

# ALVA GOLF CLUB



A Century in the making



# INTRODUCTION

The Centenary of Alva Golf Club is an occasion that all its members can be very proud of. Throughout the year there will be various events where members past and present, their friends and their families can all share in the celebrations to help mark this milestone in the Club's history.

When Longbank Park was first leased from Miss Caroline Johnstone in the spring of 1900 for the formation of a golf course, few people could have imagined that a century later Alva Golf Club would still be going strong at the foot of the Ochils. From its humble beginning as an addition to the town's tourist attractions, to the modern day demands placed upon it as a golf club, its survival can be credited to the many volunteers who throughout the years have sacrificed their time, for both its continuation and development.

When the Centenary Committee first considered the task of compiling what you are about to read, it naively thought that owing to its comparatively small size Alva Golf Club would have played somewhat of a minor role on the golfing stage. What has emerged, from over three years of research, is a club steeped in a rich and colourful history of events, characters and achievements, many of which are long overdue proper recognition. On reading the following we hope that you can not only share in these sporting recollections, but also have a glimpse of the rich history, easily misplaced in this modern age, that Alva's model burgh has to offer.

This brochure is dedicated to all the members, past and present, who have given their voluntary time for the good of Alva Golf Club.

Enjoy!

Alva Golf Club Centenary Committee

“ Fur lang oo’ve nestled in the shade,  
O’ bit protectin’ Tory”.



## FOREWORD

**By Frank C. Rennie, Honorary Professional, Prestwick Golf Club**



Alva Golf Club will always have a special place in my heart, after all it's where it all started for me. As a young boy taking up the game in the late 1940's I remember the words of encouragement I received from the members at that time. In particular, I will forever be indebted to George Graham, who took me under his wing at an early age and helped me to become the golfer I am today.

With its small greens and undulating fairways Alva was an ideal place to learn the difficult shots in golf. This knowledge I took with me when I turned Professional in 1958.

Now Alva Golf Club has reached it's Centenary I thank the club for the past and wish it well for the future.

Above: Frank Rennie next to the cairn marking the first ever Open Championship played at Prestwick in 1860.

**By Norman Wood, Professional, Royal Guernsey Golf Club**

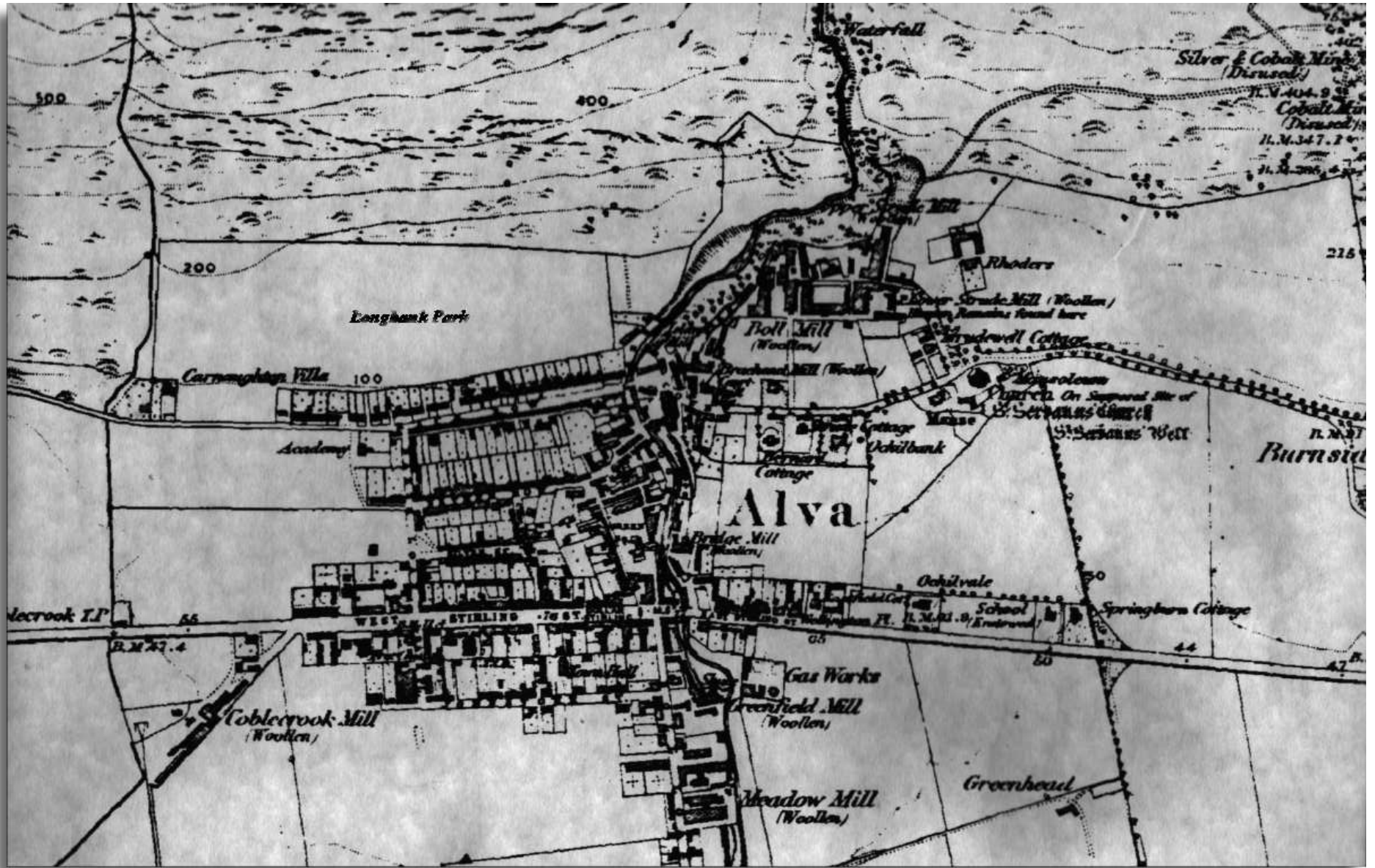
My first game of golf was on Alva Golf Course in 1962, it was to set me off on a career that would bring success on both the European and Australian tours, representing Scotland in the World Cup and the ultimate experience of playing in a Ryder Cup.

The expression of needing one leg shorter than the other comes to mind with Alva golf course, however the invaluable experience of executing sidehill, uphill, downhill and the occasional flat lie certainly contributed to my success.

While having many fond memories of Alva Golf Club I will always remember it for being one of the friendliest I have ever known. It gives me great pleasure in wishing the club all the best for its Centenary year, and for many years to come.



Above: Norman Wood winning his singles match over Lee Trevino in the 1975 Ryder Cup.



Above: Burgh of Alva late 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

Alva at the onset of the 20th century, had for some time provided her inhabitants with a wide range of sporting outlets where precious leisure time could be spent. It was however, not until May 1900 that one of today's lesser known organisations identified the need for the perfect compliment to Alva's recreational offerings: - Golf.

## Alva Holiday Resort Association

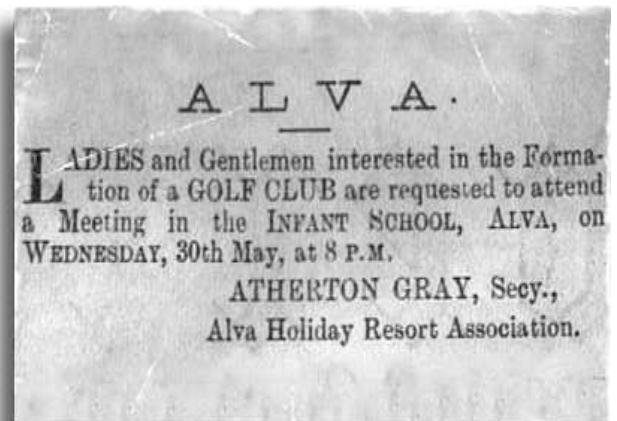
Formed in 1898 by the principal merchants of the town, the HRA's objective was:

**“To take some definite and practical steps with the view of bringing the claims of Alva as a place of rendezvous for summer visitors more prominently before the outside public”.**

Initial involvement of this body came in the form of concerts held in the glen <sup>1</sup>, a venue where the fruits of their labours were already evident in the shape of walkways, drinking fountains, seats and the impressive feature of a zigzag path. With the provision of these concerts and responsibility for many other projects for the overall good of the town, the HRA saw it fit for Alva's inclusion in a N. B. R. <sup>2</sup> national tourism guide of 1900 highlighting the burgh's credentials as a “health resort”. The direct result being a large increase in the number of summer visitors, many of whom expressed great disappointment at the need to travel to nearby towns to satisfy their golfing needs. Despite some reservations on this little known sport, the problem was one that the HRA were keen to address.

The HRA's vision of Alva's own golf course began as a sketch on a blackboard at a meeting in the Infant School, Cobden Street. The proposed course was to be one mile 120 yards in length occupying the whole of Longbank Park and part of the Tory Hill. The course was to be laid down by Mr Moore, professional from the Stirling Victoria Golf Club at a cost of £30. He informed the gathering that the course:

**“Would occupy most of the 30 acre site comprising of four artificial greens along the hillside, while the other five would be formed from the natural grass of Longbank Park. The distances between the greens would range from 120 to 340 yards and although having no artificial bunkers, hazards will abound in the shape of dykes, burns, boulders and whin”.**



Above: Extract from the Alloa Advertiser, Saturday, May 26th, 1900.

