

Kirkcudbright Golf Club Newsletter

Christmas 2019



Captain's Corner

First of all, thank you everyone for entrusting me with overseeing the stewardship of the club for the next two years. It's very humbling. I'll endeavour to live up to your hopes and expectations.

I should start by adding my thanks to those people who have served the club with such dedication and have now decided to step aside from their formal roles, and in some cases from the committee. Of course, Jon and Isobel as the respective captains of our two main sections of membership, but also Colin MacLaine, Bill Gardner, Ian Senior, Andy McMinn, Maurice Halliday and Ivor Waddell. I'd also like to thank the many volunteers who all contribute to the running of the club, especially Steve. I'm not sure where we'd be without him, and in particular the members outside of the Management Committee who do a great deal of largely invisible work. We will always need more people to step forward so please volunteer to help however and whenever you can.

I'd also like to welcome the new members to the committee, namely, Craig Rudd, Colin Kennedy and Caroline Dodds, as well as Dave Harris and Steve Richardson who have taken on additional roles.

We first came to Kirkcudbright 20 years ago. I well remember my first round with Norman Russell as he showed me around, and I was captivated by the relative lack of bunkers and the (for me) tiny greens. I figured out very quickly that length was much less important than accuracy, which is I think why we have such a vibrant senior section. It took me 4 months to get past the 8th without going OB somewhere. Also, a new and delightful experience for me, the tees being reserved for Juniors on a Saturday morning.

Cont/...

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Captain's Corner (continued)...

We are also blessed with a course in marvellous condition, as well as a high quality and highly differentiated catering offering. We should thank John Houston and his team at every opportunity, we ARE blessed, but we can always do better. A 1% improvement every year still represents progress.

I also remember, about 10 years ago Peter Roberts giving us a tremendous insight into the then quite parlous financial state of the club, and we were genuinely in a fight for survival. It's a tribute to many people that we have now got into a much better position financially, but we are certainly not out of the woods.

Our only significant sources of income as you saw from the accounts, are visitors fees and subscriptions. To continue to enjoy the course as it now is, the committee do not believe that we can reduce expenditure on the course, as we now have an excellent product, and any reduction in quality will have a negative impact on our visitor income.

Your committee is spending a lot of time and energy trying to find ways to increase visitor income, but there are simply less people playing golf now, so there's no escaping the need to increase subscriptions again this year. However, if we put subscriptions up too much, we would actually get less money coming in. We do understand that nobody wants to pay more. The plan will be to get us back to breaking even or better by 2022.

Now to outline what I would like to focus on as captain. Firstly, it will be no surprise to anyone that we're all getting older, and I believe that the Juniors are the future of the club, so we want to do what we can to nurture the juniors, to keep them playing as teenagers and hopefully beyond. We are very short of members in the 25-40 age group, indeed the EGGs Winter League now has more regular participants than the Men's section. We should be worried by this.

The first thing the management committee has decided to do is to reduce the subscriptions for junior beginners, at a level where perhaps other family members can buy them a membership for Christmas. The negative impact of this next year will be less than £400, and will be met entirely from junior section funds – so no impact on other subscriptions or the club's financial position, and it will be reviewed annually. Many thanks to Eddie for tabling this before I did. Please keep an eye on the newsletter for more news as we develop the ideas for the junior section.



My second thing is about pitch mark repairing. I have put up some posters in the changing rooms from the Greenkeepers Association which you may find patronising, but please look at them and be honest with yourself – have you been doing it right? I'll put my hand up now and say I haven't. Also please when out on the course, if everyone repaired two on every green, the greens would improve very quickly. If you can't get down to do your own, ask your playing partner. Leaving it untended should not be an option. I don't think you'll get many refusals.

Please look at this video <https://vimeo.com/344070551> for more details.

I hope, in the next Newsletter, to get onto golf subjects as we will be heading towards to the new season, and hopefully I'll be back playing again.

All the best,

Rod McAllister,
Club Captain.



