



James Paterson

1886 – 1941

James Paterson (shown on right of picture alongside his son) although he does not fit into the specific category having been born in Elie or Earlsferry he was a significant player in the profile of Earlsferry professionals in that he devoted his life and professional career mostly to the one golf club. He was born in Strathkinness on 10th September 1886. His father was a house painter by trade. But the family must have moved to Earlsferry fairly shortly after his birth since he is shown in the 1891 census and living in Chapel Green – this was the generic area for anything west of Earlsferry House at that time, which makes it sometimes difficult to determine the exact house. The house in which the family lived was probably Rose Cottage, which is in the

valuation roll right next door to Earlsferry House between Elphin cottage and Craigview.

In the 1901 census he is shown aged 15 as a golf club maker and I think we can assume that he was apprenticed to Forrester. He went down south and is shown as having married Isabel Harriet White in 1910 in Barnet where he is shown in the 1911 census as living in Friern Barnet, Middlesex and he is designed as assistant golf professional and club maker, although it is noted that he was then resident in Hastings (see below).

1911 PATERSON, JAMES (Valuation Rolls VR002800004-/197, EARLSFERRY BURGH) Page 197 of 382 ©Crown copyright, National Records of Scotland. Image was generated at 15 June 2020 09:49

VALUATION ROLL for the Burgh of Earlsferry, for the Year 1911-1912.		PARISH	
No.	Description and Remarks of Premises	PROPERTY	VALUATION
1	James Paterson, 20 Rose Cottage	James Paterson, 20 Rose Cottage, Earlsferry	10/0
2	James Paterson, 21 Rose Cottage	James Paterson, 21 Rose Cottage, Earlsferry	10/0
3	James Paterson, 22 Rose Cottage	James Paterson, 22 Rose Cottage, Earlsferry	10/0
4	James Paterson, 23 Rose Cottage	James Paterson, 23 Rose Cottage, Earlsferry	10/0
5	James Paterson, 24 Rose Cottage	James Paterson, 24 Rose Cottage, Earlsferry	10/0
6	James Paterson, 25 Rose Cottage	James Paterson, 25 Rose Cottage, Earlsferry	10/0
7	James Paterson, 26 Rose Cottage	James Paterson, 26 Rose Cottage, Earlsferry	10/0
8	James Paterson, 27 Rose Cottage	James Paterson, 27 Rose Cottage, Earlsferry	10/0
9	James Paterson, 28 Rose Cottage	James Paterson, 28 Rose Cottage, Earlsferry	10/0
10	James Paterson, 29 Rose Cottage	James Paterson, 29 Rose Cottage, Earlsferry	10/0
11	James Paterson, 30 Rose Cottage	James Paterson, 30 Rose Cottage, Earlsferry	10/0
12	James Paterson, 31 Rose Cottage	James Paterson, 31 Rose Cottage, Earlsferry	10/0
13	James Paterson, 32 Rose Cottage	James Paterson, 32 Rose Cottage, Earlsferry	10/0
14	James Paterson, 33 Rose Cottage	James Paterson, 33 Rose Cottage, Earlsferry	10/0
15	James Paterson, 34 Rose Cottage	James Paterson, 34 Rose Cottage, Earlsferry	10/0
16	James Paterson, 35 Rose Cottage	James Paterson, 35 Rose Cottage, Earlsferry	10/0
17	James Paterson, 36 Rose Cottage	James Paterson, 36 Rose Cottage, Earlsferry	10/0
18	James Paterson, 37 Rose Cottage	James Paterson, 37 Rose Cottage, Earlsferry	10/0
19	James Paterson, 38 Rose Cottage	James Paterson, 38 Rose Cottage, Earlsferry	10/0
20	James Paterson, 39 Rose Cottage	James Paterson, 39 Rose Cottage, Earlsferry	10/0
21	James Paterson, 40 Rose Cottage	James Paterson, 40 Rose Cottage, Earlsferry	10/0

1911 England Census

[View Image](#) [View Record](#)

