



# LINKS NEWS

The Newsletter of St Andrews Links

Allianz

THE GLOBAL PARTNER OF ST ANDREWS LINKS

## New St Andrews Links website unveiled

**A** new official website for St Andrews Links providing information about how to play the seven courses at the Home of Golf has been launched.

The website, [www.standrews.org.uk](http://www.standrews.org.uk), is designed to help golfers access the Old Course ballot, book tee times online, purchase merchandise and arrange golf lessons or custom fit sessions as well as access a wealth of information about the services and facilities at the Links. The new website has a far simpler navigational structure making it easier for users to access information.

Some fascinating footage from the Open Championships at the Old Course can be viewed on the site along with the TV commercial for St Andrews Links and its global partner Allianz. The Old Course webcam can be viewed on the site and interactive course guides and image galleries are available for each of the courses.

Alan McGregor, chief executive of St Andrews Links Trust, said, "The website is such an important part of our business. It has been a major project for us to develop the new site in time for the Open this year and we are pleased to have a new and improved service to offer our golfing customers."

"The new site will be a platform which will enable us to introduce many new innovations in the months and years ahead. It is an indispensable tool for all those who have an interest in playing golf in St Andrews or simply finding out more about the place."



● The home page

An official launch for the website was held at the USPGA Merchandise Show in Orlando, Florida where the site was unveiled by Mr McGregor.

The previous Links Trust website was developed in 2003 and has grown to some 700 pages. Capitalising on the surge of interest in St Andrews around the 2005 Open it attracted around 80 million hits a year and hundreds of thousands of unique users.

In early 2009, the Trust

began working with Broughty Ferry-based Avian Communications to develop a new more dynamic and interactive website which would give it a platform to introduce more fresh content and more innovations.

A key element of the new website is the new Golf Shop section which enables visitors to purchase a full range of official Open 2010, Old Course, St Andrews Links and Castle Course apparel and merchandise.

To access the new official website for St Andrews Links visit: [www.standrews.org.uk](http://www.standrews.org.uk).



● The Old Course page has a film of St Andrews Open Champions



## Course UPDATE

### Winter weather

Over late December and early January we experienced the worst weather on the Links since 1982 with the first snow arriving on 17 December. The courses lay under either snow or ice and remaining closed for 30 consecutive days. From early November until the end of February, the courses have been closed or partially closed for over 50 days in total which is the most days lost to golf through a winter in over 25 years.

There was a short thaw around 27 and 28 December with some rain. As the ground was frozen solid, water was trapped and with temperatures plummeting most hollows were left with ice that was well over six inches thick in places. The worst affected areas were many of the greens on the Old and Eden courses.

There was slight concern that the ice could cause some damage to greens if it was to lie there for a prolonged period. A number of experts who have experience of this type of situation were consulted. The consensus was that unless it was to remain for over 60 days it was best to leave the ice as more damage could be caused trying to remove it.

The frost was so far into the ground that when the thaw did begin it took over seven days to clear completely. It is when the ground is in this condition that some of the most severe damage can occur. When the top inch or two of soil is soft but the ground underneath remains solid, the soil structure can be damaged and the roots sheared, leaving no space for air and water to travel through the soil profile and no roots to support the grass when it begins to grow in the spring.

### Gorse management

In the first two weeks of January greenkeeping staff concentrated on the gorse management programme, clearing one of the dunes on the Jubilee and the area around the 18th green of the Eden.

### Winter maintenance

In February the final alterations around the 9th tee of the Eden were completed allowing buggies to be used on the course from April. Bunker repairs on the Strathtyrum, New and Jubilee courses are close to being completed. Holes 11 and 13 still require to be turfed following alterations. There is still some gorse and grass land management to be carried out and aeration to greens and fairways have begun on different courses.

### Open Championship preparations

Contractors have laid ducts around the Old and also on parts of the Jubilee and the Golf Practice Centre in preparation for taking cabling to help with television coverage at the Open Championship.

### The Castle Course

All projects planned for the winter period have been completed, including alterations to the 10th green where the back left portion has been extended.

# Pro tips from the Academy:

## Hit the season with your longest ever drives, with Stephen Sweeney

With distance becoming more and more important in the modern game, I have outlined a few key areas of the swing to help you gain those important extra yards.

### Set-up

The key to a powerful swing starts at the set-up. You need to build a solid foundation to swing the driver and as you can see here I have set up with my feet slightly wider than my shoulders. I have also positioned the ball further forward in my stance on a high tee to help me hit up on the ball. I am now set up with my body behind the ball with my spine angled slightly away from the target.