A regular sight on the Kirkcudbright Golf Club fairways

Vice Captain

Firstly I must say I am delighted to take on the role of Vice Captain-having been asked by Rod to do this, and surprisingly there were no objections at the AGM! I did warn Rod that I am still working 3 days a week (more like 4) until April 2021, so until that date, my input to assist the Captain and the office team may be not that much. However, I hope to find time to learn the ropes and how the club functions so well thanks to our great bunch of voluntary workers.

Like Rod, I have taken on the role as I have also come to realise this is my only avenue onto the prestigious gold-lettered "role of honour" lists at the club as my golf standard will never get my name up there!! As our top class and long-standing Treasurer says, the club will need to fight hard to try to increase its income in 2020 and subsequent years, as no doubt our running costs will only go one way, i.e. up. The Club accounts and membership numbers, however, show that Kirkcudbright G.C. is doing much better than a very large proportion of other golf clubs, not just in the region, but in the whole of Scotland.

The excellent committee is testament to the tremendous team spirit of the club, and the "camaraderie" of the EGGs section of the club is a joy to behold. It is also a great credit to the club.



I will try to learn what the role of the Captain is over the next 2 years - no doubt plenty of guidance will be on offer (go easy on me please!)

We are very fortunate to have a wonderful golf course and a great club, and I sincerely hope and trust we can make it not just survive but thrive well into the future.

I'm not sure if our club already has a motto but the Castle Douglas town one of "FORWARD" would do, or failing that, my old school house motto of "NULLI SECUNDUS" (meaning SECOND TO NONE, as far as golf clubs in D&G go) may be even better, should we choose to adopt one. Any suggestions, anyone?

MY VERY BEST WISHES FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO EACH AND EVERY MEMBER OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT GOLF CLUB.

Colin Kennedy,
Vice-Captain.

Ladies' Captain

Christmas Party

The Ladies got into the Festive Spirit early at their Christmas Party in the Garrett on December 3rd.



The Ladies AGM saw three changes within the committee this year. Liz Mackie became Secretary, Carolyn Dodds Vice Captain and myself Captain. We said thank you to Gwen Shaw, Mary Robertson and Isobel Watson for their contributions on committee over the last four years. I look forward to representing the Ladies as Captain and hope that I can meet expectations.

The main challenges going forward will be increasing the number of ladies/girls playing golf and getting our heads around a new handicap system. Along with continuing to encourage more visiting ladies to play in our open competitions, I think we have plenty to move forward with in 2020.

Don't forget that golf and coffee continues each Tuesday and Saturday, weather permitting.

Wishing everyone a Happy Festive Time, and looking forward to good weather and even better golf in 2020.

Hilary Austin,
Ladies' Captain.

Don't forget, if you have any interesting golf-related photos, we'd love to see them. Please email them to the club.

Match News

A Review of 2019...

The 2019 golf season is now a distant memory. The latter stages of the season was a busy period with a number of our biggest competitions being completed.

In September, our premier Gents Pairs Competition went to father and son pair Robert Patterson Senior and Junior with an exceptional score of 58.

The rest of the 2019 Open Competitions were divided up as follows:

Competition	Winner(s)	Competition	Winner(s)
The Selkirk Arms Open Competition	Richard McLean (Thornhill) (66)	Winnie Wallace Plate	Ian Senior & Liz Roberts (45 Points)
Silver Tassie	Iain Rae (67-2=65)	Syd Pascoe Trophy	Colin Kennedy (39 Points)
Summer Festivities Gents Open	Kevin Morrison (71-3=68)	Ted Houghie Stableford	Larry Mout & Billy McVinnie (Dalbeattie) (46 Points)
Dalziel Trophy	Robert Patterson Jnr & Robert Patterson Snr (58)	Silver Divot	Malcolm Kirkwood & Amanda Houston (76-8=68)
Locharthur 4-Ball	John Picken & Tom Jardine (47 Points)	Summer Festivities Veterans	Raymond Wong (36 Points)

In August we had our Matchplay Finals Day and it was great to see a number of tight finals being contested at the same time, with a number of our members who were not lucky enough to be involved, seen out giving some support to the finalists. Our Club Champion this year was Cameron Gray, with Darren Gourlay winning the 'B' Championship and Allan Breckenridge was the 'C' Champion. Hamish Dunlop won the Springbank, Alastair McGowan & Kevin Morrison won the AC Brown, while Eddie Carruthers & Laura Ellett won the Robb Trophy.

