

James Maclean SUNTER 1894-1957

Born in Earlsferry in Kilconquhar parish 4th November 1894 and living in Durham Cottage Earlsferry High Street, son of Alexander Sunter golf club maker (q.v.) and Jessie Sunter, he died aged 62 in Edinburgh. He married Jean Robertson Scott in Edinburgh 1931. Durham Cottage was so called because his grandmother's name was Durham his mother's Christian name and she was part of the Given Family. There were four Sunter families (see Chris Sunter). He was the first officially appointed golf professional at Elie Golf House Club and had a shop behind the current clubhouse....it is still there - see photo (left).

1921 Golf House Club (Elie)-The annual meeting was held yesterday afternoon, when the Earl Lindsay, Kilconquhar House, was re-elected captain and Mr James Sunter was appointed professional. A dinner was held in the evening, over 60 members being present.

He was active locally on the golf course and had a few triumphs:

1902 GOLF - PROFESSIONALS IN FIFE - ELIE GREEN RECORD EQUALLED.

A professional tournament under the auspices of the Elie and Earlsferry Clubs was held yesterday over the fine Links at Earlsferry, which were in excellent order. The prize-money in the aggregate amounts to £60, ten prizes the value of £20 being competed for yesterday, and the remaining £40 falls to be disbursed to-day, when the four lowest scorers compete by holes, two rounds. The entry was disappointing, only 24 professionals entering, Sandy Herd, the open champion; J. H. Taylor, Mid-Surrey; A. Kirkaldy, St Andrews;..... Locally comparatively little interest was manifested in the tournament, and the "galleries" never interfered with the players.

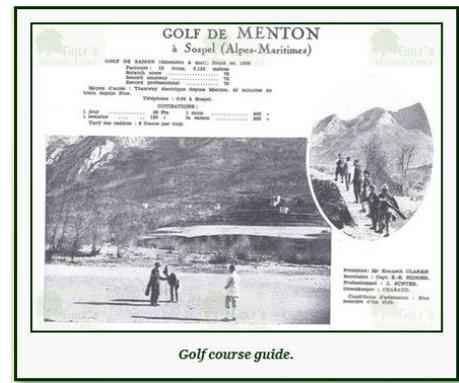
Had the event been on the cards last month, when the visitors' season was at its height in the popular Fife Coast burgh, there would undoubtedly have been more life about the meeting. Mr Normand Foster, Edinburgh, officiated as umpire. The ballot resulted in the following players being drawn together, and they started as follows: D. Paterson, Earlsferry, and A. Massey, North Berwick. John Duncan, Stirling, and J. Forrester, Earlsferry. A. H. Scott, Earlsferry, and O. Walker, Leith. P. Rainford, Crief, and B. Sayers, North Berwick. J. Braid, Romford, R. Simpson, Carnoustie. James Sunter, Earlsferry, and W. Anderson, Earlsferry. K. Elder, Pollockshaws, and R. Thomson, North Berwick. P. Barrie, Dirleton, and J. L. Hutchison, North Berwick. A. G. Scott. Crail. and A. Philip, Earlsferry. A. Sunter, Earlsferry, and R. Brewster, Leven. D. Given, Irvine, and Dr Fowler. W. Latto, Earlsferry, and John Keddie, Earlsferry.

FIRST ROUND.James Sunter holed the home hole (3) off his mashie.

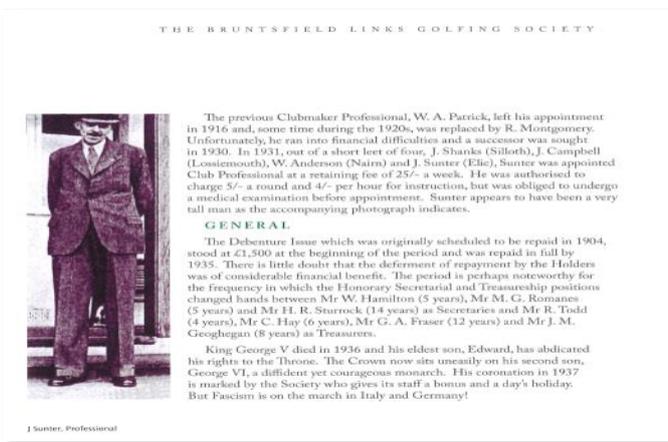
1920 SCOTS FOR WESTWARD HO! LOCAL YOUTH SHINES AT ELIE. The Scottish professionals' qualifying competition for the forthcoming big event at Westward Ho! which took place at Elie on Saturday brought to the front James Sunter, a local youth who has served under ex-Champion Braid, of Walton Heath. He took first position among the thirteen of the twenty-five entrants who came forward to fight for the six seats. Two rounds were played under perfect weather conditions. There was no wind until the late afternoon, when a south easterly breeze militated to a slight extent against the homeward scoring. Apart from Sunter's success there was the fine golf of Ben Sayers, the sprightly North Berwick prof., who thirty years ago, in Douglas Rolland day, occupied third place in similar competition. Ben Sayers drove far and sure, and his was the score of the afternoon, and only one stroke behind Sunter's. Sunter gets away a long ball from the tee, has rare touch with his iron clubs, but, like the bulk the competitors, his putting at times was palpably weak.Sunter's prize-money was £10, and the other five Anderson, Marling, Sayers, and Duncan who qualified, each received 17s. For the sixth place Smith. Forrester, and Kirkaldy tied, and on playing off one hole Smith won in four, Forrester requiring fire, and Andrew six. The record of the course is 72 and bogey 182. James Sunter has been round in 69.

