WELCOME

The Club is delighted to welcome you as a Member. We hope that you take full advantage of your Membership by joining in Club activities whenever you can.

Your Proposer and Seconders will probably have already told you a lot of what is in this guide but it is hoped that it serves as a useful aide-memoire in the future to help you enjoy your Membership.

SOME HISTORY

Prestwick Golf Club was founded in 1851 by a group of 57 members who met at the Red Lion Inn, Prestwick. Its first Captain was The Earl of Eglinton, who presented a gold medal for annual competition; the Eglinton gold medal is still played for to this day. Colonel James Ogilvie Fairlie of Coodham brought Tom Morris with his wife Agnes and young son Tommy to Prestwick from St. Andrews, to be the Keeper of the Green, Ball and Club Maker. Tom laid out a 12 hole course almost 3,800 yards in length.

Prior to 1860, Alan Robertson of St Andrews was considered to be the best golfer of the time. Robertson was one of the first professional golfers who in those days made a living from playing for bets, caddying, ball and club making, and instruction. Tradition has it that Robertson himself was never beaten as an individual when playing for money. He was the first golfer to break 80 over the Old Course at St Andrews and on his death in 1859 the members of Prestwick Golf Club decided to stage a competition to see who should follow him as the Champion Golfer.

The first Open Championship was held at Prestwick on October 17, 1860 and played according to the Rules of Prestwick Golf Club. Eight professional players competed for the prize of a red Morocco leather belt with silver clasps and an ornamental silver buckle, which cost £25 and was paid for by the club’s members.

The winner was Willie Park of Musselburgh. His score of 174 for 36 holes (three rounds of 12 holes) bettered that of Tom Morris Senior, representing Prestwick, by two strokes.

These two players continued to dominate the Championship over the next seven years with ‘Old’ Tom winning four times and Willie Park twice (Park also won once more in 1875).

The Morris name again appeared as the winner in 1868 but this time it was Old Tom’s son, Tom, (left) who won the Belt and did so again in 1869 and 1870, earning him the Belt outright for three consecutive wins.

In 1869, he achieved the Championship’s first hole-in-one, holing out at the 166-yard eighth. The following year, he went one better by starting his first round with a three at the 578-yard opening hole: a modern-day albatross given the hole would have been a par six. His first round score of 47 (over 12 holes) set a new record which still stands.
The original scorecards recording these achievements feature among the most treasured items in Prestwick’s own archive collection.

When Young Tom won again in 1872 at Prestwick (there was no Championship in 1871), Prestwick had been joined by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews and the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers in agreeing to host the event and paying for a new trophy, a Claret Jug, which cost £30.

Prestwick hosted the Open 12 more times between 1875 and 1925. 1884 saw the first time that the championship at Prestwick was staged over two rounds of 18 holes, subsequent to the new lay-out of 18 holes in 1882.

In 1893, Prestwick witnessed its first Open over 72 holes, the Championship being won by Willie Auchterlonie.

Other notable winners at Prestwick have included John Ball Jr., the first amateur to win the Open in 1890 – the last one being the legendary Bobby Jones in 1930 at Hoylake; Harry Vardon, who holds the record with six wins, three of which were at Prestwick in 1898, 1903 and 1914; and James Braid in 1908.

Prestwick’s final Open was in 1925 when the size (and enthusiasm) of the crowd, estimated at 15,000, overshadowed proceedings in the final round. Local favourite Macdonald Smith (an expatriate Scot based in the USA) started the final round knowing that a 78 would be good enough to win. His first three rounds were 76, 69 and 76.

However, he slumped to an 82 to finish fourth, losing out to the eventual winner Jim Barnes (right), himself resident in the USA but a Cornishman by birth. Bernard Darwin described how the crowd influenced the occasion:

"They wanted the Scotsman to win and all that was wrong was that too many of them wanted it too much."

Although the Open has not been back to Prestwick since 1925 the Club continues to host major amateur events. The Amateur Championship has been played 11 times over the Prestwick links between 1888 and 2001. In 2013 the British Ladies Open Amateur Strokeplay Championship was played and won by Jin Jang of China with a 14 under par score of 282.

