

The Fife Tour

September 06th/08th 2023

September 06th 2023 – Scotsraig Golf Club

A respectable turnout of 10 JBGS members arrived at Scotsraig Golf Club on Wednesday morning were greeted by the Scotsraig GC Team Captain Mr. Colin Ross.

The society team was bolstered by two additional volunteers, seconded by our tour organiser Tommy Brown from The Golf House Golf Club Elie to enable the match to be 6 pairs a side.

The society gathered in the club's Dining Room and took the opportunity to catch up with fellow members along with meeting our opponents over bacon rolls and coffee.

With Scotsraig GC hosting the Scottish PGA Championships the previous week and a warm and overcast day outside, everyone looked forward to the day's golf with anticipation.

Scotsraig Golf Club moved to its current site in 1887 and James Braid was asked to redesign the course following the purchase of extra land from Dundee Council. Braid visited the club and redesigned the layout in 1923.

Regarding the golf, the format for the day was 4 ball/better ball match play. The course itself was in good condition despite the dry spell in June and the club's stature as previously being a regular venue for hosting Open Championship final qualifying was abundantly clear.

Whilst everyone commented on their enjoyment of the course and the company of their hosts, the society were well and truly beaten by a margin of 6-0 by a very strong Scotsraig GC.

Following the match, the JBGS enjoyed the hospitality of their hosts, and the JBGS Captain thanked everyone who had made the visit such a pleasant and memorable occasion.

As a mark of our appreciation of the event the Scotsraig members, each received a shot glass, while the Team Captain Mr. Colin Ross was presented with a JBGS tankard, along with the proceeds of the traditional Bunnett collection for the club's junior section.

September 07th 2023 – Downfield Golf Club

For the 2nd day of the Fife Tour, we made our way across to Downfield Golf Club, which lies only a mile or so from the city of Dundee.

Downfield Golf Club was originally laid out as 9-hole course in 1932 by the Rosemount professional David Millar. The course was visited by James Braid the following year and he extended the course to 18 holes. In 1956 Dundee Corporation offered an exchange of land and additional acreage, so that a housing estate could be built. It is believed that 5 of Braid's original holes remain within the current design (10th, 11th, 12th, 15th and 16th).

On arrival at the club, we were welcomed with a fine and sunny day and a course which was in pristine condition.

Prior to a 1:30pm start, the society met in the clubhouse for bacon rolls and coffee and were introduced to each other as the relevant playing groups.

We had 11 participants for the day, due to the enforced withdrawal of Angela Grant from the competition due to a fall the previous evening.

As mentioned, the course was found to be in fantastic condition, and every member agreed that the course had been a fantastic choice as part of the tour. As to the competition itself, format for the day was individual stableford, and some very respectable scoring was achieved on a long and tough test. Runner up was John Rankin who scored a very respectable 36pts, while the winner on the day was Bill Maitland who scored an excellent 37pts. This victory was very popular amongst the society membership, as Bill is a true stalwart of the JBGS.

Following the golf, the society members dined together at Downfield Golf Club and enjoyed a lively conversation over a very enjoyable meal. The captain wrapped up the evening by reviewing the previous day's golf at Scotsraig GC along with results from the day's golf at Downfield. He also gave a heartfelt thanks to all the members for making the effort to attend the tour and thanked Tommy Brown and Alison Stanbrook for arranging the fixtures.

September 08th 2023 – The Golf House Club Elie

For the final day of the Fife Tour, we travelled across to the Golf House Club at Elie for an afternoon match.

While the Golf House Club, was not designed James Braid, he was born in the adjoining village of Earlsferry and played his formative golfing years at the club.

The golf course is one of the oldest in the country, and Sir Michael Bonallack, OBE, once said of the course "If you love links Golf, you will love Elie. Close cut running fairways with firm, fast, true greens. A memorable and enjoyable test for golfers of every ability."

With this glowing recommendation the society arrived at the course in eager anticipation for the day ahead.

Our numbers were still 11, due to Angela Grant unfortunately not recovering enough to participate, but once again Tommy Brown was able to second a member from the Golf House Club, to make up the numbers.

Prior to playing, both sides enjoyed a light meal and due to a later tee time than the previous match all formalities were held prior to play commencing. The format for the day, as at Scotsraig GC was 4 ball/better ball match play.

The weather for the final day was glorious as we teed off (sunny with a light breeze). The course was found to be in excellent condition, and as a test it was both fun and challenging.

Everyone was agreed with the opinion that the course was excellent, and the company of our hosts was second to none.

On completion of each game, the participants sat outside the clubhouse on the terrace and made the most of the warmth and sunshine which had followed us over the course of the 3 days of the tour.

One by one the matches were completed, and it slowly dawned on the JBGS Captain that he was entering "unchartered waters." Soon enough the unthinkable had happened and despite numerous recounts, the JBGS had beaten the Golf House Club 4-2.

The captain proceeded to apologise profusely to our hosts and hoped that the result would not jeopardise future visits. It was hoped that The Bunnett collection for the club's junior section would somehow be accepted as an apology and the society promised that this unfortunate event would not be allowed to happen again.

Summary:

A successful trip and once again a heartfelt thank you goes to all the JBGS members who attended.

As mentioned in the report, a huge thank you must go to Tommy Brown who pulled this tour together along with our Members' Secretary Alison Stanbrook, who coordinated the finer details, to ensure we the members had a great few days in Scotland.

This concludes activities for the season, thanks to everyone who has supported and participated our events.

Your committee will be starting on organising next years fixtures in the next couple weeks and we hope to present an attractive set of events for 2024 in the not too distant future.

Regards,

Barrie.