...and looking forward...

It won't be long until we are looking forward to the 2020 Season beginning in the spring. The fixture list is completed and will be available on the club website soon. The main change for next season is that the Marble Trophy will return as a 3-Man Texas Scramble in early July.

In the meantime the Winter League is progressing well with an average of 24 hardy souls braving the elements every Sunday. After 7 rounds, Alastair Millar (243) holds a small lead from Alan Milligan (241) as we approach the halfway stage.

Robert Watson & Graham Smith (129) lead the Winter Pairs by a shot from James Jamieson & Lee Gourlay (128), while Alan Milligan is holding off Paul MacColm by one shot in the Winter Eclectic.

The Winter Season comes to a conclusion on March 22nd.

By the way, there are a couple of additional sweeps this year on Boxing Day and 2nd January, for anyone wishing to blow away the cobwebs.

Malcolm Kirkwood,
Match Secretary

Greens News

We, as in myself, Donald and John, have made a purchase of a mini-digger and traded in our old John Deere tractor, which was somewhere between 25/30 years old and un-driveable. Our "new" digger is about 12/13 years old so should last for another 12 or so years.



Apart from that, our team keep battling on in the face of adversity (mostly the weather). The new 150yd markers have been installed and are going to be made more visible with a white band round them, near the top.

Willie Watson,
Greens Convenor.

Golf Quiz ?

Question 1 : Who said...



- "I know I'm getting better because I'm hitting fewer spectators"?
- (a) Gerald Ford
 - (b) Bob Hope
 - (c) Bing Crosby

(Our younger readers may have to ask a parent/grandparent who these people are.)

More questions on further pages and all answers on page 11.

Treasurer's Report

Golfalotto

The £60 Monthly prizes for September, October, November and December were won by Julie Graham, Lizzy Shamash, Sam Southall and Willie Davidson, respectively. Well done, all of you.

The winner of the big annual draw of £950, drawn at the AGM, was Alex Flint (pictured receiving his prize from Steve Richardson).



PS It is NOT true that we were so jealous of his win that we paid out in coins.

You can still join Golfalotto, or buy more tickets!

If you sign up before 20th January, the cost will be £124, or £52 now plus payments of £36 in Dec 2020 and Dec 2021, or a monthly Standing Order of £3.65. As well as the regular £60 monthly prizes, this would make you eligible for a prize of approximately £950 in 2020 and 2021, as well as approximately £3,800 in 2022.

The payment can be made Annually, or by Monthly Standing Order.

Details from the Office, by email from Donald Shamash (dgshamash@gmail.com) or telephone 01557 330065.

Donald Shamash,
Treasurer.

Did You Know ?

Playing Golf Used to be Illegal



Starting in 1457, golf was banned throughout Scotland by the nation's Parliament, which believed it interfered with residents' military training. This ban was repeated twice more, in 1471 and 1491.

Nearly 300 years later, The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews was founded, in 1754.

The Greg Castleman story

Early in September this year, the Club received an email from the above telling us he was a teaching Golf Professional from Los Angeles and he was coming over to Scotland as he had a couple of players playing in the Solheim Cup. He went on to say that he wanted to visit the city of Kirkcudbright and its golf course while he was here.

Unsurprisingly, we were more than just a little bit intrigued to find out what the connection was. It turns out that a George Crossan was the first Golf Pro at Kirkcudbright (we might have thought of him as our Greenkeeper), and he had a son (Jimmy) who was born in 1894. Jimmy Crossan apprenticed in St Andrews, and then went on to work with [Harry Vardon](#) in London before going to America in 1915. He worked there with Rodman Wanamaker (after whom The Wanamaker Trophy for the US PGA is named), and became recognised as one of the great golf instructors in America. He was also one of the founder members of the US PGA.

Greg worked with Jimmy Crossan for over 10 years, and apparently he never stopped talking about his life in Kirkcudbright, his father, and Harry Vardon. He planned to write a book to tell his life story, but sadly suffered a tragic, untimely death.



