews Dec 1583 - two young boys warned for Sunday play in the 'golf fields'

Even in St Andrews, the Kirk Session took action against the Sunday golfers:

*St. Andrews Kirk Session, Dec 18th 1583*

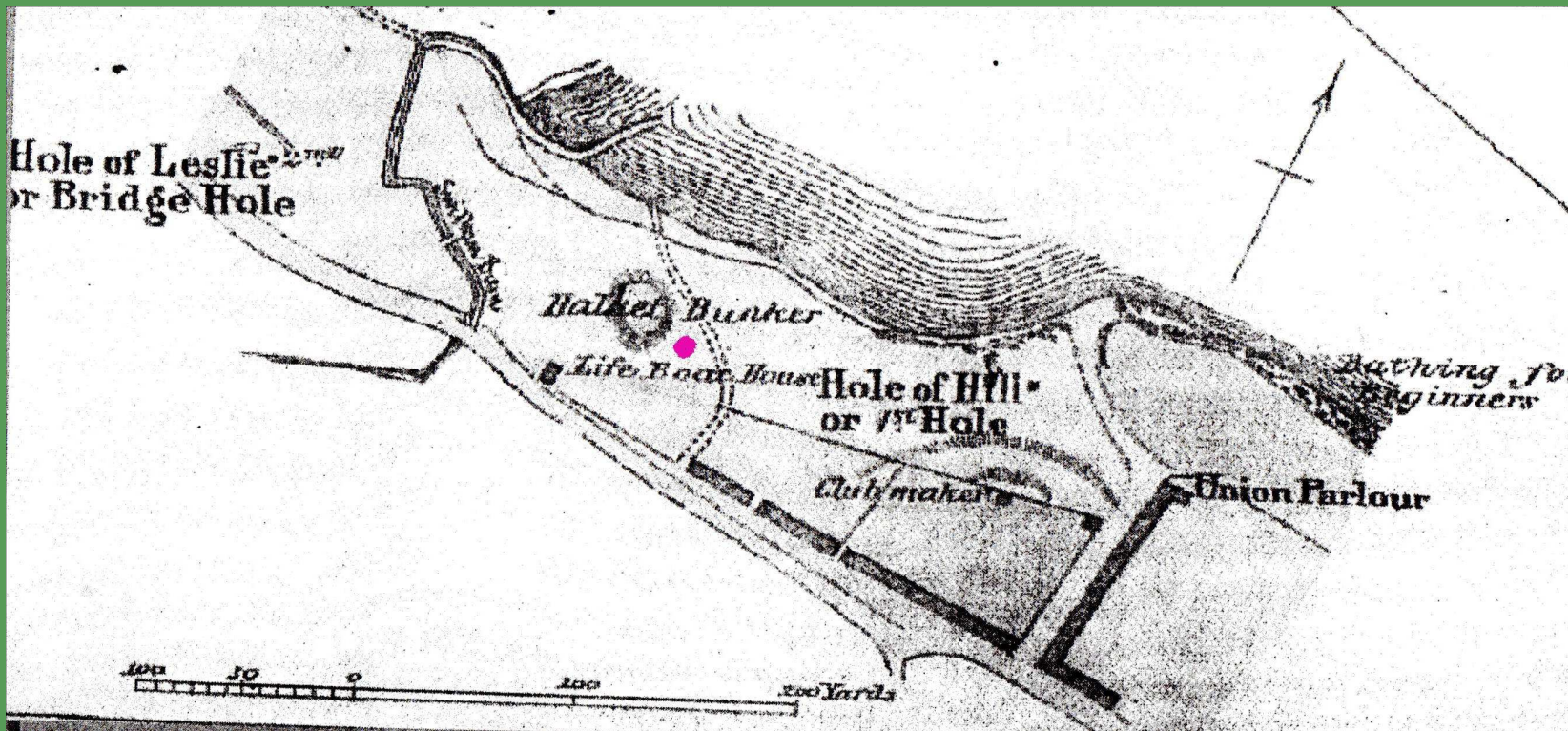
*This quilk [same] day, it was delatit [charged] that Alexander Milleris two sonis [sons] ar inobedient to him, and that thei, with Nicholl Mane, William Bruse and otheris, thair complices, playit in the golf fields Sonday last wes, tyme of fast and preching, aganis the ordinances of the kirk. The sessioun ordanis thame to be warnit and accusit theairof.<sup>4</sup>*

- ▶ Must have been 'short golf.'





