

James Keddie

1862 – 1901

James was the elder brother of George Duncan Keddie (q.v.) and was born on 18th January 1862, which made him 7 years older than George. Like George he was brought up in his Aunt Duncan's home in Earlsferry. This was Roseberie at the top of Cadgers Wynd. We assume that the reasons for James being brought up in Earlsferry were the same as those of George - his father was a coal miner and seemed to move from coal face to coal face.

5	James Keddie	1862	M	James Keddie	Robert Keddie
	Keddie's Lighter	11th Jan		Coal-miner	Grandfather
				Margaret Keddie	
				M. J. Duncan	Not present
	Earlsferry			1854	May 2 nd
				Edinburgh	

He is given the occupation of mason in the census of 1881. However, it is more than likely that he learnt to play golf along with many of his colleagues and became quite proficient at the game. We do not know whether he was trained by Forrester but according to Peter Georgiady he started in the business of golf club making in 1890s.

In the census of 1901, he is shown again as a mason, which belies the accuracy of the census because we know that by 1894 he was the club professional at Hastings but featured with his brother at Chiswick.

There is reference to his play at Hastings in this article below [1894]:

PROFESSIONAL FOURSOME.—Last Saturday Douglas Rolland and George Keddie essayed to beat James Braid and James Keddie over the links of the Chiswick Golf Club. Braid was playing a fine game, and Rolland, though driving well, was constantly at fault on the green, and this shortcoming may have had much to do with the loss of the match. It is almost unnecessary to say that the course was in a heavy state after the recent deluge. When the first round had been polished off Braid and his partner had the useful lead of three holes. After lunch the second round was started, and many ups and downs were seen. At one time Rolland and his partner were four holes to the bad, but sticking well to their work they managed to reduce this lead to two. However, Braid and James Keddie were not to be denied, and drawing away again the pair found themselves at the end of their day's work, when they were four up and three to play. The quartet had a large following of spectators, amongst whom were many ladies, who seemed to evince keen interest in the game.

any that are to be found in the South of England. The greater part of the course stands on a sand rock, which affords a dry and firm foundation. Altogether the club may be heartily congratulated on the unequivocal success that has so far attended their labours. No small share of the credit is due to the [captain of the club, Dr. B. G. Frith, whose enthusiasm, untiring energy and business capabilities have been of invaluable service to the committee. **James** Keddie, the club professional, also deserves much praise for the eagerness with which he has thrown himself into the arduous work that has had to be gone through during the past two months. Keddie is not only a hard-working green-keeper, but a painstaking and intelligent coach, in which capacity he is largely employed by members.

The extended course was inaugurated on Wednesday, the 11th inst., by a luncheon in the club-house, and a series of matches between professionals and amateurs. There was a large muster of members of the club and their friends; while not a few townspeople, who had probably never seen the game played before, attended out of curiosity. The committee were unfortunately not able to secure the presence of Taylor, the Champion, to give an exhibition of his golfing skill, but they did the best they could, and arranged an interesting foursome between J. Keddie and J. Braid (professionals) and Mr. H. S. Colt and Mr. A. C. Young. Mr. Colt stands in the front rank among the younger amateur golfers of the present day. He is an experienced match player, and is one below scratch at St. Andrews. Mr. Young

In this article it is suggested that Keddie was with Royal Ashdown, but we think that maybe erroneous since he was at Hastings by that time unless he had a part time position at Royal Ashdown.

SOME INTERESTING MATCHES.

Some interesting matches have been played during the last few days at Hastings and at Bexhill. Douglas Rolland, who has been staying at Hastings, on Friday last played a three-ball match with Mr. H. S. Colt and James Keddie, the local professional, Rolland playing against the best ball of the latter two. In the first match of eighteen holes Mr. Colt and Keddie were successful by 4 up and 3 to play. The course was new to Rolland, and although his driving and cleek shots were up to his usual grand form, still, he did not seem at home on the putting-green. Keddie in this match played exceedingly well, and contributed much more than his share of the work towards the victory. In the evening, another match of eighteen holes was played, which the local players also won, but this time only by a putt on the last green. Rolland had now quite recovered his game, and some of his shots astonished the large following of spectators which had now gathered together. Keddie seemed to tire, and this is not to be wondered at, seeing that he began work on the green at four o'clock that morning, but certainly his energy was amply repaid by the result—the greens showing great improvement, and the whole course in much better condition than it ever has been before. Mr. Colt, in this match, was playing well, and was just able to save the game for his side.

Rolland's opinion of the Hastings course was that, although short, there were plenty of sporting holes; and, certainly, this pretty nine-hole course is improving wonderfully under Keddie's care.

On Monday Rolland and Keddie played at Bexhill, by the kind invitation of that club; but the match was not finished, matters standing very level when play was stopped. Afterwards Mr. Colt and Keddie played a match against Rolland and Yeoman of Eastbourne, and the game was halved. The putting-greens were in perfect condition, and the course, although a trifle short and easy, was much appreciated.

There seems now to be every chance of seeing matches of this description frequently played over the neighbouring links, as the Rye Golf Club have engaged Rolland as resident professional and head green-keeper. This club has every prospect of possessing a magnificent course, and, with Rolland to supervise the laying-out of the new course, and with the help of a large staff of assistants, the green should be ready by Easter. Hastings and St. Leonards seems to be fast becoming the centre of a large golfing neighbourhood, as there are five or six greens within easy reach, and some of these greens of exceptional excellence.

