

EVENTS 2019

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March 7th 2019

Members and friends of the Society met for the anniversary celebration of the signing of the first written rules of golf by John Rattray. Whilst every year is special, this year was particularly so, being the 275th anniversary and we hope the last prior to the unveiling of the Rattray statue on Leith Links later this year. We returned to the Malmaison hotel in the heart of Leith.

Society Secretary, Brian Graham, welcomed everyone.

An excellent meal was followed by a talk from our speaker Robin Dow. Robin is on the Muirfield committee that is redeveloping the display of the rich heritage and artefacts that Muirfield has.

He gave examples of the past failures in this regard and how this was particularly galling given that the club has the best golfing heritage in the world. As Muirfield was formed from the original "Gentlemen Golfers of Leith", we all naturally agreed with this sentiment!

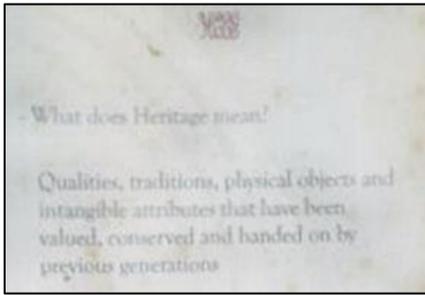
Robin explained that the Dining Room will hold 3 main display cases, pride of place going to a replica of the original rules - the absolute original is held by the National Museum of Scotland, being one of THE most important artefacts in our country's history - and the original silver club first competed for in April 1744.

His talk concluded in our traditional way - by the presentation of one of our Society Ties!

During the meal our Society President, John Dixon, had passed round some historical items in his possession, including an original "feathery" ball.

John closed the event by thanking Brian Graham for his organisation, Malmaison for an excellent dinner, Robin for his excellent talk and everyone for supporting the Society.





Challenge match versus Musselburgh Old Golf Club at Musselburgh - May 25th 2019

Our 14th annual match with Musselburgh Old resulted in a clear victory for us, not a regular occurrence, so the usual "plucky losers" speech by our team captain had to be binned and a new one hastily written!

Unfortunately, we had a late call-off and we could not find a replacement, so Musselburgh generously agreed to one of their players to drop out of the match, so it was 7-a-side, 3 pairs and a single.

The match result was 3-1. The singles match went to the last green, our captain, Brian Graham, lost there to his opposite number, Alex McGregor. Our winning teams were:-

Alastair Chalmers and Eugene Bradley against David Blackshaw and Billy Finnegan
Alison Macdonald and David Clark against Ralph Rennie and Raymond Henderson
Chester Kruk and Jim Scanlon against Andy and Blair Murray

This is only the third time that we have been victorious in the matches, but in spite of history being against us, we look forward to continuing our winning streak next year!

In his post-match speech, Alex McGregor commented that both clubs have their roots firmly established in the wonderful, though frustrating, game of golf, and that the special affiliation between us can continue for many years. Our captain, Brian Graham, responded by highlighting the special atmosphere that exists in the matches, the competitive nature of golf sitting alongside friendship and sportsmanship.

Everyone agrees with these sentiments.

LEITH LINKS EVENTS

"For a memorable golfing experience using traditional hickory clubs, come to Leith Links and play on the very turf where golf's earliest rules were written"

Challenge match versus Musselburgh Old Golf Club at Leith Links - 3rd July 2019

For the 13th time we welcomed to the Links our friends from Musselburgh Old.

The matches are often closely fought, but this year we could not say that. 2 matches ended with 3&2 victories, another by 4&3 and the final one 5&4. The match result was 3-1 to Musselburgh, they have clearly been practicing! The after golf drinks and the legendary pie and beans were taken in the Bowling Club where the tales of woe from the losing teams were well to the fore.

The result means that the overall series now stands at 7-6 to Musselburgh, so bring on the 2020 match, we say! The match results were -

Dave Clark and Jim Scanlon lost to Steven Hill and Billy Finnegan

Alastair Chalmers & Eugene Bradley lost to Clifford Livingstone and Colin Whoriskey

Pat Denzler and Robin Miller lost to Callum Livingstone and Brian Henderson

Ian Hislop and Chester Kruk defeated Alex McGregor and David Blackshaw



Challenge match versus Bruntsfield Short Hole at Leith Links - 4th July 2019

Due to weather and other unforeseen circumstances, this was the first match in this series since 2016, everyone was delighted that we could recommence our always friendly rivalry.

