

EARLSFERRY THISTLE'S NEW CLUBHOUSE

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BUILT AT A COST OF NEARLY £800

BRIG.-GEN.J.D.CROSBIE PERFORMS OPENING CEREMONY

A notable event in the history of Earlsferry Thistle Golf Club and Ladies' Thistle Golf Clubs took place last night, when the handsome and imposing new clubhouse, overlooking the golf course, was formally declared open by Brig.-General J.D.Crosbie, C.M.G.,D.S.O., of Muircambus House, Kilconquhar.

The ground flat of the clubhouse, which will be devoted to the use of the men's club, was packed to capacity for the occasion by members of the two Thistle Clubs, the general public and representatives of neighbouring golf clubs from Crail to Leven.

Mr D.C.Cook, Captain of Earlsferry Thistle Golf Club, presided, and was accompanied by Brig.-General Crosbie, hon-president; and Mr and Mrs D.C.M.Thomson, secretaries of the gents' and ladies' clubs respectively.

HANDSOME BUILDING

The interior decoration of the new clubhouse, its handsome furnishings and stately external appearance were points which excited the keen admiration of all those who saw the beautiful building last night for the first time. It will serve the purpose of the twin clubs most satisfactorily, and will provide comfort which under no circumstances could be obtained in the little old "timber shack" as Brig.-General Crosbie described the Thistle's former premises.

The ladies' quarters of the clubhouse are situated on the top flat and are reached by an outside stair, semi-detached from the men's quarters. This ensures privacy to each club. In front of the ladies' rooms is a wide verandah which will prove useful in summer. Both the top and bottom sections of the clubhouse have been fitted out at considerable expense - the total cost of the building being £780.

A FORMALITY

In introducing Brig.-General Crosbie, Mr D.C.Cook said this duty was a mere formality as the General was very well known to all. They were proud to have him as their hon.-president and they appreciated the great interest he had taken in the clubhouse right from the start. Although a very busy man, and having often to attend meetings in Anstruther, Cupar and even London, the General always consented to present prizes for the club, or do any job of that nature.

Regarding the clubhouse, Mr Cook said he had received many favourable comments about it from the general public. This was particularly gratifying as it had been a big enterprise for the club.

" A GREAT CLUB "

Brig.-General Crosbie said he felt it a great honour and privilege to be asked to perform the important ceremony of opening these new premises.

He regarded Earlsferry Thistle as a very great club and one which was flourishing in the community that it served. "That term, 'great' is a relative term," he said, "and I am going to establish the claim I make, when I say that Earlsferry Thistle Club is a great club."

"A great many people, taking an ordinary, superficial view of life, establish standards of greatness according to the possession of wealth, and position, and possessions. These things may be very great, but they are only temporary. But where they are used as means for the worthy discharge of those responsibilities with which they are invested they may be great."

Continuing, he declared that there was, however, another standard of social or moral value which expressed itself in various ways. One was in the power of construction, another in the omnipotence of mutual advantage. It expressed itself also in the manifestation of worthy purposes which could not be checked, or hampered, or hindered by possessions or poverty.

60 YEARS OLD

On behalf of Earlsferry Thistle Club he claimed that time had proved and established its worth to the community. The club was now 60 years old, having been founded in 1875. Its first premises were under the canopy of the open heavens, and it carried on its meetings, the issuing of cards and all its other manifold duties without any better shelter than a stone dyke ! (Laughter).

Evidently the early founders - men like James Anderson and those who were associated with him, had planted a little seed then, a seed which had thrown its roots downward into the whole social life of the community, and had waxed strong and borne fruit !.

Early records of the club showed many interesting things. For instance they would find a record in 1884 of the great and renowned James Braid having successfully competed for a medal which he did not win, the score he returned being 102. (Laughter). He had then sunk in the estimation of the club of that day for they raised his handicap from 8 to 12. (Renewed laughter).

He mentioned this fact for the encouragement of the younger players who might be deterred and dismayed. The courage and tenacity by which James Braid was governed might easily make them achieve similar successes.

HEALTHY SPORTING INSTINCTS

They had also a record in 1885 of a member, Robert Anderson, who competed for a medal and was the only person to return his card - the entry in the club records being "that all the other members of the club were on the loch curling!" (Laughter). The secretary of the golf club in those days was also the secretary of the curling club. So that in those days they would see that their forebears were of many and healthy sporting instincts.