BUNKER.

Aug 1894 he is again reported at Hastings.

LETT.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

The week end has been quite a busy and interesting one for golfing enthusiasts at Chiswick. On the local club's capably laid-out course several interesting competitions have just recently taken place. The Chiswick Golf Club's professional, George Keddie, with Mr. R. F. Finnis as partner, played a halved foursome match with Mr. J. T. Currie, the Chiswick's club's captain, and Douglas Rolland (professional) on Saturday. On the same day, also, Dr. D. A. Coles and James Braid (professional) beat James Keddie, the Royal Ashdown Forest Club's professional, and Mr. E. H. Laurie by 6 holes up, after an interesting game.

It was on the succeeding day, however (November 11) that the most noteworthy contest took place, and

THE GOLF CONTESTS.

On Monday the first Week of Golf in connection with the Hastings Club was commenced on the East Hill Links, and terminated yesterday (Friday). Throughout beautiful weather prevailed, and considerable numbers of spectators witnessed the games. The greens were in excellent order. There were three competitions, the first and principal one being for the challenge cup presented by the town. To become the property of a player the trophy must be won three times, not necessarily in succession. This competition lasted over two days. In the result Mr. H. S. Colt won. After the decision of the contest on Tuesday the winner met the Club professional, James Keddie, who comes from Elie, Scotland, in a single match. Both players were in good form, and after a good and evenly contested game they finished tie, with eighteen holes.

1894

He is shown as playing at Earlsferry in 1896 and we wonder if this was when he returned home at the end of season since he also challenged D.A. Given (q.v.) unsuccessfully in 1898

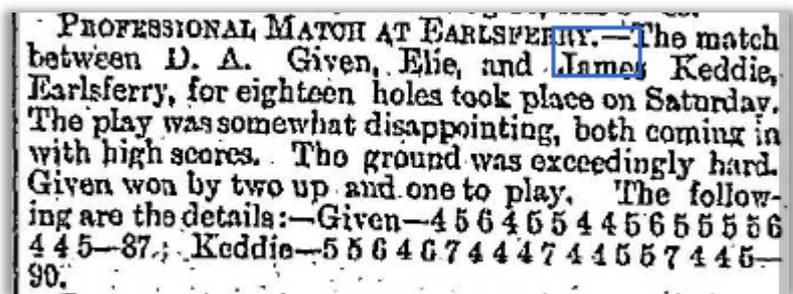
DOUGLAS ROLLAND IN NEW PASTURES.—This eminent golfer has been spending the past week on two new courses, Hastings and Bexhill, in West Sussex. A fortnight ago, at Hastings, he played a three-ball match with Mr H. S. Colt and James Keddie, the local professional, Rolland playing against the best ball of the latter two. The course was new to Rolland, and although some of his shots astonished the large crowd of spectators, he did not seem at home on the putting-green, and lost both forenoon and evening games, the local men winning the latter only by a fine put to the last hole. On Monday, on the invitation of the Bexhill Club, Colt and Keddie played a foursome against Rolland and Yeoman of Eastbourne, and the game was halved. Rolland is supervising the laying out of the course, and with a large staff of assistants expects to have it ready by next Easter. Hastings and St Leonards are becoming centres of a large golfing neighbourhood, five or six greens, several of exceptional excellence, being within easy reach. The presence of such a star will also serve to keep up the enthusiasm for the game.

Feb 1898

EARLSFERRY THISTLE CLUB.—The hole-and-hole competition for the barometer presented to the club by the Earlsferry and Elie Club was completed yesterday afternoon. The first eight at a recent competition were drawn in the following order:—George Walker and L. Fish, James Sunter and G. D. Keddie, W. Brown and W. Latto, A. H. Scott and James Keddie. G. Walker beat L. Fish by four up and three to play, James Sunter beat G. D. Keddie by four up and three to play, W. Latto scratched, and A. H. Scott beat Jas. Keddie by six up and five to play. In the semi-final G. Walker beat James Sunter by seven up and six to play, and A. H. Scott beat W. Brown by four up and three to play. In the final G. Walker beat A. H. Scott by one hole.

Where am I?

Whilst he is shown at being back in Earlsferry it is likely that he had given up the Hastings post perhaps in favour of C.R. Smith (q.v.) continuing the Fife connection, but in these days a professional golfer in addition to playing for money purses in competition might only be employed at a golf club for a season and it looks as if that is what may have happened with Keddie.



PROFESSIONAL MATCH AT EARLSFERRY.—The match between D. A. Given, Elie, and James Keddie, Earlsferry, for eighteen holes took place on Saturday. The play was somewhat disappointing, both coming in with high scores. The ground was exceedingly hard. Given won by two up and one to play. The following are the details:—Given—4 5 6 4 6 5 4 4 5 6 5 5 5 6 4 4 5—87.; Keddie—5 5 6 4 6 7 4 4 4 7 4 4 5 5 7 4 4 5—90.

James never married; he died in 1901 at the age of 39 and the cause of death is shown as chronic epilepsy and alcoholism. A sad end to a good golfer but the family itself is not without tragedy because his younger brother David who was born in 1882 died as a result of falling though the ice of Kilconquhar loch whilst skating when he was 11 years old.

James died at Inglisfield in Earlsferry, which was the home of his sister Nellie.