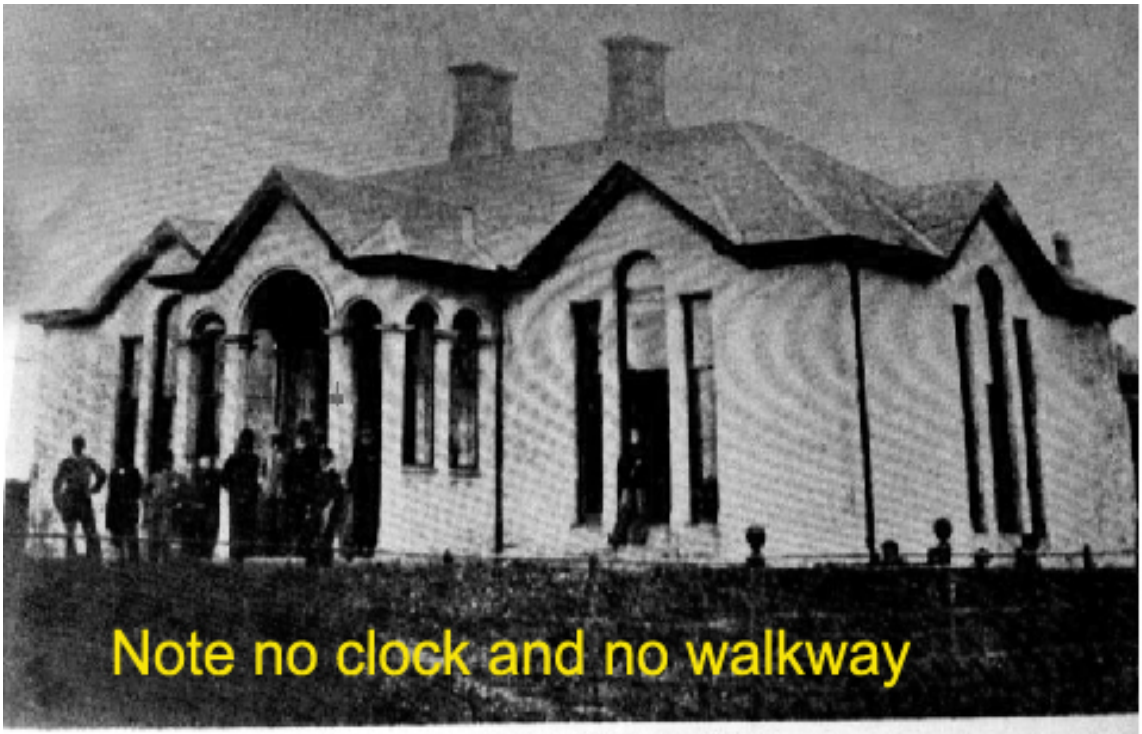
The History of the Golf Club House

When W.R. Ketchen resigned as Captain of Earlsferry and Elie Golf Club in 1873 he started clandestine negotiations with Wiliam Baird (Jnr) the owner of Elie Estate to take on lease the southern part of the Melon Park – the area just to the east of Ferry Road and to the south of the quarry. In addition, he obtained a lease of a small portion of ground lying immediately to the north of the Melon park. After the establishment of the Golf House Club in 1875 on this ground was built the first Golf Club building. It cost slightly more than £1,000 and was designed and bult by the local architect and builder John Cuirie. It was a most salubrious establishment described as having a commodious club room, billiard room and other offices.



There is little doubt that this is the first incarnation of the GHC and must be dated 1877. It is significant that there is no other paraphernalia around to suggest that it was actually working as the GHC – We suggest that this was a publicity photo at a very early stage. Note absence of bay window and clock.



