

The Founding Meeting

June 23rd - 27th 2026

Once again, JBGS members from far and wide arrived in the Highlands of Scotland full of hope and expectation and in high spirits of what the forthcoming days would bring.

June 22nd 2026 - Brora Golf Club

Early arrivals for the week, were able to accept the kind invitation from Roy Pickavance to join him on Monday evening to celebrate his 80th birthday at Brora Golf Club.

A healthy turnout enjoyed a lovely evening to celebrate one of the JBGS's loyal members. Well done Roy!

June 23rd 2026 – Golspie Golf Club

An addition to this year's itinerary, was a match v Golspie Golf Club who were celebrating the 100th anniversary of the implementation of James Braid's modifications to the course.

Golspie was originally a nine-hole course which was extended to eighteen holes in 1905.

James Braid was sent for in 1925 and he visited on the 18th & 19th November 1925. He surveyed the course and presented a report which contained detailed suggestions for every hole on the course and two options for their implementation.

The first option which involved using the existing course but adding bunkers and relocating four greens was adopted with some exceptions. However, the three new greens remain as Braid visualised them.

The second option was to build a new hole and substantially alter one. Two holes, The Fields (14th) and the Tattie Pits (15th) were very long at 620 and 520 yards respectively. On the latter hole, Braid wanted the pits to influence the drive rather than the 2nd shot, so both holes were shortened to achieve this.

The course was altered and ready to play in 1926.

As to the match, the society received a warm welcome from its President Mr. Jimmy Yuill and its team members, as it met outside the clubhouse in warm sunshine.

Everyone was looking forward to a fine day's golf and good company and this proved to be the case, on this challenging and strategic course.

Following the match, everyone enjoyed good company and a hearty meal. The JBGS Captain, revealed the match result, as a 7½ – 2½ victory to the host club.

The JBGS Captain took time to congratulate the President and the membership on their 100th Anniversary, presenting the club with a decanter to commemorate the anniversary and the visit.

Gifts of shot glasses were provided for the members of the Golspie GC team and the proceeds of the traditional "Bunnett Collection" was presented for the club's junior section. James Braid whisky glasses were also presented to the Club President Jimmy Yuell.

The President of Golspie Golf Club thanked the society for visiting and being part of their anniversary celebrations. He hoped that the society would visit again sometime in the future so that a return match could be held.

The JBGS Captain gave special thanks to JBGS member Steve Darlington who was key in arranging this special day.

June 24th 2026 – Fortrose & Rosemarkie Golf Club

Following the Centenary match against Golspie GC, the society moved south to the Black Isle, to play its regular fixture versus Fortrose & Rosemarkie GC.

Team numbers increased, as additional society members joined the group, and everyone looked forward to renewing acquaintances that had been made over the 12 years that this fixture has been in place.

Fortunately for everyone, conditions for the match were perfect, with the course in excellent condition and the weather sunny and only a slight breeze.

The matches followed the traditional 2 x tee start, to ensure everyone got round the course in the most efficient manner.

Prior to the match, members were reminded that the previous year, the society had made a huge mistake by winning the match. The captain firmly stated before play began, that this situation should not be repeated, so that the previous year's result could be quickly forgotten by our hosts.

Following a hugely enjoyable day on the course, the Captain of the JBGS quickly realised, that as society members returned to the clubhouse following the conclusion of their matches, that his "pre-match team talk" had gone unheeded!

Following the match, participants enjoyed the company of their respective playing partners while enjoying an enjoyable meal of their choice.

Mr. Douglas Simpson, the President gave a speech on behalf of Fortrose & Rosemarkie GC and the JBGS Captain responded with his own modified speech where he announced a match result of 8.0 – 3.0 in the society's favour.

The society Captain apologised for the result and stated that, while the previous year's result was a mistake, this year's result was plain carelessness and that strong words would be had with the JBGS membership.

Gifts of shot glasses were provided for the members of the Fortrose & Rosemarkie team and the proceeds of the traditional "Bunnett Collection" was presented for the club's junior section. James Braid wine glasses were also presented for the Club President Douglas Simpson.

Special mention must go to Mike Macdonald of Fortrose & Rosemarkie GC who alongside Angela Grant and Alison Stanbrook, made the day such a success.

Once again, a great day at Fortrose & Rosemarkie GC with the traditional warm welcome ensuring that the fixture is one which we will look forward to next year.

June 25th 2026 – Royal Dornoch Golf Club

Onto Thursday, and the society moved onto its traditional and longstanding fixture against Royal Dornoch GC over its fantastic championship course, for the Friendship Trophy.

On arrival at Royal Dornoch Golf Club, we were greeted with the sight of the club's new clubhouse. The clubhouse was everything you would expect of a club of Royal Dornoch's stature, and society members took the time to acquaint themselves with this impressive facility prior to play on the championship course.

The course itself was found to be in pristine condition and both teams teed off in fine weather in anticipation of a good match.

As with the match against Fortrose & Rosemarkie GC, the society had recorded an unusual if not unprecedented win the previous year!

The captain was keen not to have a repeat of the previous day's win occur again, or the title "Friendship Trophy" might become a little tenuous?