Name James Paterson

Age in 1911 26

Estimated Birth Year abt.1885

Relation to Head Head

Gender Male

Birth Place St Andrews, Fife, Fife, Fife

Civil parish Friern Barnet

Search Photos Friern Barnet, Middlesex, England

County/Island Middlesex

Country England

Street Address 2 Alexandra Villas, Oakleigh Rd, Whetstone N

Marital Status Married

Occupation Assistant Professional Golfer And Golf Club Maker

Registration district Barnet

Registration District Number 131

Sub-registration district Finchley

ED, institution, or vessel 26

Piece 7184

Household Members 40065827

We are not sure where he started his professional career but it looks likely if the club still exists that it would have been Mill Hill or Hendon, both of which were established shortly before Paterson

arrived in England. Indeed, James Braid with whom we assume Paterson was friendly having both came from Earlsferry was one of 50 players who opened the Hendon club in 1900 or so. It might have been Stanmore club, which was established about the same time. Although the nearest club to where he lived in 1911 at Alexandra Villa Oakleigh Road Friern Barnet is actually North Middlesex Golf Club and that may give us a clue, since one of the other Earlsferry people was professional at that club round about this time. In any event, he became the professional at Hastings Downs Golf Club in 1925, where he stayed until he died in 1941.

He married Isobel White in 1910 and had three children. His daughter's wedding was reported thus.

The wedding took place on Wednesday at All Souls' Church. Yale, of Miss Edna Elizabeth Paterson, daughter of Mr. James Paterson, professional to the Hastings Downs Golf Club, and Mr. Edwin Eric Field, son of Mr. C. Field, of 177, Gander Green-lane, Cheam, Surrey. Dressed in a white satin gown with a long veil and a coronet of orange blossom, satin shoes and gloves, and carrying a bouquet of lilies, the bride was given away by her father. The Misses Phyllis Ryder, ...Paterson, Barbara Howell and Rene Winder were bridesmaids, and they were dressed in long dresses of green floral georgette, with green and lemon bandeaux, green gloves and shoes, and they carried bouquets of yellow daffodils and tulips. The bride travelled in navy and white floral dress, navy semi-fitting coat, navy and white hat, scarf, and shoes and white gloves. The future home will be Gander Green-lane, Cheam, Surrey. There were many presents. [1934]*

We are fortunate to have a very comprehensive summary of this golf club.

Hastings & St Leonards/Hastings Downs Golf Club, Sussex. (1893 - WW2)

Originally known as Hastings & St Leonards Golf Club it became Hastings following WW1, it eventually became Hastings Downs Golf Club prior to WW2 until closure.

Founded 1893. From the Manchester Courier and Lancs General Advertiser, Saturday 11 March 1893 "A club is likely to be formed on an excellent tract of ground on East Hill at Hastings. The course will be without a "tame hole"

On the eighteenth green at Hastings Golf Club (East Hill).

The formal opening of the 18-hole course took place in fine weather a couple of days earlier on Friday 16th May 1902 with a 36-hole match between James Braid, Romford, and Harry Vardon, Ganton. There was a large crowd in attendance when the players teed off at 11am. At the end of the first round Vardon was 4up.



The Golf Clubhouse.

Throughout the 1930s the secretary was C L Taylor MBE VD. The professional was J Paterson and the greenkeeper E C Bumstead (early 1930s) C White (from about 1935). 18 holes with a membership of about 360. Course records were, amateur A Winter 68, professional J Paterson 69.

In 1940 the club was listed as Hastings Downs Golf Club, Barley Lane. The secretary was G W Foxon, 147 Edmund Road, Hastings, telephone 2422. The professional was J Paterson and the greenkeeper J Barkess. The 18 holes had a S.S.S of 74 and a membership of 200. Course records were, amateur W H Mee 70 and professional J Paterson 68

In 1951 Hastings Downs Golf Club, Barley Lane appears, the secretary was G W Foxon, 147 Edmund Road, Hastings, telephone 2422. The professional was A C Mackie and the greenkeeper H J Clarke. 18 holes with a Standard Scratch and Par of 74. Course records were; amateur H White 71, professional A C Mackie 65. Club membership at this time was 200.