A Fluff : A shot in which the club head strikes the ground behind the ball before hitting it, causing it to dribble forward one or two yards. A more widely used term for this type of shot is 'a practice swing'

HENRY BEARD & ROY MCKIE

FROM "Golfing - A Duffer's Dictionary"



Greg and his wife came to Kirkcudbright on 15th September, and was met by Jon Gibbs-Smith, Maurice Halliday, Steve Richardson and Donald and Karen Shamash. After a fine Thai lunch, spiced with plenty of stories about Jimmy Crossan, Harry Vardon, and many others including himself, we went into the town and visited the harbour, the castle and other places of interest including the original Crossan family home in the High Street.

As for "Greg's Girls", the first was Briana Chacon who played outstandingly well in the Junior Solheim Cup, winning all her games. The second was Angel Yin who was a long-hitting prominent member of the main Solheim Cup team, and she won two of her three matches. Greg coached her in the early part of her career.

Greg left a wealth of memorabilia for us, and this is available from the office to be viewed by anyone who is interested. There will be more on the careers of our early greenkeepers/professionals in the next edition of the Newsletter.

Donald Shamash.

Golf Quiz ?

Question 2 : Who said...



"Golf is a better game played downhill"?

- (a) Colin Montgomerie
- (b) Nick Faldo
- (c) Jack Nicklaus

Question 3 :

What is the diameter of a golf hole?

- (a) 3 1/2 inches (88mm)
- (b) 3 3/4 inches (95mm)
- (c) 4 inches (102 mm)
- (d) 4 1/4 inches (108mm)
- (e) 4 1/2 inches (114mm)

Question 4 :

What nationality is 2016 Open Champion Henrik Stenson?

- (a) Danish
- (b) Norwegian
- (c) Swedish
- (d) Finnish

Question 5 :

In which country is the Quinta do Lago golf course?

- (a) Italy
- (b) Spain
- (c) Portugal

Answers on page 11.

Hello fellow golf club members. My first couple of months as Eggs captain has been very enjoyable and I am very honoured to have been given the opportunity to represent this very successful section of our club.

On Friday 11th October, the EGGS AGM was held and I took office for my 2 year term as EGGS captain. My Vice Captain is Stewart McKean, Treasurer is Ted Dagg, Secretary is Billy McCartney, Match Secretary is Alistair Millar and Ian Senior is our Membership Secretary. As you may well know, I took over this role from Andy McMinn who had done an excellent job as EGGS Captain for the last 2 years and it was a great pleasure & experience acting as his Vice Captain.

Both he and I know how important it is to have a great team behind us and I would like to thank the members of the EGGS Committee for all the support they have given me so far - I know I will have their support for the future, too.

This time of year, our golf days are very dependent on the weather and fortunately our winter league programme is up to date with us having our December competition last Friday, 6th December. The result of this round and future rounds will be on the club's web site.



Golf, like measles, should be caught young.
P.G. Wodehouse



One of the warnings I was given by past EGGS Captains was that you will enjoy the role but don't expect your own golf game to be any good. Well, if you do look at the last round result you will see that I got lucky with my last round. Maybe that will be it for the next 2 years!

When we are not playing the winter league, we arrange bounce games and although we have had a couple of the Fridays washed out, we have generally been okay and seeing between 27 and 30 EGGS members join in the winter golf. EGGS members, please come along on Fridays around 9:30 am and enjoy a game where we try and mix up formats to make the winter golf as much fun as possible, or even just come and have a coffee and a chat with us Elderly Gentlemen Golfers.

Our next calendar event is our presentation dinner that is on the Friday 10th January where the years' prize presentation takes place. This is being held at Arden House and we look forward to a good number of the EGGS members supporting this event. Please put your names on the notice in the changing room in order that we have a handle on the numbers. Please note that those of you that have trophies, please ensure they have been engraved and bring them along to the dinner.

I hope you enjoy your golf over the festive season, especially at this great club we have and I look forward to representing our EGGS section over the next 2 years. Finally, I would like to wish all members of Kirkcudbright Golf Club a great Christmas as well as a healthy and happy New Year.

Steve Groome,
EGGS Captain.

