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LOSSIEMOUTH

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**THE MORAY
GOLF CLUB
LOSSIEMOUTH**

BY
ROBERT H. K. BROWNING

PUBLISHED FOR THE CLUB BY
THE GOLF CLUBS ASSOCIATION
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Lossiemouth

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MORAY GOLF CLUB

LOSSIEMOUTH, standing on a curve of the Moray Firth, about six miles from Elgin, has many claims to fame, but the two that have contributed most to its popularity as a holiday resort are its glorious sandy beach, suitable for bathing at all states of the tide, and its famous golf links, the home of the Moray Golf Club. When the first pioneers from Elgin laid out the original six-hole course in 1889, the site was a mere wilderness of shingle, gorse, broom and bent, but "Old Tom" Morris encouraged the pioneers to go ahead: "Have nae fears; this will mak' a gran' course, or I've never seen ane." To-day Lossiemouth belongs to the very best class of holiday links, with rolling fairways of beautiful turf flanked by bent-covered sandhills and by the golden glory of the gorse. Its situation also is a truly delightful one, with a gorgeous view across the blue waters of the Firth to the serried mountain peaks of Ross-shire, Sutherland and Caithness on the farther shore.

The present magnificent and well-designed Club House—a striking contrast with the little two-roomed cottage which was the Club's first headquarters—was finished in 1922. An unusual feature of the dining-room is a series of delightful water-colours by Mr. David West, R.S.W., the well-known marine artist. The "heads" of big game and lesser game which adorn the walls of the smoking room and hall have for the most part been presented to the Club by overseas members, of whom it has a great

number in every quarter of the globe. The tall Jacobean clock in the lounge was also presented to the Club by these overseas members, as the inscription bears witness:

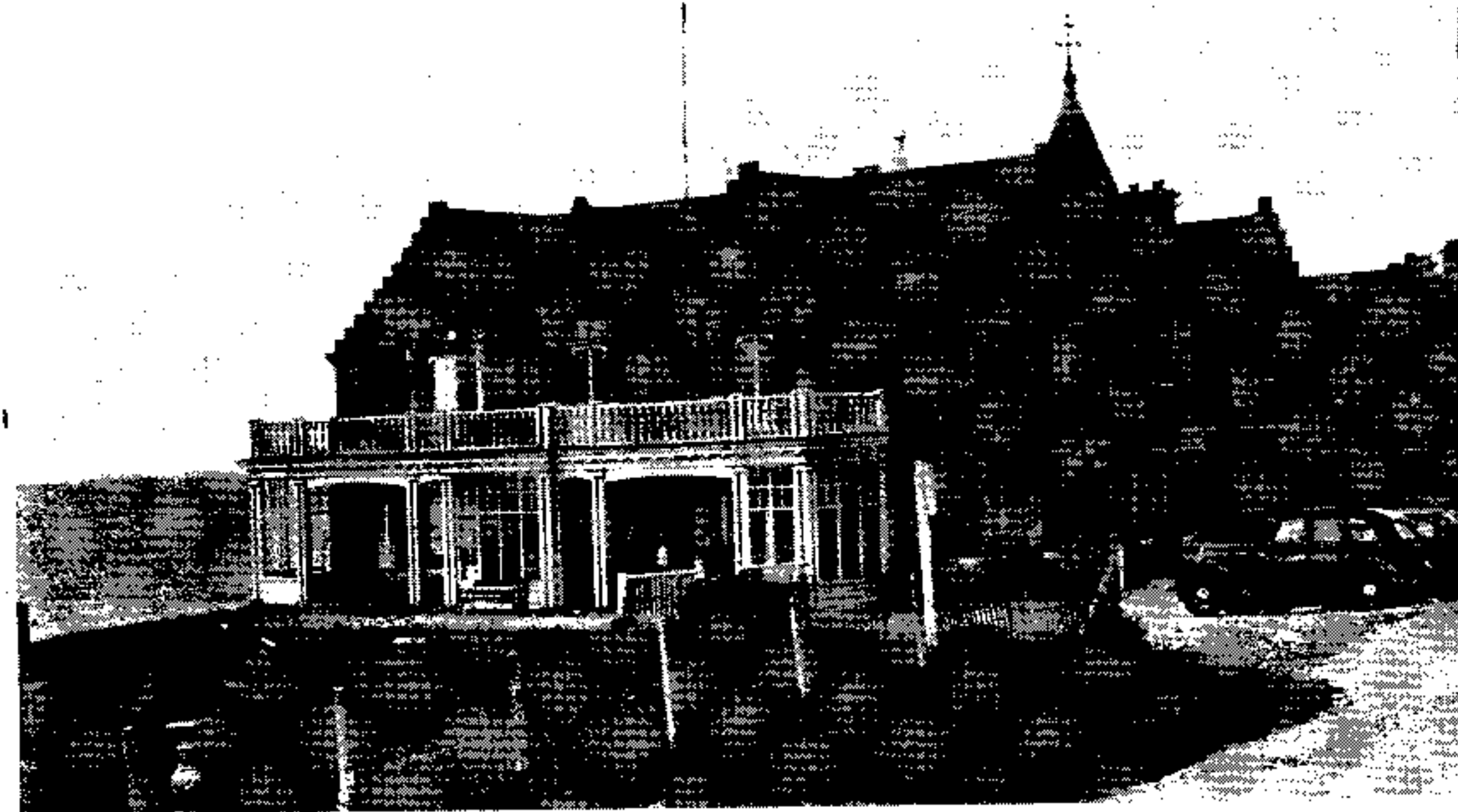
*“ Presented by the Overseas Members to
The Moray Golf Club,*

