



Road Hole to be lengthened for The Open

The famous Road Hole on the Old Course is to be lengthened for the Open Championship in 2010.

A new championship tee is being constructed and will increase the length of the hole by 35 yards to 490 yards. The new tee will be located across the pathway on the land of the St Andrews Links Golf Practice Centre.

An increased premium will be placed on an accurate drive of sufficient length over the sheds, encouraging players to take a driver from the tee. The fairway will be widened slightly on the left hand side to ensure that the tee shot remains fair. Crucially, the difficulty of the second shot will be re-established, making it more difficult to hold the approach on the putting surface and increasing the threat posed by both the road behind the green and the Road Bunker.

“The 17th was played at the same yardage in 1900 as it was in 2005 and this fuelled our belief that the formidable challenge of this iconic hole should be returned for The Open Championship,” said Peter Dawson, Chief Executive of The R&A.

“Over the years, we have seen the threat from the road behind the green, and to a lesser extent the Road Bunker, diminished as players have been hitting shorter irons for their approach shots allowing them to avoid these hazards more easily. This change will ensure that the hole plays as it was originally intended.”

“We have spent some time discussing



● A view of the most famous hole in golf.

this with The R&A and I know they have carefully considered making this change for The Open Championship,” said Alan McGregor, Chief Executive of St Andrews Links Trust.

“The Road Hole is the most famous hole in world golf and we believe the changes will increase the challenge of the hole whilst remaining true to its spirit.”

Work on the new championship tee has already got underway. The lengthening of the Road Hole is the only significant change planned for the Old Course

ahead of the 150th anniversary Open Championship.

It has long been suggested that the 17th hole would benefit from additional length to restore the original challenge of the hole. Before the 1964 St Andrews Open, three-time Open Champion, Henry Cotton, recommended the alteration saying, “I would make a tee just beyond the railway line on the other course [he was referring to the Eden Course which is now the practice centre]. It would restore this drive to its former value.”



Course UPDATE

General information

Gorse management programme will recommence mid/late November.

Old Course

Winter aeration work will commence on the greens during course closures at the beginning of November using verti-drains with ¼” tines to depth of 10” after which they shall be rolled to minimize any disturbance. Similar operations will continue on tees, surrounds and fairways with larger tines to alleviate any compaction built up over summer months. The greens will be top dressed to aid smoothness and firmness and fairways will also be top dressed. Various bunkers around the course will be rebuilt in preparation for the 2010 Open Championship. Between 15 and 20 bunkers will be roped off and marked as GUR. Divot scars on the landing areas of the fairways will be replaced with a plug of fresh turf and the bank at the back of 18th green will be scarified and sanded.

New and Jubilee Courses

The main focus will be on the planned changes to the Jubilee Course. The 12th tee has been completed and work has begun to the 8th tee area where the alteration has been made between the 7th green and the 8th tee. A temporary tee will be in operation on the 8th for some time until the new tee matures. The new fairway bunkers will shortly be installed on the 12th hole, followed by the bunker replacements at the 6th. Once this is complete the 12th green surrounds will be recontoured. While all this is happening the mounds on the right side of the 7th fairway will be removed. Construction work on the New Course will be limited to bunker repairs, with the three bunkers on the 4th hole currently receiving attention. Slit tine aeration work will take place to greens, surrounds, tees and fairways of both courses throughout the next two months.

Eden Course and GPC

Now that the season is drawing to a close, work will be focusing on winter renovation jobs. The biggest job this year is the replacement of gabion baskets along the edge of the estuary on the 4th hole. This work has begun and will continue until the middle of November. Fairways will be verti-drained to open them to the winter elements where any frosts will further help ease compaction. All bunkers will be assessed and any necessary repair work carried out. Work will also begin on holes 5, 6, 8 and 9 to allow safe buggy access around the course for next season. General course maintenance and turfing works will continue as per normal for this time of year.