The remnant of two large low lying cultivated terraces <sup>3</sup> dating back to a Medieval or possible Roman age, Longbank Park's only previous development had been the building of Beauclerc Street, leased at the close of the 18<sup>th</sup> century by James Raymond Johnstone. A century later and still under the ownership of the same family, the ground was leased from the Alva House Estate for the annual sum of £20. Being adjacent to the town it provided an ideal location for the HRA's latest venture. By September 1900 “satisfactory progress” had been made with the course, by December that same year the smallest course in Scotland's smallest County was complete.

<sup>1</sup> These concerts were even known to take place far beyond the zigzag path at an area called Arch-Bogie.

<sup>2</sup> N. B. R. – North British Railways.

<sup>3</sup> Smaller groups of these cultivated terraces are still clearly visible on the lower slopes of Tory Hill.

## Opening Ceremony, Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1901

### Invited guests:

Miss Johnstone, Alva House

Mrs Johnstone, Alva House

Mr Henry Johnstone, Alva House

Miss L'Estrange, London

Mrs Pringle of Yair, Selkirk

Mr Arrowsmith, Edinburgh



Above: Miss C. E. M. Johnstone,  
Patroness of the Club (1901-1929).



Above: Extract from the Devon Valley  
Tribune, Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> January 1901.

Accompanied by a crowd of over 1500 townsfolk, the guests were thanked for their attendance to mark this event. Mr A. Baigrie representing the HRA addressed the crowd, informing them of their delight in achieving their goal of a golf course for the people of Alva and how in only a few short years the association had helped popularise the town. Mr Baigrie stated that “it had always been the view of the association that the model burgh could not be seen to be lagging behind its neighbours in any respect, particularly golf”.

**Collectively the HRA stressed how both the physical and financial hurdles that faced them in their task would not have been overcome were it not for the kindness and co-operation shown by Miss Johnstone, the superior of the Alva Estate, whose “enthusiasm” for this venture was unbounded. To acknowledge this generosity, Miss Johnstone was duly presented with a silver cleeck as a memento of the day’s proceedings. Thanking them on his sister’s behalf, Mr Henry Johnstone informed the Committee that it was his sister’s intention to present a gold and bronze medal to be competed for by the members of the Club.**

Without further ado, Miss Johnstone then proceeded to the first tee “amidst hearty cheers” and drove the first ball, “the ball to become the property of the first boy to retrieve it”. After declaring the course open, there then followed two interesting foursomes matches between the Stirling and Alloa Clubs, eagerly followed by the large gathering. Afterwards the players were entertained to lunch in Black’s Restaurant <sup>1</sup>.

**Arrangements in connection with the opening ceremony were effectively carried out as always by the energetic secretary of the association, Mr Atherton Gray, factor of the Alva House Estate.**

<sup>1</sup> Black’s Restaurant now forms part of the Alva Glen Hotel.



At a meeting in the Infant School on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 1901, the office bearers for the inaugural season were elected.

Patroness: Miss Johnstone

President: Mr J. G. Gray

Captain: Mr H. Black

Vice Captain: Mr R. Henderson

Secy & Treasurer: Mr T. McMeekin

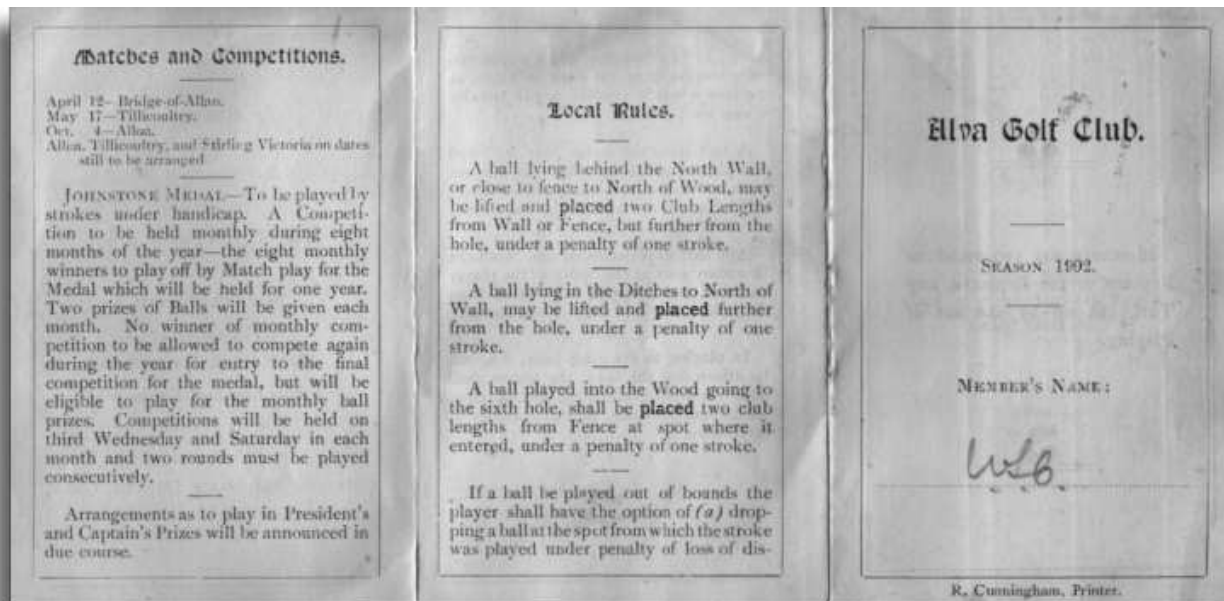


Above: Dr W. L. Cunningham, President of the club for 33 years, and Doctor to the town for 50 years.

Messrs. Smail, Cochrane, Armishaw, Duncan, Gray

Subscriptions were fixed at the following tariffs: Men 2/-, Boys and Ladies 1/-.

Below: original membership card of Dr W. L. Cunningham for season 1902.



## The Formative Years

1902 saw Alva participate in the first team matches with neighbouring Clubs. The novelty of these no doubt prompting the letter sent later that year from the Club's secretary to Alloa Golf Club "being the foremost Club in the County" suggesting that a district tournament be set up. This correspondence proved to be the starting point for the County structure that was formed the following year, a year in which Alva hosted the first ever County Championship.

By 1903 the need for a pavilion had become obvious. Paid for by a rise in fees of 2/- rather than a one off charge by the HRA, few people would have imagined the wooden structure would carry out its sporting and social duties for the next seventy-four years. At this point the fixture card, which would remain virtually unchanged for the next thirty years, with the exception of Alva's first Open Tournament held in conjunction with the 1905 Gymnastic Games, would read as a Who's Who of local businessmen, merchants, manufacturers and doctors alike, all willing to donate prizes on an annual basis. The generosity of these donors helped maintain the interest of a membership that was rising steadily with every passing season.



Above: The Lindsay Medal, donated in 1903 by W. H. Lindsay, Grocer, Menstrie.

Interest was also growing on the social side of things, with various fund-raising activities being held annually ranging from gymkhanas to on course concerts by the town band. The course was even to witness a display by the local gymnastic group with admission charges going to the good of the Club. One notable achievement on this front was a sale of work held in the Church hall, opened by Miss Johnstone and her guest, Lord Balfour of Burleigh <sup>1</sup>, the event ran for a whole weekend raising the grand sum of £227:12:5d, of which £50 was ominously given to the HRA in an effort to clear debt.

Another welcome donor around this time was one Charles P. Cochrane of Philadelphia, a former son of Alva. His handsome contribution of 35/-, and a trophy, helped swell the already healthy finances. With the model burgh's new attraction making good progress the period that followed was, surprisingly, an uncertain one. Behind the scenes an uneasy relationship had developed between the HRA (the parent body), Alva Golf Club and the newly formed Merchants Golf Club, with all concerned requesting both representation and consultation on all matters. Internal wrangling was highlighted in the spring of 1912, when a simple request for the application of fertiliser to the course, was followed by a series of meetings culminating in the HRA requesting that, "this be financed by the Merchants Golf Club due to their own financial difficulties".



Above: The Merchants Medal.

<sup>1</sup> Lord Balfour of Burleigh was at this point the current Secretary of State for Scotland.

After many years of requests by the HRA for financial help from Alva Golf Club, usually at the expense of course improvements and always under strong protest from it's members, the final request for a clearance of debt was submitted to the Club by the HRA in 1915. In return for this aid the Club would receive:

**“Full control of all matters pertaining to both club and course”.**

**Having merged with the Merchants Golf Club the previous year, on the 8<sup>th</sup> October 1916 Alva Golf Club took over full control of it's own destiny from the HRA.**

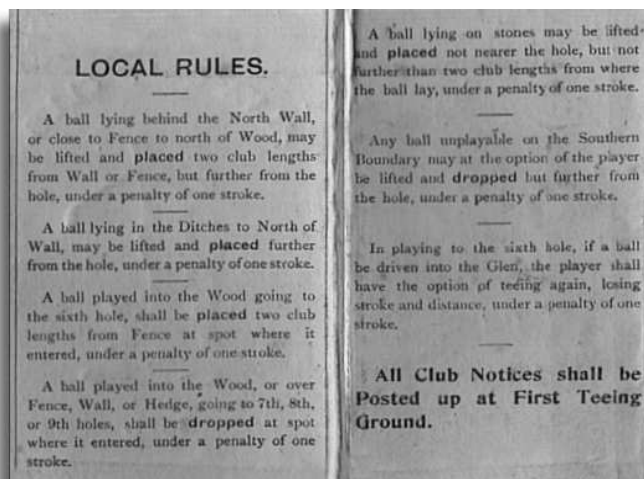


Above: An early photograph of the pavilion.