*By distant rough lone bunkers, far-flung tees,
Man's laboured rounds the eighteenth green attain;
So we, the leave-men of the Seven Seas,
By devious routes this common harbour gain.
And here we set this tallyman of time,
Bidding him mark our minutes disappear
Less slowly in the far and alien clime,
Less swiftly—oh! less swiftly—when we're here.”*

The verse from the pen of “H.B.” of *Punch*—himself an overseas member of the Club.

In recent years the Club has spent considerable sums on the extension and improvement of the course itself, and has undoubtedly succeeded in making it a thorough test for the first-class player as well as a most attractive course for the holiday golfer. But it is still to the latter that it specially appeals. One of its unusual charms in the eyes of southern visitors is the long day-light. Lossiemouth is not quite the Land of the Midnight Sun, but in the height of summer in this northern latitude the nights are so short that the enthusiast if he wishes can often be playing golf up to eleven o'clock at night. And surely nobody could ask more than that!

The round opens with a straightforward two-shot hole of 350 yards. Bent-clad sandhills on the sliceward side of the fairway shut off our view of the shore, but the feature of the hole is the second shot, which has to be played through the opening between a ridge on the right and the knoll known as Mount Lebanon — from which the hole takes its name—on the left. This is followed by a hole of just under 450 yards, at which we shall have to hit two of our best down the avenue of fairway guarded on either side by gorse, supplemented by an inner line of bunkers at irregular intervals. Most of us will pro-



The Clubhouse

Northern Photo Service, Moray

bably require some sort of chip besides, to reach a unusual type of punchbowl green guarded by a slight rise in front. The approach is a tricky one, because the punchbowl is roughly triangular in shape and we are playing into a side of the triangle that slants away to the right.

The third is probably the stiffest “bogey 4” of the round. It is just under 420 yards long, and dog-legged to the right, following the curve of a gorse-covered ridge that runs along that side. A bunker at the outer side of the dog-leg angle narrows our choice of line from the tee, but in any case we shall do well to steer fairly close to the ridge, if we want to get home with our second to a plateau green on the top of another ridge that runs across the fairway at an awkward angle. There is trouble on either side, and for once it is easy to be too strong and run over the far edge of the plateau. We play from a



Looking towards Clubhouse over 1st Tee, with 18th Green showing beyond
Northern Photo Service, Moray

tee on the same ridge at the next, which is a one-shot hole of 200 yards over a cross-bunker to a smallish green, the entrance to which is partially shut off by a low knoll at the right corner, so that it is most easily reached by a shot that is played with a bit of "fade."

