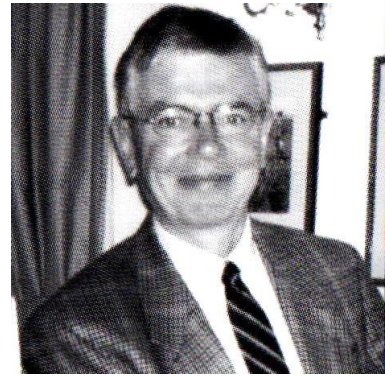


THE EARLY YEARS

For time immemorial the links at Embleton have been used by the village for sporting activities. A report in the Alnwick and County Gazette of 1895 refers to the annual Trinity sports being held on the day succeeding Trinity Sunday to commemorate the building of Holy Trinity church at Embleton in 1320. The sports ground was known as the scathe (or scaithe) and was located on the central portion of the present day golf course near to the clubhouse.



In the nineteenth century Embleton links – from which the present golf course was created – were part of the Dunstanburgh Castle estate. Besides the links this estate contained Dunstanburgh Castle and 4000 acres of farmland including farms at Dunstan Steads, Embleton and Stamford. In addition the estate contained the whinstone quarry at Embleton and various buildings including the Dunstanburgh Castle Hotel. The Dunstanburgh Castle estate was purchased from the Earl of Tankerville by the trustees of the will of Samuel Eyres of Leeds in 1870. The Eyres trustees appointed Mr Noel Villiers as an agent to the estate and he appears to have been a prime mover in leading to the establishment of the golf course at Embleton.

The report in the Alnwick and County Gazette of 1895 indicates that the agent Mr Villiers had agreed at the request of the villagers of Embleton to move the annual Trinity sports to a new location in the village. It may well be that he was already planning the golf course as it was only a few years later that he was instrumental in using the scathe and other parts of Embleton links for the new golf course at Embleton. Others involved in the foundation of the golf course were Colonel Fawcus of Dunstan Steads and Mr Kirsop of Embleton. Colonel Fawcus rented the farm at Dunstan Steads from the Eyres estate and provided the workmen and machinery for maintaining the course in the early years. Mr Kirsop was well known as an amateur sporting cyclist who won many competitions and was one of the founders of the Bicycle Touring Club in 1878.

The first report about the new golf course appeared in the adjacent extract published in the Alnwick and County Gazette, September 22, 1900. Mr Villiers, the agent for the Dunstanburgh estate, had clearly decided that a golf course would be an attraction for visitors to the Dunstanburgh Castle Hotel which was also owned by the estate. Because the golf course was established as a business venture there are no records of competitions or members in the early years. The only information available comes from the accounts for the Dunstanburgh estate.

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Belford and Lucker (North-Eastern main line) are the nearest stations to Bamburgh, which is about four miles distant.

EMBLETON.

THE "DUNSTANBURGH CASTLE" HOTEL.—Mr. and Mrs. Wood of Harrogate, the newly appointed host and hostess, have now entered upon the duties. A golf course, in connection with the hotel, is in course of formation, and when finished and in playing order, it will prove a great inducement to visitors to come to this rising health resort.

NORTH SUNDERLAND.

THE NEW MANSE.—The members and friends of the Primitive Methodist Connexion gathered in considerable force on Monday afternoon to assist in the

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for the Half year ending June 30th 1901

1901		— Payments —				
Jan	21	By Cooper & Co for Rental Book 1/6	30	5	1	0
Feb.	18	" Humble D ⁿ for work on Embleton Golf Course & cleaning out ditch on Links	75	24	3	6
	19	" Adam Robertson & Son Painting Gallowmore	4. 16. 0			
		Embleton East Farm	15 15 0			
		do North	19. 17. 10			
		Dun Castle Hotel	5. 3. 6	75	45	12 0

The above extract shows an entry for February 18th 1901 showing payment of £24 3s 6d to William Humble for work on the golf course and the cleaning out of a ditch on the links.

We also see evidence in the accounts of the Dunstanburgh estate of the involvement of Dunstan Steads farm (run by Colonel Fawcus) in maintaining the golf course. Thus in 1904 we have the following extract:

14	"	Reavell Bros Repairs Lawn Mower for Golf Club.	2. 0. 4	40			
		Newton House.	17. 6. 10	28.	19.	7	2
19	"	L. B. Fawcus. Golf Keepers Wages					
		Aug 6 to Dec 17, 1904.	19. 0. 0	40	19.	0	0

Colonel Fawcus was reimbursed by the estate the £19 golf keeper's wages for the period August 6 to December 17, 1904. The estate also paid for repairs to the lawn mower for the golf club by Reavell Bros. (who continued to supply the golf club throughout the 20th century).

A reminder of the role that Dunstan Steads farm played in maintaining the golf course is provided by the wooden shed on the golf course today at the end of the road from Dunstan Steads next to the 17th tee. This shed was used in the early days of the golf course to store the horse-drawn equipment. There are doors at both ends of the shed which open fully so that a horse could enter at one end and proceed through to exit at the other after the machinery had been unhitched.

