



John Erskine Douglas Stewart ROLLAND

1861 - 1914

John Erskine Douglas Stewart Rolland – “Dougie” – was probably one of the most promising of the Earlsferry men who became professional golfers. His career was cut short by injury to his wrists which resulted in him giving up the game. However, at the time he was considered to be one of the longest hitters of all time and his prowess and indeed bravado on the links were legendary. His career was described in an obituary in the newspapers in 1914 (left):

The death of Douglas Rolland, writes “R.B.M.” in “The Golf Monthly” for September, at Farborough, removes from the arena of golf a figure around whose name there was a perfect cluster of romance, and concerning whose deeds on the links professionals of the older school have a liberal hank of yarns. There is a deeply pathetic touch in Rolland’s life, for when thirty-four years of age, and at the very height of his golfing power, he was stricken with an affliction in his wrists which prevented him freely swinging his club, and cut short, as if with a knife, the promise of his brilliant career.

He was born in Earlsferry in 1861 one of several children of Andrew Rolland and Isabella Harris. His father, who died in 1901 at the ripe age of 84, was also a professional golfer although it is more likely that he played professional golf whilst also holding down a job as a coal miner in Kennoway. He was in addition a mason’s labourer at a time when a lot of the Earlsferry young men were employed as masons.

Whilst Dougie trained as a mason he, also along with the usual coterie of Earlsferry boys, played golf on the golfing tract of Earlsferry. Physically he was a large man for his era and his original training as a mason obviously gave rise to extremely strong forearms and hands which he put to good use on the golf course. *“In his prime he stood just over 6 feet weighed 13 stones erect as a dart he measured 42 inches round the chest, had a right forearm of 12 and half inches; indeed, his physique was admirable, the very type of an athlete in whom a sculptor would rejoice.”* (same source as above).

When Andrew Kirkaldy was in America a few years ago he played in a foursome with his brothers, Hugh and Jack Kirkaldy and Douglas Rolland. Andrew and his partner lost, and he was loud in his expressions of disgust. A few professionals anxious to see a repetition of his anger asked him who played in the foursome, and he replied: “Me and mase, my brother Hugh and I, Jack, Duggie Rolland and me.”

Open Golf Championship

In the 1884 Open at Prestwick Jack Simpson (Earlsferry) won, but Dougie and Willie Fernie were joint second. In the 1894 open at St. Georges, Sandwich again Rolland was runner-up this time to J H Taylor and in 1882 and 1883 he was tied 13th and 10th.

After his second place in 1884 it is reported that Dougie went to USA, but we only been able to find this reference to his exploits.

It is reported that when he returned a few years later he was but a physical shadow of himself although his lack of physique was at that time not attributed to anything.

However, he continued playing golf and took up a position initially as professional in 1901 he is reported as living in Hastings. He certainly was back in England in 1898 where he married Anna Emily Edmunds born in 1870. Anna had a child before she married and it not clear whether Dougie was the father, but Dorothy (Dollie) Phoebe Edmunds (later Rolland) was born in 1889. Subsequent to his marriage he had two other children, Mary Elizabeth Anna Rolland born in 1900 and Douglas Andrew Rolland born in 1901. In 1903 he was noted as being the professional at Tottenbeck ,although this was a misprint for Tooting Bec, a course which no longer exists. Again in 1894 he was reported to be the professional at Rye where he stayed for a short period of time. Before that it is reported that he was at Limpsfield Chart. The website of that club notes:

"[in] 1890, a small but picturesque club-house was built the cost being generously defrayed by two members. The same year saw Douglas Rolland engaged as professional. Rolland remained at Limpsfield for four years, the course rapidly improving under his care."

He was at the time famous for having played in money matches and challenges. Indeed, it is recorded that the first exhibition in which gate money was charged was "..... at a match between Douglas Rolland and Jack White at Cambridge. The practice of paying for matches through private betting, rather than gate receipts and sponsorships, survives well into the 20th Century as a "Calcutta" but increasingly gate receipts are the source of legitimate prize purses."

His other exploits were his famous tussle with J.D. Ball over Hoylake and Earlsferry and also against two of the St Andrews best players. It was reported thus:

"Some eight or nine years or so have elapsed since Mr Douglas Rolland came into general notice, although, as a matter of course, his merits were well known in the village of Elie, or Earlsferry, his native place. It so happened that about that time Jack Simpson, also native of Elie, and a subsequent winner of the open championship, was at the height of his game, and Rolland and he were in the habit of playing together continually.