The fifth is another stiff bogey 4 which is of much the same length as the third, but does not call for quite such skilful steering. Again the crux of the hole is in the second shot, which is a semi-blind one, our view of the foot of the pin being obscured by a low ridge, with a bunker at either end, running on a right to left diagonal across the front of the green. The green itself lies in a semi-circle of gorse and is guarded by a bunker on either side. A short hole of 130 yards or so, comes next, requiring a very accurate tee shot to reach a small and tightly guarded green, with more gorse at the back of it.

The seventh and eighth, both measuring just under 480 yards, lie roughly parallel with one another but in opposite directions. At the former we have a stretch of heather to carry from the tee and a gorse-covered bank runs along our left all the way. A mound and bunker in the centre of the fairway have to be carried with our second shot, but even a moderate player should have no difficulty in getting his 5. The eighth presents a more testing problem. A line of bunkers on a left to right diagonal forces us to make up our minds just how far we can carry from the tee. Hummocky ground cuts off the left front of the green and there is a bunker biting into the right corner, leaving a comparatively narrow entrance between.

A good drive will leave us with a tricky pitch to a tightly guarded oval green with only the narrowest of bottle-necks between the bunkers guarding the entrance. It is followed by a drive-and-chip hole of 260 yards which under favourable conditions will be a long one-shotter for the hitters. It is not an easy target, however, because a couple of bunkers cut off the right corner of the green and the lie of the ground affords no assistance to an attempt to swing in from the left.

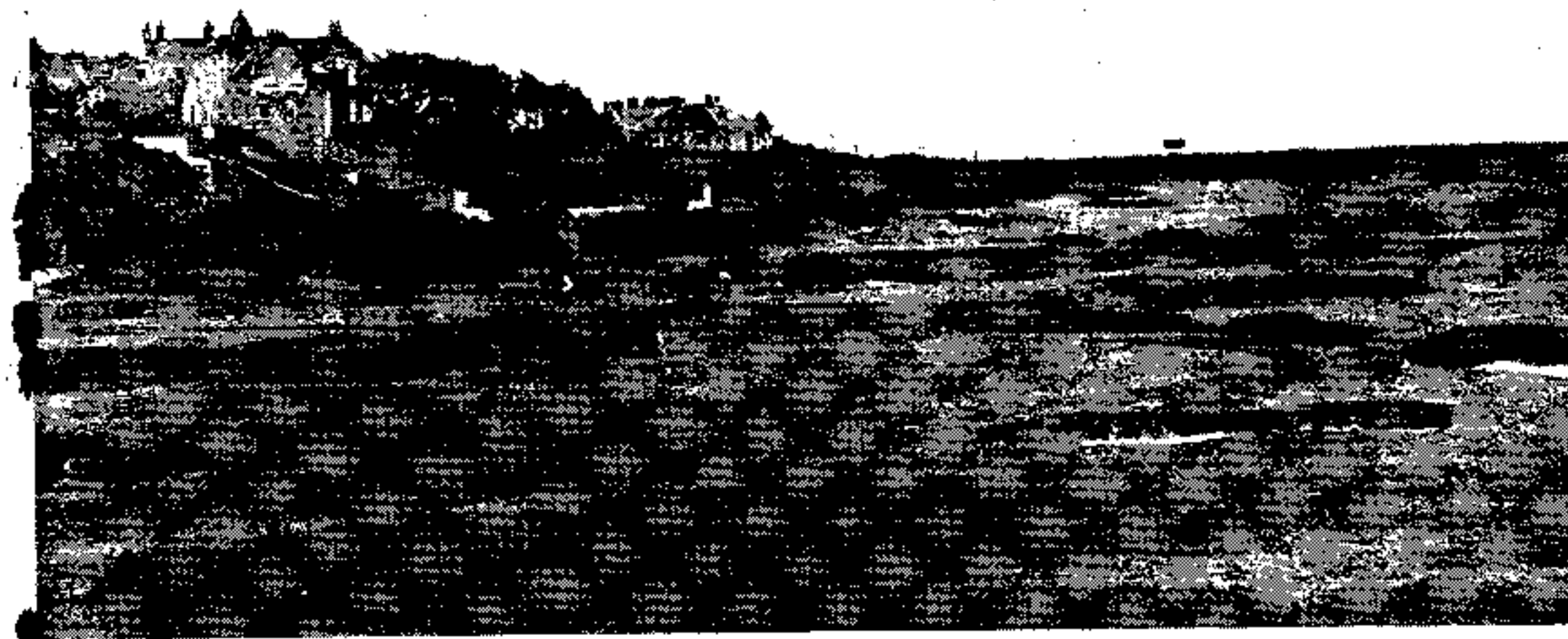
Then come a trio of testing two-shotters. The eleventh, which is just over 420 yards long, figures on the card as a bogey 5, but two really firmly hit shots may enable us to get safely home, in spite of the ditch crossing the fairway about thirty yards short of the front of the green, which lies on a low plateau beyond. At the 410-yard twelfth, we again have the ditch, now running on a right to left diagonal, to carry with our drive. The hole is dog-legged to the left and the ground rises slightly for the approach, the plateau green being guarded by bunkers on the right and on the left by a gorse-clad ridge. The thirteenth, 420 yards long, gives us a drive up a shallow valley, followed by a straight-forward second shot and some sort of chip to reach a rolling semi-plateau green, set into a right-hand rise.