With clear authority restored, the strain on finances that had been imposed by the HRA was one that became apparent shortly before the end of the Great War <sup>1</sup>. The agenda for a meeting held in the spring of 1917, being “whether or not the Club should stay open this year”. Thankfully the resolve that was being shown elsewhere in Europe was to be reflected within the Club when, after much discussion, the majority of it's members agreed to “rally round” in an effort to keep Alva Golf Club open.

**The resumption of peacetime saw the club embark on a period that no one could have imagined. With a dramatic rise in membership and the disputes between the different factions now well behind them, the boom in golf that was happening worldwide was not about to pass Alva Golf Club by.**

<sup>1</sup> The Great War saw thirteen members serving with the forces overseas, this was marked with a roll of honour displayed within the pavilion.



Above: Local rules from 1916.



Above: David Murray, Captain, 1920.

## Golden Years

Other than the few competitions that the Club had for its members, the first twenty years saw success limited to Miss B. Kennedy's fine win in the 1911 County Championship and the six man team's triumph in the inaugural County Fours of 1913. Although a few of the Club's members, both gents and ladies, had already received County recognition, the following years would see the Club experience a level of representation unmatched within the County.

**Beginning with Capt. N. McDonald's victory in the 1920<sup>1</sup> Championship, the subsequent years leading up to the Second War would see Alva capture over forty titles at County level. Players such as J. G. Wright, J. D. Graham and J. C. Graham would share a number of Gents Championships, at one point keeping the title at Alva for five out of six years from 1926 and in time become great servants at both Club and County level. The Ladies section of the Club also enjoyed success at this level with the winning of eleven pre-war Ladies Championships by Miss N. Foggo, the first of these was in 1926<sup>2</sup> at the age of eighteen. The same year would bring Alva victory in its second of six pre-war County Fours titles, the Club no doubt reaping the benefit of play that would see the following year's County team, that played in the Midlands Championship at Perth, consist solely of Alva players<sup>3</sup>. Alva's dominance at this time was reflected in a clean sweep of all County honours in 1929. A third County Fours win over Tillicoultry was added to, with wins by J. C. Graham and Miss N. Foggo in their respective Championships, the Grand Slam appropriately completed with a third successive win in the Alexander trophy, their fourth overall in this regional event. The decade that followed saw this trend continue when in 1931 Miss N. Foggo would begin an eight year reign as County Champion, J. G. Wright and J. D. Graham would again provide Alva with County Champions on four occasions and with the emergence of junior golf, Alva would claim three County Champions in the form of K. Anderson (1933), G. E. Makin (1935) and R. A. Ferguson (1937).**

The following year saw Miss N Foggo win her tenth Ladies Championship, a win that was complemented the very next week, when both County titles returned to the burgh courtesy of J. G. Wright's record sixth and final win in the Gents Championship, hosted on the Schawpark course for the first time.

<sup>1</sup> 1920 would see Alva's first member claim professional status in the person of Thomas Allan.

<sup>2</sup> 1926 would also see both J. G. Wright and J. C. Graham play their part in Clackmannanshire's win in the

## The 1927 Silver Tassie

**“Yesterday, John G Wright an Alva painter, played his way to golfing fame...”**

**Sunday Post 11<sup>th</sup> September 1927**

Looking back over this boom era in the Club's on course activities and taking into account the outstanding achievements of Miss Nan Foggo, the highlight of this period was without doubt J. G. Wright's success in the 1927 Silver Tassie at Gleneagles. His aggregate score of 146 consisted of 71 strokes for the Queen's course (one shot off the course record) and 75 strokes for the King's course. His score, thirteen strokes lower than his previous year's total, placed him at the head of the 124-man field containing some of the best amateurs in Britain. As Clackmannan County Champion and Captain of Alva Golf Club, the deserved praise for "Grahamies" achievement in being the first Scot to capture the title came from far and wide.

Letters of congratulations were received from neighbouring Clubs, businesses, the town council and the County Golf Union. The victory even called for the interruption of that Saturday's showing of "The General" starring Buster Keaton at Alva Picture House. The victory which was "born on the slopes of Alva" as one acknowledgement read, no doubt raised a few eyebrows as this little known player triumphed in such fine surroundings. However, by this time he was far from unknown within the Wee County, with a number of titles to his name and even more to follow, J. G. Wright's success was to those around him not entirely a surprise, as many of the telegrams received testified. The winning of this coveted title was the cause for great celebrations, some well into the wee sma' hours and one that reflected well both the spirit and competitiveness of the Club at this time. One letter of congratulation that summed this up best was simply addressed,

**“If a man is not without honour in his own  
Town this should get to you  
The Silver Tassie Champion, Alva!”**

## Home Soil

**Throughout this era of achievement the corresponding years at the Club were to bring with them change both on and off the course. The death of Miss Johnstone <sup>1</sup> in 1929 brought with it a change of patronage in the shape of George and Helen Millar, tenants of the Rhodders farm. Already donors of the trophy, played for annually between Alva and Tillicoultry, their donation of a further four, on becoming patrons, helped to enhance the Club's relatively sparse fixture card, which until this point had relied mainly on the generosity of Committee members and their associates.**

<sup>1</sup> Miss Johnstone's life and work for the good of Alva was honoured by the unveiling of a drinking fountain, funded by the people of Alva, in the Johnstone Park in April 1933.



Above: Sir George Hennessy, M.P., presenting a replica of the Gleneagles Silver Tassie to Mr J. G. Wright, Alva, winner of the Amateur Tournament at the famous golf mecca.

Another notable addition to the Club's playing card was the donation of the Todd Trophy. Presented in 1933 by the family resident at Lynwood, the trophy, which was to be played for as the Club Championship, was and still is, one of the most prestigious in the Club. Socially the Club continued to thrive during this period, with a rising membership, particularly in the Ladies section and the opening by Mrs Millar of an extension to the pavilion later that year. Events such as the opening games, gymkhanas and the mixed foursomes were always accompanied with the provision of lavish teas, usually provided by the current Captains, the Ladies section or in one instance by the generosity of Mrs Millar, the Club's Patron.



Above: Time for the camera and a well earned lunch at Gleneagles.

**The course too was to witness the effects of this increase in social activity, already a regular venue for the town band, the course also provided the site for the Coronation Committee's bonfire in 1937 and was a helpful source of equipment that same year for the upkeep of Alva Guild Cricket Club.**



Above: A stylish George Graham <sup>1</sup>, Todd Trophy winner 1938 and 1939.

Social events were even to witness the occasional venture to nearby Gleneagles, with transport provided by the usual volunteers and the baker's van providing the ideal transport for the Clubs. These outings must have provided light relief for those fortunate enough to take part. With the popularity of these events both on and off the course the Club, under the careful guidance of long serving treasurer and local solicitor John Reed had managed to substantially raise it's financial position. Ideas on how and where these funds were to be spent ranged from the course itself to even the possibility of a new pavilion. Having been a regular item on the agenda of AGMs, the condition of the course had for many years raised concern. Time consuming equipment, the obvious physical barriers and the well used grazing rights of its landlords had all taken their toll. Many green keepers had come and gone, all working on a seasonal basis, additional help in the form of paid and voluntary work had also helped stem the tide. Eventually, the ever-increasing need for machinery and improvements to the course were to be addressed with the help of these soon to be much depleted reserves.

The realisation of these shortfalls in both the course and it's facilities, were ones that the Committee knew had to be addressed and whilst being in a healthy position to undertake these challenges the outbreak of the Second War would draw a curtain over this era of progress, see any development put firmly on hold and see the Club enter a period of instability from which it took many years to recover.

<sup>1</sup> George Graham would become the first member of the Club to capture a Club Championship outwith Alva, courtesy of his 1956 win at Alloa Golf Club.



Above: Ready for the off! Opening Game 1940's style.

## The War Years

Physically at least, Alva Golf Club was to remain relatively untroubled during the events of the Second World War. Although coming under the same pressure as many other Clubs from the Agricultural Board, in the end no land had to be given up for the production of much needed crops. Committee action was required however for the granting of course courtesy to the Royal Army Medical Corps, billeted in the nearby offices of Cunningham's Printing Works, a request that was duly granted.

Although continuing much as before the regular fixture list did suffer an understandable drop in its participants. By 1942 many of the Club's domestic and County fixtures had ceased, however, popular events such as the mixed pairs and the opening games still made their regular appearance, despite the accompanying teas falling victim to the effects of rationing.

**With the downturn in income and the ever-increasing running costs, finances again had become stretched. The return of peacetime would see the Club rely heavily on the time, effort and in some cases the donations of members in an attempt to regain it's healthy pre-war position. As with society, the return of normality was a slow one at the Club, having survived these most difficult of times the following years would again bring with them continued uncertainty regarding the existence of Alva Golf Club.**

## An Uneasy Peace

The Second War had brought stagnation in matters both on and off the course, meetings on whether to continue in such a vein had been taking place with alarming regularity throughout these years. As before the Club's position slowly improved, helped as ever by a spirited, although much depleted membership. Amidst the dramatics of 1945 the Club was the recipient of another trophy of note, courtesy of the Co-operative Society marking their Nation-wide Centenary. Swiftly installed as a mixed event and helped by the return of many of the members from overseas, this event as with others saw numbers rise close to their pre-war levels.