Join Us

The EGGS meet every Friday for the draw at 9:45 and anyone 55 or over who wants good sociable golf and excellent company is welcome to join us for the princely sum of £2 for a year's membership.



Golf Quiz ?

Question 6 :

Where is the Royal Birkdale course?



- (a) Lancashire
- (b) Kent
- (c) Merseyside

Answers on page 11.

The Player Profile Page

Every now and again, we'll ask a member to answer a few golfing questions and to reveal a little more about themselves off the golf course.

This edition sees our most recent ex-Captain in the spotlight...

Player Profile Jon Gibbs-Smith

What's your handicap right now? **7.**

And what's the lowest it has been? **I got to 6 briefly last year – I'll need to get a couple of lucky rounds in before the new handicapping system kicks in if I'm going to get there again!**

What's the best course you have played? **Kingsbarns, admittedly my only visit was on a beautiful sunny day but it was stunning.**

What course would you most like to play that you haven't? **La Gomera, apart from the stunning views, every hole is downhill and you get a ride to the top!**

If you could only play links or parkland for the rest of your life what would you choose? **Definitely Parkland, I love the views of the sea but cannot control the ball flight to play links golf.**

Who would you pick to hole a 6-foot putt to win you £100? **Well not me, that's for sure. It's true what they say about form and class, so although I might have been tempted to say Jordan Spieth a little while ago it would be madness to have anyone other than Maurice McKenna.**

What has been your best moment in golf? **Winning the Tassie stands out a mile in terms of success, but the best moment would surely be one of those times when one of your playing partners comes up with a particularly sharp comment. Thankfully too numerous to specify any particular one and probably couldn't for legal reasons.**

Who would be your dream 4-ball?
Sergio Garcia, Rory McIlroy and Jon Rahm.

What is your favourite club in the bag?
Pitching wedge

If you could change one thing about golf what would it be? **I suspect I am not alone, but I hate it when you are on the fairway and don't have a reasonable lie, you should always be allowed to clean and drop your ball from the fairway – golf is hard enough!**



What's the best piece of advice you've ever been given?
Forget about everything else (especially the last shot) and just hit the ball – never been able to do it!

What's your bogey hole at Kirkcudbright? **The 10th.**

Do you have any golfing superstitions? **No.**

Away from golf, what are your other interests? **I follow a lot of sports, and am trying to learn how to play bridge and speak Spanish.**



Thanks Jon, and if you'd like to volunteer to answer these questions for a future edition, please get in touch. Editor.



Volunteers, please

I know we say this almost every issue, but we are always on the lookout for volunteers to help in the Office, particularly as we enter the main season and go to longer hours and (preferably) a 7-days-a-week service. If you are happy to offer some time and are okay with computers (for the email, tee booking and membership systems we operate), answering the phone and dealing with visitors then please get in touch.

If you're not comfortable with computers, we will give you some training and won't leave you holding the fort without any soldiers!

Even the odd day to cover other absences would be helpful.

Thanks :-)

Did You Know?



The rarest golf score of all, the Condor, is achieved when a golfer makes a hole-in-one on a par 5 hole. This score is so rare that it has only been officially recorded 4 times.

View From The Office



A Summary

2020 will see several changes in the way the office manages club affairs.

1. New Faces

You may see some new faces in the Club Office over the next few weeks, with Isobel Watson and Jonathan Mayer joining the current team of Neil Macintosh, Stewart McKean, John Thomson and Steve Richardson. Many thanks to Mary Robertson who helped us out on Wednesdays through the main season. Between us we will try to keep the Office running on a daily basis, as well as helping to keep the Clubhouse in the best possible state.

2. Tee Bookings

You may notice another change with tee booking, if you are used to making bookings through the "GolfNow" portal on our website. We have ended our contract with GolfNow – because it was too expensive – and we have switched to the tee booking module of HandicapMaster. This is the competition and handicapping program we have used for many years. It isn't as capable as the previous system and, certainly in the short term, members will need to contact the Office if they want to book a slot. But to be honest, very few members actually do this, so it isn't a big change, and most visitors have always booked via the Office anyway.