In 2014 the Club hosted the 100th Scottish Ladies Amateur Championship won by Gabrielle Macdonald of Craigielaw Golf Club and the British Boys Championship won by Oskar Berqvist of Sweden.
GETTING TO THE CLUB

There are a number of ways to get to the Club.

**Car:** Most Members come to the Club by car. There are extensive car parking facilities at the Club. There are **no** reserved places so it’s a question of taking whatever space you find. When the Club is particularly busy e.g. on the day of the Anniversary Competition or Member Guest Day the gate will be opened to allow additional parking near the Cairn. That is also how you reach the Practice Ground – should you be so inclined.

**Train:** The Clubhouse is adjacent to Prestwick Town Railway Station. There is a regular service to and from Glasgow – definitely worth considering on days when using a car may be inadvisable e.g. the day of the Christmas Lunch.

**Air:** Members who live outwith Scotland often use air travel to come to Scotland. Direct flights to Prestwick Airport are now less frequent so most flights are normally to either Glasgow or Edinburgh Airports. Hire cars are available at all airports or taxis can be arranged on your behalf by the Caddiemaster.

A TOUR OF THE CLUBHOUSE

On entering the Club you will see the Championship Belt and the Champion Golfer Trophy to your right – these are a reminder of the Club’s place in the history of golf and prove popular with visitors to the Club. To the left, at the desk, you will see the **CADDIEMASTER** – he is a very useful person to get to know.

The Caddiemaster, in addition to managing the Caddies, also controls the first tee. He also has the most important information at his fingertips: train times, taxi company phone numbers, the latest football scores etc. The Caddiemasters do tend to know most Members by name but do take the chance to introduce yourself the first few times you visit the Club.

In the Hall, beyond the stairs is a bag drop area which, in theory, is to give somewhere to leave your clubs when you visit the Club. Unfortunately, a number of Members who play regularly view it as permanent storage so it is sometimes difficult to get a space – if you see one, grab it!

On the walls around the Caddiemasters’ desk are honour boards recognising the winners of the Open, Amateur and Scottish Amateur Championship held at Prestwick over the years.
The Professional’s Shop is to the left of the Caddiemasters’ desk and David Fleming and his team of assistants will be happy to help you in all aspects of your game. David stocks an extensive range of Club branded clothing and equipment. He also uses the latest technology to find the clubs that are just right for you or to sort those annoying problems with your swing that prevented you from winning last month’s medal.

If you turn right in the Hall you will find the results of recent Monthly Medals and also the entry sheet for the next one on the notice board to your right. Should you have been fortunate enough to show any sort of success in a Club Competition, the Secretary will have rewarded you by cutting your handicap and this will also be shown on the notice board.

Passing the notice board you turn left to enter the **MEMBERS’ LOCKER ROOM**. A number of the lockers were installed in 1882 and are relatively unchanged since then. New Members usually ask the Secretary if they can have a locker – unfortunately demand far outstrips supply and there is a long waiting list. Ask the Secretary nonetheless. Members without lockers tend to find a favourite place in the locker room to change. They become so attached to the banter of the other Members there that when offered a locker they often ask to wait until one becomes free in that area!

There are three lockers which have been set aside for Members who visit occasionally to use over the duration of their visit. These can be booked through the Caddiemaster who has the keys for them. Please remember to leave the key with the Caddiemaster when you leave.

Walking through the Locker Room you will come to the Washroom and Showers. The Caddiemaster ensures there is always a ready supply of bath towels for those who wish to shower. A selection of colognes and hair tonics are available for those seeking something
fragrant after their golf. During the summer months various sun lotions are also put out to protect you during your game.

There is an exceptionally effective Drying Room off the Locker Room should you be unfortunate enough to have had a soaking. If you leave your clothing and equipment there to dry off please try to remember to retrieve it later. Occasional purges are carried out and any clothing that has been left for some time will be removed!

