



Links courses top prestigious golf course poll

Two of the St Andrews Links golf courses have come out on top in a prestigious international ranking run by the American Airlines' magazine.

The Old Course topped the poll in Celebrated Living magazine's Platinum list of the Top 20 International Golf Courses and was closely followed by The Castle Course in second place. Other courses in the top 20 included Ballybunion, the King's Course at Gleneagles, the K Club, Carnoustie, Muirfield and Turnberry.

The poll is voted for by readers of Celebrated Living and features rankings for the best international courses and the best in America.

The Old Course is known around the world as the Home of Golf and regularly features highly in international rankings and its younger sister, The Castle Course, has also earned its fair share of awards. In 2008, when it opened, The Castle Course was named by Travel & Leisure Golf magazine as the New Course of the Year and International Development of the Year by Golf Inc magazine in America. The course was also included in the prestigious Golf Digest Top 100 Courses in its first year alongside the Old, New and Jubilee courses.



● The 17th green of The Castle Course.

"With the focus of world golf set to return to St Andrews Links in July with the 150th anniversary Open Championship on the Old Course, the latest recognition is very welcome," said Alan McGregor, chief executive of St Andrews Links Trust. "It is encouraging to hear this feedback from golfers and shows that the experience and service we provide at our courses is appreciated. It is

also pleasing to see The Castle Course being ranked alongside some wonderful courses so soon after it opened."

The Castle Course is the only one of the Links courses which will be open for play during the week of the Open Championship from July 12-18. A small number of visitor times are still available on July 12 and 13. For booking enquiries email reservations@standrews.org.uk.

Jack Nicklaus coaches juniors at the Links



Golf legend and two-time winner of the Open on the Old Course Jack Nicklaus gave a coaching clinic to members of St Andrews Links Junior Golf Association. Turn to page five.

Open 2010 merchandise on sale

A full range of official 2010 Open merchandise is now available from The Old Course Shop, the Links Clubhouse Shop and the 18th Green Shop. There is a wide selection of apparel and gifts bearing the Claret Jug 2010 Roundel logo and the 2010 Old Course logo including polo shirts, sweaters, rainwear, headwear and golfing accessories from leading brands such as Polo Ralph Lauren, Pro Quip, Imperial, CMC, Bobby Jones, Fairway & Greene, Peter Millar, Sunderland and Imperial. Official Open championship pin flags are also available. Items can also be purchased online at www.standrews.org.uk. All purchases make a contribution to the preservation and maintenance of the world famous courses at St Andrews Links, including the Old Course.



Course UPDATE

General

There is a similar work programme taking place on the Old, New, Eden and Strathtyrum courses this month. We are cutting the greens every day and rolling three times a week. We are spraying a wetting agent on the Old Course and on the others we are spraying the fairways for weeds. The greens are also being hydrojected on the Eden.

June is a busy time for competitions with many of the Local Clubs having their Championships as well as the St Rule and Links Trophies and of course this year we have the build-up to the Open.

The weather this Spring has been tougher to cope with than normal and things are still a little behind. Greens are being cut every morning on all of the courses as well as being rolled with the turf irons up to four times per week to try to keep speeds at a reasonable rate and the surfaces as smooth as they can be. Heights of cut have been lowered as the weather has improved and growth rates have picked up but it is a fine balance to strike between maintaining surface smoothness and placing the grass under too much stress. The annual meadow grass is still seeding profusely and the crested hair grass is also a week or so behind. Golfers will notice it setting seed through most of June and greenstaff will be verticutting to try to cut the thick stalk this grass pushes out.

The gorse this year is not only later but is not such a good display of colour as usual due to the colder than average winter we experienced. The edges of the plantations which are east facing have suffered the most. As ever with Mother Nature it's much better to work with her than try to force things upon her and these things always have a way of evening themselves out.

Elsewhere, fairways, carries and some semi roughs on all the courses have been treated with a selective herbicide to kill weeds such as daisy and clover. Greens and surrounds have been treated with wetting agents to help retain moisture and the hydrojects are being used on greens to help aerate the surfaces by blasting jets of water into the rootzone. The next area staff will be keeping a watchful eye on is the rough which is always at its worst from mid June to mid July and we will be trying to make sure particular areas do not get out of control.

Pro tips from the Academy:

Escape the Road Hole bunker with Kevin Hale

The Road Hole bunker on the 17th Hole of the Old Course can put an end to any player's scorecard. The high revetted wall makes it very difficult to escape.

