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March 7th Celebration 2021

Over the years, our celebration of the date of the signing of the first rules has taken many different forms, from lunches and dinners to visits to golf museums and historic locations in Leith. It started in 2007 and we were not letting COVID-19 stop us!

So, as you can see, we convened via Zoom on Monday 8th March.



Our President, John Dixon, opened the "meeting" by welcoming everyone, he specifically mentioned Charles Urquhart who has joined the Committee. John mentioned the events that are *provisionally* planned.

The main part of the evening was a talk by Heather McHaffie from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh on the "Wild Flowers of Leith Links". Those who tuned in expecting to hear about some of Leith's colourful people may have been disappointed! Instead, Heather gave a most interesting and informative talk about the varieties of wild flowers at the Statue Precinct.

Heather explained she had been a teacher at Lorne Street school for 12 years, during which time she had assisted in the planting of the crocuses on the Links which, as any passer-by can testify to, come up in full bloom each Spring - as witnessed by the picture on our Home Page.

She went far back in time to the Ice Age and through the 12th and 18th centuries to the present day - and all in around 30 minutes!

Thank you Heather for your most interesting talk in testing - and we do hope, unique - circumstances!

[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 – 30th June 2021

After our enforced break for COVID-19, we were delighted to welcome back our friends from Musselburgh for the 14th match in our series.

Alastair Chalmers and Ian Hislop halved with Steven Hill and Clifford Livingston
Czeslaw Kruk and David Clark defeated Billy Finnegan and Grant Campbell
Jim Scanlon and Ian Gilmour lost to Matty Craigie and Llew Jenkins
John Dixon and Robin Miller lost to Eddie Whoriskey and David McGrath.

A truly historic event took place during the match

Although their match had ended, Jim, Ian, Matty and Llew decided to play the remaining holes. What a fortuitous decision that turned out to be. At their last hole - the 2nd due to the shotgun start and measuring 90 yards - Llew teed off using his Charles Millar Thistle Niblick. The ball flew straight and true - right into the hole for an ACE!

We reckon this must be the first hole-in-one ever recorded at Leith Links. As the original golfers in the 18th century played holes measuring 400 yards plus, we are confident that nobody ever achieved that back then. So Llew, given the historic nature of what he achieved we should give him his full name of Llewellyn Jenkins, a place in history is yours, which in our impartial (?) opinion, should rank alongside Tiger, Seve, Jack Nicklaus, Young and Old Tom Morris, etc !!



Society President, John Dixon, presenting Llew with a "trophy" for his achievement

Thanks to David McGrath for organising congratulations to Llew from 2 very special golfers. Please click on the links below

[Congratulations number 1](#)

[Congratulations number 2](#)

Challenge match versus Bruntsfield Short Hole at Leith Links – 1st July 2021

The result was a 2½-1½ win for the Society, meaning we took the lead in the series 6-5.

The match results were –

- Alastair Chalmers and Ian Hislop defeated David Barron and Fraser Gordon
- Czeslaw Kruk and David Clark halved with Jimmy Robertson and Denis Dixon
- Jim Scanlon and Brian Graham lost to William Wright and Ian Proudfoot
- Robin Miller and Graeme Crawford defeated Cameron Gardner and Douglas Gemmell

Unfortunately, the opportunity to have our usual return match at The Meadows cannot happen this year, due to the Short Hole course remaining closed due to COVID regulations.



The Foulis Medal – 2nd July 2021

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 14th year we have held the event.

This year we had 9 teams taking part, one less than the maximum we can realistically have.

The winners were South Leith Parish Church, with a score of 41, 7 ahead of Jeneil, the defending champions, in second place. We were delighted that Yves Foulis was able to present the trophy.

The winners were represented by Alastair Chalmers and Alex Fleming. This was their best performance for quite a few years, could they repeat the feat the next day in the Hickory Open?

The scores were-

South Leith Parish Church _____	41
Jeneil _____	48
Leith Probus _____	50
North Leith Parish Church _____	53
Leith Historical Society _____	53
Leith Rotary No 1 _____	56
Leith Links Community Council _____	60
Leith Rotary No 2 _____	67
Leith St Andrews Church _____	69



Hickory Open – 3rd July 2021



10 teams competed for the championship on a fine day for golf on the Links. This allowed us to have a shotgun start for the first time in the event. The format was 3 medal rounds to determine the winners of the scratch and handicap trophies.

The winners of the Hickory Open were Munro Heating, thus retaining their trophy, represented by Clark Munro and Richard Hewit, runners up were AlandAI, Alastair Chalmers and Alex Fleming, who had represented South Leith Church the evening before.



Winners of the Philip Knowles handicap trophy were Leith Rotary (Fraser Paterson and Ross Wilkinson), runners up after a count back were Merchants (Robin Miller and Graeme Crawford).



The scores (Net in brackets) were:-

Munro Heating	_____	64 (59)
AlandAI	_____	64 (54)
Willian of Wanster	___	65 (56)
Kingston	_____	66 (57)
Merchants	_____	68 (53)
The Hicks	_____	72 (57)
Leith Rotary	_____	74 (53)
Past Glories in Leith	__	79 (63)
Madeira	_____	91 (72)
Planet	_____	91 (65)

Our thanks as always to Seafield Bowling Club for their hospitality for the 4 days and their support for the event. This year was particularly challenging due to COVID rules, but the unfailing support and help from them made things as safe and positive as they could be.

Also, once again to Scott Higgins, a greenkeeper at Winterfield Golf Club in Dunbar, for preparing the tees and greens.

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



"A Much Travelled Leither"

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 in 2009.

Outing to Bruntsfield Links Golfing Society - 24th September 2021

Our President, John Dixon, arranged for the Society to play this course on the west side of Edinburgh. The Bruntsfield Links Society was founded in 1761 and is the fourth oldest in the world. The course was laid out by Willie Park Jnr., one of the founders of golf course architecture and has since been reconstructed by Dr Alistair Mackenzie (1922), James Braid (1930) and Fred Hawtree (1974).

In 2019, after a major redevelopment by world renowned course architect Tom Mackenzie, the 'new layout' was opened with 6 new holes, 8 new greens and all bunkering renewed.

For most of our players, it was the first time they had played the new layout, the consensus being that it was an excellent improvement to the previous layout. The comment on the club website regarding bunkering was recognised, as many of us took the opportunity to visit quite a few of them!

The format of our outing was a Texas Scramble, the closeness of the result showing that everyone's WHS handicap was pretty accurate. The scores were:-

Alastair Chalmers, Llew Jenkins, Jim Scanlon _____ Gross 74, Nett 68.2

Alison Macdonald, Chester Kruk, Robin Miller _____ Gross 74, Nett 68.2

Brian Graham, David Clark, Bill Cairns, John Dixon _____ Gross 73, Nett 68.3

Alastair, Llew and Jim took first place with a better inward half (35 against 38), but to achieve that they had to finish 2, 3, 4 – birdie, birdie, par - to pull back the 4 shot deficit they (unknowingly) faced on the 16th tee! (And Jim's putt on the 17th for the birdie - which may well grow longer in the telling over the years! - was at least 20 feet and fairly rattled into the cup!

But as always, the winner was the friendly rivalry that we experience at all our events. Our great thanks to John Dixon for his organising and hospitality on the day.