

Historical Timeline

- 1562** Golf recorded as being played in Montrose when six year old James Melvill wrote in his diary that he was "taught to use the glub for goff" by the Rev William Gray, making Montrose links the 5th oldest golf course in the world.
- 1628** The first paid caddy in golf history may have been "the boy who carried my clubs", from a diary entry of the future Marquis of Montrose on his golf round at Montrose.
- 1810** Royal Montrose Golf Club, founded as Montrose Golf Club, is the 9th oldest club in continuous existence. Up to 1863, it played all its competitions over 17 holes. For its first 80 years, the club took responsibility for funding "the green": the improvements to and redesigns of the golf course which they made available free of charge to generations of local golfers in that period.
- 1818** The club acquired its first Gold Medal. From 1820 until 1830, the club honoured the medal winner by automatically making him Club Captain until the medal was competed for again.
- 1830** The club produced one of the earliest set of written rules; almost 60 years before a unified set of rules were laid down by the R & A. Two of these rules were innovative- "the definition of a stroke" and the rule "limiting to a partner or caddy the advice given to a player" - and helped to shape the present rules of the game.
- 1845** With the assistance of four-time future Prime Minister William Ewart Gladstone, who had local connections, the club secured the Royal Patronage of Prince Albert whilst he was on holiday in Balmoral, to become Montrose Royal Albert Golf Club, only the 3rd club in the history of golf to be so honoured.
- 1857** The club was one of eleven clubs that took part in the Grand National Golf Club Tournament in St Andrews, the first-ever event of its kind that preceded the first Open at Prestwick in 1860.
- 1862** The club's first professional, Robert Dow, played in the Hoylake Open and he had regular challenge matches against close friend Tom Morris Snr both at St Andrews and Montrose. He taught the game to a whole generation who took their golfing skills to America and Australia including the famous Charles (Chay) Burgess and the Findlay brothers.
- 1864** On 4th October 1864 nine gentlemen met in the Crown Hotel to form a new golf club Montrose Victoria Golf club. A silver medal was ordered and first competed for on 13th October.
- 1866** Royal Albert club made further golf history by organising the only 25 Hole Open tournament ever held. The winner was W Doleman (Glasgow) on 112 against a strong field that included James Anderson, (St Andrews - 3 Opens), Andrew Strath (Prestwick - 1 Open), Willie Park (Musselburgh - 4 Opens), and Tom Morris Snr. (St Andrews - 4 Opens).
- 1886** Royal Albert Golf club was one of the 24 original sponsors of the British Amateur Championship Trophy and were involved in the management of the event until it was taken over by the R & A in 1921.
- 1887** Montrosian, Alex Findlay, who was taught the game by Robert Dow and caddied for Royal Albert members in his youth emigrated to Nebraska and became "the grandfather of golf in USA" after creating its first golf course consisting of 6 holes and promoted golf widely. He went on to be affiliated with over 210 clubs world wide and was an honorary member of almost every golf club in the USA.
- 1908** Alex Findlay persuaded Charles (Chay) Burgess who succeeded Robert Dow as Royal Albert professional to emigrate to USA where he became the professional at the Woodland Golf Club Newton, Massachusetts for over 30 years and coached celebrity members including Babe Ruth, Al Jolson, and Bing Crosby.

He most famously coached Woodland member Francis Ouimet to be the first amateur to win the US Open in 1913 at Brookline. This ex caddie's victory did more than any other factor to establish golf in USA, and he became known as "the father of golf in USA". He went on to become the first American to be Captain of the R & A and his story was depicted in the book and film "The Greatest Game Ever Played".

- 1927** On 16th June 1927 a new ladies golf club was founded to play on the North Links. The North Links Ladies Golf Club, distinct from the Montrose Ladies Golf Club who played mainly on the nine hole South links. Originally meeting in the former Royal Albert clubhouse, by 1929 they has raised sufficient funds to build their own clubhouse and by 1935 had an impressive seventy six members and thirty juniors.
- 1986** The Royal Albert Golf Club and the Montrose Victoria Golf Club merged and also welcomed the North Links Ladies Golf Club to form the Royal Montrose Golf Club we have today.
- 2010** Royal Montrose Golf Club celebrated its Bicentenary in 2010, and were joined in the celebrations by 36 Royal Clubs from around the world and seven local clubs.
- 2019** On 1st November 2019 the Royal Montrose Golf Club and the Montrose Mercantile Golf Club merged to form the Royal Montrose Mercantile Golf Club