On leaving the Locker Room most Members, (assuming they have completed their golf), head for the SMOKE ROOM. This is the main lounge used by Members. Smoking in the Clubhouse is no longer allowed by law but the atmosphere and tradition of the Smoke Room is maintained by the presence of the brass ashtrays and pipe and cigar holders on the tables. Some say they are left there to hide the effects of fading of the wood caused by the many sunny days that Prestwick enjoys but you will be able to impress your guests when you tell them the ashtrays started life as naval artillery shells from the Great War – the marks of the firing pins can still be seen.

Take the opportunity to walk round the Smoke Room and look at the various paintings and pictures on the wall. The Secretary or Club Archivist will be happy to explain what the different items are and some of the history behind them.

In the corner of the Smoke Room is a large table where you will find a number of books which may be of interest. The Match Books show the results of Club matches, the Results Book shows the result of the various Club competitions – the Spring and Autumn Meetings, Medals etc; the Suggestion Book – should you wish to make a suggestion aimed at increasing the enjoyment of Members from their Club but well worth reading nonetheless if no suggestion immediately comes to mind. One of the more unusual books is the Members’ Weights Book – this book dates back to the late 1890s when Members were able to weigh themselves on the Jockey Scales Chair in the hallway outside the Smoke Room. New Members are encouraged to weigh themselves and record their weight in the appropriate section of the Weights Book – the Club Steward will be happy to unlock the Chair for you. The Candidates
Register is also kept on the table – this shows the names of Candidates for Membership and is confidential and should only be looked at by Members.

By now you will most probably be ready to head over to the Bar where Mrs Bennett and her team will be happy to serve you and advise on the relative merits of Kummell straight up or on the rocks. The Club stocks a variety of beers and spirits. When you joined you were assigned a Bar Number (which you will probably immediately have forgotten). Any purchases from the Bar or at lunch will be charged to your Bar Account – please settle this before you leave.

The DINING ROOM can be accessed from the Smoke Room. For many, the Dining Room is what Prestwick is all about – the chance to meet friends, enjoy excellent food and to have fun. Seating at the big table in the Dining Room normally starts from the window and works towards the hallway. When you enter the Dining Room take the first available seat next to the diners already there. Depending how quickly you or your immediate dining neighbours lunch you may find that you enjoy the company of a number of interesting characters. If your dining neighbour finishes before you, his place will be reset and you will be joined by another diner. Lunch at the big table is an excellent way for new Members to meet other Members of the Club. Take time to enjoy your lunch in good company and surrounded by the portraits and photographs of the Club’s Past Captains.

The Dining Room is open every Saturday and most Wednesdays and Fridays between April and October. It will also be open on other days if there is a Club match or event taking place and can be opened on other days (except Mondays) if there is sufficient advance demand by at least 8 diners. Requests for a Dining Room lunch outwith the normal days should be made to the Secretary at least a week in advance.

After lunch some Members often enjoy a game of bridge in the CARD ROOM. This room contains a number of items of memorabilia charting the Club’s history in the game of golf and acts as a casual lounge which visitors use if they do not wish to change into collar and tie. There is also a television in the Card Room which proves popular when rugby internationals are being shown.
Taking the stairs to the first floor you will immediately see the imposing portrait of Harry Hart who was Secretary of the Club from 1868 to 1903.

At the top of the stairs is the **CARDINAL LOUNGE**. This is used as an informal lounge area by visitors through the summer months. There are two displays of Club memorabilia – one display explains the connection between the Club and the Morris family. The other display charts the early Open Championships. Old Tom and Young Tommy Morris played an instrumental role in the early days of the Club and the early Opens. On the walls are a number of pictures presented to the Club over the years and copies of the draws of the various Amateur Championships that have been played at Prestwick.

On your left is the **CARDINAL ROOM** restaurant. This is a less formal restaurant than the Dining Room and tends to be used by visitors and Members during the week. There is a varied menu and the Chef’s Special is usually popular with the Members.

The Cardinal Room predominantly celebrates Prestwick’s long association with the amateur side of the game with a number of pictures and displays of amateur events which have been played at the Club.

Opposite the entrance to the Cardinal Room is the Secretary’s office and administration office.