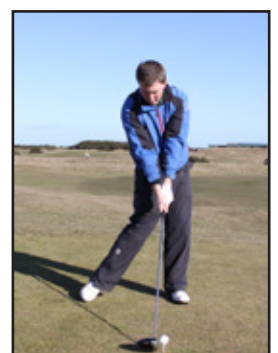
### Back-swing

When trying to hit it long, you need to make full use of a big shoulder. I have turned my shoulders at least 90 degrees so that my back is facing the target and my left shoulder is under my chin. The club has remained wide from my body throughout the swing and this helps to make sure that it does not go past parallel to the floor. Whilst doing this, I have also transferred my weight on to my back foot so that I am in a position ready to start the downswing.



### Impact

In order to secure a good strike at impact you must make sure that you have transferred your weight back towards your left side and that your hips have rotated past their starting position. Both arms are fully extended and I have maintained a slight tilt in my spin angle away from the target. This will help me to launch the ball higher and get me more distance off the tee.



### Follow Through

It is no good hitting the ball long if you are not going to hit it straight. One of the most common shots with the driver is one which misses on the right side of the fairway. To help prevent this and make sure you hit it straight as well as long you must make sure that your hands release through impact. As you can see, my right hand has overtaken my left and is now above it. From here I will let the club continue round my body to a balanced finish position in which I have turned my whole body through to the target.



To book a lesson at the academy call 01334 466606, email [academy@pggm.com](mailto:academy@pggm.com), or visit [www.pggm.com](http://www.pggm.com).



# Links commits to international environmental accreditation

**S**t Andrews Links has become one of the first golf venues committed to achieving GEO Certification, the internationally recognised accreditation from the Golf Environment Organisation (GEO).

St Andrews Links, which comprises seven public golf courses including the Old Course, enjoys an excellent reputation for its environmental practices. The Links has been recognised on several occasions in recent years including receiving the Overall Award at the Golf Course Environment Awards run by the Sports Turf Research Institute in October 2009.

The new accreditation programme aims to become the hallmark for sustainable golf and measures all aspects of a golf venue's operations from the courses to clubhouses and greenkeeping facilities. It was launched by the Golf Environment Organisation, a non-governmental organisation, at the BMW PGA Championship last May.

The Old Course will be one of the first Links courses put forward for the programme and it is hoped that the accreditation will be in place by the time of the 28th staging of the Open Championship at the Home of Golf in July.

Gordon Moir, director of greenkeeping at St Andrews Links, said, "We place a great deal of emphasis on managing the courses and facilities in as sustainable a fashion as possible. There is a long tradition of sensitive and sustainable management at the Links and, as the Home of Golf, we have



● Benjamin Warren and Jonathan Smith of GEO with Alan McGregor and Gordon Moir of the Links Trust

a responsibility to take a lead in encouraging the golf industry to take these practices on board. This accreditation programme is an excellent way of ensuring golf courses adopt this approach in a structured way and we look forward to working with the Golf Environment Organisation."

There are several major environmental projects currently being undertaken at the Links.

A reedbed washdown area was recently established on the 17th hole of the Jubilee Course which enables water that has been used for washing machinery to be fed through two gravel beds which have been planted with common reed. The reeds filter out the impurities, allowing clean water to be discharged to a soakaway.

Other recent projects at the Links include dune reinstatement work, an extensive grassland management programme and soft engineering work for coastal protection of the Jubilee Course.

Jonathan Smith, chief executive of the Golf Environment Organisation, added, "Decades of strong leadership and responsible, balanced decision-making has positioned St Andrews Links at the forefront of sustainable golf. They have been walking the walk in both the management and development of the courses, clubhouses and maintenance facilities."

The On Course™ Reports for St Andrews Links can be read on GEO's website at [www.golfenvironment.org](http://www.golfenvironment.org).

## Compost available for Links Ticketholders

Links Ticket Holders can help themselves to compost which has been made from grass clippings and gorse cuttings over the last two years. The compost has been placed against a fence close to the 13th tee of the Jubilee. Access is gained via West Sands Road. Anyone interested in obtaining compost will need to bring their own bags and a spade.



## St Andrews Links staff raise money for charity

Staff at St Andrews Links Trust have been doing their bit for charity raising £1200 from raffle proceeds over the winter period.

Three cheques, each for £400, were presented recently by staff members to Palliative Care at St Andrews Community Hospital, Alzheimer Scotland and Keepers of the Green.

