

Scotland is the birthplace of the royal and ancient game of golf, as we know it today. Andrew Carnegie constructed a private links course at Skibo in 1898 under the supervision of the legendary John Sutherland, an acknowledged expert in green-keeping and golf course design — who was Club Secretary at the nearby Royal Dornoch Golf Club from 1883 for almost sixty years. Carnegie then invited the celebrated J.H. Taylor, five-times Open Champion, to stay at the Castle and teach him and his wife Louise to play. Despite having a private golf course at Skibo, Carnegie maintained strong connections with Royal Dornoch. He became Vice-President of the golf club, presenting to the members the magnificent Carnegie Shield for open competition. The Shield, which is on display at the clubhouse, is one of the finest golf trophies in the world.



Donald Steel, the internationally renowned links architect, has effected a reconstruction of Carnegie's original course at Skibo, to provide an outstanding natural eighteen hole championship links. Sited in spectacular and wild scenery with views of the Struie Hill, the course is bounded on three sides by the estuarial waters of the Firth, which affords an abundance of wildlife. The course, which has a wide range of tees to suit all standards of play, is for the exclusive use of Club members and their guests. A second 'parkland' eighteen hole championship course is planned for the Club.



*Andrew Carnegie*

Four miles to the east of Skibo lies what has been described by Americans as one of the cradles of golf, the world-famous and historic championship links of Royal Dornoch. Golf has been played there since 1616 (*only St. Andrews and Leith can claim greater antiquity*) and 'Old' Tom Morris had a hand in the early design of the present course. But it was Donald Ross, born in Dornoch in 1872, who made his mark on American golf. He learnt his golf at Dornoch and gained his knowledge of club-making and green-keeping from 'Old' Tom Morris at St. Andrews. He then emigrated to America where he became one of the greatest golf architects of all time, designing more than five hundred golf courses (*including the famous Pinehurst No. 2 Course and the Seminole Course in Florida*). Ross learned much of the art of golf course design by studying Royal Dornoch, and by working closely in his early days with John Sutherland. Many of his courses in America have features reminiscent of Royal Dornoch.

