

Turnhouse Golf Club 7 Day Open Amateur Golf Tournament History

Turnhouse Golf Club was incorporated as a Limited Company in 1909 and in 1984, to mark the 75th anniversary of that event, Leith Glazing Co Ltd donated a sum of £1000 to the Club to be used in any manner the Council of the Club saw fit. The matter was debated in Council and two members of that Council, David Cullum and Lindsay Gordon, were asked to form a sub-group to formulate ideas. Several ideas were discussed, but the one which developed most strongly was the concept of a 7 Day tournament to be held during a quiet week in the Club's calendar and open to golfers of all abilities. The format was based loosely on several very successful holiday events held in the north of Scotland, although here it was proposed that the golf through the week should be played during the evenings to allow local people not on holiday to compete. The first week of the Edinburgh Trades holiday was chosen as this traditionally was a quiet week not only in the Club's calendar but also, at that time, in the Lothians' fixture list. Details of the event were finalised, presented to Council and accepted.

The tournament was open to any golfer with a handicap of 20 or less. Play was to consist of two qualifying rounds, one on the Saturday the other on the Sunday, with staggered starting times for each day. The leading 16 scratch aggregate scores would be extracted first and these would be drawn in a section of scratch match play. Thereafter the leading 32 nett aggregates would qualify for two sections of handicap match play with the best 16 in the first flight. All ties would be played during the evenings of the following week with the finals on the Friday night.

It was impossible to predict how successful the event might prove, but posters were prepared seeking 220 entries at £3.50 per head and offering a total prize fund of £1520. This was an ambitious target for an inaugural event and one which demanded nearly a full entry to break even. In the event, 210 entrants teed off in the qualifying round on Saturday 30th June 1984 and a memorable week ensued, culminating in two Scottish internationalists, Sandy Stephen (Broomieknowe) and Kenny Walker (Royal Burgess) contesting a closely fought scratch match play final with Stephen edging home on the 17th green. Andy Logan (Grangemouth) and Mike Scott (Turnhouse) were the first winners of the two flights of handicap match play. The week proved popular with players and spectators alike with a fair number of supporters following many of the matches. This interest and camaraderie spilled over into the clubhouse and the Club Treasurer was delighted to announce afterwards that the weekly bar takings were more than five times the average for that week over the previous three years.

It was fortunate that the first event had such a high quality scratch final giving the event immediate credibility, but the whole event proved to be a success. It also broke even financially and the Club were happy for the tournament to continue on an annual basis. One tangible benefit the Club received in that first year was the installation of the lounge patio doors. These doors just appeared one day during the week of the event, supplied and fitted by Leith Glazing, without, as far as can be ascertained, authorisation or consent from anyone. The doors have subsequently proved a boon to the lounge on hot summer days and the Club are indebted to Leith Glazing for their gesture.

After the promise of the first event, the second one was slightly less successful with a smaller entry and fewer low handicap entrants. Notwithstanding the tournament was still a success, but it was realised that greater efforts would have to be put into attracting entrants and sponsors and to this end the organising committee was increased in number.

The event has not changed in character or concept, however, since inception and there is no intention to implement significant change in the future. Minor adjustments are made on an annual basis reflecting the experiences of the past with the two most notable changes being the reduction of the handicap limit to 18 and the

restriction of the Turnhouse entry to 85. The event has settled down to become an established and recognised tournament in the Lothians. Most of the entries are received from local clubs, but entrants from far afield arrive from time to time. Many players come back year after year to compete in what is a serious golf tournament, but one in which the enjoyment and fellowship is of equal importance.

Members of Tournament Committee

1984 - 85	D J Cullum, L A Gordon
1986	D J Cullum, L A Gordon, I P Hamilton, T R Pithie, G A Taylor
1987 - 89	L A Gordon, I P Hamilton, I G Paterson, T R Pithie
1990 - 99	D A Cleeton, L A Gordon, I P Hamilton, I G Paterson, T R Pithie
2000 - 01	D A Cleeton, L A Gordon, I P Hamilton, T R Pithie, T Skene
2002	T Cadger, D A Cleeton, L A Gordon, I P Hamilton, T R Pithie, T Skene
2003 - 04	T Cadger, D A Cleeton, L A Gordon, T R Pithie, T Skene
2005	T Cadger, D A Cleeton, L A Gordon, T R Pithie, T Skene, P Smith, G Wallace
2006	T Cadger, D A Cleeton, L A Gordon, T R Pithie, T Skene, G Wallace

Sponsors

1984	Leith Glazing Co Ltd
1985	Multi-sponsored by
	Leith Glazing Co Ltd
	Scott Oswald & Co
	Scottish Brewers
	Wilson & Williamson
	Bruce Stevenson Ltd
	The Village Home Brew
	Maybury Roadhouse
	Gillies & Henderson Ltd
	Waverley Contract Interiors Ltd
1986-88	Scott Oswald & Co
1989	Duncan Construction Ltd
1990	Pinegrove Garden Centre
1991	John M Napier Ltd
1992	Not sponsored
1993-95	Vehicle Builders & Repairers Association - Scottish & Ulster Region
1996	Not sponsored
1997	J K McCrone Electrical Contractor
1998-99	Direct Components
2000-01	Autocare
2002-05	D & N Tyres
2006	SST Sensing