3. Membership Accounts

Our top priority at the moment is to get all membership accounts exactly right for the 2020 subscriptions. We want to be sure that all credits – whether for advance payments, vouchers, competition prize money or whatever else – have been added before sending out balances via email in January. You are welcome to pay now of course and thanks to all those who have already done so; just call the Office if you want to check your balance. If you have any questions or concerns about this, then please contact us.

4. Kirkcudbright Golf Club Ball Markers

For those who are interested we have some more stock for our golf accessories that are available via the Office. We now have 2 styles of "Kirkcudbright Golf Club" branded ball markers, a resin pin type and a 2-sided enamel/metal coin type. Also, if you have trouble getting a tee into the ground during this winter, we have packs of the rubber "pyramid" tees that sit on the ground. Just ask at the Office for these and the usual range of balls, gloves, tees and so on.



Pin Style Ball Marker



Coin Style Ball Marker

Steve Richardson, Office Manager.

Quiz Answers

1. Gerald Ford, former US President.
2. Jack Nicklaus, widely considered to be the greatest golfer of all time.
3. 4 1/4 inches (108mm).
4. Swedish.
5. Portugal.
6. Lancashire.

Kirkcudbright Golf and Four Golf Courses (part 1)

Old Tom Morris > Ben Sayers > Dan Kenny > James Braid > Edward Shamash

The Original Course, The New Course, The Post War Course, The 18-Hole Course

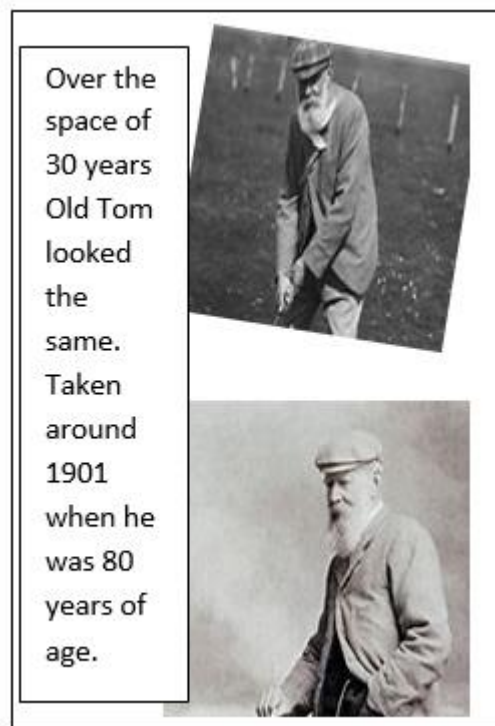
The Kirkcudbright Golf connection:

Kirkcudbright golf club has a long and exalted history and Ian Howie (J.C.H.) compiled an excellent history of our club in 1993, our Centenary. This article takes information and makes page reference from that publication and adds information gleaned from other sources. The purpose being a marketing exercise in the hope that prospective visiting golfers will find the connections worth the trip to play our excellent golf course. Please read this article in conjunction with J.C.H. publication.

The Original Course:

In the beginning, 1893, after the ground had been rented, see page 7 of the History, a course architect was

sought. The man of the day, **Old Tom Morris** (Thomas Mitchell Morris), was asked to design the original course (source of the information St Andrews Citizen, historian Melvyn Hunter Morrow and information from Robert Kroeger, a golfing author). We also know he worked on the West Kilbride GC (13.05.1893) and a week later, worked on the Kirkcudbright GC project. There is also correspondence that he visited the project in March or April of that year. The dates fit with the J.C.H. research as our course opened on the 9th of September 1893 (see page 6). The original course has all but vanished - all that remains is the original first hole. The original club house would be west of Belmont House, between the original 9th green of the original course and the old rail bridge that crossed Tongland Road.



See page 9 and you can see the rail bridge on the left and the large trees, I think, lined Burnside Loaning, typical of entrances to large houses (Burnside and Belmont Houses) of the time.