Except at the first hole, we have up to this point been playing along the landward side of the course and in the centre. But the fourteenth, which is the Sea Hole, does at last really take us near to the sea, and from this point onward the heather and gorse on either side grows sparser, giving place to bent. This fourteenth is a two-shotter of about 424 yards, at which a well-hit drive will go a long way to simplify the problem of the approach. Then we start back along the seaward side of the course with a short hole of 180 yards, calling for a well-pitched up shot over a stretch of broken ground to a green entirely surrounded by bunkers and bent-covered hummocks.

At each of the next two holes we drive from a built up tee on the top of one of the sandhills close to the beach. The sixteenth is a fairly simple two-shotter of just over 350 yards, at which our second shot has to carry a road that runs across the front of a fine undulating green, guarded by bunkers along either side. The seventeenth is the longest hole of the round, measuring 500 yards. The tee is built up on one of a line of sandhills running along the left of the fairway, and the shorter the distance we can carry the more to the right must be the line of our drive. Further on, the rolling hummocky fairway is flanked by bunkers on either side, but if we can keep straight there is no possibility of disaster between us and the pin.

The home hole is perhaps the finest of all. It is 410 yards long, and so should be within two-shot distance for most of us, but first of all the drive has to be straight, in order to avoid the Scylla of the boundary on the right and the Charybdis of the bunkers on the left, and then the second must be practically all carry to reach a green on a steeply banked plateau. Though "Hell" bunker on the north side of the plateau is no longer either so deep or so formidable as it used to be, a new bunker at the left corner of the green catches many a shot that is just not quite good enough.

The total length of the round is just over 6,550 yards.



View overlooking 1st Green showing Fairway towards 2nd hole, and 18th Tee on the left
Northern Photo Service, Moray

The Scottish Professional Championship and other professional tournaments which have been played here, and in the Annual Open Amateur Tournament which is held here in the third week of July, and which is one of the outstanding events of the North of Scotland Tournament season, have never had to complain that the course was too easy.

In addition to the eighteen-hole course, there is a nine-hole "Relief" course and a six-hole course for children, which are both much appreciated. The total length of the Relief Course is 2,170 yards, the three longest holes being between 280 and 300 yards. It is not so heavily bunkered as the full course, but it has the same rolling fairways and the same wealth of natural difficulties and though the holes are not testing from the point of view of distance, the long-handicap golfer will find that they take more than a bit of playing.

Lossiemouth

"Ha'e nae fear, this will mak' a gran' course or A've never seen ane." So, forty years ago, old Tom Morris reported on the proposed golf course at Lossiemouth. This prophecy has been well fulfilled.