With the changing of attitudes to many issues and pressed by the growing popularity of the game, the result of a meeting held on the 5th of September 1947 was that "the playing of golf on a Sunday was permissible". A softening of attitudes indeed as it was not in the too distant past that a polite reminder was received from the landlords asking if members would "please refrain" from the playing, of above all things football within the course on the Sabbath.

Shortly after this event emerged a rather alarming rumour that seems to have accompanied the Club throughout the years. With the demand for housing running high in post-war Alva, discussion had taken place at town council level regarding the development of the course for their building needs. The initial reaction within the Club to such an enquiry can only be imagined, public opinion even forced the town council's most talented scrutineer to join the cause.

## A TRAGIC SITUATION! ALVA GOLF THREATENED!

1 The ither day Ah meets a cove  
Jist as the Pubs wis shuttin'  
Grief 'stricken' haggard he appeared  
'is face wis a 'begrutten.

2 Says Ah "Whit ails ye Jimmy lad?"  
Ye're lookin' proper poorly  
Has life lost a' it's savour  
That ye're takkin things sae dourly?

3 Says he "Man, Maestro, waur than that  
Fur years oo've joked and jinked  
Bit noo' accordin' tae accounts  
Oor gowf'll be extinct.

4 Fur Lang oo've nestled in the shade  
O' bit protectin' Tory  
Bit noo the climax has been reached  
An it's nae carried story.

5 "The Golf Course, scenes o' battle royal  
As faur back as Culloden,  
Nae matter if the turf wis fine  
Ur sometimes weet an' sodden

6 Whaur rid-faced devotees perspired,  
Trode, trauchled, cursed, cavortit;  
Whaur sledges traivelled doon its slopes  
An 'Spring lambs sped an' sportit.

7 "Ah weel, thae days are fadin' fast  
Longbank's ear-marked and brandit  
An A'va's Royal and Ancient Club  
'Il hae tae be disbandit!

8 It's "hooses", "hooses" thats the cry  
The Cooncil frets an' fashes  
Ignorin' drivers, putters  
Niblicks, wee white ba's an mashes!

9 "Nae mair the dandies o' the links  
"Il tally up thur scores  
Wi' Fair isle Jerseys, weel-greased hairs  
Brogues, golf bags and "plush fours".

10 "The weemin tae, wi' mannish styles  
Wi' 'swing an' swipe an' swagger  
Subside in female swoons an' tears  
At this sharp-pinted dagger".

11 A sad, sad story shair enough  
Fur golf course, cup an' trophy  
If big Jim Jackson wis alive  
Thur's some wid git their "coffee"

12 Hoosever, chaps, it seems "napoo"  
Fur buddin' Lockes an' Cottons  
Thur's naebody pits muckle stress  
On journalistic jottin's

13 You golf crowd hae yersel's tae blame  
Ah ken ye're near dementit  
Ye could hae been Toon Councillors  
An' been well representit.

14 Instaid o' that ye lit things drift  
Refused tae fecht the issue  
An' noo ye've naiter strength ur guile  
As feeble's paper tissue.

15 A 'Ah kin dae is jist repeat  
Whit Ah've said till Ah'm crackit  
Bring in the new bluid, if you wid rid  
This toon o'strife an rackitt.

John M. Tainsh





Although a worrying situation as Alva's "Maestro" rightly described, thankfully the expansion of Alva elsewhere was enough to see these plans ditched. Change in the way of building was witnessed however with the extension to the nearby Cunningham's Printing works in 1948, now approaching its 50<sup>th</sup> year within the town. The development, which thankfully would be the last recognised change to the boundaries of the course, cut considerable distance off the then 9<sup>th</sup> hole.

## Back on Course

Understandably the golfing side was equally slow to emerge from this period; the course, which due to an overall lack of resources remained in a less than satisfactory state would at regular intervals continue to spawn success both at home and away venues. The Club had its first win for some time in the County Fours of 1949, where a first round victory over Braehead Golf Club was achieved by the grand total of 45 holes! The second of Alva's three pairings winning 17 holes out of the possible 18 played.



Above: The 1949 County Fours winning team: A. Westland, F. C. Graham, C. W. Coull, G. Graham, J. C. Graham, J. J. Foggo.

Background: D. Adamson, J. Stevenson, Mrs T. Hunter, W. Jackson, J. Norman, T. Michie, (County Sec.) J. Campbell.

The following years would see the ladies of the Club to the fore within the County, as Nan Foggo's relentless supply of County Championships continued in 1952, 1954 and 1958, the last of these at the age of 51. It should be noted that during Nan Foggo's unmatched capture of fourteen County Championships she was also successful in the equally prestigious Dollarbeg Cup on ten occasions from 1926 until 1947. Mrs J. C. Wilson's victory in 1952 adding to Alva's successful involvement with this event.

1958 would see Miss Foggo win Alva's first Clackmannan Cup, first played for the previous year.

The modern era of the sixties continued to see Alva Golf Club well represented both on and off the course. In 1961 long serving President of the County and for many years tireless servant of Alva, John Norman <sup>1</sup> received an honorarium at his County post where he had served since 1932. The County's Jubilee year of 1963 would see the junior title at Alva decided between Stuart Glass and Norman Wood, very much a case of things to come as both players would eventually end up in the professional ranks of the sport. That same year would see another member of the Club take up the position of County President in the form of past Captain Robert Murray. It was Robert Murray who, at the suggestion of his wife, was responsible for setting up and popularising the County Mixed Pairs, played annually on the Friday night before the Alva Games. This milestone year of County Golf would also see Alva worthy winners of another County Fours title, thanks to a play-off win over Dollar at Dollar, a win accompanied with an additional trophy marking the County Jubilee.



Above: 1963 County Fours winning team: A. S. Wells, A. Stewart, A. Glass, jnr <sup>2</sup>, C. W. Coull, N. S. Carmichael, J. C. Graham (non-playing Captain), G. Graham.

The following year brought victory for Alan Laird in the County boys, a win that started something of a trend in the junior ranks when his brother James achieved the same feat in 1967. Success continued in this event two years later with victory, in something of an all Alva affair, for Lawrence Allan with a play-off win over clubmates, J. Laird <sup>3</sup> and D. Riddell. The previous season at Alva had seen Lawrence capture the Junior Club Championship and become the youngest winner of the Gents Championship at the age of 15.

The turn of the decade would see welcome success for the ladies with a County Foursomes victory for Mrs F. Melville and Mrs J. Duthie at Tillicoultry and a win in the Stirling and Clackmannan winter Foursomes for Mrs G. Laird and Mrs N. Michie at Falkirk Tryst. The previous year had seen C. W. Coull, another past Captain of Alva, take up office as County President. For many years an able representative of the Club both on and off the course, he would become the third member of Alva in ten years to hold this position.

<sup>1</sup> John Norman would in fact fulfil both his Club and County duties until the age of 89.

<sup>2</sup> 1969 would see A. Glass Jnr, record a notable win in the Eden Tournament at St Andrews.

<sup>3</sup> The following year would see J. Laird receive an international cap at this level.

The early seventies would see two notable events at both far-flung and local venues. Now well established in the paid ranks of the game past member F. C. Rennie would achieve one of his more prominent wins in the 1971 Northern Open at Nairn. The local scene would witness an equally memorable feat with J. C. Graham's win in the McClean trophy at Braehead. Now in his 69<sup>th</sup> year Jimmy's victory would see his successful involvement in County golf enter its sixth decade.

## Welcome Growth

The increase in popularity of the game would see the Club, for once, in a position to make a rare period of growth. Domestically the Club had enjoyed the benefit of another surge in its membership, one that had again seen the social side prosper. The growing popularity of the prize-giving dance was mirrored in all forms of fund raising which as well as the usual whist drives and teas now included the occasional Scottish country-dance night.



Above: The Annual Prize-giving, Cochrane Hall, 1971.

It was no coincidence that this expansion of both the social calendar and fund raising efforts came during a considerable rise in the number of ladies at the Club, a rise that had called for the setting aside of Thursday evenings for their fixtures to be played. At long last the Club seemed to be emerging from its dormant post-war years.

Other than a change in playing order, the course had changed very little during these years, it's upkeep still being aided by willing volunteers, who since the early 1960's had been assisting in many ways. The strain on these services increased when fairway cutting was withdrawn as a result of 1974 regionalisation. The generosity of James Millar, now landlord of the course, with his supply of machinery was just one of many kind acts towards the Club during his ownership.

By now pressure to offer an ever increasing and demanding membership a better facility was the obvious challenge. Still a regular topic of many AGMs, there was as ever the usual concerns over areas of the course. For once however these frustrations were to take less of a priority as the task that unintentionally lay ahead would see the Committee of Alva Golf Club face their biggest challenge to date, requiring the voluntary skills, services and fund raising activities as never before.



The HRA's first venture into improving the burgh's attractions, The Alva Glen.



James Jackson and John Norman, handicap committee 1906.



John Graham Wright, six times County Champion.



Membership card for the 1902 season.

**1 / DARJEELING** — One of the Club's earliest family connections resident in Beauclerc Street, whose business interests were based in the tea plantations of this Himalayan resort in West Bengal.

**2 / SPION KOP** — The battle fought for a prominent hill during the Boer War in January 1900, still fresh in the memory during course construction later that year.