Nothing much, however, was known of either of them away from their own green, and the first notice strangers had was the intimation that there two would be glad to play any two amateurs of the Royal and Ancient at St Andrews. Accordingly, a foursome was got together with Messrs. Leslie Balfour and Horace Hutchinson who were the selected champions of the latter Club. The play exhibited by its challengers was a revelation. Jack Simpson was to the full as fine a player as Rolland himself, even if he was not, as the latter inclined to think, a trifle better, and the driving shown by there too simply pulverised their opponents, who never had a chance from start to finish. It happened to be blowing a heavy gale of wind, which exactly suited the play of the strangers, and, as so instance of their great power, an episode may be given which occurred at the very first hole. The gale was of such strength that Mr Balfour and his partner could not cross the burn at the third shot, although they had three very good drives, and it fell to Jack Simpson to play the like. He called for his cleek, whereupon a spectator, himself a first-rate player and excellent judge of the game, remarked—"I should have thought a man who can drive like that would have risked the burn." With but a three-quarter shot with his cleek, he laid the ball within a few feet of the hole.

This particular round was finished in 89, which, considering the day, was extraordinarily fine performance, but it should be added that their putting was scandalously bad. Neither the one nor the other appeared to have the most rudimentary ideas of how to hole a ball out, and time after time, after reaching the green by magnificent driving and approaching, an extra stroke was almost sure to be required, unless the ball was absolutely dead. But, as the late Mr James Mansfield remarked in the course of the play, "With driving of that description you can afford a deal of slackness in the short game." Douglas, while still an amateur, came very near winning the open championship in 1884. His friend Jack Simpson, however, proved too good for him; but he was in front of everybody else, excepting W. Fernie, with whom he tied at 164 over Prestwick on a very windy day. 1891"

His tussle with Ball in 1883 was more intriguing and the report from Guardian is on the left.

From this article it can be seen that he had some affiliation with Leith Links. At that time of course he was still an amateur although the exact distinction was rather amorphous. On the other hand, Leith Links and various clubs associated with it was a very active club. The Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers originated in Leith before moving to Muirfield. A "J Rolland" is shown as playing in a match for Leith Golf Club against Edinburgh Thistle. Whilst it is possible that this was Dougie, since his first initial is J, he may well at that time have been seeking more lucrative pasture. It is likely however that he was an ordinary member of Leith Links and of course Earlsferry. It is clear that the match at St. Andrews and at Hoylake and Earlsferry referred to amateur golfers. As noted above he was also associated with Limpsfield Golf Club, Rye and a few others.

AMATEUR GOLF MATCH.

The great amateur golf match between Mr. John Ball, of Hoylake, the crack player of the Royal Liverpool Golf Club, who has carried off repeatedly the medals of his club, and Mr. Douglas Rolland, Earlsferry, Fifeshire, and of the Leith Golf Club, was continued yesterday at the Hoylake Links. The match, which was the outcome of an announcement in the *Field* that more than one Scotch amateur would be backed to play Mr. Ball over more than one links for a stake sufficient to cover the expenses of the contest, has excited much attention in golfing circles on both sides of the border, the players being the representatives of a Scotch and an English green. The numbers who witnessed yesterday's play show how popular this open-air game is now becoming in England. The first part of the match was played on November 29, on the links at Earlsferry, and was witnessed by a large company, including many from St. Andrews. The game here consisted of 36 holes, and resulted in Mr. Rolland winning by the very large number of nine holes on his home green. Yesterday the match was completed at Hoylake, Mr. Ball's home green; and in consequence of the fine play exhibited last week by Mr. Rolland several hundred golfers, many having come from Scotland and London as well as from Manchester, were present to witness the contest. The day was bright and fine, but windy, and the green was in excellent order. The game here also consisted of 36 holes, and at the end of the first round Mr. Ball was one up, completing the round in 90 to his opponent's 91. In the second round Mr. Rolland, playing a brilliant game, succeeded in completing the round in 85 to Mr. Ball's 90, being four up on the day's play, and winning the match by 13 holes on 72. The driving of both players and the approach game of Mr. Rolland were exceptionally good, and only on putting, as at Earlsferry, was any weakness shown. The following are the scores:—

There was some controversy in relation to Dougie's application to play in the Amateur championship at Westward Ho! in 1885. Horace Hutchison then the doyen of golf writers noted thus:

"It may be remembered—or it may not—that at the last meeting of the delegates for the amateur championship, held when that great competition was decided at Westward Ho!, they had before them, for discussion. The delegates are appointed to have general charge of the arrangements for the amateur championship, but it is tolerably certain that they would not care to come to a decision touching the very fundamental conditions of the competition without definite instructions

on this particular subject from the clubs which give them their office. It is to the energy and initiative of the Royal Liverpool Golf Club that the championship owes its existence.

