

Since 2007 the Society has published 9 editions of our newsletter, "The Gowffer's Tattle". Whilst these have been excellent productions, the format and style has meant that a maximum of 2 editions per year have been possible, but with the ever-developing progress of the Statue Project, the Society Committee have decided to change the format to keep members and friends better informed.

There is no fixed timetable for future issues, this will be

determined by events.

In this edition, we bring everyone up to date with what has been happening since the last edition was published, developments with the Statue project, our 2014 events and other articles of interest. The newsletter is of course, for all our members and anyone else with an interest in our Aims, so please do send in any information and/or articles for inclusion.

Events 2014



May 31 st	Annual challenge match (away) with Musselburgh Old
July 2 nd to 5 th	Annual hickory events at Leith Links
2 nd	- Challenge match with Musselburgh Old
3 rd	- Challenge match with Bruntsfield Short Hole
4 th	- Foulis Medal (for Leith-based teams)
5 th	- Hickory Open
July 12 th	Outing to Kingarroch Course at Hill of Tarvit, near Cupar
July 24 th	Annual challenge match (away) with Bruntsfield Short Hole
September 19 th	Outing to Liberton Golf Course

Statue of John Rattray sited on Leith Links



Our major project is to fund a statue of John Rattray, the Captain of the club by winning the first "Open" golf competition at the Links in 1744 and the signatory to the first rules.

The superb area will host a larger than life-size Bronze Statue by renowned Fife sculptor, [David Annand](#), set in a beautifully landscaped and interactive precinct designed by award-winning Scottish Landscaped Architect William J. Cairns, all located on the original first hole at Leith Links.

This unique precinct will also contain interpretative information telling the story of Rattray and his fellow golfers' contribution to the history of golf as well as a copy of the Thirteen Original Rules and a recording of the major donors to the project.

The redeveloped area will:

- Engage local, national & international visitors with the history of golf
- Allow visitors and local residents to learn of the remarkable origins of the modern game in historic Leith
- Set Rattray's achievements against the wider backdrop of Scottish history
- Attract more visitors to include Leith in their Edinburgh itinerary

Major support from the City of Edinburgh means we can go ahead with confidence this year.

Latest news

The Scottish Parliament has approved our plans for the statue. It now goes for Royal Assent, the final stage in approval. Another major milestone achieved!

- **We require £250,000 to secure the project.**
- **Fund-raising has started with great support from LRGS members and friends of the project.**
- **To date £58,000 has been raised (or approaching 25% when pledges are added).**
- **Every little helps ... so please encourage friends to help with a donation of any size!**
- **As soon as funding is secured we will be ready to start work.**



Golf is in the air with the Ryder Cup coming to Scotland this year. We need the help of all your contacts and friends to raise the funding now and deliver this prize for Leith, Edinburgh and Scotland. The fine larger-than-life-size bronze of Rattray in the imaginatively structured golf precinct on Leith Links will, we believe, prove a real attraction and encourage visitors from near and far to include Leith in their Edinburgh itinerary.

7th March Celebration Event.

This year, our 7th March celebration was held in "A room in Leith" when 32 members and guest gathered.

Our Society Secretary, Brian Graham, introduced the evening by comparing 7th March 2014 with the same date 270 years before. Back then, he felt the new rules of this game would have emerged from a smoke-filled room after the drinking of copious amounts of Port! Of course, the analogy is not possible now, due to the law regarding smoking in public places! However, in 2014, there was much chat about golf, food consumed and as much beer and wine consumed as you would expect – so not too different then?

Our Speaker this year was Paul Miller, a new member of the Society who lectures at Elmwood College in Cupar on Golf Course Management. Paul chose as his subject "The Rules of Golf - a historical and personal perspective".

Paul spoke of the origins of the rules and the history and modernisation of them to date. The underscoring element of all rules is the "spirit" in which the game is played and we are fortunate that this "spirit" has managed to come through at all stages of the modernisation. This has included the growth of golf all round the world and the willingness of all players to follow the rules and play in the right spirit.

We were treated to an excellent presentation which had obviously taken a great deal of preparation; our grateful thanks go to Paul.