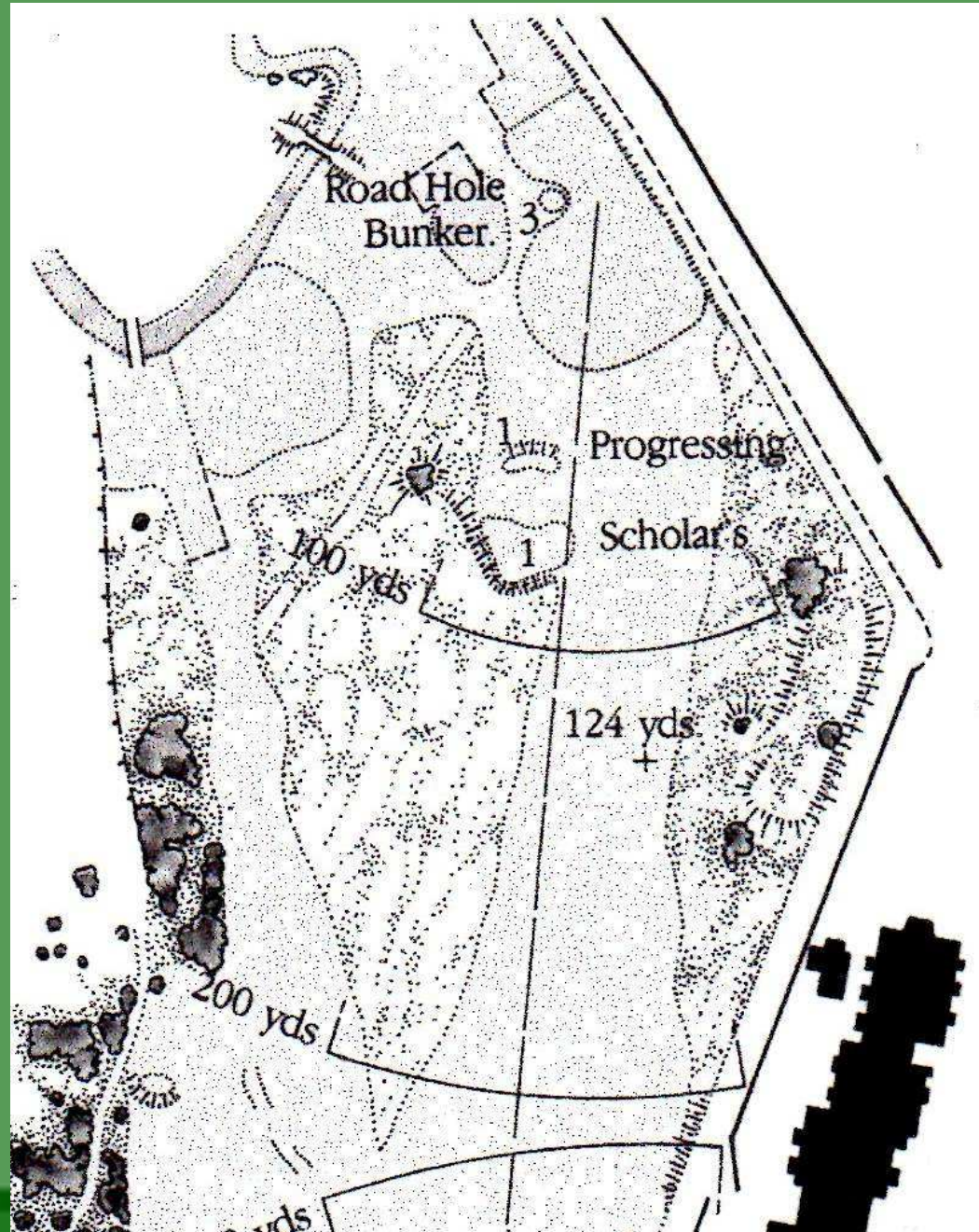
# Single track until 1754 - the old 1st and 22nd











# Short and Long 1700s

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- ▶ No trace of church or street ‘short golf’
- ▶ ‘Long golf’ prospering outside the towns on the local links
- ▶ ?Short also – at Leith

Smollett 1760

"Of this diversion the Scots are so fond, that when the weather will permit you may see a multitude of all ranks, from the senator of justice to the lowest tradesman mingling together in their shirts, and following the balls with the utmost eagerness."<sup>(6)</sup>

Edinburgh golfers organised in 1754

# First Rules

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- a 'short' course ?