Margaret Rabbitt received a cheque on behalf of Palliative Care at St Andrews Community Hospital from Willie Redpath and Sarah Scott of the Links Trust.

Ann Little, Donations Advisor for Alzheimer Scotland, and Julie Penn of Alzheimer Scotland received a cheque from Links Trust staff Willie McLaughlin and Issie Barrett.

Jimmy Bone of the Links Trust accepted a cheque on behalf of Keepers of the Green. The money was donated to their fund for a wheelchair which will be presented at The Open Championship in July.

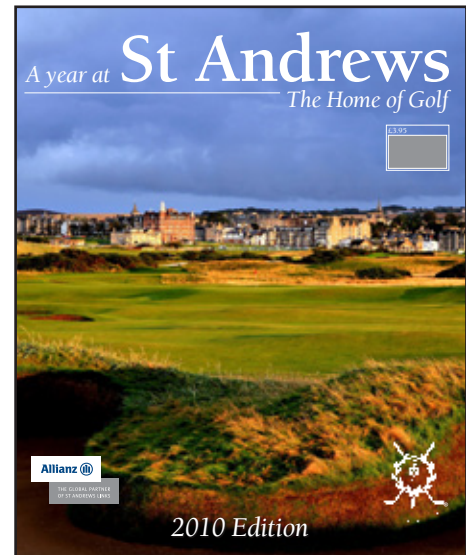


● (left to right) Willie McLaughlin of the Links Trust, Ann Little, Donations Advisor for Alzheimer Scotland, Issie Barrett of the Links Trust and Julie Penn of Alzheimer Scotland.



● (left to right) Willie Redpath of the Links Trust, Margaret Rabbitt of Palliative Care at St Andrews Community Hospital and Sarah Scott of the Links Trust.

## 2010 Yearbook available



The 2010 edition of a Year at St Andrews, containing a full review of the local, national and international golfing year as well as previews of the year ahead, is now available. Obtain a copy of the Yearbook by visiting [www.standrews.org.uk](http://www.standrews.org.uk) or by visiting one of the St Andrews Links Golf Shops.

## Buggies on the Eden Course

Following work this winter to make buggy routes safer, senior citizens and golfers with medical certificates will now be able to use buggies on the Eden Course from 1 April 2010. All St Andrews Links courses will now be accessible by buggy.

## Play from White Tees

From 1 April Links Ticketholders will have the option to use the white tees on all St Andrews Links courses. Any visitor can also play from the white tees on all courses except the Old Course where they will have to hold a single figure handicap. Pace of play will be closely monitored and Rangers will have the ability to move golfers to the yellow tees if they lose their position on the course. As a result wear and tear should be more evenly spread around the teeing areas and should not cause damage to the traditional medal tees.

## Eden Starter's Box

A new Starter's Box serving the Eden and Strathtyrum courses has been installed next to the first tee of the Eden Course. It will be in operation from 1 April 2010. The box is intended to make the check-in process for golfers easier and quicker. Links Ticketholders who only need to swipe their ticket will be able to go straight to the Starter's Box. Golfers who have fees to pay or require trolleys or hire clubs will report to the reception desk in the Eden Clubhouse.



### HOLES IN ONE

**Derek Bayne** of St Andrews Golf Club used a seven iron to achieve a hole in one on the 5th hole of the Eden on 12 September. On 18 September another St Andrews Golf Club member, **Neil McDougall**, tamed the 10th hole of The Castle Course using a four iron. The next day, 19 September, **Roberta Ewan** of St Regulus Golf Club took one shot at the 10th of the Eden.

The 5th hole of the Eden saw another hole in one on 21 September when **Brigid McCaw** of Royal County Down Ladies' Golf Club used her rescue club to good effect.

**Paul Webster** of St Andrews Golf Club used a nine iron to shoot a hole in one in strong winds at the 8th hole of the Eden on 24 September. The following day **Christine Oesch-Borman** of Kullo Gult Golf Club in Finland took a single shot with her seven iron on the 8th hole of The Castle Course. A hole in one was posted for the third consecutive day when **Rick van den Boom** of Kennemer Golf Club in the Netherlands holed out at the 8th of the Old Course with a seven iron.

On 5 October **Rickie Williams** of Newlands Golf Club in Dublin also used his seven iron to great effect when he aced the 5th hole of what he described as the 'best course in the world', the Jubilee.

St Rule Golf Club member, **Judith Robbie**, gained her first ever hole in one on 17 October when she used her rescue club at the 5th hole of the Eden.