The JBGS match team comprised of 22 of our male members along with KJ Redman and Katherine Forrest to add some glamour and skill to the occasion!

Conditions on the day were excellent and this along with the challenge of the Championship course itself led to a very good battle which everyone reported on as being great fun.

As the society sat down to enjoy a fine meal in the new Royal Dornoch GC clubhouse, it soon became apparent that the JBGS Captain had needlessly worried over the outcome of the match.

This was reflected in the overall result, where the captain reported that normal service had resumed regarding the match and that Royal Dornoch GC had won the Friendship Trophy by a margin of 7½– 4½.

The society captain, explained to the Royal Dornoch GC Senior's Captain that the previous year's win had been a mistake, and that there had been grave concerns that the society may not have been invited back to see the new clubhouse! Thankfully, from a society perspective, common sense had prevailed and hopefully we would be back next year to continue the friendship that had been in place for a number of years.

Once again, a fine meal and superb company were enjoyed following the match, with the Royal Dornoch members being very appreciative of the commemorative shot glasses and the "Bunnett Collection" for the junior section. The Senior Section Captain Mr. Ernie Millard was presented with a pair of JBGS whisky tumblers.

Both Captain's speeches were reflective of how successful the day had been, and how they both looked forward to repeating the fixture next year.

June 26th 2026 – The Founding Meeting - Brora Golf Club

And so, to the finale of our week. The Founding Meeting competition at Brora.

Prior to play a forum was held in the clubhouse at Brora GC. Updates were given to members regarding the continuing relationship with Brora GC, 2027 fixture suggestions, merchandise, website upgrades and memorabilia. Constructive discussion was held, with several suggestions made, that would be followed up on in due course.

And so, to the competition. 18 holes of Stableford golf over the magnificent Brora links. 31 entrants, competed for the various prizes on offer, but all hoping to take the principal prize of the "Peter Thompson Memorial Trophy".

As with the week in general, we remained lucky with the weather with only a heavy shower and a brisk breeze having to be contended with.

There was one concern during the day, where Member's Secretary Alison Stanbrook's trolley decided to go "off piste" and park itself upside down in a burn! Thankfully, all equipment was retrieved, and the incident did not deter Alison from delivering a fine performance.

The course was found as usual in superb condition. As ever, a stiff but fair test was faced by the membership, this didn't detract from the enjoyment of both the course or the company.

That evening society members met up at Brora Golf Club, where following drinks and an enjoyable meal the captain announced the day's winners. These were as follows:

The Peter Thompson Memorial Trophy:

Winner: Rich Gold

Runner up: Scott Kelly

The Captain's Pink Balls:

Winner: Alison Stanbrook

Runner Up: Angela Grant

The Curates Egg:

Winner: Mike Harris (Best score on the middle 6 holes)

Hero of the Week:

Winners: Chris Taylor & Steve Race (Great to see Chris back with the society following health issues ably supported by Steve).

The captain went on to thank the Society Members for making the week the success it had been and without who, the society would cease to exist.

As the week celebrated 30 years since the founding of the JBGS, Vice President Malcolm Campbell (Founding Captain) spoke to the membership about the beginnings of society, what it stood for and a number of anecdotal stories of things that had occurred over the years that the society had been in existence.

Following the well-received words of Malcolm Campbell, the Captain gave a summary of events over the past week.

Whilst the Captain was pleased to see good support for the week's events, he was mindful, that the society were missing other members who were unable to attend for various reasons and prompted the captain to propose a toast - "To absent friends."

As a way of a thank you from the society, gifts were presented to Angela Grant and Alison Stanbrook, for their tireless work in organising not only the Founding Meeting, but all the JBGS events.

The captain then handed over to Mr. Len Bunton, to ruthlessly hand out penalties for misdemeanours reported to him over the course of the week. These misdemeanours spanned a wide range of topics from dress code violations to downright stupidity.

An amnesty was offered to all members, to avoid heavy fines, and the level of guilt amongst the society members must have been high, as £400 was raised for Brora Golf Club Junior Section and was presented to the Club Manager Mr. David Gemmill on the night.

With no other outstanding business, the captain closed the evening with a toast to the man we gathered to honour – "James Braid."

June 27th 2026 – The James Braid Open - Brora Golf Club

As if they had not had enough golf over the course of the week, a few hardy souls entered the James Braid Open at Brora G C on the Saturday following the dinner the previous evening.

Conditions were once again fair but challenging. A total of four members took part in the open day and while all the JBGS members battled gamely, Tony Gill emerged as the best JBGS member in the field with a fine nett 73.

Well done to all the members who took part. Hopefully, even more JBGS members will take part next year.

Summary:

Once again, a fantastic week, where it was great to see both old friends and make new! A heartfelt thank you, goes to all the JBGS members who attended.

As always, I would like to give a special thank you to our Members' Secretaries Angela Grant and Alison Stanbrook, whose coordination of this event was impeccable and ensures the members enjoyment when we meet up. Their time and effort are second to none.

We now move onto the Fife tour in September. I'm looking forward to seeing another healthy turnout, and to those who cannot make it, stay safe and we will see you all again soon!

Regards,

Barrie.