The result was a 3-1 win for the Society, levelling up the 10-series match at 5 wins apiece. The legendary Pie and Beans was partaken in Seafield Bowling club afterwards and discussion about the return at Bruntsfield in a few weeks was undertaken. Suffice to say that the parties are still way apart on the handicap allowance to be given to us, but we are confident BSH will see the logic in our submission!

The match results were -

Ian Hislop and Chester Kruk defeated Alastair Stewart and Ian Proudfoot

Dave Clark and Jim Scanlon defeated David Barron and Cameron Gardner

Alastair Chalmers and John Dixon defeated Fraser Gordon and Phil Mullery

Pat Denzler and Robin Miller lost to Jimmy Robertson and Denis Dixon



The Foulis Medal - 5th July 2019

The Foulis Medal was presented to the Society by our President, Douglas Foulis, in 2007, and is competed for each year by Leith-based organisations. This was the 13th year we have held the event.

This year we had 8 teams taking part, one less than last year, however, still a good entry.

For the 3rd year running, the winners were Jeneil the Jewellers, with a score of 42. They shot 44 in 2017 and 42 last year, so everyone knows the target they have to aim for. South Leith Parish Church were runners up on 47.

Jeneil were represented by David Caplan and his son-in-law, Brian Anderson. David is what is called an occasional golfer, in fact this was his first round since his winning effort last year! Maybe he has found the secret of golf, ignore the instructional advice on YouTube and all the books and only play one round a year!

Their round was not straightforward though. On the long 3rd, Brian almost put their ball inside a van parked on the main road, but from thick rough and beside trees David conjured up a magnificent recovery back into play. And at the very next hole, they overshot the green, their ball hitting the wall at the school and rebounding back onto the course by less than a centimetre. Their partners for the round, South Leith Church, agreed the ball was in play, even though that may have been through gritted teeth! By such fine margins/good play are games of golf won!

The scores were-

| | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| Jeneil _____ | 42 |
| South Leith Parish Church ____ | 47 |
| Badgar Ltd _____ | 50 |
| Leith Rotary No 2 _____ | 51 |
| Leith Community Council ____ | 53 |
| Leith Historical Society _____ | 55 |
| Leith Rotary No 1 _____ | 56 |
| Leith Probus _____ | 58 |



Hickory Open – 6th July 2019



12 teams competed for the championship on a lovely day for golf on the Links.

The format was the same as last year, 3 medal rounds determining the winners of the scratch and handicap trophies. This proved very successful with most teams present for the presentation.

The winners of the Hickory Open were Munro Heating, represented by Clark Munro and Andy Crawford, runners up were Hewitt's.

Winners of the Philip Knowles handicap trophy were Past Glories in Leith (Chester Kruk and Yves Foulis), runners up after a count back were Kailyard (Alastair Chalmers and Peter Wright).

The scores (Net in brackets) were:-

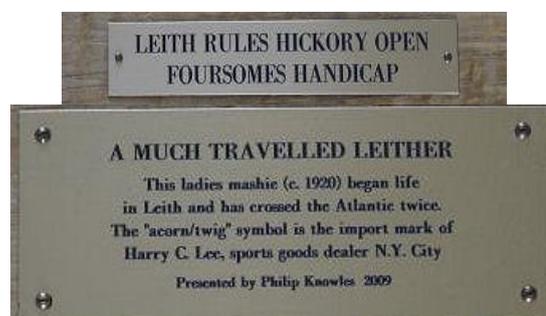
| | | |
|-----------------------|-------|---------|
| Munro Heating | _____ | 62 (54) |
| Hewitt's | _____ | 65 (57) |
| William of Wanster | _____ | 67 (57) |
| Network Cooling | _____ | 67 (61) |
| Kailyard | _____ | 70 (57) |
| Rentom Pods | _____ | 71 (61) |
| Past Glories in Leith | _____ | 74 (55) |
| Merchants Golf | _____ | 76 (62) |
| A-Haven | _____ | 77 (64) |
| Sharks | _____ | 78 (61) |
| MADEP | _____ | 81 (58) |
| Madeira | _____ | 84 (67) |