**3 / THE WHINS** — An obvious title for the hillside hazard to the right of this hole.

**4 / WILSONS WOOD** — The wooded area at the back of the green named after Mr A. Wilson, owner of Glentanna Mills and resident of Barnaigh.

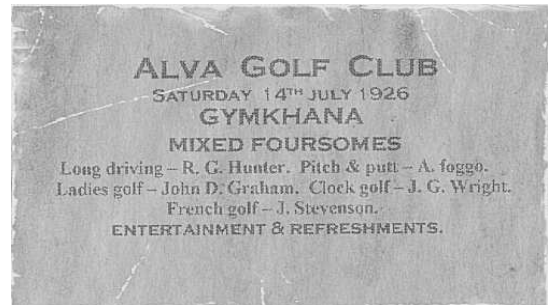
**5 / BARNAIGH** — As mentioned the Victorian villa in Beauclerc Street, whose garden backs on to the course.

**6 / LONGBANK** — An obvious reference to the course's 19<sup>th</sup> Century name.

**7 / THE ASHES** — Possibly, a reference to the original construction of the course using the ashes from the nearby and plentiful textile mills.

**8 / THE PLATEAU** — We can only imagine the labour involved in the shaping of this feature of the course.

**9 / WATERWORKS** — The closing hole which would have had a clear view of the original waterworks in the Glen, more obvious than it's modern day replacement.



Programme for the 1926 Gymkhana.

OUT :	4	5	3	3	3	3	3	5	4	-	33
IN :	4	3	3	4	3	2	2	3	3	-	27 = 60

John D. Graham's course record set on a July evening in the 1936 Johnstone Medal, the previous record of 65 was held by his brother Jimmy since 1926.



A formidable foursome: Jimmy, Jock, Frank and George Graham.



George Graham and Frank Rennie.



Buntie Clement under the watchful eye of Kit Murray.



Always a popular retreat for the School holidays.



Enjoying a summer evening at the side of the 9<sup>th</sup> hole.



Miss N. Foggo (far right) and the rest of the ladies section at Gleneagles.

**ALVA'S  
NO - PAY GOLFERS  
ARE WARNED OFF!**

**M**ANY Alva golfers aren't playing the game—or, to be more accurate, they are playing the game but not paying for it. So at the annual meeting of the Alva Golf Club on Wednesday it was decided that inhabitants of Alva will be banned from playing over the local course unless they are members of the club. The necessary action will be taken to enforce this decree.

1950's diplomacy in action.



County Fours Team 1964: G. Graham, N.S. Carmichael, M. Cochrane, C.W. Coull, A.S. Wells, A. Glass Jr.



"Nello" and Betty Anderson.



Spion Kop, 1970's style.



Prize-giving 1974, Silver Glen.



Carnaughton No1, the exploratory silver mine and resting place of many a tee-shot, better known as Jenny Muttons.



Members outside the 1977 "Clubhouse".



Prize-giving 1976, Cochrane Hall.



Ladies County Fours Winners 1980.



Prize-giving 1981 Masonic Hall.



Honorary Members, 1995.



The Todd Trophy.



Looking west 1990.



The Silver Tassie.



A changing course 2000.

## From Pavilion to Clubhouse

Despite the initial agenda for a meeting held in the Cairn Hotel on the 27th of December 1975 <sup>1</sup> being the renovation of the pavilion, what transpired was the feeling that time and money would be better rewarded with the complete replacement of Clubhouse premises.

Having served its members for almost three-quarters of the century the case for the continual upkeep of the wooden structure, whose modern day limitations were becoming all too apparent, was a difficult one. But the less than well publicised approach that same month by Tillicoultry Golf Club regarding “amalgamation” may have been equally responsible for this sudden course of action. Having considered the possible use of part of the nearby printing works, then the possibility of a move to a site at the Beauclerc Street entrance to the course, final agreement was reached on the redevelopment of the present location.



Above: Tommy Allan Opens the 1976 Season.

With the site cleared and the project ready to begin, initial plans surprisingly failed, prompting an approach from a national newspaper showing considerable interest in a golf course that had been refused a Clubhouse. Despite this delay, plans were eventually passed within weeks, signalling the start of this new challenge. Although partly funded by the help of a Scottish Sports Council grant (a necessity of which was the 25-year lease promptly delivered by James Millar) behind the scenes there was a continual stream of events in an effort to assist the funding of this

project. Popular cheese and wines and regular coffee mornings proved crucial in keeping building costs manageable.

A slight deviation in plan was necessary however, for the erection of a temporary hut, despite being an ideal store for tools and materials it's purpose was in fact that of a “building” in which scorecards could be returned, then a Royal and Ancient requirement for any golf Club. With the unfortunate passing of years rather than months, which brought no complaints from the then owner of the Number 5 Inn, the Club's adopted home, the members of Alva Golf Club were soon to have a place of their own. With the remainder of the building fund whispered to be the same as when



Above: Another successful season amidst the re-building of 1977.

the project began, testament if ever there was to the collective effort of everyone involved, the Club had indeed waited patiently for its second opening ceremony in 80 years.

<sup>1</sup> 1975 would see the start of four wins within a five-year period for Alva pairings at the popular Buick Trophy, held annually at Alloa Golf Club.

## Opening Ceremony, Sunday 24th May 1981

With the pavilion now a distant memory, Alva Golf Club now had its long awaited Clubhouse. The culmination of many years of voluntary labour and skill had provided the Club with a facility that would meet the demands of a modern and by now almost full membership.



Above: Members of the Committee at the opening of the Clubhouse.

Back Row: Mrs. J. Morrison, Mrs. J. Brember, Mrs. E. Ramage, Mrs. N. Cox, Miss A. Reyner, Mrs S. Scott, Mrs J. Kerr, Mrs. A. Reyner.

Front Row: R. Lyon, A. Chalmers, W. L. Allan, J. Ferguson, A. Brember, J. Copeland, A. Reyner, G. McBain.

Although not pictured the following members played an equally vital role in the completion of this project: S. Wilson, W. Mitchell, A. Scott, R. C. Rennie, J. Dawson, T. Donaldson.

The completion of the new Clubhouse had signalled a whole new era in the Club's history. Now a licensed premise and reaping the benefit of regular income, the Club would continue to grow from strength to strength in this decade of widespread prosperity. Having successfully made this transition from pavilion to Clubhouse, the obvious inconvenience of this change may have excused any activity on the golfing front, however this decade of growth would continue to supply its share of golfing achievements.



Above: R. Lyon (Captain) receiving a Commemorative plaque from Mrs A. Gullard of the Scottish Sports Council also pictured are A. Brember (President), N. Cox (Ladies Captain) and former Captain, J. M. Reyner at the time the Club's oldest member.

## A Welcome Return

After a somewhat barren spell as far as the golfing deeds were concerned the late seventies leading into the early eighties would see a number of well-known titles, if not always by well-known faces, return to the Club. In some cases after a patient wait of decades rather than years.

1977 saw G. Huggan follow up his 1974 win in the junior section, with a senior win in the County Boys Championship at Tillicoultry. Later that year the ladies would claim their second success in the Clackmannan Cup with Mrs G. Laird's win at the same venue. Having waited 40 years since it could boast a Gents County Champion, 1978 would see W. L. Allan's victory at Dollar return the title to the Club for the first time since J.G. Wright's last win in 1938. The victory was also matched by a win in the relatively new Matchplay equivalent by short-term member and current County Boy's champion A.G. Pickles.



Above: W. L. Allan returning the Gents County title to Alva in 1978.

The new-found success of the junior section continued with M. Campbell winning the junior title over his home course in 1979. The addition of the senior title in 1982<sup>1</sup> was the start of many fine performances at youth level. The following year would again see the Club benefit from another short term member when H. Anderson would bring home Alva's 12<sup>th</sup> Gents Championship with his 1983 win at Braehead. The same year would see the Club's first appearance in a County Fours final for 20 years and see the Dollarbeg Cup return to the Club after a gap of 31 years thanks to Mrs F. Melville's fine win.



Above: Familiar faces at the Prize-giving dance, early 1980's

<sup>1</sup> The following year would see M. Campbell rewarded with selection in the Scottish Youth team.



After a change in fortune for the Club's golfing activities, events off the course were giving cause for concern. The death of James Millar in 1978 would not only end the longest term of any family's ownership of the course, but as the Club began to establish itself as one of the town's more welcoming watering holes, rumours regarding its long term future would again make their regular appearance.



Above: David Allan gets the 1988 season under way.

## Modern Times

As the Club enjoyed this new age the future was not as bright as many had anticipated. Over 80 years had passed since the Club first became tenants of Longbank Park, the majority of these years seeing the Club benefit greatly from its relationships with its landlords. However the dramatic rise in both rent and conditions that came as a result of a fourth change of ownership was met with some alarm within the Club. Having recently emerged from the toils of the new Clubhouse and looking to benefit from the growing appeal of the game, a decade of progress was in danger of being very much diluted. A situation that threatened to worsen with every passing season seemed to be averted with an agreement being reached in 1983 signalling the start of an ambitious, although nearly achieved, share option for the purchase of the course by its members. With a target of £35,000 as their goal this ambitious plan would unfortunately run out of time, rather than run out of interested parties.