- ▶ Rule 13 - Neither Trench, Ditch or Dyke, made for the Preservation of the Links, nor the Scholar's Holes or the Soldier's Lines, shall be accounted a Hazard; But the Ball is to be taken out / Teed / and play'd with any Iron Club.

# 1700s: Some 'Long' golf artisans

- ▶ But niche groups of ordinary citizens could play the long game
- ▶ Clubmakers, ballmakers (self-made or barter)
- ▶ Caddies (cast-offs)
- ▶ First successful 'artisan' long golf player –

John Patersone, ballmaker

Duke of York match 1681

By 1800s, some skilled 'professional' ball and clubmakers playing the long game, gaining stakes from gentlemen backers – Old Tom, Alan Robertson, the Dunns etc



# Mid-1800s: Industrial revolution

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- ▶ Industrialisation - better wages and prospects
- ▶ Hickory clubs then gutta balls
- ▶ Artisan play
- ▶ Winter Saturdays from 2 p.m., summer evenings, two weeks hols + New Year's Day + Easter holidays
- ▶ Artisan clubs started to appear

# Town golf 'Pairs'

i.e. artisan and gents clubs

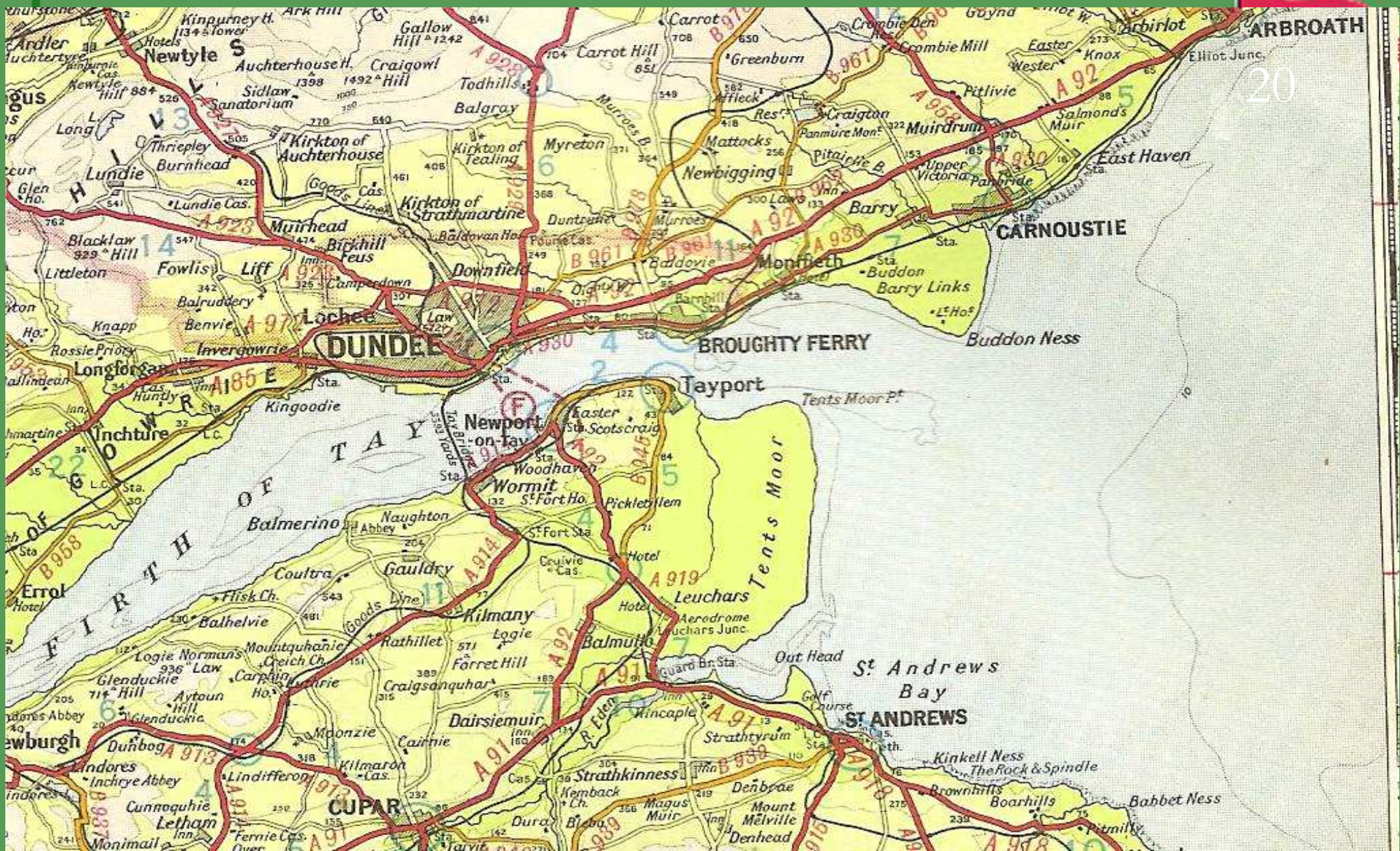


- ▶ St Andrews
- ▶ Aberdeen
- ▶ Arbroath
- ▶ Monifieth
- ▶ Montrose
- ▶ Carnoustie
- ▶ Elie
- ▶ Others ?





*St. Andrews Golf Club v Forfarshire 1897*



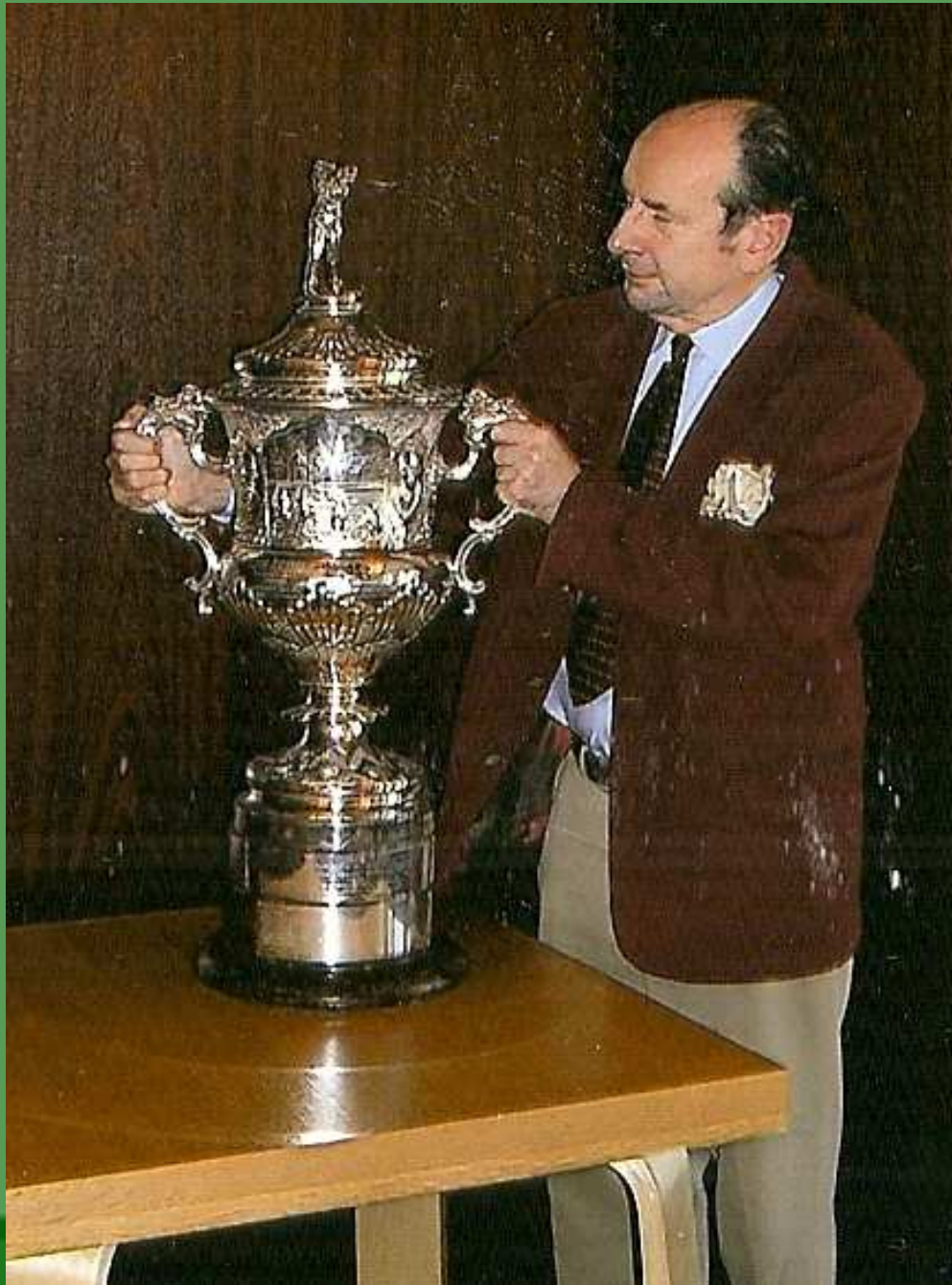
EAGHC – 12th AGM – St Andrews – 29, 30 & 31 Aug. 2017



