

## POLLOK GOLF CLUB

*Notes from Review of Minutes 1892 – 1928 Dr J K Davidson*

*When on Archives, I reviewed the Minutes up to 1928. These Notes should be seen as an 'aide memoire'. Accuracy should be confirmed. Type written as my hand writing is almost illegible even to me! JKD Jan 2010*

5<sup>th</sup> Nov 1892 Public Hall, Maxwell Park

One general entry fee and one general subscription  
Gentleman of Pollok only and ?

Mr Mann 'retain the services of Mr Douglas, the present professional at the Eastwood Golf Club'. On recommendation of two committee members that Mr Douglas be continued as professional at the new club at such remuneration as may be fixed by the committee of the new club. That Tom Morris (whom failing any other professional) to act along with James Douglas, club professional, in laying out the new course.

**Opening Ceremony 25<sup>th</sup> March 1893** In unavoidable absence of Sir John Stirling Maxwell, Hon President, the Lord Provost had been invited to drive off the first ball at 1.30pm with a silver club bearing a suitable inscription, later presented to the Lord Provost (where is this now?)

14/03/93 Layout of course completed – NAMED HOLES

'Game Covers' to right of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> fairways – complaints from Pollok factor that game was being disturbed by golfers searching for lost balls. Cttee agreed that James Douglas, himself, should enter the Covers at dusk on a Saturday and collect any balls, provided he didn't disturb any wire netting or metal frames.

10/07/93 Assistant greenkeeper be appointed to allow Douglas might, as much as possible, spend more time at the Club House.

**Dress Code** Sir John Stirling Maxwell objected to golfers in shirt sleeves on his estate. He required that a coat and tie be worn.

21/08/94 Robert Robertson appointed as Assistant Greenkeeper with a wage increase from 18 to 20 shillings per week and second man increased to 15 shilling per week.

Exhibition match arranged between Fernie of Troon and James Douglas of Pollok – two rounds on 29<sup>th</sup> September.

Membership increased to 350/400 Subscription 10shillings

Ladies allowed to play Monday to Thursday 10am to 3pm.

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27/11/96 Mr Cook presented 'a frame full of snapshots in Pollok'

AGM 16.12.1897 – new workshop erected. Space to be utilised to extend and improve access to the bar

30/11/97 Club advertised for a Professional in 'Golf', 'Golfer', 'The Scotsman' and 'Glasgow Herald' in 1897.

*WANTED, Professional (who must be practical Club  
Maker) for Pollok Golf Club, near Glasgow;*

*membership 400; workshop provided by Club;*

*Course and Greens not to be under his charge.—Apply by  
letter, stating age, experience, and subsidy expected to Mr.  
JOHN WATSON STUART, Hon. Secretary, 88, St Vincent  
Street, Glasgow.*

There were 37 applicants. Six included on short list. Cttee decided to add Douglas' name.

16/12/97 Telegram (dated 9<sup>th</sup> Dec) from Ben Sayers North Berwick.  
'If situation not filled, excellent applicant and player calling on you to-  
day. Butchart by name. Secure him Sayers'.

Subcommittee selected four applicants and then witnessed two applicants  
each playing nine holes with a member. Auld & Butchart played nine  
holes followed by Sellers and Stephenson. Stephenson, being under  
20 years was too young, Butchart was appointed at a subsidy of 10s per  
week.

30/11/98 Entry fee 3 guineas Sub £1:10s  
Professional £25:10s subsidy  
Greenkeeper & assistant £130.00

15/12/98 Competition prize offered by C S Butchart.

12/01/99 100 applicants for House attendant Miss Butchart appointed.

23/02/99 Sir John Stirling Maxwell Bart appointed Hon President

11/05/99 concern at 'recent absence of Professional. Permission should  
be requested and granted'. Butchart resigned and moved to County  
Down, Northern Ireland.



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Mr Annan of Sportsmen Emporium offered services which were agreed. Only Taggart would enter the 'Game covers', being allowed 1 p for each ball to be sold by Mr Annan crediting the club with 3p

13/01/98 New workshop to be erected to right of entrance gate behind break wall. Plans prepared by architect member estimated cost £21.00  
Lost balls in 'Game Covers' still a problem.

08/03/98 Estimate for new workshop now £60.00. Actual cost including bar alterations were £95.00.  
Mole catcher offered his services at 10/6 shillings per year. Declined

12/05/98 Robertson (assistant greenkeeper) asked to be released. Post advertised at 23s per week attracted numerous applicants. John Taggart (Gourock) appointed at 20s per week. Robertson kept on as assistant.  
Horse reaping machine purchased to control long grass.

25/10/98 Membership offered to Lt F G Tait, Black Watch, the renowned Scottish amateur, stationed at Maryhill Barracks. Accepted.

10/11/98 Club became grazing tenant for North and South Lawbush farms at £90.00 per annum

14/03/00 Competition for Freddie Tait Memorial Fund – recently killed at Kimberley in Boer War.

14/06/01 Exhibition match Vardon, James Braid, J H Taylor and Herd.