With the dust still settling on the Club's domestic affairs, 1987 would see the Club become tenants to Longbank's third local family through the ownership of Marshall Farms. For many years associated with the local construction scene it's expansion into agriculture had seen them take up ownership of part of the old Alva House Estate containing the course. The immediate suspension of grazing rights as a result of this change was one of the single most important factors in the condition of the course, which throughout this time had relied on the understanding of the local shepherd as much as anything else. When coupled with the introduction of full-time greenkeeping staff not long after this, the course would in a short time boast greens and fairways as consistent as that of anywhere in the district.

Although the condition of the course had never hampered or deterred any of the Club's previous achievements, it was surely a direct result of this marked improvement that the Club would enjoy a competitive return to all levels of County golf, unseen since the halcyon days of the 20's and 30's.

## Past meets Present

The Anderson Trophy of 1985 would see a win for G. C. Rennie not only bring another upturn in the Club's junior ranks, but would form a little known link with a past member of the Club. The trophy had been donated to the County in 1982 by Kenneth Anderson to commemorate 50 years of junior golf. Kenneth Anderson was in fact Alva's first Junior County Champion in 1933. This growth in the junior section was to play a major part in another first for the Club, with its success in the Inaugural County Boy's Summer League in 1987<sup>1</sup>. Played throughout the summer their success was rewarded by the Club with a round on the Prince's course at Gleneagles.



Above: Kenneth Anderson at the time of his 1933 County Boys victory.



Above: Winners of the first County Boy's Golf League receiving their trophy at Dollar Golf Club. Background: J. Flannagan, S. Cook, P. Hunter, Foreground: J. Page, G. C. Rennie (Captain), T. H. Johnson (County Sec.), C. O'Connor, A. Boyle, F. B. Allan, B. Melville.

The following year of 1988 would see Alva honoured with hosting the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the County Mixed Foursomes, with over 80 players and guests enjoying the occasion. A short history of the event was given by past County President, Robert Murray who described how the event had been born out of the Gent's County Fours win in 1963. Special mention was made to the attendance of Miss Nan Foggo, now in her 80<sup>th</sup> year, the guests being informed of both her past achievements and how 60 years had passed since her first County victory. The star of the evening was without doubt Alva's Greta Laird who had completed her 25<sup>th</sup> appearance in the event and to acknowledge this unique achievement the County presented Mrs Laird with a silver salver.



Above: Mrs Greta Laird receiving a silver salver from John Cairns, County President.

<sup>1</sup> 1987 would see former member S. McIvor become the sixth member to enter the professional ranks of the game.

As Alva approached the last decade of the century G. C. Rennie's final year of junior golf would provide Alva's sixth Senior County Boys title with his 1989 victory at Braehead. It would also see Mrs J. Whyte win her first Clackmannan Cup in 1990 completing a hat-trick of wins for Alva courtesy of Mrs F. Melville's back to back wins of 1988 and 1989. When Alva re-established its Gents Open to the County fixture list of 1991 it would prove to be the first of many notable events that season. Mrs F. Melville's second win in the Dollarbeg Cup was complemented shortly after when G. S. Kennedy collected Alva's 13<sup>th</sup> Gents County Championship, their 11<sup>th</sup> overall on the Dollar course. That same year had also seen the Club take an active part in the Centenary celebrations at Alloa Golf Club, with the four-man team's success in their invitation tournament.



Above: Always an enjoyable occasion, the 1990 prize-giving.

Although the Club had enjoyed this fresh return to involvement at County level as a result of fine individual performances, team success was by now a distant memory, their last senior team success being the Ladies County Fours title of 1980.

Now benefiting from the growth and development of the junior ranks, 1993 would see the County Fours side reach the final stages for the first time in 10 years. Although less fancied than their opponents from the Braehead Club, they would end up narrow winners of their 9<sup>th</sup> title, thirty years after their landmark win of 1963.



Above: The winning team at Alloa Golf Club's Centenary celebrations:  
A. Stronach, W. L. Allan, I. O'Connor, G. S. Kennedy.

Right: One of many happy occasions for Alva at Dollar Golf Club, the 1993 County Fours Champions, with officials from The County Golf Union.

Back row: G. C. Kay, S. Kinnaird (C.C.G.U.), G. McBain, D. N. Chalmers, C. O'Connor, T. H. Johnson (C.C.G.U.).

Front row: J. Stout (C.C.G.U.), M. R. Graham,<sup>1</sup> G. S. Kennedy, J. McCarron.



The years following this long awaited win may have been expected to bring a cooling off period of County involvement. However, by the time Mrs H. Hume won Alva's sixth Clackmannan Cup in 1994 the Club was well on its way to another milestone in team golf. Their last match in that year's Gents County League would see a home win over Alloa provide the Club's first ever victory in this event. Helped by the obvious home advantage over the County's stronger sides, the surprise defence of this title the following year, the first defence of a team title since the 1937 County Fours, gave strength to the feeling that the Club's new-found form was not just confined to the boundaries of Longbank Park.



Left: Players who helped to win and defend the County League titles of 1994 & 1995.

Back Row: J. McCarron, D. N. Chalmers, G. C. Kay, G. C. Rennie.

Front Row: H. Hunter (C.C.G.U.), P. C. Shearer, G. S. Kennedy, M. R. Graham, P. Paterson (C.C.G.U). S. Hodge, not pictured.

Having completed a memorable run of three successful years of team golf within the County the remainder of the century, apart from a final appearance in

the County Fours of 1998, would see County honours appear in the form of two titles long associated with the Club. Having played an important junior role as part of the gents recent team victories, P. C. Shearer would provide another County Boys Championship for Alva with his win at Alloa in 1996. Later that same year Alva's last individual title of the decade would come courtesy of Mrs H. Hume's win in the now Stirling and Clackmannan Ladies Championship. For many years a regular addition to the home of Miss N. Foggo and the first ever County title won by the Club back in 1911, its return after an absence of 38 years would be a fitting end to a century of fine individual performances at County level.

<sup>1</sup> 1993 would see a familiar name long associated with the Club re-emerge in the shape of M. R. Graham, grandson of F. C. Graham, who along with his other three brothers were never far from involvement with the Club's early achievements.



Above: The 1997 prize-giving Dance.

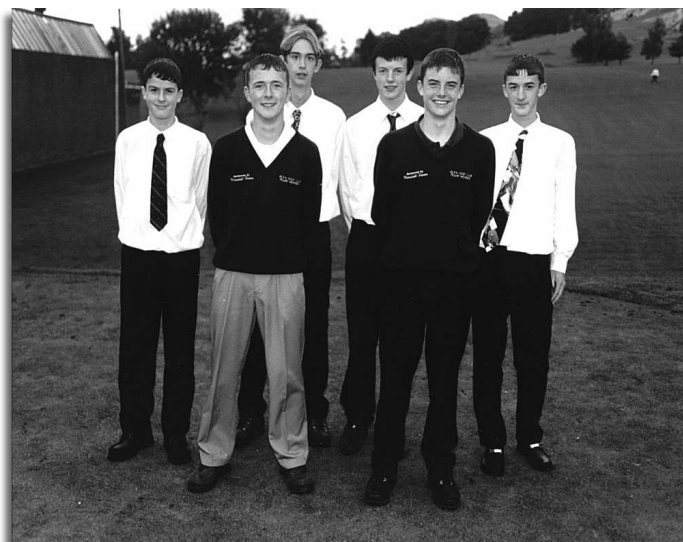
## Counting Down

**In the midst of this busy time for the Club's sporting activities, behind the scenes it had, like others, made the unavoidable change with a more business like approach to it's affairs. The increased demands and costs that came with the development and upkeep of a much improved course and Clubhouse and the daily running of an expanding Club, were matched by a consistent and on occasion rising membership. Membership numbers would in fact call for another change to the layout of the Clubhouse in 1995 (opened at the presentation to that year's County league team) which would help cater for the needs of an ever-expanding social scene. This social side was not alone in it's growth, for throughout the nineties regular additions to the fixture card would mean that the Club could now offer it's members a wide variety of both Open <sup>1</sup> and domestic competitions played on an ever changing and well presented course.**

The end of the nineties would see the future of the Club appear to be in safe hands as a result of the boys team success in the 1999 summer league, providing a fresh and positive end to a century of County representation. As the Club now looked forward to the new millennium and beyond, there was still one important piece of business to be done if Alva Golf Club was to enjoy its hundredth year.

Right: The boys who won the 1999 Boy's Summer League

S. Martin, K. McFarlane,  
S. MacDonald, C. Smith,  
L. Clark, R. Martin.



<sup>1</sup> 1998 would also see the introduction of Alva's first ever Mixed Open Competition.

## New Lease Of Life

As the Club adjusted to its more modern operations, it was almost without notice that the 25-year lease served to them by James Millar in 1977 was within two years of running its full course. A situation that may have been tolerable in earlier days was proving to be a stumbling block in these modern times of long-term arrangements and commitments. After brief negotiation however, the Club would receive their longest ever lease since taking up tenancy of the course in 1900. This conclusion may have disappointed anyone with aspirations of houses on Longbank Park, but would surely have been welcome news for the 'maestro' as the Club's immediate future was now assured until 2029.



Above: Members of the the Committee receive their 30 year lease from Mr & Mrs Hunter of Marshall Farms.

Having been given this green light by its landlords, the Club entered the new millennium <sup>1</sup> with a restored sense of purpose. With the daily running now eased somewhat by this long-term security, the Club and its members had a sound base on which to begin its second century.