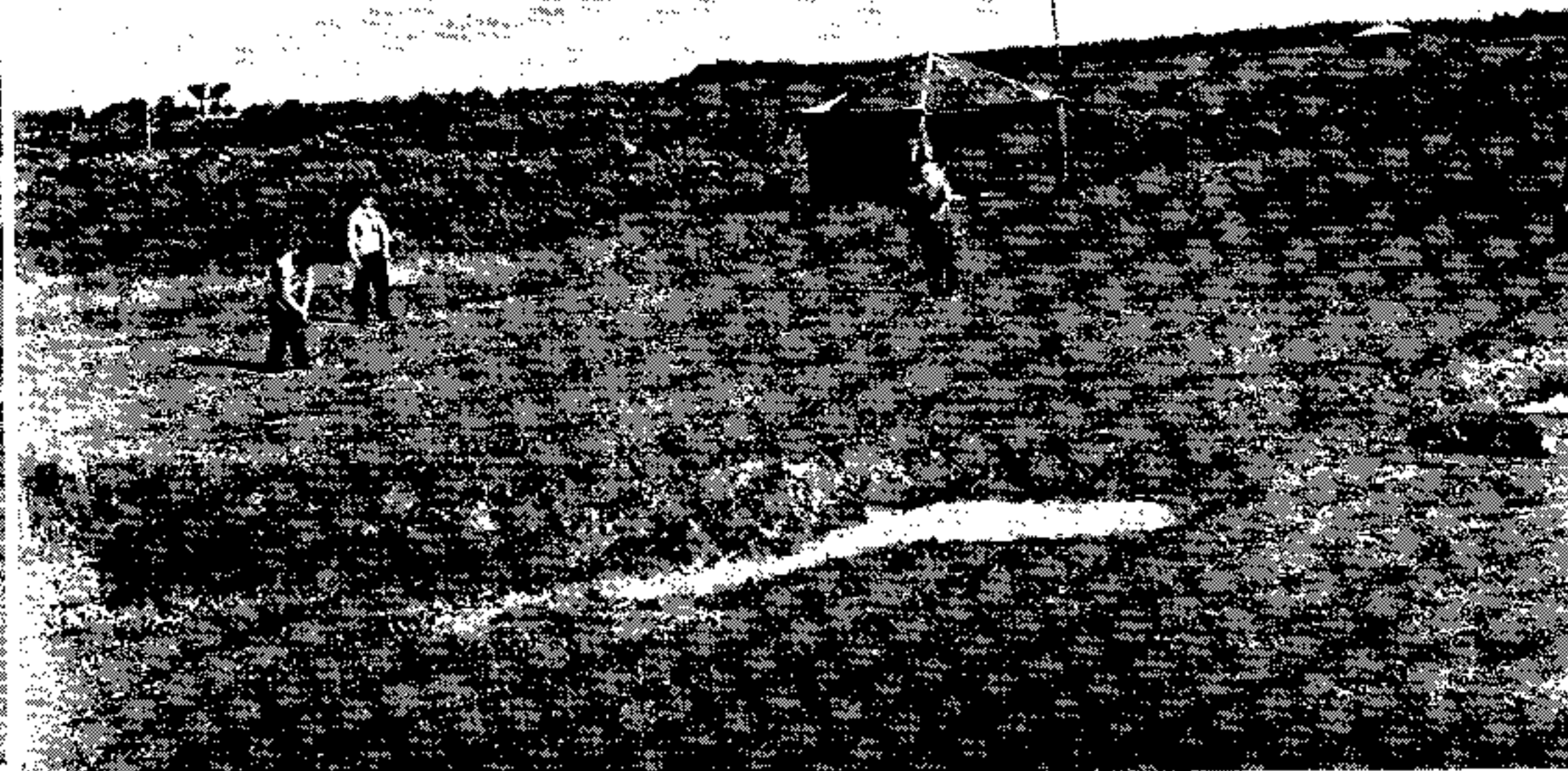
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On the 9th Green