In 1885 that famous club instituted a tournament, open to all amateur golfers. The tournament, as its very name implies, was to be decided by match play,to be confined to amateurs, but seeing that no definition of an amateur golfer was at that time in existence, there was no recognised guidance for the committee in charge of the competition as to who should be included and who debarred. The point came up in an acute personal form for me on the reception of the name of Douglas Rolland, submitted as a competitor. I happened to be a member of the committee and finding myself in a minority of one in their deliberations about the acceptance of Rolland's entry, I retired, quite amicably, from the committee, because I did not wish to be one of a body which voted for his exclusion.

At that time I had visions of possibly being the winner of the proposed tournament, and, under these circumstances, did not wish to be associated with an action which ruled out of the lists one of the most formidable of the competitors. Rolland, whom I do not think our present definition would have excluded, was denied right of entry, and immediately removed all future trouble on his behalf by taking up the game as his profession the very same year."

So, we can be sure that he became a professional in 1885 and I supposed we can assume that that definition probably meant that you derived your main income from that game. Although, interestingly, his father Alexander Rolland who died at the age of 84 in 1901 was described as a professional golfer although he had other employment – indeed it was said that he commuted to the colliery in Kennoway by rail from Elie .

There is also a reference to Tooting Bec and Bexhill-on-Sea where he is credited with having redesigned the course prior to its move elsewhere. He is also associated with Malvern Green Golf Club and Aldershot Army golf course - he died in the club house of that course in 1914. He played frequent exhibition matches very often at the opening of a new course designed by some of his friends.

*Keddie was an Earlsferry man too.

The Rye Golf Club has done well in engaging Douglas Rolland's services. Lately Rolland has been playing several matches in Sussex. Twice at Hastings he was beaten by the best ball of Mr. H. S. Colt and James Keddie, the local professional. On the nice little links at Bexhill, Mr. Colt and Keddie did well in halving a match with Rolland and Yeoman, the professional resident at Eastbourne. After all, however, the best and most interesting golf lately recorded is the golfing of Mr. Tait and his brother officers against the professionals at Carnoustie. On the last thirty-six hole match Mr. Tait and Mr. Macfarlane led Bob and Archie Simpson by one, after eighteen holes had been played, but in the end they suffered defeat by two and one to play. In the morning the officers started with three 3's, and were out in 35, which tied the then record—Archie Simpson's. Two days later Mr. Tait, playing a single with Mr. Macfarlane, went out in 33, and finished the round in 72, beating Simpson's previous record for the course by one. It is little wonder that he beat Mr. Macfarlane by five holes.

The East of Fife Record reported on his death in 1914 and quoted from an extensive article in Golf Monthly about him. It is worth looking in detail at that article.

The Match with John Ball.

In 1883 Mr John Ball issued a challenge to the world for a home and home match with any other amateur over Hoylake, Mr Ball, although then only twenty years of age. was invincible and so marvellous was his form that he was regarded by the sportsmen in Cheshire as without a rival. Mr Hobert Chambers, the Edinburgh publisher, and a great enthusiast, heard of the challenge, and as Rolland had already played one or two matches over St Andrews, Chambers accepted the Hoylake challenge, and the match was fixed up for Earlsferry and Hoylake. It was a sad day for the English party which accompanied Mr Ball to the East Neuk of

Fife, for by the end of the thirty-six holes, the Englishman was nine holes down. Proceeding to Hoylake. Rolland not only retained this advantage, but he supplemented it by four additional holes.

Mr Ball had reduced Rolland's lead to eight at the end of the first round, but finally, Rolland won by eleven and ten. The bye was played out to settle heavy bets on the actual result of the Hoylake match, and Mr Ball lost on the thirty-six holes played on his own green, by four holes. Rolland was three years older than Mr Ball, and after the match. along with Jack Simpson. who had accompanied him to Hoylake, he went to Liverpool to enjoy himself. The pair did this in such right royal fashion that, amongst the many incidents, Rolland's clubs were lost. Overnight, Mr Chambers had fixed up a second match for Rolland against Mr Ball. at Hoylake, the Scots laying £100 to on their man. Rolland, nothing lost, went down, got clubs of some sort, and the match began. Poor Rolland, not much accustomed to English fare and a lot of money to spend, could not do much in the first round, and eventually he was in the seemingly hopeless position of five down and six to play. Refreshing breezes 'from across the Dee as Rolland put it, began to clear his head of the Liverpool jollification'. For the Scot won the last six holes and secured victory by a single hole.