The nineties had not only brought development on the course, but as Alva Golf Club begins the new century it does so with as strong a social scene as ever. Whether it be an end of season dance, the children's easter party, in-house entertainment or a summer barbecue it continues to provide an outlet, like the game itself, for the development of new and continued friendships within an almost family like atmosphere.

<sup>1</sup> As with the Coronation of 1937, the predominant position of the course would witness another bonfire in conjunction with a firework display in the Cochrane Park. The occasion this time being part of the local Council's millennium celebrations.

To sum up a century of events in a few lines would be unfair if not impossible, but in a game where few things are certain, what is sure at Alva Golf Club, is, there will always be somebody who can do a bit with the “wee white baw” and like it’s burgh there will always be great pride taken in association with it’s name. More importantly, whether it is a far travelled visitor or a passing hillwaker, they will find behind the door of Scotland’s smallest Club one of Scotland’s warmest welcomes.



Opening day 1997.



Prize-giving 1998.



The morning after, charity football 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1999.



Ladies section 2000.



The millennium season.



Centenary day 2001.

## Centenary Day Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2001

As the snows thawed on the morning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2001 it was fitting that conditions were going to be better than expected for this historic day. After a brief resume of events 100 years ago by Club President Steve Anderson, it was left to the Club's Patrons Mr John Marshall, assisted by his daughter Mrs Jean Hunter, to cut the ribbon on the 1<sup>st</sup> tee thereby declaring Alva's Centenary year officially open.

A good crowd of members both past and present then witnessed the opening tee shot of Alva's second century by the Club's youngest member Lawrence Allan.

This was followed with tee shots from Alex Wells, the Club's oldest playing member, the honours completed by Susan Burden and Neil Chalmers, the ladies and gents respective captains.

The occasion would also see the fixture list benefit from the generosity of Mr John Marshall as he intimated that it was his intention to donate Centenary trophies to all sections of the Club. This kind gesture would be complemented on the day by the donation of a quaich by Sir Raymond Johnstone. It was Sir Raymond Johnstone's aunt who had donated the first ever trophy to the Club exactly 100 years ago to the day. This generous and historic donation was to be the start of an enjoyable and memorable day for the members of Alva Golf Club.



Above: Mr John Marshall and daughter Jean cut the centenary ribbon



Above: Members of the Club watch the opening tee-shots of the Centenary season.



The timeless face of Tory has witnessed many changes since it first looked down upon Alva Golf Club. How many of the people gathered in the Cobden Street School that evening in 1900 would have comprehended that 100 years later people would be able to log on to a world-wide website to read and view information about the Club they were about to form. While many traditions have succumbed to this modern age it is with credit that the Club's 21<sup>st</sup> century operations are still carried out by voluntary members who like countless others before them have filled the necessary positions to ensure the Club's survival. As Alva Golf Club embarks on another exciting stage in its history, who knows what lies ahead in the years to come. Will Alva's bicentennial celebrations look back on a change to an 18-hole course? With the development of Cunningham's old printing works, will the current clubhouse be a distant memory as that of the HRA's pavilion? Or will Alva Golf Club even have progressed enough to be celebrating ownership of Longbank Park?

We can only hope that when the Committee of 2101 first meet to look back on Alva's second century they will encounter the same rich history, the same colourful characters and achievements and above all the same quality of townsfolk who will still see the need for the recording and celebration of days gone by.....



Above, left to right: The Johnstone quaich, donated January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2001, the Marshall-Hunter trophy donated October 2001, the commemorative jug donated by the Scottish Golf Union, October 2001.  
 Foreground: The Johnstone medal <sup>1</sup> donated by Miss Johnstone of Alva, 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1901.

<sup>1</sup> After much research the Johnstone medal was found and very kindly donated back to the Club by its owner Mrs Marion Jackson. The Silver cleek, which was presented to Miss Johnstone at the opening ceremony in 1901, was still being sourced at the time of this project going to print. Sir Raymond Johnstone kindly intimated that should it be found, it too will be donated back to the Club.

# ALVA GOLF CLUB

Founded 1901

## PRESIDENTS

1901-1902: J. G. GRAY, EDGEHILL.  
1902-1933: DR. W. L. CUNNINGHAM, EASTFIELD.  
1933-1948: W. H. LINDSAY, DEAFHILLS.  
1948-1962: J. G. WRIGHT.  
1963-1965: J. D. GRAHAM.  
1965-1968: J. C. GRAHAM.  
1968-1986: A. BREMBER.  
1986-1988: D. A. MURRAY.  
1988-1990: J. S. RUSSELL.  
1991: D. ALLAN.  
1991-1993: J. RAMSAY.  
1994: N. DUDGEON.  
1995: R. SWAN.  
1995-2001: S. ANDERSON.

## PATRONS

1901-1929: MISS C. E. M. JOHNSTONE, ALVA.  
1922-1932: G. MILLAR, RHODDERS.  
1930-1966: MRS. H. MILLAR, RHODDERS.  
2001: MR. J. MARSHALL, BALQUARN.  
2001: MRS. J. HUNTER, BALQUARN.

# ALVA GOLF CLUB

Founded 1901

## GENTS CHAMPIONS

1934	F. C. GRAHAM.	1972	N. CARMICHAEL.
1935	R. M. DICKSON.	1973	N. CARMICHAEL.
1936	A. M. THOMSON.	1974	W. L. ALLAN.
1937	J. D. GRAHAM.	1975	W. L. ALLAN.
1938	G. GRAHAM.	1976	A. HARLEY.
1939	G. GRAHAM.	1977	R. J. LYON.
1940	A. M. THOMSON.	1978	Not Awarded.
1949	W. McCALLUM.	1979	W. L. ALLAN.
1950	J. D. GRAHAM.	1980	N. SHEPHERD.
1951	N. S. CARMICHAEL.	1981	R. J. LYON.
1952	C. W. COULL.	1982	W. L. ALLAN.
1953	N. S. CARMICHAEL.	1983	W. L. ALLAN.
1954	A. S. REYNER.	1984	W. L. ALLAN.
1955	A. S. WELLS.	1985	M. SHORT.
1956	F. C. RENNIE.	1986	I. O'CONNOR.
1957	J. M. REYNER.	1987	J. McCARRON.
1958	A. S. WELLS.	1988	J. McCARRON.
1959	N. S. CARMICHAEL.	1989	J. McCARRON.
1960	C. W. COULL.	1990	G. C. RENNIE.
1961	N. S. CARMICHAEL.	1991	D. N. CHALMERS.
1962	A. GLASS Jnr.	1992	I. O'CONNOR.
1963	G. GRAHAM.	1993	D. N. CHALMERS.
1964	I. O'CONNOR.	1994	G. S. KENNEDY.
1965	A. S. WELLS.	1995	M. R. GRAHAM.
1966	I. O'CONNOR.	1996	G. S. KENNEDY.
1967	R. G. STANNERS.	1997	F. B. ALLAN.
1968	W. L. ALLAN.	1998	G. S. KENNEDY.
1969	W. L. ALLAN.	1999	G. C. RENNIE.
1970	W. L. ALLAN.	2000	D. N. CHALMERS.
1971	W. L. ALLAN.	2001	F. B. ALLAN.

# ALVA GOLF CLUB

Founded 1901

## LADIES CHAMPIONS

1965	Mrs E. RAMAGE.	1995	Mrs H. HUME.
1966	Mrs E. RAMAGE.	1996	Mrs H. HUME.
1967	Mrs G. LAIRD.	1997	Mrs H. HUME.
1968	Mrs G. LAIRD.	1998	Mrs H. HUME.
1969	Mrs G. LAIRD.	1999	Mrs H. HUME.
1970	Mrs F. MELVILLE.	2000	Mrs H. HUME.
1971	Mrs F. MELVILLE.	2001	Mrs H. HUME.
1972	Mrs F. MELVILLE.		
1973	Mrs F. MELVILLE.		
1974	Mrs F. MELVILLE.		
1975	Mrs F. MELVILLE.		
1976	Mrs F. MELVILLE.		
1977	Mrs G. LAIRD.		
1978	Mrs F. MELVILLE.		
1979	Mrs F. MELVILLE.		
1980	Mrs F. MELVILLE.		
1981	Mrs G. LAIRD.		
1982	Mrs G. LAIRD.		
1983	Mrs G. LAIRD.		
1984	Mrs F. PETRIE.		
1985	Mrs F. PETRIE.		
1986	Mrs G. LAIRD.		
1987	Mrs L. HARROWER.		
1988	Mrs F. MELVILLE.		
1989	Mrs F. MELVILLE.		
1990	Mrs F. MELVILLE.		
1991	Mrs F. MELVILLE.		
1992	Mrs H. HUME.		
1993	Mrs H. HUME.		
1994	Mrs H. HUME.		