# Artisan clubs

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- ▶ Saturday medal play
- ▶ Summer play
- ▶ Important team matches
- ▶ Did not enter the Amateur Championship
- ▶ A major tournament –
- ▶ *Dundee Evening Telegraph Cup*
- ▶ Professional golf openings



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# Class war

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- ▶ The event is popular with summer school of Scottish golfer who have not sufficient leisure to permit their entry to the Amateur Championship. The artisan upholds the reputation of an amateur to a degree than some of those gentlemen who do little else but play golf from January to December and cry loudly for the purity of the grand old Scottish sport.
- ▶ *Dundee Evening Telegraph*

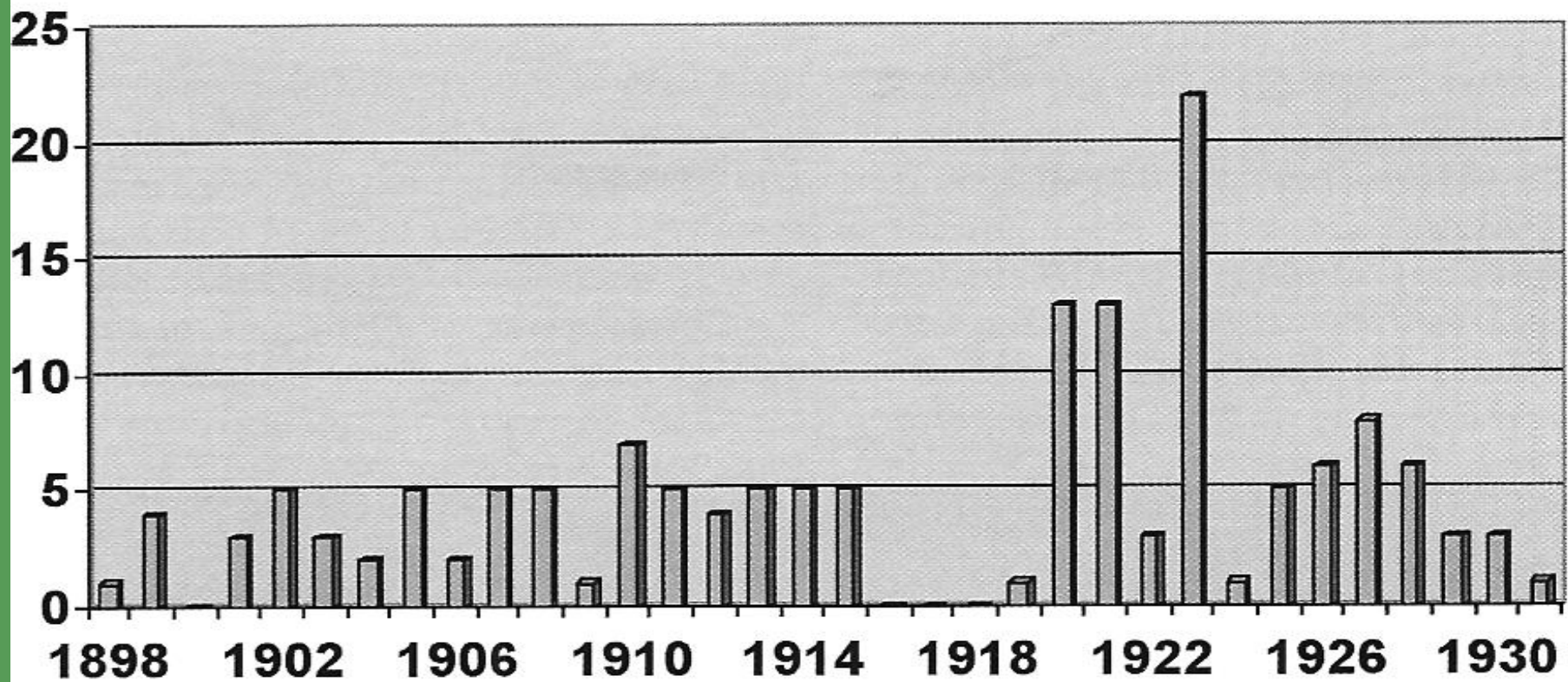


Chart 1. Annual loss of those going to professional golf positions outside UK from Carnoustie, 1898-1930. Based mainly on data from Hackney's *Carnoustie Links*.



# Carnoustie export talent

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- ▶ Stewart Maiden
- ▶ Four Smith brothers
- ▶ Willie and Alec - US Open winners
- ▶ Mac lost 1910 US Open
- ▶ 2<sup>nd</sup> US Open 1910, 1930
- ▶ Open disaster 1925 Prestwick
- ▶ 2<sup>nd</sup> in Open 1930, 1932
- ▶ Clarence Hackney, George Low, Willie Ogg
- ▶ Oz – Carnegie Clark, Dan Soutar

# St Andrews 'artisan' talent

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- ▶ Allan Robertson
  - ▶ Tom Morris Snr
  - ▶ Tom Morris Jnr
  - ▶ Bob Martin
  - ▶ Willie Fernie
  - ▶ Jack Burns
  - ▶ Hugh and Andrews Kirkaldy
  - ▶ Willie and Laurie Auchterlonie
  - ▶ Fred Herd
  - ▶ Fred Mckenzie
  - ▶ Jock Hutchison
- James Robb  
Finlay Douglas

# Entry to the Amateur

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- ▶ A F Macfie, winner 1885
- ▶ Horace Hutchinson, winner 1886, 1887
- ▶ Artisan constraints – not holiday time, wrong season, expensive, social
- ▶ Entries barred to club-makers, caddies, ex-caddies, and if past money prizes accepted

# 1888 Prestwick

Winner **John Ball jun**

## **First Round** Fourth Quarter

Alexander Stuart *Honourable  