The club existed in the open air for no less than 46 years. That showed the stuff that the members of the club were made of. Fifteen years ago it succeeded, through the self-sacrifice and energies of its members, in providing itself with a little timber shack. And now, after 15 years, they found the club established in these commodious premises.

NOTABLE GOLFERS

Before saying a word or two about the clubhouse, there were several names which he must mention - names that would ever be enshrined in the honour and estimation of the members of the club. He had mentioned one in ancient times, and there were Charlie and Archie Simpson and others. But coming to more modern times, he could not allow the occasion to pass without mentioning the name of one who was present that night - Jock Smith. (Applause)

If anyone had worthily upheld the traditions of the club, it was Jock Smith. He had played for Scotland, and in the Walker Cup team and had done many other things which had been of inestimable value and encouragement to the other lads of the club. They thanked him for what he had been, and for what he would be for the club.

With his help, and others, the club had achieved distinction in a great many fields. This year it had won the championship of Fife - an honour which it had won no less than five times - in 1921, 25, 28, 33 and 35. In honouring the Earlsferry Thistle Club, Jock Smith was honouring a club which deserved that honour and which showed its worth by the honours it had won and maintained through a period of years in many fields. Jock Smith, with Willie Graham - another name honoured in Elie and Earlsferry - also won for the club the 'Glasgow Times' trophy in 1929.

The club had through time been the home of many notable golfers. They had sent out into various spheres for important careers - John Donaldson, a man whom many of them knew; Willie Graham, whom he had just mentioned, and W.C.B. Thomson. All those three were upholding the tradition of the club, and if they should be listening in to them that night (Laughter), they would send them a hearty message of good-will and good cheer to go on their way rejoicing.

Referring to the clubhouse, Brig.-Gen. Crosbie said it had cost the club £650. That was in addition to the cost of the site which was £90, and in addition to the furnishings which came to something like £40 - making a total of £780 to which members of the club had faced up. The clubhouse was now opened with all that sum discharged excepting a bond of £400. That was a notable achievement.

He sought to establish that £400 in their memories for the time being, because, as many of them were receiving through contact with the club, much benefit and blessing in their lives, and by association were no doubt being fitted for service in a higher sphere in due course, he would ask them then, when they were deprived of their presence here on earth, to remember the club!. (Laughter).

VALUABLE SERVICES

In connection with the building of the clubhouse, there was one fact which he wished particularly to emphasise. It was their feeling of indebtedness to the members who had actually worked on the building of the clubhouse. Owing to the fact that so many of the contractors were members of the club, they had received tenders at the closest cut prices, and they had received a standard of work of the very highest and enduring value. They could not allow the occasion to pass without expressing their gratitude to the members who gave them these valuable services.

There were other people whom he ought to mention, but his time was limited. He wished to say, however, that the club was intensely grateful for the sympathy and practical help that the public all over the burgh had given. The club was now set in the very happiest of surroundings, and in the sympathy and help the members had received from the public they had evidence of the esteem in which the public held them.

FRIENDLY GESTURE

He wished to express how sincerely they appreciated the kind gesture of Elie Golf House Club in putting up a notice in their clubhouse, while the new clubhouse was being built, inviting subscriptions. This had been entirely unsolicited, and he wished Mr Ludovic Duff (Golf House Club Secretary) to convey to the members of his club the Thistle Club's grateful thanks for this charming gesture of friendliness and neighbourliness. It was a spirit which in everything they did, they would reciprocate to the uttermost.

He had also to thank the members of the Ladies' Thistle Club. He was so glad to know that they also were to be established in this clubhouse - in a place where the men would always be able to look up to them! (Laughter). But for the help and sympathy of the ladies, they would not have been there that night. Again and again the ladies had organised dances, whist drives and sales of work which had been such a valuable factor in providing the means they required to enable them to carry out their scheme. they thanked them one and all for their valuable help, and hoped they would enjoy the new premises.

They most gratefully recognised the gifts they had received from many friends and especially those who had advanced them that £400 for the bond on the premises at the extraordinarily reasonable rate of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

THE SECRETARIES

He also wished specially to mention the name of Mr Duncan Thomson who for 25 years had been secretary of the club. They knew his indefatigable energies and how well he did his work, and the assistance he received from his charming wife. In their official position they had many duties which did not fall to other members of the club, and they offered Mr and Mrs Thomson their heartfelt thanks.