In closing the evening, our President, Douglas Foulis, thanked everyone in attendance for making it such a success, "A Room in Leith" for an excellent meal, Paul for his talk and Brian for all his pre-event organisation.

Roll on 7th March 2015!



Bonnie Prince Rattray?

An article by Bryan Jenkins in the recent edition of **Golf Quarterly** tells of the lucky escape of John Rattray after serving as Surgeon General to Bonnie Prince Charlie's forces and being captured at Culloden, all under the unique title "Bonnie Prince Rattray".

Bryan has clearly done a good deal of research into the Sporting prowess of Rattray as winner of the silver arrow at Archery before appealing with others of the Company of Edinburgh Golfers for a Silver Golf Club to serve as a sporting prize. The Silver club for an "Open Golf Competition" was provided by the Edinburgh City fathers on condition a set of rules was drawn up giving us the

original 13 rules signed by John Rattray on 7th March 1744.

An earlier edition of this magazine carried an article about caddies that included the story of John Paterson, a local shoemaker, being invited to play with the then Duke of York at Leith Links, defeating his two English opponents and then building Golfers Land in the Canongate with his winnings. The article is entitled "A wild villainous-looking species of street lounge"; resemblance of this description to any current member of LRGS is of course entirely coincidental!

In May 2013, LRGS entered a team in the Leith Rotary "Fund-Raising for Ethiopia" outing at Kingarrock hickory course near Cupar. Although we did not win a prize on the course, we were successful in the far more important area of "Sartorial Elegance".

Margaret Allan of Leith Rotary (and an LRGS member herself) is seen presenting the prize to our team of: Robin Morris, Pat Denzler, Douglas and Yves Foulis.



In 2013, the maquette of Rattray was displayed at "the Open in the Square" in St Andrews Square in the heart of Edinburgh, just before The Open commenced at Muirfield. Alongside were copies of our attractive fund-raising brochure just off the press from sponsors Allander Printers. The maquette then moved to Gullane and was on display at The Open in the "Home of Golf" tent and aroused interest but little for our coffers.

This year, The Open is at Hoylake in the Wirral. One of

our committee members, Alastair Chalmers, is planning to attend the event, courtesy of his cousin, who lives about 8 miles from the venue. And yes, his cousin does know about this, Alastair is not just going to turn up on his doorstep!

We are investigating if there is an opportunity for publicity again and with the progress made on the statue project since the summer of 2013, perhaps our coffers can be boosted this year?

“Golf - the Play”. In June 2013, a play was written and staged by a team of four senior boys at Stewart’s Melville College and in September, Leith Rotary and A-Haven Townhouse sponsored a second performance. It was a most enjoyable and successful fundraising event for the John Rattray Statue and the boys each received a book-token as a thank you from the sponsors.

The boys themselves wrote a report and we are delighted to publish it opposite.



(The picture shows the writer/actors with LRGs Committee members Pat Denzler, Douglas Foulis and Bill Cairns and Headmaster, David Gray).

On 11th June, we performed ‘Golf-The Play’ in the Drama studio at Stewart’s Melville College. It was set around a boy whose Dad would not let him play the sport he loved: Golf. The boy sneaks out to play golf but when his friend hits a ball through a man’s window the boy has to apologise. This then leads to the man telling the boy about the history of the game, with people such as Mary Queen of Scots, King James IV, John Paterson, Duke of York and many more people involved!

It was great to be able to write a play based on such a wide topic but come out successful. Mrs Pat Denzler’s idea to write the play really gave us a focus and helped our motivation. We worked very hard to research and write the piece, give ideas and perform together. We had a visit from Mr Brian Graham who gave an interesting and entertaining talk about some of the historical facts and we spent Monday and Thursday lunchtimes writing the script and suggesting ideas as well as rehearsing after school, during the Easter Holiday’s and several weekends in order to perfect the play.

We are very pleased that everyone enjoyed the evening and we hope to do more with the piece, possibly performing it again and starting other projects in the near future.

Sam Hance, S3 SMC



LRGS Committee 2014

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Secretary _____	Brian Graham
Treasurer _____	David Kay
Membership Secretary & Webmaster _____	Alastair Chalmers
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