Our thanks as always to Seafield Bowling Club for their hospitality for the 4 days and their support for the event, but especially this year to Scott Higgins, a greenkeeper at Winterfield Golf Club in Dunbar, for cutting the greens. The common opinion was that they were the best they have ever been, though player's nerves when faced with a 12 inch putt were still obvious!

About the trophies



The club on the Hickory Open trophy is a mashie (5 iron is the closest modern-day equivalent) and was made by Hendry and Bishop circa 1905. It is stamped as "made in Edinburgh" and was almost certainly made at their workshop in Stead's Place, Leith. It was restored and donated to the Society by Philip Knowles. The mounting board and



"A Much Travelled Leather"

This Ladies Mashie (c1920) began life in Leith and has crossed the Atlantic twice. The "acorn/twig" symbol is the import mark of Harry C. Lee, sports goods dealer N.Y. City.

It was presented to the Society by Philip Knowles

inscription were made and donated by David Kirkwood of Alexander Kirkwood & Son, Albany Street, Edinburgh in 2009.



Our Champions
Munro Heating (Andy Crawford and Clark Munro)



Handicap winners
Past Glories in Leith (Chester Kruk and Yves Foulis)

Some of the teams.....



Sharks and Past Glories in Leith



Kailyard and Rentom Pods



Madeira and MADEP



Willian of Wanster and A-Haven



Munro Heating and Hewitts

And some of the ACTION.....



"Why are you guys walking up the middle of the cricket pitch, I am sure our ball went way right"

"Who put that bus stop there?"



really hope the ball stops short of it - please!"



One of the natural hazards of our course.....



"We know it's not mentioned in the original 1744 rules, but I am assuming animal saliva counts as casual water - OK?"

Challenge match versus Bruntsfield Short Hole at Bruntsfield - 25th July 2019

The day had been one of the hottest since records began, however thunderstorms were forecast for late evening. Clouds started to drift over after we started, with thunder heard and one lightning flash. Fortunately, this was in the distance, our matches were completed with only the faintest smir of rain.

Just as well we did not have to abandon the games, as we ran out winners in all 4! So the overall match result now stands at 8½ - 5½ in our favour.

In the Golf Tavern afterwards over food and drink, conversation inevitably turned towards the handicap we receive, this year 7 shots. As 3 of the 4 matches finished close - two going to the last green - we of course felt the handicap was just about right; however, we fully expect an adjustment downwards in 2020. Bring it on!

In the same match in 2017, the late Robin Morris achieved a hole-in-one. The feat was repeated this year when Alastair Chalmers achieved the same result, at the 18th. This was his first ever "ace" after 60+ years of golf, he does feel that he still needs to achieve it on a "normal" course, but if he doesn't he will claim this shot as achieving one of his golfing ambitions!

The teams were:-

Denis Dixon and Fraser Gordon played Dave Clark and Jim Scanlon

Jimmy Robertson and Dougie Gemmell played Robin Miller and Alastair Chalmers

Phil Mullery and Alastair Stewart played Chester Kruk and John Dixon

William Wright and David Gunn played Ian Hislop and Brian Graham

Outing to Liberton- 6th September 2019

Our annual visit to Liberton was attended by 8 players who teed off in sunny conditions on a splendid looking course. The format for this event is Stableford with a full handicap allowance. We played in pairs not the most sociable format but certainly the quickest.

The scores:-

Jim Scanlon _____ 34 points

David Clark _____ 33 points

Alastair Chalmers ___ 33 points

.... and the rest had a very nice afternoon.

We also had 3 nearest the pins however only 2 greens were hit. The winners Brian Graham at the 11th and David Clark at the 13th.

After golf we headed for the clubhouse for food, drink and chat as always the best bit about golf.

Thanks to all who attended.