

THE ROYAL DORNOCH GOLF CLUB MEETING.

1906

A RECORD ENTRY AND GRAND PLAY.

In breezy but bright and pleasant weather the thirteenth annual meeting and tournament of the Dornoch Golf Club began yesterday. The entry was a record one of no fewer than 114, which included players from every corner of the kingdom. A start was made at 8.30 to allow the last competitors to finish in daylight. The course was in capital order. Mr J. Gordon Simpson, the St Andrews University player, was forward to defend his title to the open scratch medal and the Carnegie shield, both of which he won a year ago. There were in all over twenty scratch competitors, and it was anticipated that the internationalist would have his work out out to win the medal again this year, notwithstanding his consistently fine play since he came to Dornoch three weeks ago, especially seeing that the medal is decided by a single round. Starting early, and partnered by Mr James Howden, of the Edinburgh Burgess Club, Mr Simpson, with the wind behind him, took 39 to the first half, with steady but not brilliant play. Coming home against the wind, however, he played marvelously fine golf, finishing in 35 in, which made his total round 74, or one stroke less than Braid and Vardon took last week. The next best scratch scores were by Mr Thomas E. Grant, 80; Mr J. Sutherland, Mr Donald Grant, and Mr W. Matheson, 81; and Mr Alec Morrison, 82, these all being local players. Mr J. Gordon Simpson's card reads:—

Out	4 4 5 5 4 3 4 5 5—equals	39
In	4 4 5 4 4 4 4 3 3—equals	35
	Total	74

The same round also decided several handicap prizes, the principal of which was the Fraser gold medal, and this also fell to Mr Gordon Simpson, while his father, Mr John Simpson, Tayport, was runner-up. The handicap prize-winners are:—Gold Medal—J. Gordon Simpson, 74. plus 2—76. Club prize, value £2 10s, J. Simpson, 86. less 8, equals 78; Club prize, value £1 10s. N. W. Loder, 84 less 5, equals 79; Club prize, value £1 5s, Thos. E. Grant, 80 (scratch); Club prize, E. W. Thomson, 86 less 6, equals 80; Club prize, Stanley Winch, 88 less 8, equals 80.

In the aggregate of the two rounds with handicaps limited to 9-odds, one round decided the Carnegie shield, a splendid trophy presented to the Club by Mr Andrew Carnegie, who is vice-president of the Club, and with it the winner receives a gold memento of the value of 3 guineas. While the handicaps are restricted to 9 strokes a round, players with higher handicaps are not precluded from competing for the shield. There were quite 70 players with equal chances of success. Mr J. Gordon Simpson again rose to the occasion, and with a finely compiled 76 plus 2, equals 78, for the second round secured the coveted trophy for the second year running. The best scores were:—J. Gordon Simpson, 74 and 76 plus 4, equals 154; Alex. Morrison, 82 and 75 (scratch), equals 157; John Simpson, 86 and 87 less 16, equals 157; Thos. E. Grant (a former winner), 80 and 80—160; A. G. Thomson, 82 and 79—161; William Ross, 90 and 89 less 18—161.

The feature of the afternoon's play was Mr Alec Morrison's round of 75—37 out and 38 in. The following are the sixteen best aggregate scorers on the day's play who made good their position, and play by holes for a number of prizes:—W. W. Thomson and Thomas Mackay; A. G. Thomson and Alec Morrison; G. W. Chambers and Alex. Murray; Walter Matheson and J. Sutherland; G. Moseley and Capt. G. P. Grant; Wm. Ross and D. O. Nicolson; Donald Grant and A. S. Weir; Thos. Grant and N. W. Loder.