Company*

10/8

John L Stewart *Prestwick*

Charles Hutchings *R Liverpool*

3/2

Robert Gilroy *Dalhousie*

Horace Hutchinson *Westward Ho!*

6/5

David I Lamb *Royal & Ancient*

James Kirk *St Andrews, Thistle*

1 hole

A F Macfie *Royal & Ancient*

- ▶ Macfie Champion 1885 Hutchinson Champion 1986 and 7

# Next Day

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WS Wilson <i>Prestwick</i>	WS Wilson	5/4	
Francis Muir <i>R Liverpool</i>	5/4		Stuart
Alexander Stuart <i>Honourable Company</i>	Stuart		7/6
Charles Hutchings <i>R Liverpool</i>	3/2	Stuart	
Horace Hutchinson <i>Westward Ho!</i>	Hutchinson	2/1	
James Kirk <i>St Andrews, Thistle</i>	wo		

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- ▶ The Amateur Championship of old was a pleasant outing for a score of leisured gentleman. Its activities have been metamorphosed by the activities of working men golfers and institution of tournaments like the *Evening Telegraph 1907*
- ▶ Key moment came with the selection of Scottish team match against England 1902. Press agitation for artisan members

# 1902 match

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## XLIII. THE SCOTTISH TEAM

J. Robb, F. Mckenzie, J. R. Gairdner, C. E. Dick, J. Graham, Ed. Blackwell,  
R. Maxwell, L. Balfour-Melville, S. Mure Fergusson, J. E. Laidlay

*From Mr. John E. Laidlay's Scrapbook*

# The 'Other' Golfers

- ▶ In mediaeval times, the less well-off played 'short' golf in churchyards and streets
- ▶ In 1600s, some continuing evidence of short golf
- ▶ By 1700s, little trace of short golf; long golf popular and organised ... but still expensive (featherie and long-nosed clubs)
- ▶ By 1800s, the expensive equipment available within the trade to ballmakers and clubmakers – some become skilled 'professionals'
- ▶ From 1850s – cheaper gutta ball, durable hickory shafts

Better-off working class men start playing and establish artisan societies, with own style and tournaments. Many become professionals.

By 20<sup>th</sup> century ....



▶ Thank you for listening

# Chole 1490

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