

## Muchalls Golf Club

Muchalls is a small fishing village south of Aberdeen and some may be surprised to learn that at one time, the village had its own golf club.

The laying out of the course was agreed in 1908 and the new golf course was opened by G.J. Walker of Mains of Portlethen on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> of May 1909. The course was located between the Aberdeen main road, the railway line, South Station Road and the burn of Muchalls.

The nine holes extended over 30 acres and had a sandy surface combined with good turf. The site was also an attractive one running almost along the Sea front with the natural hazards of the course adding considerably to the interest of play.

The holes were named Castle, Danny Mearns, the Valley, the Hillock, the Brig, the Mill, the Corner, the Cairn and the Marine. The longest hole was played to the Mill and was 470 Yards. The shortest hole was played to the Corner was 200 yards, which could be reached from the tee but for the public road with dykes on either side which made this very difficult. The nine-hole course of 2,430 yards was a par of 36.

To attract visitors, reduced train fares were offered from Aberdeen and Stonehaven, with the train station 200 yards away from the Hotel. A club house was set up in the hotel for the then fifty male and female members of the club.

The course was laid out by Aberdeen Educational Trust and when it opened visitors were charged a shilling per day, four shillings per week, or ten shillings per month.

Extensive road improvements to the local A90, and a rapid reduction of members were the main reasons for the closure of Muchalls Golf Club and eventually the course was given up on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1968.

During September 1955 , the Chelsea Football team were staying in the Marine hotel Muchalls. As English league champions they were staying in the hotel prior to playing in the Challenge Cup against the Scottish league champions Aberdeen, the venue being Pittodrie Stadium.

As expected, a crowd of 20,000 saw Aberdeen beat Chelsea 4-3, Paddy Buckley with a hat trick , and Bobby Wishart making it four. The two teams then played a round of golf at Muchalls with Ted Drake, the Chelsea Team Manager teeing off.