Many players will look at the steep revetted face of the bunker and try to scoop the ball up and over the bunker. You must first of all have a good quality sand wedge. The most popular loft of sand wedge amongst professionals is the 60 degree wedge and I would suggest using a high lofted wedge as it can make it easier to escape even the deepest bunker of which there are many on the Old Course.

You should open the clubface to help with the loft on the club. This also helps the back of the sole to slide through the sand. You should align your stance parallel to the target line along with knees, hips and shoulders. A wide stance will give you a low centre of gravity and a stable base for the swing. Flex the knees more than usual and drop your hands low to promote a shallow angle of attack. The ball position should be one inch in front of the centre. You must also place your sternum one inch behind the ball. This is the centre of your body and will be the bottom of your arch.

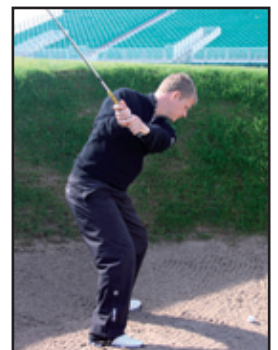
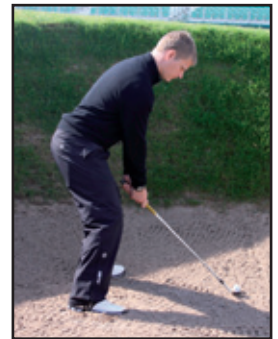
In the swing you will need lots of speed to create the height in the shot. Therefore make a nice big swing with lots of wrist hinge on the backswing. Your hands should swing back as high as your shoulders.

On the downswing ensure you maintain your posture and hit into the sand. You should strike into the sand one inch behind the ball and accelerate through to the target. Don't dig down into the sand, you should try to slide the club a few inches under the ball to create a long shallow mark in the sand. The wrists should hinge up on the way through thus exploding the ball upwards out of the bunker. The bodyweight stays in the centre to guarantee the strike position remains consistent.

There are a couple of laws to gain consistent play out of the bunker. Always enter the sand in the same place one inch behind the ball. Add loft to the clubface and swing with plenty of speed.

If you continue to have problems escaping the bunkers then you should contact St Andrews Links Golf Academy.

To book a lesson at the academy call 01334 46606, email academy@pgagn.com or visit www.standrews.org.uk.





Southgate reigns supreme in the St Andrews Links Trophy

Matthew Southgate cut a swathe through the field at this year's Links Trophy with a final round 67 over the Old Course to win by five shots.

Despite heavy rain and blustery conditions the 21 year-old Southgate came from a shot behind the leader at the start of the third round to win with a 13 under par total of 275, five clear of fellow Englishman Stiggy Hodgson and Philip McLean from Peterhead.

The Thorpe Hall golfer clinched the victory with a par on the final hole after his drive found Grannie Clark's Wynd from where he could only chip the ball forward before pitching to two feet and holing out. The former Essex Amateur Champion rushed to hug his father Ian, who had travelled overnight from their home in Essex, and struggled to fight back the tears.

"To win here at the Home of Golf is very special but to do it in front of my family like this is just unbelievable," he said. "For most of the season I haven't been holing anything but today my putter came good at last. I have really enjoyed playing here this week and to win on the Old Course is something I will always remember."

McLean and Hodgson from Sunningdale both birdied the last to post eight under par totals of 280. They finished one shot clear of Englishmen Tom Lewis, Jack Senior and Todd Adcock in fourth.

Hodgson held the third round lead after a 67 on the Old Course and recovered from dropping two shots in the first two holes of the final round to be within one of the lead at the turn but fell back with a six at the 16th.

The 18 year-old Lewis made a charge on the front nine going to two under and then drew level with Southgate with a birdie on the tenth but he ran out of steam with double bogies on the 12th and the 14th.

In what was one of the strongest amateur fields in Europe this season, which included six of the top 20 in the World Amateur Rankings, Michael Stewart, the Scottish internationalist from Troon Wellbeck, finished tied for seventh with Victor Dubuisson, the European amateur champion, and the Scottish strokeplay champion Romain Wattel. Also in the group was Welshman Ben Westgate, who tied for the lead after the second round, and Patricio Salem, the Peruvian making his first visit to Scotland, who was one off the lead after the first round on the Jubilee Course.

Several St Andrews players took part in the tournament, which was sponsored by Allianz, the global partner of St Andrews Links, but sadly none of them made the cut. Greg Paterson, of the New Golf Club and a former member of St Andrews Links Junior Golf Association, shot an excellent 69 in the first round but stumbled to a second round 76 to miss the cut by one shot. Daniel Sommerville, of the St Andrews Golf Club, finished four shots further back on 149. James Bunch, representing Prestwick, finished on 155 and Ian Redford, of the New Golf Club finished on 157.