Nothern Photo Service, Moray

Hole	Name of Hole	Yards	Bogey	Hole	Name of Hole	Yards	Bogey
1	Mt. Lebanon	350	4	10	St. Gerardine	262	4
2	Cup	446	4	11	Lighthouse	424	4
3	Table	414	4	12	Beacon	404	4
4	Coulart	200	3	13	V	417	4
5	Kinneddar	417	4	14	Sea	424	4
6	Gordonstoun	134	3	15	Short	180	3
7	Ring	444	4	16	Road	357	4
8	Heather	457	5	17	Long	500	5
9	Ditch	310	4	18	Home	410	4
		Out 3172 35				In 3378 36	
				Total		6550 71	

S.S.S. 71

LOCAL RULES

1. A ball shall be out of bounds if it is played on to or over (1st and 18th Holes) the Beach Road; (2nd Hole) the public road leading from Stotfield to Drainie and (18th Hole) the ground South of the fence on the right of the 18th Green.

2. *Water Hazards.* All burns or ditches, including the small catchwater ditches beside the 6th Green, between the 7th and 8th Holes, and between the 8th and 11th Holes, or within the banks thereof.

3. A ball lying on or touching ground sown with seed *must* be lifted and dropped, not nearer the hole, without penalty.

4. A ball lying in a hole or rabbit scrape, anywhere on the Course, may be lifted and dropped without penalty, immediately behind the hole or scrape, *provided* that a club placed over the hole or scrape does not touch the ball. If in a hazard the ball must be dropped in the hazard.

5. If a ball strikes any of the poles or wires erected on the Course, the player *must* play another ball, without penalty. If the stroke was played from the teeing ground, a ball may be teed, in all other cases a ball must be dropped as near as possible to the spot from which the ball was played.

6. If a ball in a bunker is found to be unplayable by reason of wire netting, it may be lifted and dropped without penalty, in the bunker.

7. A ball played on to a putting green, other than the putting green being played to, must be lifted and placed, without penalty, on the fairway not more than two club lengths from the putting green on to which the ball was played, the player keeping the spot where the ball lay between himself and the hole.



A corner of the cosy oak-panelled Lounge of the Clubhouse
Northern Photo Service, Moray



Part of the Dining Room

Northern Photo Service, Moray

ENTRY FEES AND ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Entry Fees: Gentlemen, £3 3s.; Ladies, £2 2s.

Annual Subscriptions:

Playing Members: Gentlemen, £3 3s.; Ladies £2 2s.

Non-playing Members: Gentlemen, £2 2s.; Ladies
£1 1s.

GREEN FEES.

VISITOR (TEMPORARY) MEMBERS.

18 HOLE COURSE.

During June, July, August and September.

Gentlemen, 5s. per day; £1 5s. per week; £3 10s. per month.

Ladies, 4s. per day; £1 per week; £2 10s. per month.

During the rest of the year.

Ladies and Gentlemen, 3s. per day; 15s. per week.

Round Ticket after 5 p.m., 2/6d.

RELIEF COURSE.

(9 HOLES).

During June, July, August and September.

Ladies and Gentlemen, 3s. per day; 15s. per week; £1 10s. per month.

Juveniles, age 12 to 16 years, 2/- per day.

During the rest of the year.

Ladies and Gentlemen, 2s. per day; 10s. per week. 1/6 per day after 5 p.m.

Juveniles, age 12 to 16 years, 1/- per day, 15s. for any period during any one year.

CHILDREN'S COURSE

(6 HOLES).

Restricted to children under 12 years—7/6 for any period during any one year.

GUESTS.

Under Rule XXV, an annual member may introduce a guest to play with him or her on the course, but no visitor so introduced may enjoy this privilege on more than two days in any one year. The charge for such playing guests are:—

During June, July, August and September.