GOLFING NOTES.—The growth of the game of golf may be fairly gauged by the journeys taken by Old Tom Morris whose presence is now deemed necessary everywhere for the inauguration of a green. Tom has already this year laid out new courses at Callander, Huntly, and Dudley, Warwickshire. Next week he goes to West Kilbride to arrange a new green there, and at the same time he makes a visit to Kirkcudbright on a similar errand. He was at Prestwick a week ago, to overlook the opening of bunkers on part of the course. The Dudley course boasts a set of hazards, peculiarly its own. These are disused pits filled up to a convenient height, and Tom pronounces them very suitable for the purpose. The Club has a membership of both sexes. Jack Kirkaldy left for Dudley on Monday to become green-keeper there.

The **Ben Sayers** (famous club maker and professional golfer) connection came in 1904/5 with the appointment, as greenkeeper/professional, of **Dan Kenny**. I think it is fair to assume that Dan was a prodigy and that Ben Sayers would make visits to Kirkcudbright. They were both in their early 20's at this time (see page 11). Daniel F. Kenny was born on 11th March 1882 at Canty Bay, North Berwick. At the age of 18, he was granted a licence as a golf professional at West Links, North Berwick. A lad of "dark complexion", blue eyes, black hair and 5 foot 9 inches tall, with a tattoo, DK, on his right arm, he enlisted in the British Army at the age of 19. The following year, he sailed to South Africa with the 2nd Battalion.

Continued.../

Kirkcudbright Golf and Four Golf Courses (part 2)

In 1905, Kenny was appointed greenkeeper and professional at the hillside course of Kirkcudbright G.C. with a wage of 20 shillings per week after being recommended for the position by Ben Sayers. He resided at 15 Union Street, Kirkcudbright and on 18th October he was dismissed by the club, no reason was minuted. The following year he was appointed to the newly formed Stranraer G.C. He entered the 1906 Open at Muirfield and finished 24th in a field which included James Braid, John Henry Taylor and Harry Vardon (the [Great Triumvirate](#)).

In 1907, Kenny emigrated to the USA. Sailing from Glasgow on the S.S. Caledonia, he arrived in New York on 19th March. His contact in America was Bill Stewart from the Park and Country Club at Buffalo in New York State where Dan was appointed golf pro. Kenny played in the Canadian Open that year and in 1909 he was pro at the Meadow Club which used the public park in Buffalo. Kenny won the Canadian Open in 1910 at Lambton Golf and Country Club, Toronto with a winning score of 303. George S Lyon was second on 307 and Perry Barrett was third with 309.



Dan Kenny was appointed professional at Hamilton Golf Club (1911-15) and resided at 173 Glen Grove, York South in the Township of Toronto. In 1911, he was joined in Toronto by Alex Robertson from North Berwick described as a golf green contractor. Kenny played in five Canadian Opens and defended his title at Royal Ottawa in 1911. That same year, Dan Kenny and twenty-four other professionals attended a meeting in the Royal Ottawa Golf Club to form the Professional Golf Association of Canada. In 1912, Kenny moved to Lake Rousseau (Monteith House) in the Muskoka Lakes district, north of Toronto, where he was the first professional.

He played in the US Open in 1912 (which he lead after the first round), and again in 1914 and 1915, when he entered from Hamilton Golf and Country Club, Ltd., Ontario. In 1915, Kenny was appointed pro at Olean Country Club, New York State (1915-21). At the 1915 US Open, Dan was reunited with his North Berwick class mate Fred McLeod and the field also included Ben Sayers and his son George Sayers.

In 1919 and 1920, Dan Kenny wintered at Baton Rouge Country Club in Louisiana. The State Times reported that Daniel Kenny and Scotty Robson who laid out the course in 1916 were playing Baton Rouge and that Daniel Kenny would be giving golf lessons at the club until March.

Continued.../

Kirkcudbright Golf and Four Golf Courses (part 3)

In 1921, he played in the Canadian Open and the North and South tournament at Pinehurst. That year, Dan won the tournament of the Western New York Professional Golfers Association at Rochester. The Times Herald reported on Kenny's long drives, which amazed the gallery the previous week at Delaware Park Meadow, and compared them to the great long driver Bob MacDonald. Kenny and MacDonald (from Dornoch) were club makers at North Berwick before they emigrated in 1907. Dan invited the association to hold its next competition at Olean Country Club and it was reported that he had raised a purse of \$1,000 to be distributed among the winners. In 1921, Dan played in the first championship of the Western New York Professional Golfers Association played over the Orchard Park and Country Club. Kenny finished runner-up behind the winner Jack Gordon, professional at the Country Club of Buffalo. In 1922, Kenny was based at Sylvania Golf Club PA and from there he qualified for the USPGA championship at Oakmont.