We have unusually clear evidence that he was also part time professional in France where he went during the winter as is noted in this newspaper article:

James Sunter, professional to Elie Golf House Club, has just returned home after wintering in France, where he has acted as professional at Sospel Golf Course. The weather was cold and wet and one time the rain came down continuously for four days and four nights. The golf course, which is situated on either side of a river, had its three wooden bridges washed away. At other times the dazzling sun sparkled on the snow-clad mountain peaks. Many of the hotel visitors were driven home by the uncomfortable weather conditions. Among the notables Mr Sunter met while pursuing his work as "professional" were the young son of the Prince of Monaco; Mr Clark (and family), of cotton fame, who has interests in Sospel; and Lady Dering, wife of one of our Ambassadors. The "season" closes at the end of April, when hotel and golf course are closed. Mr Sunter was accompanied by Mr Shields, St Andrews, who was secretary for the club. 1925



He left Elie and went to Bruntsfield golf club in 1931. He gave up the shop at Bruntsfield in 1939 at the start of World War II and it is not known what happened thereafter, except that he lived in 30 March Road in Blackhall, Edinburgh until his death.



He was still described as a golf professional but where he plied his trade after World War II we currently do not know. This is his entry in the Antique Golf clubs of Scotland website (left).

Jamie Sunter was, officially, the first golf professional at the Golf House Club in Elie in 1921 although others, including George Forrester, and Jamie's father, William, performed the same functions before him under the title of greenkeeper. Similarly, A H

Scott had been a professional in Elie but not affiliated to the Golf House Club. Sunter learned his trade as a clubmaker apprenticed to George Forester's son, James.

He played in the Open Championship of 1921 at St Andrews. In November 1923 he was appointed professional at the Sosbel Club on the French Riviera, returning to Elie the following May. The same arrangement pertained for the following seasons.

His son John Ronald Maclean Sunter was born in Edinburgh in 1937. He emigrated to Canada and was married in December 1975 and eventually settled in Guelph Ontario as professor of Scottish Studies at the University of Guelph he died in August 2005.

Sunter-Hepburn

Bridal couple to live in Guelph, Ontario

Dr. and Mrs. Ronald Sunter will reside in Guelph, Ontario, following their marriage December 28. The groom is a history professor at the University of Guelph and the bride is a regional supervisor of home economists with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food in Guelph.

Rev. Douglas Anderson officiated at the quiet, double ring, early evening ceremony in Cooke's Presbyterian Church, Chilliwack. Bride, Donna Mae Hepburn, is the daughter of Mrs. Ian T. Hepburn, Chilliwack, and the late Mr. Hepburn, and the groom, Dr. John Ronald MacLean Sunter, is the son of Mrs. Frank Swales of Edinburgh, Scotland, who attended the

ceremony, and the late James MacLean Sunter.

Quinton Macadam of Vancouver gave his niece in marriage. She wore a cream-colored, Marni-Knit gown fashioned with a gored skirt and eyelet design on the sleeves. A gold clasp enhanced the belt. Bride wore an heirloom gold pendant and gold shoes and carried red carnations.

Bride and groom were un-

attended. Neil Salkus, North Vancouver, proposed the bridal toast at the reception in Cooke's Presbyterian Church Hall. Jack Waites was master of ceremonies and Mrs. James A. English was soloist.



DR. AND MRS. RONALD SUNTER
(nee Donna Hepburn)
— Norman Studios photo

From University of Guelph Newsheet

"...will also address the audience at 2 p.m. with "A Celebration of the Life of Professor emeritus Ronald MacLean Sunter." Sunter was a member of U of G's history faculty and the Scottish Studies program from 1972 until his retirement in 2000. He died in August.

"Scottish studies at Guelph has suffered the sudden and unexpected loss of one of its longest- serving and most devoted members," "Those who regularly attend the Scottish Studies colloquia will remember his calm and quiet but always cheerful presence. His untimely death is a great loss to us all."