Strathtyrum and Balgove Courses

Now that growth is slowing down, cutting frequencies to all areas is gradually being reduced. The winter work programme is underway with an extension to the 16th tee to increase teeing area by 180 sq.yds. All fairways will be aerated using tractor mounted verti-drains. Greens will also be verti-drained during the one day closure on 28th October 2009. All bunkers will be checked and repaired/ rebuilt as required and any bare or worn areas around the course will be returfed over the winter. The Grassland Management Plan will commence at the beginning of November whereby we cut selected areas of rough and remove the clippings to encourage thinner wisper growth next season.

Environmental award for St Andrews Links



● The reedbed in use.

St Andrews Links has received national recognition after winning a prestigious award for protecting the ecology of the historic land at the Home of Golf.

The Golf Course Environment Awards aim to promote and reward the highest standards of environmental management in golf and the Links Trust was the Overall Winner. The awards are run by the Sports Turf Research Institute and are sponsored by Syngenta, Scotts, Ransomes Jacobsen and Golf Monthly.

The award particularly highlighted the creation of a reedbed washdown area by the greenkeeping team on the Jubilee and New courses led by course manager Graeme Taylor. The reedbed on the 17th hole of the Jubilee Course 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.

A number of other conservation projects carried out by the Links Trust's greenkeeping teams on all seven courses, including the Old Course and The Castle Course, were also recognised. These included dune reinstatement, grassland management, coastal protection, wildlife habitats and water resource protection.

Alan McGregor, Chief Executive of St Andrews Links Trust, said, "This is a great achievement and is testimony to the hard work of our greenkeeping staff in ensuring that the maintenance of the Links is as environmentally sustainable as possible.

"The innovative conservation projects we carry out on the Links are designed to protect the natural ecology of the land and maintain this wonderful asset for Scottish golf for future generations."

St Andrews Links has received support from its global partner Allianz in its efforts to maintain the ecology of the Links. Steven Althaus, Senior Vice President Global Brand Management and Strategic Partnerships, Allianz, said, "An important part of Allianz's partnership with St Andrews Links Trust is our shared commitment to sustainability. The Trust has a huge amount of knowledge and experience in minimising the environmental impacts of course management. Everyone at Allianz is delighted their leadership has been recognised by this award."



Dyson cleans up

An incredible burst of scoring in his opening holes paved the way for Englishman Simon Dyson's triumph in the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship.

Six birdies in the first seven holes over the Old Course placed the Yorkshireman firmly in control of the event and when he closed it out with a steady back nine for a fine 66 and a 20 under par total of 268 he sealed a three-shot victory over young Irishman Rory McIlroy and his English compatriot Oliver Wilson.

It was Dyson's second European Tour victory of the Year, after he won the KLM Trophy in August, and capturing the £485,000 first prize pushed him into the top ten in the Race to Dubai rankings.

Dyson was clearly delighted to win a title at the Home of Golf against a strong field. He said, "66 on the Old Course feels great. I just knew the tournament

was there to be won. Obviously with the start I got off to, I knew it was mine for the taking and it was really only me that could lose it. There were some really good names up there – Lee Westwood, Darren Clarke, Rory and Luke Donald, but I went into it thinking I've been playing some good golf the last five or six weeks and am just happy with the way I've been playing."

Dyson's blistering outward nine of 30 placed the course record of 64, held by Welshman Bradley Dredge and equalled earlier in the week by Mikko Ilonen of Finland, in his sights but he came back in par with a bogey on the Road Hole.

The final round on the Old Course took place on the Monday after play was abandoned on the Saturday due to strong winds with gusts of more than 70mph being recorded.

Calm and sunny conditions prevailed on the Sunday as Luke Donald took the overnight lead by one shot from McIlroy and Dyson. After demonstrating his mastery of the Old Course earlier in the week with a 65



● Simon Dyson grasps



● Oliver Wilson takes advice on his tee shot.



● Manuel de los Santos tees off at the first of the Old Course.

in the second round, McIlroy had been expected to make a charge but it never quite materialised.