"In declaring the clubhouse open," Brig.-Gen.Crosbie concluded, "I do so with feelings of lively satisfaction, satisfaction which I believe is shared by the whole community who have seen this club grow and have taken pride and pleasure in the success of its achievements - satisfaction that must most truthfully and most deservedly be enjoyed by all members of the club".

"I declare these premises open in full assurance of lively hope that the Earlsferry Thistle Golf Club will continue in the future to be that asset to the community that it has been in the past, and the home of many first-class golfers." (Applause).

In the course of short speeches the following thereafter congratulated the Thistle Clubs upon the new clubhouse, and extended their best wishes for the future success of the clubs :- Provost Robb, Mr C.H.Maxwell, Anstruther; Mrs Moon (Elie Ladies' Club), Mr J.W.Diack (Captain of Anstruther Golf Club), Mr J.G.Phimister (Captain of Crail Golfing Society); and Mr A.J.B.Milne (Captain of Leven Golf Club).

PRIZE LIST

The chairman then called upon Brig.-Gen.Crosbie to present the prizes won during the season to the following :-

Ladies' Thistle Club

Auld Cup - Miss Margaret Lindsay
Flag competition - Miss Margaret Lindsay
Maitland Plate - Miss Irene Dunsire; runner-up - Mrs Fenton
Stevens Cup (foursomes) - Miss Margaret Lindsay and Miss Annie Watson
runners-up - Mrs Ballantyne and Miss Wilma Low
Glover Plate - Miss Margaret Lindsay; runner-up - Miss Irene Dunsire
Handicap prize - Miss Margaret Thomson
Short Cup - Miss J.R.Graham; runner-up - Miss Nessie Smith
Flag competition - Mrs Fenton
Bogie competition - Miss Wilma Low (Mrs Clark's prize)
Monthly medal aggregate (1st section) - Miss Irene Low (winner of medal four times during
year)
runner-up - Miss H.Y.Graham
(2nd section) - Miss Margaret Thomson;
runner-up - Mrs D.C.M.Thomson
Winners of spoons (the Jubilee gift of Mr Armour) - Miss Irene Low, Miss Irene Dunsire,
Miss J.R.Graham, Miss Margaret Lindsay, Mrs Ballantyne and Miss H.Y.Graham.

Gents' Thistle

Burgh Medal and Errington Cup - J.N.Smith
Lilburn Cup - T.Graham; runner-up - J.B.Thomson
Jubilee Trophy - Jas.Mackie; runner-up - J.A.Wilson
Crosbie Cup (foursomes) - Ken Foster and T.Graham
McGregor Cup (mixed foursomes) - G.Graham and Miss Cathie Thomson
runner-up - A.Pearson and Miss Irene Dunsire
Craigforth Cup - David Thomson
Stevenson Cup - J.B.Thomson
Greig Quaich - D.C.M.Thomson; runner-up - David Thomson
Edinburgh Medal - D.B.Greig,jun.
Monthly Medal Aggregate - 1st section - J.Richardson
2nd section - James Mackie
Monthly Spoons - D.Thomson, J.N.Smith, J.Richardson, T.Greig,
D.C.Cook, J.Ballantyne, A.H.Scott and K.Milne.

In the absence of Mrs Clark, the president of the Ladies' Thistle Club, Mrs D.C.M.Thomson proposed votes of thanks to Mr D.C.Cook, Brig.-General Crosbie and all who had contributed to the success of the memorable occasion. Referring to the serious illness of Mr G.A.Clark who is in a Dundee nursing home, she expressed the hope that he would make a complete and speedy recovery.

The function closed with tea which was served to the gathering by the ladies of the club.

WHIST WINNERS

Later in the evening a whist drive was held. Mr D.C.M.Thomson discharged the duties of cardmaster, and 16 tables were engaged in play. The prizes were presented by Mrs Robb to the following :- Ladies - 1. Mr G.Graham (as lady), 2. Miss McBrayne; consolation, Miss Watson. Gents - 1. Mr Alex.Reekie, 2. Mr Wm.Sime; consolation, Mr W.Graham.

Mrs Stevens supervised the tea arrangements, with Miss Watson, Miss Low and Miss Graham as assistants.