

JAMES BRAID AND THE ORIGINAL 18 HOLES

James Braid

Muir of Ord was a nine hole course opened in 1875, and with a local and small membership.

The decision to have a full course was taken by the club in early 1924, and during that year money was collected from bazaars. In December the Secretary was instructed to write to James Braid.

James Braid was invited to assist in extending the course to 18 holes, and visited the course 13th and 14th January 1925. On arrival he announced that he was “pleased with the ground for the extension” which was called the Castle Hill Plateau.

Work progressed slowly, perhaps finance related. Even in October “work was still being done” and especially “the new greens were still not ready”.

In April 1926 the Ross-shire Journal revealed that Braid had bunkered the original nine holes and that they would be ready by 22 April. Braid’s new nine were still not ready. In the autumn the new clubhouse was opened and the new nine were apparently opened sometime later.

From info available the new nine were possibly opened at the start of the next season as there was no mention of the new nine in a Ross-shire Journal report on the September 1926 prize giving printed in the 1st October 1926 issue ?

Article from Ross-shire Journal of Friday 16th January 1925

MUIR OF ORD GOLF CLUB

James Braid’s Visit

Muir of Ord Golf Club recently invited Mr James Braid, the famous Walton Heath golf professional to come north and report on the laying out of the proposed extended course at Muir of Ord, funds for which purpose were raised by a bazaar last autumn.

Mr Braid arrived on Tuesday and immediately proceeded to survey the present course and the proposed extension. He was accompanied by the officials of the club, viz. Mr J.T. Garrioch, president, Mr D. Forbes, vice-president, Mr Thomas Mackenzie, capt., Mr Thomas Pullar, secretary and Mr J. Fraser, treasurer, and the following members of council, Messrs A. Mackenzie, W. Forbes, A. Fowler, Muir of Ord; and Rutherford and Ross, Beaully.

On Tuesday Afternoon and Wednesday forenoon the greens, tees and bunkers were marked off and a full report of what is required to be done will be submitted to a meeting of the club.

Mr Braid was very pleased with the ground to be taken in for the extension of the course to the regulation 18 holes. He remarked that the greens which are to be made on the Castle Hill plateau would be very sporting, and generally was favourably impressed with the possibilities of the course and its fine situation.

Article from Ross-shire Journal of Friday 3rd April 1925

MUIR OF ORD GOLF CLUB

Mr A. Fowler presided at the annual meeting of the Muir of Ord Golf Club on Saturday. Apologies for absence were read from Sir K.J. Mackenzie of Gairloch, Mr J.T. Garrioch, and Mr T. Mackenzie. Mr Pullar, secretary, read the report of last annual general meeting, and Mr J. Fraser, treasurer, showed the income of the club for the year to have been £47 14s 6d and expenditure £54 0s 7d. The bazaar funds showed a credit balance of £601 16s 9d.

The reports were adopted, and Lord Lovat was elected patron; Mr Garrioch, president; Mr T. Mackenzie, captain; and Mr A. Mackenzie, vice-captain. Handsome cups were presented by Sir A. Grant, of Messrs McVitie and Price, and Mr Donald Forbes, and it was agreed to thank them for their generosity. A donation of £200 from Lord Lovat per Mr Garrioch, factor, was intimated on condition that a course equal to those adjoining be put up. It was agreed to thank his Lordship for his generosity.

Article from Ross-shire Journal of Friday 10th April 1925

OTHER CLUBS AND COURSES

Other golf clubs are getting busy. At Muir of Ord there are great expectations arising from the big improvement scheme by which the course will be extended to the regulation 18 holes under the plan prepared by the famous golf course designer, Mr James Braid. It will be some time yet until the work is completed and meantime the present interesting course will whet the desire of golfers of Ord and Beaully for a bigger game.

At Strathpeffer the usual arrangements for the season are being made, and there is some hope that, against the possibility of another exceptional year of growth, special provision will be made to keep the fairway cut. For an inland course Strathpeffer has been brought to a high degree of perfection but a continual battle has to be waged yearly to keep down the rough and to keep the fairways clear.

Article from Ross-shire Journal of Friday 1st May 1925

MUIR OF ORD GOLF COURSE

The formal opening of the Golf Club for the season took place on Thursday when a large number of members turned out for a mixed Foursome match. The weather was showery at the time of starting which was delayed for an hour, when it cleared up and a most enjoyable round was made. The course was in fine order and much interest was taken in the new improvements being made on the course. Tea was served to the players by the Ladies' committee of the Club which was much appreciated. A number of prizes kindly given by some of the members and their friends were presented to the best scorers as follows :-

- 1, Mrs Donald and Alex Mackenzie – 50 less 4 – 46
- 2, Mrs Forbes and Thos. Mackenzie – 55 less 5 – 50

3, Miss Ellis and W.E.O. Rutherford – 59 less 8 – 51

3, Miss Mackenzie and Ken. Mackenzie – 59 less 8 – 51

Other scores were :-

Mrs MacCallum and Wm. Leith – 56 less 4 – 52; Mrs Campbell and Alex. Fowler – 61 less 8 – 53; Miss Campbell and J. Beveridge—58 less 5 – 53; Mrs R. Mackay and J. Fraser – 57 less 3 – 54; Mrs Fowler and Wm. Macdonald – 57 less 3 – 54; Miss Manson and Wm. Forbes 57 less 2 – 55; Miss Cameron and Colin Urquhart – 63 less 7 – 56.

The prizes were handed to the winners by Mr T. Mackenzie, captain of the Club, who proposed a vote of thanks to the donors of the prizes and to the ladies for providing the tea.

Article from Ross-shire Journal of Friday 1st October 1926

MUIR OF ORD GOLF CLUB

Saturday was a “big” day in the history of the Muir of Ord Golf Club, when a mixed foursome for a series of prizes was played, followed by tea and the annual distribution of prizes. Mr Tom Mackenzie, captain, presided at the presentation of prizes, and after giving a resume’ of the season’s play and calling for a special vote of thanks to the ladies for the excellent tea provided, called upon Miss Forbes, Corriemount, to present the prizes. The following is the prize list :-

1. Miss Ferguson and Mr Chris. Urquhart (7) 43; 2. Miss Manson and Mr W. Macdonald, Bank of Scotland (2) 48; 3. Miss I. Mackay and George Cameron (7) 46; 4. Mrs Campbell, Beaully, and John Taylor (5) 47; 5. Miss Nellie Cameron and John Fraser (8) 47; 6. Miss E. Mackenzie and A. Mackenzie (3) 48; 7. Miss Macintosh and Hugh Macrae (7) 48; 8. Mrs Forbes and J Campbell, Beaully (5) 49; 10. Mrs Fraser and W. Paterson (9) 50.

Seasons Prizes (Ladies)

Cup in ladies’ qualifying – Mrs Macintosh, Beaully, with scratch score of 45

Prize for runner-up by club – Miss Nan Rattray, Broomhill, Beaully

Mrs Mackenzie of Ord cup – Mrs Macdonald, Bank of Scotland

Second prize by treasurer – Miss A. Maclean, Conon

D. Forbes cup – Mrs MacCallum, Beaully

Macvitie and Price cup – Miss Bella Logan and Mr Tom Ross

Gentlemen’s Prizes

Monthly medal – D Macdonald, three wins

Patron’s cup – William Macdonald, Inspector of the Poor, Beaully

D. Forbes cup – John Mackenzie, Beaully