12/02/02 Mr Elder, recently dismissed by Mr Annan of Sportsman Emporium, applied for position as Professional. Such action placed the Club in a difficult position. Having given excellent service as a clubmaker, Elder was appointed as Professional. The club purchased the workshop and fittings at the price Mr Annan had paid.

18/02/02 Cttee decided 'No lady members'.

23/03/03 Bogey score fixed at 78 (40/35).

Balls marked with members initials at 2p for Hasketh and 1p for guttie

30/11/03 Sub 5 guineas and Entry £180 to be checked.

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30/11/03 Elder could no longer give 2/6 per dozen for balls found on course. His suggestion of 1/9 per dozen accepted.

6/04/04 Permission granted Glasgow Medical Golf Club to play Pollok

29/06/04 **GREENKEEPER** Having received reports from various clubs on course management cttee decided 'change in greenkeeping was desirable'. Taggart was given two weeks notice, Elder appointed Greenkeeper. House purchased £12.00, insure less than 15s.

28/09/04 Club dance not supported.

05/12/04 Members allowed to enter 'Game Covers' for a trial period of one year.

06/02/05 Telephone installed for outgoing calls.

Application from J H Irons turned down by five votes to three. Irons was now resident on Pollok estate. This is interesting in that Jimmy Irons later held Club championship, winning Victory trophy, for several years.

Carter worm killer very successful on several greens.

Installation of 18 mats too expensive

Horse hoove marks a major problem. Pattison Horse Boots purchased.

No objection to the occasional lady visitor.

Replace sand boxes at 2/7 each.

03/04/05 Mr Elder to take census of lady visitors.

Later motion passed by 8 votes to 4 that 'Ladies be not permitted on course at any time'.

01/05/05 Fourballs prohibited after 5pm and between 2 and 5pm on Saturdays.

05/06/05 Increase in wages to Elder and Montgomery not agreed  
Horse mower to be sold to Stonehaven – 'half cost would be about right - minimum £6.00'

05/03/06 Veterans Trophy started.

02/04/06 Increase 2s/week to Montgomery for feeding horse. Now 24s/week



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07/05/06 Glasgow District Championship at Erskine. If Elder won this Championship would be at Pollok.

04/06/06 Elder given permission to play in Open at Muirfield.

01/10/06 Siting of Bunkers advice from David Adam cost 2 guineas.

05/11/06 Pattison Wood Roller mower for putting greens.

11/04/07 Purchased Ransome motor mower and 16 inch Shanks mower

07/05/07 following meeting of subscribers - Veterans Trophy would be named 'George Duthie Shield'.

Elder came second in Glasgow District Championship by one stroke.

05/08/07 Elder to supervise caddies; especially boys loitering and wandering on course.

Offer to buy old 'Horse Reaper' sold for £5 10s. Horse sold £7.00

Permission for Elder to play in Scottish Professional at Barry.

01/06/08 Ladies playing course at busy times. Ladies should play with a member. Elder to monitor.

10/08/08 - 17 doz golf balls returned to members at 2p per employee.

Elder has annual club cleaning contract with some members.

11/01/09 No desire for Sunday play.

01/02/15 Courtesy Glasgow v Edinr Rotary. 40/50 players at 1/6s each  
Membership 450 27 in Forces Entrance 7 guineas; Sub 2 guineas.

Letter from Lady Stirling Maxwell thanking members for supply of cigarettes for men presently resident at Pollok House and for competitions in aid of Belgian relief Fund.

Elderr and 3 assistants on War bonus of 2s/week. Elder to work in course area then be at Clubhouse at noon as Caddymaster. Elder on 30s/week plus 5s as Caddymaster. Assistants extra 5s/week for cleaning clubs.

Permission for soldiers from Pollok House to play the course.

Where possible club and members must purchase goods made in UK and support Red Cross; Limbless Soldiers and Sailors Association and the Victoria Forces Society.

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19/02/17 **Renfrewshire Food Production Board** decided that Haggs was suitable for cultivation but not Pollok. Strong objections from Haggs 'Pollok exerting undue influence' 'not making anything like the equality of sacrifice'. Early discussion on merger of course and membership fell apart when Pollok refused Lady members. No solution. Food Board abandoned plans and war in France ended.

05/08/18 Elder & Johnstone, having started work of 'National Importance', had left the service of club.  
Elder available on Saturday mornings.

04/11/18 Complaint only two part time workers available for course maintenance.

13/12/18 Full discussion at specially convened meeting. Elder no longer required on Saturdays. Testimonial for Elder.  
Advertise for Greenkeeper.

04/03/19 Robertson of Barrhead most suitable.  
James Hobbens appointed Greenkeeper; advise David Adams that club repairs and sale of balls would be in hands of greenkeeper.

26/05/19 Hobbens resigned.  
Hugh Morris, sometime of Eastwood and Williamwood, now at Bogside be appointed. Paid 2.10s/week with free house, gas and water. Repair clubs in spare time.  
Course alterations - Dr Alister Macxkenzie's report considered. Estimate of total cost £1,500.  
Cameron Corbett Vase won by J H Irons, J McBean and J Paterson well placed. J H Irons +5  
House Steward to wear uniform (military design?)