We can also see from the accounts that the Dunstanburgh Castle Hotel was selling tickets for guests to play on the golf course.

1903.			<u>Receipts</u>					
			To Amt. Brought forward		3207	7	5 1/2	
Nov	25		Miss Nicholson for Golf Balls	18		12	0	
	"	"	do. Golf Tickets	18	1	17	0	

On November 25, 1903, Miss Nicholson – who ran the hotel at the time – paid to the estate £1 17s 0d in respect of golf tickets and 12s 0d for golf balls.

Although there was no club with local members we know that at least some of the players lived locally. Fortunately several photographs have survived of golfers playing at Embleton prior to the First World War.

In 1905 Robert and Gertrude Bell of Seahouses played golf at Embleton with a friend of theirs who was a photographer. Later in the year Mr Bell was being treated for tuberculosis in a Sanatorium in Switzerland and their friend sent the photograph as a postcard.

A few years later in 1911 Lena Patterson of Bamburgh took a number of photographs of family and friends at a similar spot on the golf course to that of the Bells.



Mr and Mrs Bell paying golf with friends at Embleton in 1905. They are putting on a green which on the old layout of the course used to be next to Embleton burn (on what is now the 7th fairway).



The other side of the postcard sent to Mr and Mrs Bell in Davos, Switzerland dated 2 August 1905.



Photograph taken in 1911 by Lena Patterson of her family and friends playing golf at Embleton. View is North-west from what is now the 7th fairway over Embleton burn in direction of where the clubhouse and carpark are now located.

There was no clubhouse for the golf course until after the First World War. However the golf course seems to have been popular with golfing parties who were entertained afterwards at the Dunstanburgh Castle Hotel. Embleton had become much more accessible to holidaymakers with the building of a railway station in the late nineteenth century at nearby Christon Bank. In the period prior to the First World War Embleton golf course seems to have attracted the more affluent golfers. In the summer children would be looked after by nannies as they played on the beach whilst the adults enjoyed a round of golf.



In 1904 the Eyres trustees attempted to sell the estate. The sale particulars mention a “Capital private golf course”. However, despite the auction, the estate remained unsold until after the First World War.

On the left is a photograph of Mrs Georgina Hall playing golf at Embleton taken by her sister Lena Patterson about 1911.



Lena Patterson (3rd from left holding bag of clubs) and friends playing golf at Embleton in 1911 on green next to Embleton burn (now 7th fairway).

PARTICULARS, PLANS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE,
OF THE
IMPORTANT AND VALUABLE
Freehold Manorial and Sporting Domain
KNOWN AS THE
DUNSTANBURGH CASTLE ESTATE,

Situate near Christon Bank and Little Mill Stations, on the North Eastern Main Line of Railway, from which Newcastle may be reached in a little more than an hour, and about 5 miles from Alnwick. The Property comprises a compact area of nearly

4,000 Acres,

AND INCLUDES

THE MANORS OR REPUTED MANORS OF STAMFORD AND DUNSTANBURGH;

The well-known Agricultural Holdings, distinguished as Embleton North, South and East Farms; Stamford Farm, Dunstan Square and Dunstan Steads;

Also the Valuable WHINSTONE QUARRY, and Beds of Whinstone and Freestone, and a considerable portion of the Village of Embleton, including the "DUNSTANBURGH CASTLE" HOTEL;

A capital private Golf Course and the HISTORIC RUINS of DUNSTANBURGH CASTLE.

The Estate has a magnificent frontage of nearly 3 miles to the North Sea, and a large portion of the Farm Lands is in excellent Pasture. Each HOLDING is provided with a substantial FARM HOUSE and HOMESTEAD.

The Estate is let to a responsible Tenantry at Rentals amounting to upwards of

£4,600 per Annum.

The Village of Embleton possesses unusual attractions as a Seaside Resort, and this portion of the Estate affords an attractive field for enterprise on the part of a purchaser.

Mr. CHARLES PHILLIPS,
OF THE FIRM OF
Messrs. WALTON & LEE,

The person appointed by Mr. Justice WARRINGTON, the Judge to whose Court the above Cause is attached, will offer the above for SALE by AUCTION, in ONE LOT,

AT THE "STATION" HOTEL, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE,
On Tuesday, the 19th day of July, 1904,
AT TWO O'CLOCK PUNCTUALLY
(UNLESS SOLD MEANWHILE BY PRIVATE TREATY).

Copies of these Particulars may be obtained of Messrs. DAY & YEWDALE, Solicitors, Leeds; Messrs. VINCENT & VINCENT, 20, Budge Row, Cannon Street, London, E.C.; Messrs. UPPERTON & CO., Solicitors, 14, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C.; NOEL VILLIERS, Esq., Land Agent, Wooler, R.S.O., Northumberland; or of the AUCTIONEERS, at their Offices,

10, MOUNT STREET, LONDON, W.

VACHER & SONS, Printers, Westminster.

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