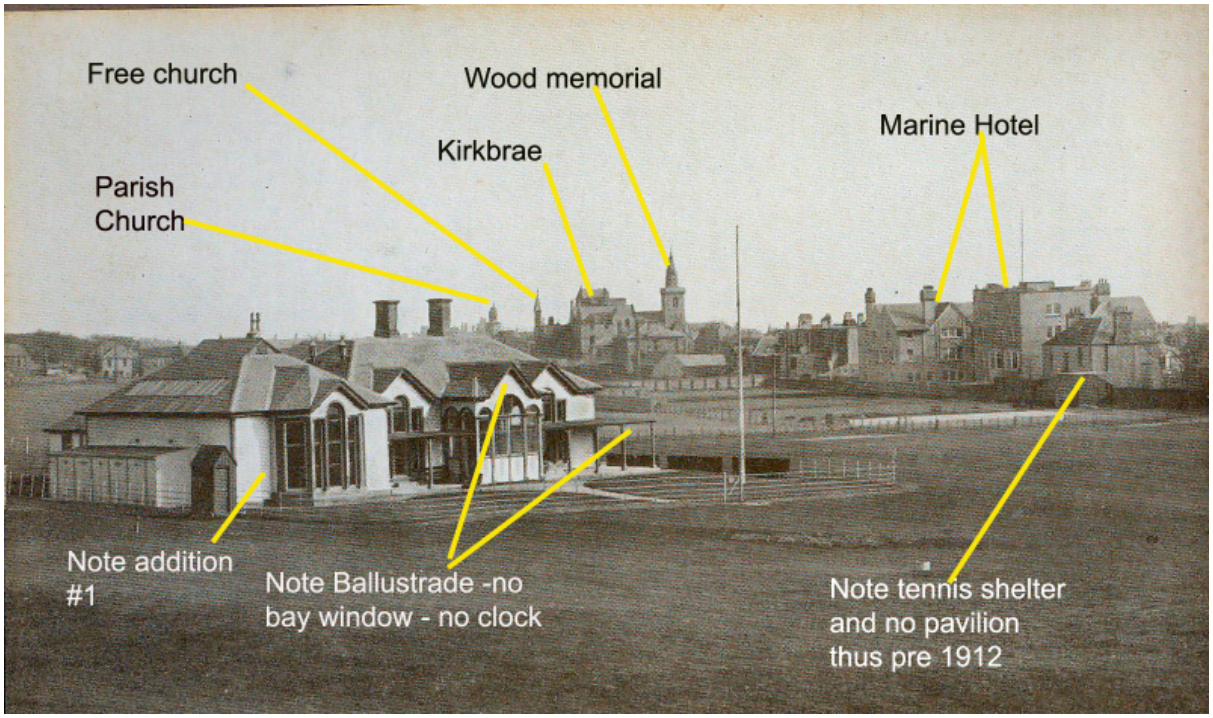
"THE GOLF HOUSE"

We suggest that this is a scene after it opened where there are people about. Notice the absence of the chimney in the earlier photo on the righthand side but it maybe that this is not shown in this photo from the angle at which it was taken.

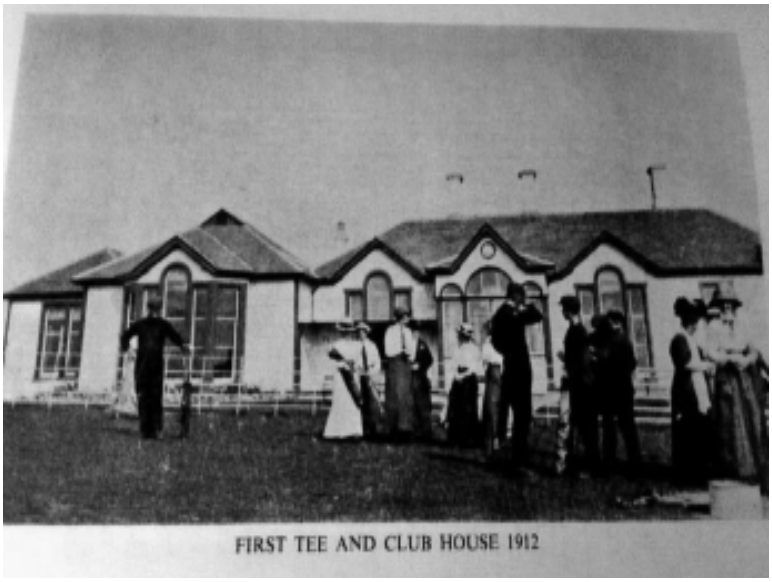


This is definitely later than the other two and shows the extension on the lefthand side. This extension was in 1907 – it looks as if it is a fairly recent photograph of the extended clubhouse – the dress of the people standing

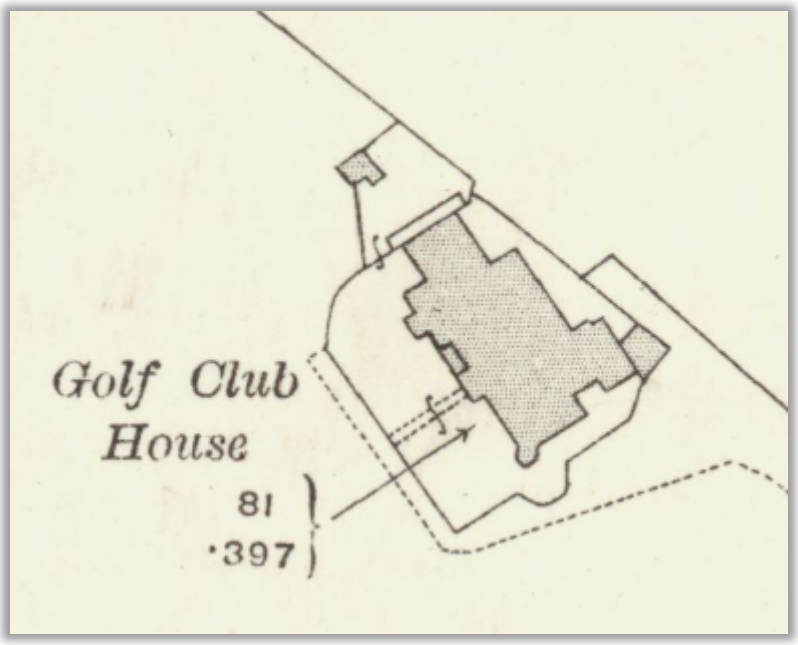
around point to that era. The flagpole which had been donated by T. Craigie Glover has been moved. There is a covered walkway to the right. No clock.