His First Open Championship

Rolland was still an amateur, and it was in the following year, 1884, that he first essayed success in the Open Championship. The amateur contest was then merely a possibility, and Rolland at Prestwick, was beaten by his chum, Jack Simpson, tying with Willie Fernie for second place, Fernie being the holder of the championship at the time. On the eve of that event Rolland, Jack Simpson and another professional, who is prominent even to-day although older than Rolland, were staying in the same house at Prestwick. Rolland had had a very merry evening, in fact, far too merry. He drew a ring on the floor and said the championship medal must be there tomorrow night. He was correct in his prophecy. Simpson won.

After that championship. Rolland immediately turned professional. He first competed as a professional at Hoylake, in 1884 and in 1887 he accepted the charge of the Malvern Green. At the tournament played in connection with the opening of the Sandwich Course, he ran through to the final, in which, however, he was vanquished by Archie Simpson by the narrow margin of one hole, the driving in this match on both sides being something to be remembered. He was successful, however, in winning the prize for the aggregate the professional tournament in Westward Ho! In June 1889 he was singularly successful winning over £30 in virtue of a double victory one being a competition by holes, and the other an aggregate score of two rounds. These two rounds he holed 83 and 85, total of 168 being one stroke in front of Sayers.

His Second Championship

In those days the English did not encourage their professionals in the same way as they do now, and Rolland had to leave the Open Championship alone. In 1890 he went from Malvern to Limpsfield Chart, where remained for three years, and he then went to Rye. In 1894 his chance came, for it was that year that an English green was first included in the Open Championship rota. Sandwich was the venue, and Rolland had no difficulty in raising the funds and getting the time for the journey from the old Sussex Cinque Port to one in Kent. That Championship is historical, for there the great division of English professionals first hoisted the flag of victors, a flag which by the aid of Harry Vardon and J. H. Taylor, they have kept aloft with little interruption for twenty years. Rolland in that championship took second place, and the poor old fellow, when I had my last chat with him, had a tale to tell, nothing more or less than that his favourite driver had been damaged at the end of the first day's play, with the result that at the second hole in the third round the head flew off. It is worth recording now that at the end of the first day's play Taylor was leading by a stroke, and at the ninth hole in the third round the positions were unaltered. From that point. however, Taylor steadily drew away, and finished in against Rolland's 331.

The End of His Career

At that championship, Rolland was in almost rampant form. On the Saturday to the big event Willie Park issued a challenge for a thirty-six holes match for £100. Rolland was backed and won by three and two. After the championship, he also won the professional and amateur tournament, defeating in succession Mr Horace Hutchison by three and one; Willie Auchterlonie, by two and one; Freddie Tait at the nineteenth hole, and in

the final Taylor by two and one. Rolland's career, as I say above, almost ended with that meeting, although he subsequently played a match partnered by Ben Sayers against Taylor and Hugh Kirkaldy over Tooting Bee. The former couple won by a hole, and the circumstances are somewhat remarkable. They were all level, with one to play, and driving to the last hole, Rolland's tee shot went over a clump of tress and ran to 250 yards. This was with a gutta ball.

The Old Pro's Methods

Rolland essentially belonged to the old school. The hard-living type which hung the border-land of the caddie. In dress and manner he was of the type which has long been superseded by the more prosperous professional we know to-day. In the championship at Prestwick, some of the competitors walked from Musselburgh with an equipment of three or four clubs and a couple of gutta halls which had long lost a vestige of paint. In dilapidated boots and raiment burst at a variety of corners, and whisky their chief sustenance, they formed a ragged crew. Rolland was in the better-living division, but he had his curious ways. He told me that present-day golfers did not feed themselves properly and had a firm belief in big steak for breakfast. In this connection, he told an incident of the Sandwich championship. The feeding arrangements then, as now, were faulty. Rolland and one of the Simpsons—he thought Bob—got into the little refreshment tent first. Four-pound steak with potatoes were laid out, and the two worthies consumed the lot, to the intense annoyance of the caterer, who intended to feed the lot off the steak. The other pros went hungry. Money was not plentiful and in the match with Sayers and old Davie Grant for £20 a-side, Grant could not get up his corner of the stake. His wife refused to risk any of the family savings and it was only by a surreptitious visit and a "break open" of the home bank that Grant tabled his money.