On 21 October **Jan Sheargold** of Shifnal Golf Club in Shropshire used her eight iron to hole out on the 8th of The Castle Course. **Edward Shorrock** of Longridge Golf Club in Preston also had success with an eight iron on the 11th hole of the Old Course on 21 October. On the same day **Ewan Scott**, St Andrews Golf Club and a SALJGA member, used a pitching wedge to hole out on the 3rd of the Balgove with one swing.

**Douglas Hamilton** of Paisley shot the first hole in one of the year using a six iron at the 3rd hole of the Strathtyrum. **Liz Childs** achieved her debut hole in one at the Strathtyrum on 9 February when she used her rescue club at the 6th hole during a St Rule Golf Club stableford competition.

## Ticket renewal reminder

Links Ticketholders are reminded that Yearly Ticket renewal forms for the period 1 April 2010 – 31 March 2011 must be completed and returned to the Reservations department by 31 March 2010. As there is such a high demand for the tickets it is important that golfers renew their tickets in time or they will lose their ticket (excluding residents). For enquiries please contact 01334 466718.

### Course Information

#### Green Fees (to 31 March)

	Adult	Under 16
Old Course	£64	£64
The Castle Course	-	-
New Course	£46	£23
Jubilee Course	£46	£23
Eden Course	£28	£14
Strathtyrum Course	£18	£9
Balgove Course	£8	£3

### Tickets

Three and seven day tickets are available for all courses except the Old.

3-Day	£100 (adult)	£50 (junior)
7-Day	£200 (adult)	£100 (junior)
<i>Balgove Course only</i>		
3-Day	£15 (adult)	£4 (junior)
7-Day	£30 (adult)	£8 (junior)

### Opening Times

For full details about clubhouse opening times please contact 01334 466666.

### Equipment Hire

Steel and graphite clubs and shoes can be hired from the shops in the Clubhouses. Telephone 01334 466666.

### PLAYING THE LINKS

Starting times on all six 18 hole courses may be booked in advance but not for Saturday play, except on The Castle Course (subject to availability). Applications may be made by letter, phone, fax or email. The Reservations Office is open Monday-Friday 9am-5pm with the exception of Thursdays, when it opens at 9.30am. A minimum of two golfers should apply and pre-paid green fees are non-refundable.

Tee times can also be reserved through LinksNet, the Links Trust's online booking service. Visit [www.standrews.org.uk](http://www.standrews.org.uk) for details.

#### Old Course (6721 yards, par 72)

First played on around 1400 and naturally formed, the Old Course regularly hosts The Open Championship. Like all the Links courses it is public. It is open Monday-Saturday all year and the playing interval is ten minutes. The handicap limit is 24 for men and 36 for ladies and a valid certificate has to be shown to the starter. Please check in with the starter at least 20 minutes before your tee time. Visiting golfers wishing to park at the Links Clubhouse should allow 25 minutes before their tee time and take the free shuttle buggy to the starter's box beside the first tee. Single players can join in a two or three ball by approaching the starter in the first instance.

#### Advance reservations

Applications will be taken on or after the first Wednesday in September for the following year. Please apply to [reservations@standrews.org.uk](mailto:reservations@standrews.org.uk).

#### Ballot

Every day except Sunday a ballot or draw takes place for a number of times on the following day on the Old Course. The Saturday draw is for play on Monday. You can enter by phone (01334 466666) or in person the morning before you wish to play and the ballot is drawn after 2pm. The results are announced on [www.standrews.org.uk](http://www.standrews.org.uk)

#### The Castle Course (6759 yards, par 71)

The seventh course at the Home of Golf. Spectacular views from a cliff top site. Online bookings through [www.standrews.org.uk](http://www.standrews.org.uk)

#### New Course (6625 yards, par 71)

Laid out by Old Tom Morris, this course was paid for by the Royal & Ancient Golf Club and opened in 1895. It is open every day, there is no handicap limit, and the playing interval is eight minutes. The order of play is determined by arrival on the first tee. Locals have priority between 5pm and 6pm. Online bookings through [www.standrews.org.uk](http://www.standrews.org.uk)

#### Jubilee Course (6742 yards, par 72)

Opened as a 12 hole course in 1897, the Jubilee was extended to 18 holes in 1905. It is the Links course nearest to the sea at St Andrews and is used regularly for championship events. It is open every day and there is no handicap limit. Tee times can be booked by phone or in person the day before play. Locals have priority between 8.00-9.30am and 1.30-2.30pm. Online bookings through [www.standrews.org.uk](http://www.standrews.org.uk)