In its final appearance in the mid 1950s the secretary was R G Bishop, The Heath Fairlight Road, Hastings, the professional was A Vaux and the greenkeeper F A Paine. 18 holes of 6,083yds with a revised S.S.S of 69 and Par of 74. Visitors' fees were as 1951 with the exception of weekends and Bank Holidays which were now 5/6 a round and 7/6 a day.

Whilst there during the darker winter months he set upon a novel idea of earning his living as a teacher.

GOLF LEARNING TO PLAY INDOORS James Paterson, the popular Hastings Downs Golf professional, has opened golf school at the Metropole Hotel, Robertson-street, Hastings, where lessons will be given daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Beginners will find lessons more interesting than ever because the new practice golf net makes it possible to play a complete round indoor golf under something approaching actual conditions. The net itself diverted into five pockets, each one set at a suitable height for particular shot that unless the ball is struck with complete accuracy it will not enter the pocket intended. Mr. Paterson, who was formerly assistant to Harry Vardon, will be in attendance during the evenings and by appointment. and at other times careful attention will be given by his son, Mr. J. A. Paterson. assistant at Hastings Downs Club, who has done exceptionally well in competitive golf recently. [1936]

He died in 1941 somewhat suddenly and the members opened a subscription for the family.

SUBSCRIPTION LIST FOR PROFESSIONAL'S WIDOW The directors of Hastings Downs Golf Club have decided to open subscription list for the benefit of the widow of Mr. James Paterson ("Pat"), until recently professional at the club, whose death was recently reported in the " Observer." The directors action is in tribute to Pat's memory, and they feel that his widow can scarcely have been left other than somewhat straitened circumstances. There to be no limit to the amount of individual subscriptions, either upwards or downwards, but the directors wish to emphasise that, in these difficult times, none can be considered too small. They wish the list to be lengthy as possible. It is not- proposed to keep the list open for long, and those who would like to subscribe should send their contributions to Mr. G. W. Poxon (hon. secretary), at the club house, Barley-lane, without delay. [1942]*

DEATH OF
MR. JAMES PATERSON

Members of the Hastings Downs Golf Club and many other local golfers will learn with great regret of the death in a Middlesex hospital on Monday, of Mr. James Paterson, aged 54, for 18 years the professional at the Hastings Club.

"Pat," as he was known to everyone, devoted his life to golf and its teaching. He came to Hastings from the job of assistant to the great Harry Vardon. He was popular among every class of player, and he gained a considerable reputation as a maker of clubs.

Mr. Paterson left the Hastings Downs Club three months ago to take up war work, similar to that on which he was engaged in the last war.

His son, Jimmy, who is now on military service, was professional at Brooklands Park Club, and is himself a golfer of brilliant promise.

The death of Mr. James Paterson—"Pat" to his friends—until recently professional at the Hastings Downs Golf Club, was announced in last week's issue of the "Observer". Pat's gone! The news gets round and members of the club are shocked to think they'll ne'er see Pat again. Nor with him play another round. Kit's gone! The genial, optimistic Pat, a man who always played the game; who sometimes lost and sometimes won. But when he lost 'twas often by single stroke or putt. And now he's gone, and we shall miss him. Farewell, Pat! But over yonder may you roam on some Elysian course, and find at least a friendly comrade at a nineteenth hole. Bon voyage. [1941]

It is of a little interest that his son James Anderson Paterson (Anderson was his grandmother's name) was also a professional golfer and he started as assistant to his father at Hastings and then at Brooklands before the outbreak of war. After the war he became professional at Northbourne Golf club in Sussex but in 1949 there was an inquiry into the financial records of the club which he and his wife ran as stewards.

03	PATERSON	Mr. J.A.	C/o Northbourne, Golf Club, West Howe, Hampshire.	"	"	Golfer	38		
	PATERSON	Mrs. D.B.	"	"	"		34		
	PATERSON	Mr. A.J.	"	"	"			15	
	PATERSON	Mstr. A.M.R.	"	"	"				1

He emigrated to New Zealand, where he became the professional in Bay of Plenty and from his residence at Sinclair Street in Tauranga it seems probable that he was professional at Tauranga G.C. and died in New Zealand after 1981.