**WHAT GOES ON?**

Your fixture card shows when various Club events are to take place. The secure Members’ section of the Club website contains a Diary which will be updated regularly to reflect any additional fixtures or changes to the fixture card. It will also show which days are likely to be busy with visitors.

**CLUB DINNER MATCHES**

Club Dinners are probably the most popular of all events held for Members at the Club. They comprise a black tie Friday Dinner followed by 36 holes of foursome matches the following day. There are four Dinners held each year – February, March, June and October.
Competition for places at Dinners is fierce – the entry sheet will go up in the Smoke Room 4 weeks before the Dinner. Members who live outside Scotland and have to arrange flights etc may contact the Secretary more than 4 weeks in advance to try to get a place but this cannot be guaranteed to all. The Secretary will always ensure that at least half of the places are still available for local Members when the sheet goes up. It is only fair that all Members have some chance of entering the Dinner.

A Member of the Club acts as the RECORDER. His role is to set the matches to be played the following day and to accept wagers from the participants on the outcome of the games. He will decide on the matches prior to the Dinner. Matches are normally set so that both teams are roughly of equivalent skill (on paper at least) and no handicap strokes are given.

During the Dinner a sheet of the matches to be played will be passed around the table to give the diners an indication of who they will partner and who they will be up against.

After the Dinner the participants will gather in the Smoke Room and the Recorder will call each match individually and accept wagers on the outcome. Each diner will be given a sheet showing the matches so that he can record any bets he might place. Wagers are placed in units of 25 pence so 100 units equates to £25. Wagers are normally placed for between 50 and 400 units. The Recorder will try to get an equivalent value of wagers for both sides of a match – he has to underwrite any loss in his book after all! If one side is more heavily backed he will sometimes ask for support for the underdogs to try to even the betting up. If that is unsuccessful, he may reduce the amounts wagered on the more favoured side. After all bets have been taken for an individual match the Recorder will call out the wagers he has taken – listen carefully as this is the bet that will stand. If he has misunderstood your bet and placed it on the wrong side this is your chance to correct it – if not you may suffer the consequences!

The Recorder will repeat the above for all the matches. If you are a first time diner it is worth sitting back and observing what happens for the first few matches called before you dip your toe in the water and start betting. Overseas members should be aware of the currency and the current exchange rate in case they think they are betting in pence instead of pounds – it has happened.

The following day the matches are played and there is usually keen interest in others scores – particularly if you have a wager riding on it.

Once the matches are completed the Secretary will collate the results and identify who has come out ahead in their wagers and who is down. Those in the fortunate position of being ahead will receive a cheque for their winnings from the Secretary – those who have been less fortunate will receive a demand from the Secretary for a cheque to cover their loss. Winnings will have 10% deducted for the staff fund.

Dinners are great fun and new members should try to take part in one as soon as they can.
CLUB MATCHES

The Club plays a number of matches each year against many great Clubs. Most matches are over a whole weekend – often starting with a Friday evening supper and followed by 36 holes of foursomes on the Saturday. A black tie dinner will take place on the Saturday evening and often Dinner matches will be arranged for the Sunday morning pairing a Prestwick member with one of the opposing Club team against another Prestwick member and opponent.

The teams for these matches are selected by the Captain. Obviously when teams are selected, length of Membership may count, but as many different Members as possible are included.

The cost of playing in the matches is shared between the teams. For home matches your share of the cost of lunches and drinks will be charged to your bar account. Traditionally the home team will take the visiting team to supper on the Friday evening and the Secretary will send you an account for your share. If there are Dinner matches called then the outcome of your wagers will be included in the account from the Secretary. The home Club will pay for the Saturday evening dinner and wines – not the players.

If you are asked to play in an away match the Secretary will normally make all the travel arrangements and accommodation bookings and will send you an account for this after the match together with your share of lunch and bar costs.

Other matches are played during the year which usually comprise either golf and lunch or lunch followed by golf. Again, most teams are selected by the Captain.