"My target was 20 under par at the start of the day, which obviously would have been good enough, but Simon played great. Seven under through eight holes is incredible. So hats off to him. I just didn't play well enough on the back nine to really have a good chance, so second is ok."

Tied in fourth placed on 16 under par totals



p at the Dunhill



Westwood grasps the Dunhill trophy.

of 272 were Spaniard Rafael Cabrera-Bello and Richie Ramsay. The 26 year-old Scot missed a four foot putt on the last which cost him £82,000 after landing his tee shot on Grannie Clark's Wind and leaving his approach shot short. The £135,000 prize he did win, however, doubled his tour earnings for the season and secured his tour card for 2010.

The Dunhill is played over the Old Course, Carnoustie

and Kingsbarns in a pro-am team format. Among the sport stars and celebrities taking part was former baseball player Manuel de los Santos who lost his leg in a car accident when he was 18. Manuel is sponsored by Allianz, the global partner of St Andrews Links. After an inspirational performance Manuel, who is originally from the Dominican Republic and now lives in France, and his playing partner Richard Bland missed the cut in the team event by a single stroke on 20 under par.

Manuel said, "I didn't make the cut but I am not disappointed, because I have had the most fantastic week. Playing in a professional tournament is very different, and at first it was a little nerve racking, but I soon began to enjoy the atmosphere and wanted to play well."

The team event was won by Soren Hansen of Denmark and Kieran McManus of Ireland who shot a remarkable betterball score of 59 in the final round. They beat the previous best winning score by seven shots with a 44 under par total.



Richie Ramsay lines up a putt on the first green.



Westwood responds to the gallery after holing out on the last.



Westwood tees off at 16.



Unified waiting list to be opened for Links Tickets

Golfers wishing to apply for a ticket to play golf at St Andrews Links have been given a special opportunity to join a waiting list.

Waiting lists for several categories of Links yearly tickets have been closed for some time. Before November 30, 2009 however, golfers will be able to apply for a place on a single waiting list for several categories of Links Ticket. The names will then be entered into a ballot in early December to select those to be added to the current waiting list.

The tickets are managed by the Links Trust which is introducing a new unified waiting list for all categories of ticket from 1 April 2010 to ensure that golfers have a fair and equal chance to obtain the most suitable ticket for them.

Alan McGregor, chief executive of St Andrews Links Trust said, "We want to make the system easier to understand for golfers and fairer so that when they do reach the top of the list they will qualify for the most appropriate ticket. At the moment they can reach the top of a list and be offered a ticket which does not best fit their situation, and which often costs more than the ticket they wish to hold."

Golfers interested in applying should contact the Reservations Department on 01334 466718 or at reservations@standrews.org.uk. The entry form will be available to download from www.standrews.org.uk. The deadline for applications will be 5pm on Monday, November 30.

Winter play information

Golfers are reminded that preferred lies will be in operation on all of the Links courses from Sunday, 1 November 2009 until Friday, 30 April 2010.

Fairway mats will be in operation from Monday, 2 November until Wednesday, 31 March on the Old Course and from Monday, 2 November until Friday, 29 January on the New, Jubilee, Eden and Strathtyrum courses. Trolleys are not allowed on the Old Course between 3 November and 31 March.

The Old Course will be closed for winter maintenance on each Monday in November.

The Castle Course will close on Sunday, 1 November 2009 and will open again for the new season on Tuesday, 1 April 2010. The season will run until Tuesday, 30 November 2010.

Course Information

Green Fees (to 28 February)

	Adult	Under 16
Old Course	£64	£64
The Castle Course	-	-
New Course	£32	£16
Jubilee Course	£32	£16
Eden Course	£20	£10
Strathtyrum Course	£12	£6
Balgove Course	£8	£3

Tickets

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

3-Day	£70 (adult)	£35 (junior)
7-Day	£140 (adult)	£70 (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 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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

Email: enquiries@standrews.org.uk

MAP of the LINKS