● Matthew Southgate holing the winning putt



● Michael Stewart finished tied for seventh.



● Southgate with the Links Trophy and the Ian Forbes Memorial Trophy for the best aggregate score in the first two rounds.



Young Scot captures the St Rule Trophy

A dramatic 15 foot birdie putt in a play-off on the 18th green of the Old Course clinched victory for Alford's Laura Murray in the St Rule Trophy.

The 21 year-old won the three way sudden death play-off late in the evening defeating 16 year-old



Pic: Colin Farquharson

● Laura Murray with the St Rule Trophy.



Pic: Colin Farquharson

● Australia won the team event.

Welsh international Amy Boulden from Llandudno and Australian Stacey Keating who was knocked out with a bogey five at the first play-off hole. Boulden shot a final round 69 to make the play-off tying on a three round total of 221 with Murray and Keating.

Scotland's Pamela Pretswell, who finished third last year, missed out on a play-off by one shot with a total of 222. She tied with Tara Davies from Holyhead and Justine Lee from Australia.

Lee teamed up with Keating and Ashley Ona to win the team event for Australia with a total of 437 based on the two best from three scores each round.

The St Rule Trophy was played over the New Course and the Old Course.

Excitement builds for Open Championship

The build-up to the 28th staging of the Open Championship on the Old Course from July 15-18 is well and truly underway.

The celebrations for the 150th anniversary of the first Open Championship will see a four-hole Champions' Challenge played on the Old Course on July 15. All but four of the living Open champions will compete in the event which will be televised by the BBC and is expected to attract thousands of spectators. Among those who have confirmed their entries is Spanish legend Seve Ballesteros. The 1984 Open Champion at St Andrews is recovering from an operation to remove a brain tumour but has said he plans to make an emotional return to the Home of Golf.

After much speculation the 2000 and 2005 St Andrews Open champion Tiger Woods has confirmed his entry for

this year's championship and will have the opportunity to become the first player in history to win three Opens at St Andrews Links.

The greenkeeping team, led by course manager Gordon McKie, is working hard on the course preparations to ensure the course is in top class condition for the championship. The Old Course will close down on June 19 to allow more intensive preparations to take place. You can follow the team's progress by visiting Gordon McKie's blog on the St Andrews Links website at www.standrews.org.uk.

For full details of the course closures and Golf Practice Centre closures during the championship visit the Open 2010 section of the website. The coaching and custom fit services at the Golf Academy remain open throughout this period.



Golf legend coaches junior golfers



● Jack greets Chloe Goadby of SALJGA.

Two-time St Andrews Open champion Jack Nicklaus visited the Links to give a coaching session to some of the youngsters from St Andrews Links Junior Golf Association (SALJGA).

The Golden Bear, who played his last round of professional golf on the Old Course at the 2005 Open, delighted the youngsters with some one-to-one coaching and tips at the Golf Practice Centre.

Jack recounted some of his experiences learning the game when he was a boy and encouraged the youngsters to keep practising and playing as much as possible.

A new website has been launched for SALJGA providing a wealth of information about the tournaments and coaching sessions it runs throughout the year. The website can be found at www.saljga.com.

HOLES IN ONE

Name	Home club	Date	Course	Hole
Geir Leknes	Drøbak, Norway	1 May 2010	The Castle	8
David Millar	New	4 May 2010	The Castle	8
John McGarva	New	5 May 2010	The Castle	10
Judith Robbie	St Rule	16 May 2010	Eden	10
Ian Moran	Bearwood Lakes	22 May 2010	Old	8
Olivia Loiacano	Ridge Pointe, Arizona	24 May 2010	Jubilee	9
Isreal Horovitz	Bass Rocks, Massachusetts	1 June 2010	Jubilee	5
Keith Irving	St Andrews GC	3 June 2010	The Castle	10
Stephen Sweeney	SAL Golf Academy	3 June 2010	The Castle	3

Course Information

Green Fees (to 17 October)

	Adult	Under 16
Old Course	£130	£130
The Castle Course	£120	£60
New Course	£65	£32
Jubilee Course	£65	£32
Eden Course	£40	£20
Strathtyrum Course	£25	£12
Balgove Course	£12	£4

Tickets

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

3-Day	£145 (adult)	£72 (junior)
7-Day	£290 (adult)	£145 (junior)
<i>Balgove Course only</i>		
3-Day	£21 (adult)	£6 (junior)
7-Day	£42 (adult)	£12 (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, Eden, 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.

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