#### Eden Course (6250 yards, par 70)

Designed by Harry S Colt and opened in 1914, the Eden is one of the most popular courses on the Links. It is open every day and there is no handicap limit. Tee times can be booked by phone or in person the day before play. Online bookings through [www.standrews.org.uk](http://www.standrews.org.uk)

#### Strathtyrum Course (5620 yards, par 69)

Shorter and less testing than the other courses, the Strathtyrum opened in 1993. It is ideal for high handicappers although the bunkers are cunningly placed and the greens undulating. It is open every day and there is no handicap limit. Tee times can be booked the day before play. Online bookings through [www.standrews.org.uk](http://www.standrews.org.uk)

#### Balgove Course (1520 yards, par 30)

It is open every day and times cannot be booked in advance – simply turn up and play. The green fee is the same for nine or 18 holes.



## The Clubhouses



**St Andrews Links has three superb clubhouses, the Links, Eden and Castle clubhouses, which are all open to the public. With first class facilities and ample parking, the clubhouses are an excellent stop for both golfers and non-golfers.**

Experienced reception staff are available to give information on all aspects of golf in St Andrews and the rest of Fife.

The Links Clubhouse is a short buggy ride from the first tee of the Old Course and next to the first tees of the New and Jubilee Courses. It has a large and welcoming reception area, spacious locker rooms, lounge

and dining room with a bar, and an extensive shop.

The Eden Clubhouse is near the Golf Practice Centre and is ideally situated for golfers playing the Eden, Strathtyrum or Balgove Courses. There is a special room for junior golfers.

The Castle Clubhouse (above) overlooks the ninth and eighteenth greens of The Castle Course and features spectacular cliff top views.

All clubhouses offer varying menus with a choice of daily specials. Private parties and buffets for club dinners, celebrations and other special occasions are also welcome in the Links and Eden Clubhouses.

All changing rooms are spacious and well

equipped with lockers and overnight secure storage for golf clubs. Clubs can be cleaned using ultrasonic club cleaning equipment.

A wide range of golfwear, accessories and gifts branded with official St Andrews Links logos can be obtained from the Links Clubhouse shop, the shop behind the 18th green of the Old Course and The Old Course Shop beside the 18th fairway. Castle Course merchandise is available in the Castle Clubhouse. Golf clubs and shoes can also be hired from the Clubhouses.

The Links and Eden clubhouses are open all year every day except Christmas Day, the Castle Clubhouse opens until 1 November.

## About the LINKS

### Soft Spikes

Golfers are encouraged to wear shoes with plastic cleats or 'soft spikes' which do less damage than metal spikes to the greens.

### Caddies

Caddies for the six Links courses can be hired through the caddie manager (tel: 01334 466633). For The Castle Course call the caddie assistant (01334 464513). Only caddies registered with the Links Trust may be used on a professional basis and caddie availability cannot be guaranteed. Caddies are paid in cash on satisfactory completion of the round and tips are at the golfer's discretion. Caddie fee is £40.

### Trolleys

Battery powered trolleys (£12) or manually operated trolleys (£4) are available for hire from the starters and caddie pavilions. On the Old Course, trolleys can only be used after 12noon between the months of April and October unless there are no caddies available.

### Buggies

Two person buggies or golf carts can be hired subject to availability on the New, Jubilee, Strathtyrum and Castle courses by golfers who are either senior citizens or medical certificate holders. Hire is £18 for visitors and £10 for all yearly ticket holders' with '£25 from 1 April 2010'

### Practice Centre

- St Andrews Links Golf Academy
- Floodlit driving range.
- 22 covered and 32 open bays.
- Special area for pitching, putting and bunker practice.
- Open every day from 7am.
- Last bucket of balls dispensed at 8pm.

To find out more ☎ 01334 474489

**SINCE 1974 St Andrews Links Trust, a charitable organisation created by an Act of Parliament, has overseen the management and preservation of the Links.**

Now the largest golf complex in Europe, it is responsible for about 900 acres comprising six 18 hole golf courses and one nine hole course, two turf nurseries, three greenkeeping centres, an extensive Golf Practice Centre and Academy, three clubhouses and four shops.

All surpluses are reinvested into the maintenance of the courses and the facilities.

St Andrews Links Trust  
Pilmour House, St Andrews  
Fife KY16 9SF

All enquiries telephone: 01334 466666

Links Clubhouse Fax 01334 466664

Reservations Fax 01334 477036

Administration Fax 01334 479555

Website [www.standrews.org.uk](http://www.standrews.org.uk)

Email: [enquiries@standrews.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@standrews.org.uk)

## MAP of the LINKS