Big Driving

His power of driving, and especially against the wind, was almost phenomenal and it was not an uncommon occurrence to see him forty or fifty yards in front of a shot which would in ordinary circumstances he considered an excellent one, and he could probably drive as far with his cleek as the majority young drivers could with a play club. In the short game, however, he was not often seen to such advantage and he sometimes failed to hole out his short putts with precision. Looking at his play, as a whole, it was remarked by a not wholly incompetent critic of that time, that "the strongest part of his game is his temper, - and there was considerable justice in the observation.

His Secret of Big Hitting

Rolland always carried a very heavy iron and he could use this with tremendous power. In an article he contributed to the *Golf Monthly* in April last. Rolland said "I have often been asked the secret of long driving, but all I can say is that it is a combination of forces. A big man has a greater chance of hitting a longer ball than the small man, by reason of his physical advantages but you can hit as hard as you can and the golf ball will not take it. I have hit a ball as hard as my cousin Jimmy Braid, and I could not get the ball to stop in the air any more than 250 yards. Golf is a right-handed game, and I think the secret of my success as a long driver was the strength which I possessed in my right arm. The greatest drive was in the match I played against Lieut. Freddie Tait. at Sandwich in 1884. In that year Tait and Mr Edward Blackwell were regarded as the longest drivers amongst amateurs, but off every tee I beat Tait in the semi-final. Often I was twenty yards better than him; I consistently outdrove him at every hole. In my biggest drive that day I felt that I had put every ounce behind my grips, and that I had caught the ball at the psychological moment."

Rolland's Influence on Golf

Rolland's mother is ninety-four and living in Earlsferry. She is a sister of Braid's mother who is eighty-one. Strangely, after Rolland left Earlsferry for Malvern he never revisited his native village. His influence on the game of which he was such a master may be dismissed as nothing. He was a thrilling player, a dashing, daring fellow, but his light went out before his time. In the years between 1884 and 1900 he might have held the fort for Scotland until Braid came along, but he passed out suddenly. All that remains is the regret that the success which was possible to him he never achieved and the memory of a picturesque personality.

THEN AND NOW At Eastertime of this year, after an absence of some twelve years or so, I revisited my old favourite resort, the Bexhill Golf Club, where, in the MacDougall-cum-Rolland days, I was a constant visitor, and temporary member. We find, too, a practically new course, with new ground taken in here and there, and a new punch bowl green in the added far country; new bunkers and hummocks galore, and some right good ones, too, amongst them; and lastly, old Penland Wood very much thinned off and opened out.Though very fond of the old course, laid out by Douglas Rolland, I am certainly of opinion that, as a whole, the course as now arranged, with the new ground in the far country, the additional length at the 2nd hole, well the portion taken into use at the 13th. is far more sporting and attractive. as well as being more difficult to negotiate. Hutchison op. cit.

PROFESSIONAL MATCH.—DOUGLAS ROLLAND V. TOM DUNN.—This important 36 holes match, at Furzedown, on Saturday, ended in a victory for Rolland by five holes up and four to play. It was a grand game from beginning to end; and Dunn (The Tooting Bee's Club professional) flattered his supporters in the second round by getting three holes nearer to his opponent than at the finish of the first round, at which latter stage Rolland was six holes up. The feature of the game was Rolland's remarkable series of performances in winning the eleventh hole in two strokes, the fifteenth in two, and the eighteenth in two—each with a long drive from the tee on to the green and a short "putt." By going round the first 18 holes in 74 (40 out and 34 in—the latter a wonderful performance), Rolland beat the record of the green. The second round was played in the afternoon, and Dunn certainly played a better game than in the morning; but although he halved five holes and won five others, Rolland won the match as indicated above. The winner is ten years younger than Dunn, who is aged 43. Rolland has never lost a match, although he has been playing since he was 13 years of age.

London Evening Standard Monday 26 February 1894. Image ©

It is his immense driving capabilities that were still remembered long after his death.

STRENGTH AND LONG DRIVING.