04/12/19 Entrance 10 guineas Sub 3 guineas. Life member £40.00  
Victory cup, presented by Mr Wylie, to be Club Championship.

03/02/20 Decided to request Mackenzie to feature three holes – 2<sup>nd</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>. Three members offered to meet Dr Mackenzie's fee.

10/08/20 Three featured holes fully approved. Extend lease for further 21 years. Visitors fee 2.6s per round.



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09/11/20 Raise loan from members for further featuring of course.  
£5.00/member or multiples.

Entry 10 guineas Sub 4 guineas

19/01/21 Visitors restricted no more than 2 days/month. Same person  
not more than 6 times per year; no matter who introduced.

04/05/21 List of Captains put up in Smoking Room.

01/06/21 £1 towards expenses Greenkeeper visiting Gleneagles.  
Use of Park near Stables to keep Horse.

02/11/21 Cost of features for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> - £295.00  
Mackenzie fee £54.15s.  
Start repaying debentures.

08/12/21 Stirling Maxwell writes 'lease would be extended to 21 years, if  
3 holes near the house were given up'. Rent would be reduced if no other  
parts used for grazing. Agreed to allow grazing on holes 6, 7 & 8.

06/02/22 Major overhaul of clubhouse approved. Little done since  
WW1.

Scratch score 75 approved by R&A.

1<sup>st</sup> Class +2- 8; 2<sup>nd</sup> 9-15; 3<sup>rd</sup> Class 16 – 24.

05/12/22 Cost of features 4<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> £359.8s. Mackenzie £29.8s

11/04/23 Permission granted to Mr Brownlee to arrange an exhibition  
match between Walter Hagen (Open champion) and George Duncan (past  
Open champion) at Pollok on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June 1923.

Resolved to write Secy R&A that all competitors be granted privilege of  
Pollok during Open Championship at Troon .

06/06/23 Lady Stirling Maxwell requested help in fund raising funds for  
Samaritan hospital. £142.18s raised at Autumn meeting.

05/09/23 James Carruthers (clubmaker) carried out an inventory

07/11/23 Duthie Shield scratch score of 73 equalled course record, held  
by J H Irons

Junior section formed.

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05/05/24 Reconstructed course opened 26/04/24 See excellent paper by Tom McInally (Newsletter Oct 2009)

Spring meeting (03/05/24) – J A C Morrison 73; A Jamieson Jnr 75; J H Irons 78. R&A approved scratch score 74.

Up to 06/04/25 Booking fee with membership application

Entrance fee for Mann cup and Foursomes abolished.

Entry for Duthie shield raised from 50 to 55.

Courtesy granted to Dunbartonshire Ladies

03/08/25 Medals Cat 1 backmarker to 8; Cat 2 9 – 13; Cat 3 11 – 24.  
Glasgow Medical Golf club regular visitors.

07/09/25 Andrew Jameson Jnr won Glasgow Championship 143  
Mr Aikman Nether Pollok admitted as Hon member.

30/11/25 Three Hon Vice Presidents appointed in recognition of service to Club.

12/04/26 Inspection of Clubhouse by Henderson & Carmichael. Plans of course created.

**WALKER CUP Trial** on 13/03/26 Initiated by SGU with generous help from members Messrs Rowan. John Wilson, Prestwick St Nicholas; Gordon Simpson, Scotsraig; Willis Mackenzie and W B Torrance Mortonhall against Vardon, Herd, Taylor (Triumvirate) & Ted Ray. Sadly this practice round wasn't insufficient. USA won by 61/2 to 31/2 at St Andrews.

03/05/26 Ladies day approved (2<sup>nd</sup> occasion)

06/09/26 Plans for caddie shed etc passed by Dean of Guild

11/10/26 Repositioning of tees & bunkers discussed

09/05/27 25 applicants for Caddiemaster.

Alexander Potter appointed at £2.5s/week; free house, gas, buy coal.

Andrew Jameson entered for Hoylake.

Change from horse to motor traction. Purchase ford tractor, triple mower.



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13/06/27 Jameson selected for Scotland.

Pollok team third in Western District James Scott at Western Gailes.

12/09 & 10/10/27 Course length increased Scratch score 73

Photo album donated of Amateur Championship 1926 & Walker Cup

14/11/27 Foursomes cup presented. Anonymous donor.

09/01/28 Pollok Estate created Game Covert between 7&8 fairways.

Renfrewshire Ladies approved 2,3 &4th May 1928

Permission refused for Lanarkshire Ladies & Dumbarton Ladies.

02/04/28 Potter's wages increased to include club cleaning.

Pollok 2<sup>nd</sup> equ Western District team trophy – Jameson, Ewart  
Brown, Cooper

10/09/28 Alterations to Greenkeepers and Caddiemasters houses  
completed.

Jake Davidson Jan 2010