Cross Country Match
Each year the Club plays a cross country match against our neighbours, Royal Troon. The match comprises 36 holes of foursomes – with a twist. In the morning, half the matches tee off at Prestwick and the other half at Royal Troon. After 8 holes at Prestwick or 9 at Troon, the players go ‘cross country’ (about a half mile walk) and then resume their match on the 10th at Troon and the 9th hole at Prestwick. Lunch is taken at the opposite Club from your starting point and you then play another match back to where you started. This is quite unique in golf and should be experienced at least once by new Members. A sheet for those wishing to play normally goes up in August.

Triangular Match
Prestwick, Prestwick St Nicholas and Lanark Golf Clubs were all formed in 1851. A triangular match between the Clubs was held in 2001 to recognise their 150th anniversary. This is played every 5 years – the next match is in 2016.

COMPETITIONS OPEN TO MEMBERS

Strokeplay events
The two main strokeplay events at the Club are the Spring and Autumn Meetings and usually attract a large entry.
**Spring Meeting**
The Spring Meeting is normally held in the last Saturday in April. The Member returning the lowest scratch score is awarded the Club Medal. The Member returning the best handicap score wins one of the St Andrews Cross Tankards. In the event of a tie between Members in either the scratch or handicap categories the winner is decided by an 18 hole playoff between those who have tied.

**Autumn Meeting**
The Autumn Meeting is normally held on the 3rd Saturday in September (to tie in with the R&A’s Autumn Medal week). The Member returning the lowest scratch score is awarded the Eglinton Medal – this is the Club’s oldest competition. The Member returning the best handicap score wins one of the St Andrews Cross Tankards. In the event of a tie between Members in either the scratch or handicap categories the winner is decided by an 18 hole playoff between those who have tied.

**Morty Dykes Trophy and the Victory Trophy**
The Member who returns the lowest gross aggregate in the Spring and Autumn meetings will win the Morty Dykes Trophy.

The Member who returns the lowest nett aggregate in the Spring and Autumn meetings will win the Victory Trophy.

**Medals & Bogey Competitions**
There are eight monthly medals held during the year – normally on the first Saturday of the month. There is no medal played in January, March, April or July. The entry sheet for the medal competitions normally goes up at the notice board in the hallway about a month before the competition. Members can book times from 8am to 10.30am and from 1.30pm to 3pm (in the summer months).

A bogey competition is play concurrently with the medal which gives you incentive to keep going if you have experienced a card tearing disaster in the medal.

**Club Championship**
Unusually the Club Championship does not feature highly in the pecking order of events at Prestwick. This is held over a weekend in June and comprises an 18 hole qualifying round from the medal tees on the Saturday morning. The 8 leading gross scores then play scratch Matchplay knockout from the championship tees over the rest of the weekend with the champion emerging victorious on the Sunday afternoon. Normally only those with single figure handicaps would consider entering the Club Championship but that should not be a deterrent if you think you are able. The entry sheet goes up about 4 – 6 weeks before the event.

**Robertson Trophy**
This is an 18 hole strokeplay event where the players may only carry and use 7 clubs! It is normally played in March and often results in better winning scores than those achieved with 14 clubs. There is a magnificent trophy awarded to the winner. The entry sheet goes up about 4 weeks before the event.
**Foursome Medal**

Prestwick has a great tradition of foursome golf and this is continued by the foursome medal. It is normally played in April. The entry sheet goes up about 4 weeks before the event.

**Monthly Strokeplay Competition**

Each month from May to September there is the opportunity for Members keen to put in scores for their handicap to play in a strokeplay competition. This is normally on the first Thursday of the month (but check the fixture card in case something else is being played that day). There is no draw and anyone wishing to take part should arrange their own partner. Entry to the competition is made in the Professionals’ shop.

**Matchplay events**

**Easter Foursomes**

This is probably the most popular event on the annual fixture list and is knock out foursomes off handicap over the Easter weekend. The first round is played on the Saturday morning and the winning team can expect to play 6 rounds culminating in a final on the afternoon of Easter Monday. There is a Plate competition for teams that lose on the Saturday which is played over the Sunday and Monday. A Club Supper (not black tie) is held on the Friday evening for those taking part. An auction will be held of fancied teams taking part.