Kenny played in the first Monterey Peninsula golf championship, over the newly opened Pebble Beach Links in 1926.

In 1923, Dan Kenny was based at Willowbrook Golf Club, Tyler in Texas where they organised a match between Dan Kenny and Tom Lally, pro at San Antonio Country Club for a stake of 1,000 dollars. The club pooled together sufficient cash resources to fill the purse and fortunately Kenny won the dual in the sun. That year he also lifted the side bets by playing 216 holes of golf (12 rounds) in the one day at the Glenbrooke Country Club with the local pro. In 1924, Kenny was the pro at the seaside course at Galveston and in 1928 he returned to Scotland permanently and was living with his wife Francis and daughter at 37, Millburn Street, Kirkcudbright. Kenny died 3rd March 1967, aged 84 years.

Dan's nephew, David Shackleton, resides in the Millburn, in the renovated "Old Life Boat Station".

There is no indication that **James Braid** visited Kirkcudbright, BUT, he was in the area over a 20 year span and I find it inconceivable that he did not visit.

The New Course: Notice to vacate the rented original course came in October 1922 (see page 16). This course was constructed in the now housing area, Millflats/Stirling Crescent. Today's houses in the Millflats were built in 1945 after World War 2 and again the course moved further up the hill.

The Post War Course: In June 1945 (see page 21), Charles Oppenheimer (Artist) produced a sketch for the new layout. There have been a number of variations on this layout over the years from the opening in 1946 up to the construction of the existing 18-hole layout. In the main, holes 1 to 4 and 14 to 18 formed this Post War Course, although numbering and direction of holes changed over the years.

The 18-Hole Course: The move in 1976 (see page 25) to 18 holes was masterminded by **Edward Shamash**, with suggestions and help from David Picken and Edward's brother Donald Shamash. Edward, not the best listener, had his own vision, at times frustrating to his "advisors". Edward was a golfer of some note, reaching the final of the British Boys' Championships in 1958. He represented both Scotland and Great Britain at Under 18 level, and was runner up in the British Youths' Championships in 1959. Locally, he was a multiple winner of the Kirkcudbrightshire Championship, won the South of Scotland Championship three times in succession, and won the Club Championship at Kirkcudbright seven times.

The NEXT Course: Who knows? Each move has been to allow housing to develop and Kirkcudbright to prosper. Some day?

Maurice Halliday.

Kirkcudbright Golf Club Gallery

Thanks to Jan Mattison for providing these shots of our course on a frosty morning in December...



Above : Walking down the 12th fairway overlooking the 9th green and 10th tee.
Below : View from the back of the 13th green looking back towards the tee.



The Last Word (from the Editor)

So here it is, Merry Christmas...

Well, that's another year over but there is always another new year just around the corner to which we can look forward with hope and anticipation. Sadly, we have lost a number of former members this year and our thoughts go out to their friends and families at this time of year that often centres around the family.



I don't generally make New Year's resolutions but after missing a portion of last year's golfing season, I'm determined to get a different driver and a few lessons to make sure I can use it effectively. My chipping and putting often makes the difference between a birdie and a bogey (or worse) so I'm going to make sure I practice them more once the weather starts to improve, too.

And I'm definitely going to buy some of the new Kirkcudbright Golf Club ball markers! Why not buy a couple for your golfing partner as a stocking-filler this year? I'd call the club first, though, to make sure they're open and they haven't sold out!

And having played some winter golf recently, I'm going to need a new warm, woolly hat (are you listening, Santa?)

Oh, and if you can afford to pay your subscription fees for 2020 sooner rather than later, the office would love to hear from you. And maybe you could sign up for Golf-a-Lotto - the club really does need every extra pound you can spare.

That's all for now,

The Editor.



Keep In Touch

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