Exceptionally long driving is not always due to the possession of physical strength beyond the common run, but one has only to review the exceptionally long drivers of the present day to realise that strength and reach are great assets towards the propelling of the ball a very long way. For instance, Edward Ray, James Braid, and Douglas Rolland, three of the longest drivers the world has ever known, are all men who, like Mr. Blackwell, are gifted with exceptionally big physiques. But, on the other hand, it is not all men with big physiques who can manage to drive a very long ball, and I could mention one or two players whose power of driving are not at all commensurate with their powers of physique, but the mentioning of their names would serve to imply a certain lack in the scientific application of that natural strength, and golfers do not like to be publicly labelled as lacking in any of these essential virtues.

Anecdotes also abounded.

There is a story told of Douglas Rolland, the celebrated British professional, who died very recently. He had given a glowing testimonial of a new brand of golf ball, and one of his friends in a spirit of fun, asked him how much he had received for his endorsement.

Rolland frankly admitted that he had received five sovereigns. "And does the ball really fly further than the others?" The inquiry was a natural one, but Rolland's reply was startling.

"About ten yards *short*, I'm thinkin'."

Dougie died at the relatively young age of 53 in 1914 and perhaps fittingly it was the Golf Club House, Farnborough where he was the professional at the time. This is now the Army Golf Course at Aldershot.

It is not easy to work out where the Rollands lived in Earlsferry. In some of the censi they are shown as living in Chapel Green, which covered the area from the Chapel Green

House down to what is now Glovers Wynd but in the 1906 valuation roll Andrew Rolland's widow is shown as living at Rose Cottage which may have been the Rose Cottage between Roseberie and Sandwick in Earlsferry High Street or one of the cottages between Glovers Wynd and Chapel Green. The latter seems more likely as Rose Cottage in the High Street was Pearson's (q.v.) family home.

His daughter Dollie initially married Henry Conrad Sanders, who was 40 years senior to her and he died within four years of the marriage. She then married William Perrin a retired farmer who took on the licensed premises at the Bridge Hotel Chersey where she worked for a time before selling the business in 1925 after her husband's death. So far as we know she did not have any children. His second daughter Mary Elizabeth Anna Rowland married Jo Blackburn in 1930 and then married a man called Gates. She had a child, Gordon Stephen Rolland, before she married Blackburn and he kept the family name. He himself married in 1941 and died in 1970 leaving a son Stephen Nicolas Rolland, who died in 2011 in Blackpool. His son Douglas born in 1901 married Josephine M Bott in 1920 and then Lily Press in 1943. He was a coppersmith to trade. It is said that Dougie never returned to his native Earlsferry after he went south. But there is little doubt he was an endearing character and an immensely powerful golfer in his day. It was a pity he suffered from injury to his wrists preventing him from playing more golf. Without that he might have been a third Open Champion from Earlsferry.

GOLF ILLUSTRATED

best eight professionals took part, beating Taylor, the new champion in the final. After that though he was still young and ought to have been well and strong he was crippled with rheumatism and ceased to be a force in the golfing world. Nearly all those who knew his game well unite in saying that Rolland was the most glorious driver that they ever saw, and it hardly seems too much to add that as a purely natural golfer he has never had a superior. He took no care of himself, his clubs or his game, and would play with the gayest indifference with any club that were offered him. There is a well-known story of an exhibition match that was to be played—some twenty-five years ago now—on a well known London course between Rolland and the local professional, a man of considerable repute. The hour for beginning the match approached, a large crowd assembled and there was no Rolland. Astonishment and anxiety prevailed and then at the very last moment Rolland appeared from nobody knew where, in his best Sunday clothes, a stiff white shirt and without a vestige of a club. He borrowed some clubs on the spot, rumbled

up his white shirt to make it a little more yielding, sallied out on to the course and beat both his opponent and the previous record for the course. Rolland hardly ever played in the Open Championship, because for various reasons he did not for several years find it convenient to go to his native Scotland. His name is written on none of those lists on which future generations will look curiously, while they speculate as to what manner of men were the prehistoric champions of the stone-hard gutty age. But as long as there remain any of those who saw him play or even of those who, while they never saw him, yet remember the terror inspired by his name, Douglas Rolland will be accounted one of the greatest of all golfers.

I cannot end this rather gloomy and desultory letter without saying that Mr. Chick Evans's many golfing friends here have time in the midst of their troubles to be delighted over his fine play in the Open Championship. It would have been a wonderful thing if he could have succeeded Mr. Ouimet—as Amateur Open Champion for the second year running. As it was, he did nobly and we all congratulate him.