An Easter Foursomes event for the over 70s for the **Tom Rutherford Trophy** is also held the same weekend but entries are limited to 16 teams with the successful finalists playing one round on each day from Friday to Monday.

A Father and Sons stableford competition is held on Good Friday morning for the **GS McCulloch Trophy**. Sons have to be under 18 on the day of the competition.

**Victoria Vase**

The Victoria Vase is a handicap knockout competition normally played over the weekend of the late May Bank Holiday. The first round is played on the Saturday morning and the winner can expect to play 6 rounds culminating in a final on the Monday afternoon. There is a Plate competition for players that lose on the Saturday played over the Sunday and Monday. The Victoria Vase is a magnificent trophy and the winner also receives a golf commemorative medal.

The **Diamond Jubilee Trophy** is a similar event for the over 70s which comprises an 18 hole stableford qualifying round on the Saturday with the 4 lowest scores qualifying for handicap Matchplay on the Sunday and Monday.

**Winter Foursomes**

As the name suggests this is a foursome matchplay event played over the winter months. Pairs are put into round robin groups to play 3 or 4 matches from October until Christmas. The leading pairs in each group then proceed to a knockout stage played in January to March. The entry sheet normally goes up in the Clubhouse at the beginning of September.
WHEN TO PLAY

Saturdays
The most popular day for Members to come to the Club is Saturday. If there is no organised competition on the day Members wishing to play usually meet at the Club at 9am and a draw is done to establish games and partners. The games normally play off from about 9.30am. Don’t be worried about organising a game in advance – just turn up and you will be paired up with others. Most games on a Saturday morning are 4 balls.

If you plan to bring a guest (or guests) then it is best to check in advance with the Secretary whether it’s likely to be busy on that particular day. Most Members want their guests to be able to experience lunch in the Dining Room but sometimes if too many guests are brought this can cause some pressure on Dining Room places. Members playing only with their guests normally wait until the draw games go off before starting their games.

If you bring a guest to the Club please remember to sign them in to the Members’ Guest book next to the Bar.

Lunch is served from 12.30 to 2.30pm in the Dining Room. The upstairs Cardinal Room is not normally open on a Saturday.

Saturday afternoon golf is restricted to two balls or foursome style golf.

Sundays
Sundays at Prestwick do not tend to be particularly busy days for Members. Tee times are normally reserved for Members until 10.40am and from 12.30 to 3pm. These times are sometimes reserved for school golf societies so it is best to check your fixture card in case you intend playing on a Sunday.

The Dining Room is not normally open unless there is a visiting society but lunch is served upstairs in the Cardinal Room.

Mondays
Mondays tend to be very quiet for Members. Tee times are usually reserved between 9 and 10am and 12 and 3pm. The Dining Room is not open on Mondays but the Cardinal Room is open during the summer months. A number of charity events are held on Mondays in April and October – as these usually have shotgun starts which close the course for the morning or afternoon it is worth checking your fixture card if you intend playing on those days.

Tuesdays
There is a Members draw (similar to Saturdays) at 9.30am. If you wish to play in this you should be at the Club by 9am. Tee times are reserved for Members between 8.30 and 11am and 12 and 3pm. The Dining Room is not normally open on a Tuesday unless there is sufficient advance demand.
**Wednesdays**
Wednesday mornings are made available for visitors between 8 and 9.15am. Visitors taking the times between 8.15 and 9.15 also have lunch in the Dining Room. Members’ times are available between 9.15 and 10am and from 12 to 3pm. The Dining Room will normally be available for Members wishing to play in the afternoon (during the summer months only).

**Thursdays**
There is a Members draw (similar to Saturdays) at 9.30am. If you wish to play in this you should be at the Club by 9am. Tee times are reserved for Members between 9 and 10am and 12 and 3pm. The Dining Room is not normally open on a Tuesday unless there is sufficient advance demand.

**Fridays**
Friday mornings are made available for visitors between 8 and 9.30am. Visitors taking the times between 8.15 and 9.15 also have lunch in the Dining Room. Members’ times are available between 9.15 and 10am and from 12 to 3pm. The Dining Room will normally be available for Members wishing to play in the afternoon (during the summer months only).