# ALVA GOLF CLUB

Founded 1901

## GENTS CAPTAINS

1901	H. BLACK.	1927	J. G. WRIGHT.	1953	J. D. GRAHAM.	1979	G. McBAIN.
1902	J. SMAIL.	1928	C. THOMSON.	1954	N. S. CARMICHAEL.	1980	R. J. LYON.
1903	W. R. HENDERSON.	1929	J. D. GRAHAM.	1955	A. BREMBER.	1981	R. J. LYON.
1904	A. GRAY.	1930	A. BUCHANAN.	1956	A. S. WELLS.	1982	R. J. LYON.
1905	A. GRAY.	1931	A. WILSON.	1957	J. CLEMENT.	1983	R. J. LYON.
1906	W. R. HENDERSON.	1932	A. JACKSON.	1958	R. MURRAY.	1984	M. SHORT.
1907	F. PORTEOUS.	1933	J. A. CAMPBELL.	1959	T. HUNTER.	1985	D. A. MURRAY.
1908	Maj. W. McCracken.	1934	Capt. N. McDONALD.	1960	J. ANDERSON.	1986	D. A. MURRAY.
1909	T. McMEEKIN.	1935	J. M. REYNER.	1961	C. W. COULL.	1987	A. HARLEY.
1910	W. H. LINDSAY.	1936	W. McGROUTHER.	1962	J. D. MICHIE.	1988	A. WRIGHT.
1911	F. N. DEMPSTER.	1937	R. M. DICKSON.	1963	G. GRAHAM.	1989	D. ALLAN.
1912	J. LIDDLE.	1938	D. ADAMSON.	1964	A. GLASS.	1990	D. ALLAN.
1913	J. NORMAN.	1939	C. THOMSON.	1965	D. DONALD.	1991	J. S. RUSSELL.
1914	Rev. J. B. SCOTT.	1940	J. G. WRIGHT.	1966	A. BREMBER.	1992	A. STRONACH.
1915	W. DAWSON.	1941	J. G. WRIGHT.	1967	A. BREMBER.	1993	A. SINCLAIR.
1916	W. DAWSON.	1942	J. G. WRIGHT.	1968	A. BREMBER.	1994	A. WRIGHT.
1917	J. F. ROBERTSON.	1943	J. G. WRIGHT.	1969	R. HARLEY.	1995	B. MITCHELL.
1918	J. F. ROBERTSON.	1944	J. B. HUNTER.	1970	T. ALLAN.	1996	J. FAIRLEY.
1919	R. CUNNINGHAM.	1945	J. B. HUNTER.	1971	A. ROBERTSON.	1997	J. HARROWER.
1920	D. MURRAY.	1946	J. GREIG.	1972	A. ROBERTSON.	1998	J. HARROWER.
1921	J. F. ROBERTSON.	1947	W. YOUNG.	1973	A. ROBERTSON.	1999	D. N. CHALMERS.
1922	W. H. LINDSAY.	1948	G. GRAHAM.	1974	A. ROBERTSON.	2000	D. N. CHALMERS.
1923	Maj. J. PHILP.	1949	J. MURRAY.	1975	T. ALLAN.	2001	D. N. CHALMERS.
1924	Maj. J. PHILP.	1950	J. NOBLE.	1976	T. ALLAN.		
1925	A. ANDERSON.	1951	J. G. WRIGHT.	1977	A. SCOTT.		
1926	Dr. A. H. DAVIDSON.	1952	W. McDougall.	1978	G. McBAIN.		

# ALVA GOLF CLUB

Founded 1901

## LADIES CAPTAINS

1903	Mrs H. BLACK.	1928	Miss M. DOWNIE.	1953	Miss E. HUDSON.	1978	Mrs J. KERR.
1904	Mrs H. BLACK.	1929	Miss M. DOWNIE.	1954	Mrs K. MURRAY.	1979	Mrs B. CLEMENT.
1905	Mrs H. BLACK.	1930	Miss N. M. FOGGO.	1955	Miss M. ROBIN.	1980	Mrs G. LAIRD.
1906	Mrs H. BLACK.	1931	Mrs A. H. DAVIDSON.	1956	Mrs K. MURRAY.	1981	Mrs N. COX.
1907	Miss J. HENDERSON.	1932	Mrs W. MAKIN.	1957	Mrs M. ROBIN.	1982	Miss A. REYNER.
1908	Miss H. ARNOT.	1933	Miss S. HUNTER.	1958	Miss P. NORMAN.	1983	Miss E. RAMSAY.
1909	Mrs J. GRAY.	1934	Miss M. S. PATERSON.	1959	Mrs B. CLEMENT.	1984	Mrs J. WHYTE.
1910	Miss E. TODD.	1935	Miss S. SIMPSON.	1960	Mrs K. MURRAY.	1985	Miss F. LIDDLE.
1911	Miss M. KENNEDY.	1936	Miss N. M. FOGGO.	1961	Mrs C. W. COULL.	1986	Mrs C. WATT.
1912	Miss M. HUTCHISON.	1937	Mrs R. R. McQUEEN.	1962	Mrs N. MICHIE.	1987	Mrs N. MICHIE.
1913	Miss B. KENNEDY.	1938	Mrs P. GOLIGHTLY.	1963	Mrs P. GOLIGHTLY.	1988	Mrs L. HARROWER.
1914	Mrs J. LIDDLE.	1939	Miss M. S. PATERSON.	1964	Mrs E. ANDERSON.	1989	Mrs J. WHYTE.
1915	Miss J. LODGE.	1940	Mrs M. ROBIN.	1965	Mrs G. LAIRD.	1990	Mrs J. WHYTE.
1916	Miss J. ROBERTSON.	1941	Mrs M. ROBIN.	1966	Mrs E. RAMAGE.	1991	Mrs M. HODGE.
1917	Miss K. SMALL.	1942	Mrs M. ROBIN.	1967	Mrs K. MURRAY.	1992	Mrs M. RAMSAY.
1918	Mrs H. BLACK.	1943	Mrs M. ROBIN.	1968	Mrs J. ROBERTSON.	1993	Mrs G. KERR.
1919	Miss K. DAWSON.	1944	Mrs W. YOUNG.	1969	Mrs J. C. WILSON.	1994	Mrs F. MELVILLE.
1920	Mrs J. LIDDLE.	1945	Mrs J. C. WILSON.	1970	Miss E. RAMSAY.	1995	Mrs E. SKIVINGTON.
1921	Miss G. ANDERSON.	1946	Mrs J. C. WILSON.	1971	Mrs B. MONKS.	1996	Mrs E. SKIVINGTON.
1922	Miss C. PATERSON.	1947	Miss N. M. FOGGO.	1972	Mrs E. RAMAGE.	1997	Mrs N. RENNIE.
1923	Mrs H. ANDERSON.	1948	Miss A. H. DUFF.	1973	Mrs A. REYNER.	1998	Mrs N. RENNIE.
1924	Miss E. J. PURDON.	1949	Miss D. REID.	1974	Mrs A. REYNER.	1999	Mrs M. TULLY.
1925	Miss E. MALLOCH.	1950	Miss P. NORMAN.	1975	Mrs S. SCOTT.	2000	Mrs M. TULLY.
1926	Miss M. HUNTER.	1951	Miss M. ROBIN.	1976	Mrs E. RAMAGE.	2001	Mrs S. BURDEN.
1927	Miss C. M. THOMSON.	1952	Mrs J. C. WILSON.	1977	Mrs J. JESS.		

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To cite everyone who has assisted in the research of this booklet would add significantly to its length, but they know who they are and what they contributed and they have our appreciation. In condensing 100 years of history, the Centenary Committee made every effort to highlight the hundreds of events and individuals that throughout the years have helped shape the Club's past. As with any look back at history we may have overlooked some of these, if so, may we take this opportunity to apologise for any oversight and hope any such omission does not detract from the overall enjoyment.

In particular we would like to acknowledge the following individuals who without notice allowed us access to their homes and lives. They have in some cases despite the passing of years, given us access to a unique fund of knowledge and enough recollections of both Alva Golf Club and its burgh to merit another project. They have on many occasions entrusted us with irreplaceable personal belongings used in the research of this work and been unfailingly helpful whenever asked. More importantly these individuals believed in this venture, gave encouragement throughout its research and writing and waited patiently on its completion, without them it would have been a lesser project.

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Special thanks to Mike Hodge for his skill and patience.



The Committee held on  
today Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> 1901.

Messrs. Duncan, McKelvie, Lindsay,  
Gray, A. Fisher and the Secy. were present.

The minutes having  
been read and approved  
the minutes of last meeting  
were also read and approved.

The Treasurer's report was  
read and approved.

The Secretary's report was  
read and approved.

The following office bearers  
were elected for the coming year:

President - Mr. J. R. Cunningham  
Vice-President - Mr. J. R. Cunningham  
Secretary - Mr. J. R. Cunningham  
Treasurer - Mr. J. R. Cunningham

The following members  
were elected for the coming year:

Minutes of Meeting  
held in Alva Infant School  
on Wednesday 6 March  
1901 at 7.30 pm.

Minutes of Meeting  
held in Alva Infant School  
on Wednesday 6 March  
1901 at 7.30 pm.

Minutes of Meeting held  
in Alva Infant School  
on Wednesday 6 March  
1901 at 7.30 pm.

J. R. Cunningham in the chair

On the motion of Mr. R. Henderson  
it was unanimously agreed to  
form a Golf Club and was  
arranged to hold a meeting  
for the appointment of office bearers  
and other necessary business on  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> inst.

J. M. McKelvie Secy  
Ad. Secy.

Minutes of Meeting  
held in Alva Infant School  
on Wednesday 6 March  
1901 at 7.30 pm.

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on Wednesday 6 March  
1901 at 7.30 pm.

Minutes of Special Meeting held in Pavilion on  
Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup> November 1915 at 7.30 pm.  
The Chairman stated that Mr. A. Gray had asked that a meeting  
be held which the H. B. & L. Club would be invited to attend.

Minutes of Special Meeting held in Pavilion on  
Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup> November 1915 at 7.30 pm.  
The Chairman stated that Mr. A. Gray had asked that a meeting  
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