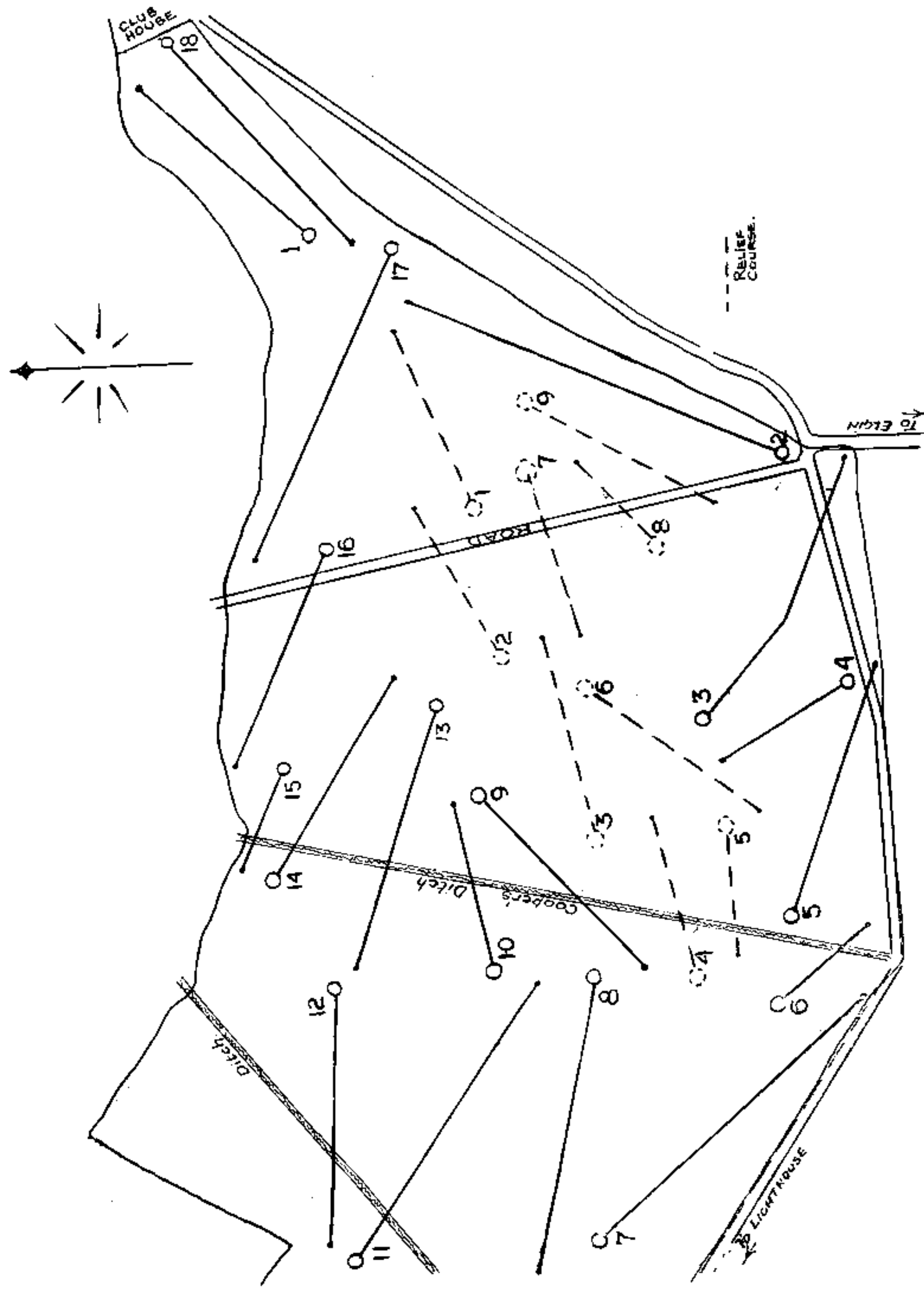
Gentlemen, 2s. 6d., and Ladies, 2s., on the 18 Hole Course, and Ladies and Gentlemen, 1s. per day on the Relief Course.

During the rest of the year.

Ladies and Gentlemen, 1s. 6d. per day on the 18 Hole Course, and 1s. per day on the Relief Course.

Members and Visitors to the Club are respectfully informed that the advertisers in this issue have been specially selected for their ability to render the most efficient service.

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