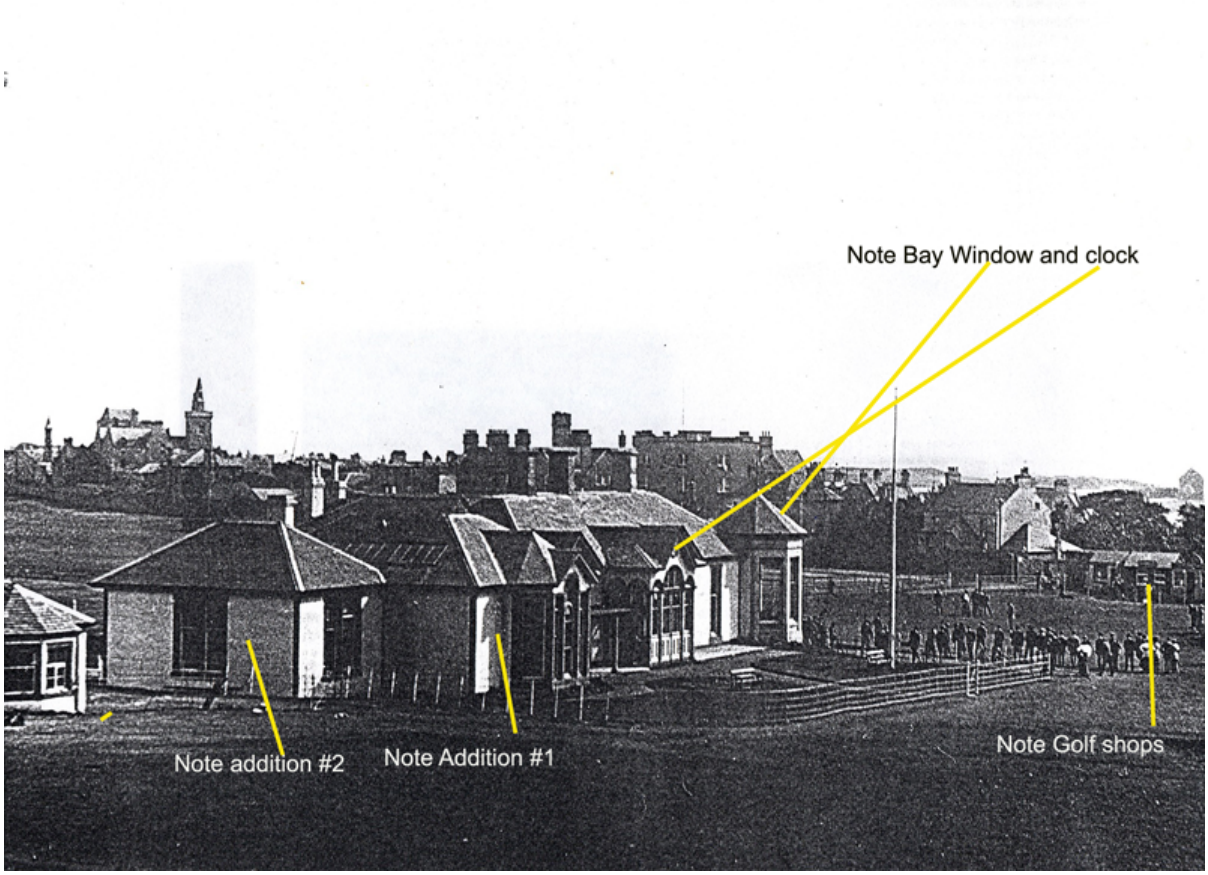
This we are fairly certain was 1907 – It is said to be a postcard sent in 1907. The Marine Hotel is the resurrected building after the fire in 1905. Again the walkway is still shown, the flagpole in same position and the one extension on the north side. No Clock.


FIRST TEE AND CLUB HOUSE 1912

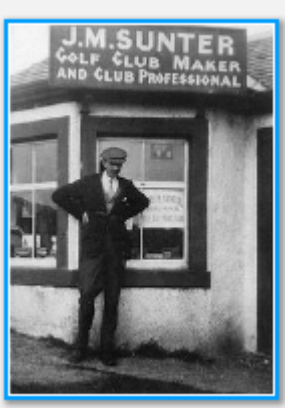
This claims to be 1912 and certainly shows the extension on one above but it also looks as if there is another extension to the north. Significant here is the clock but we cannot see if the walkway is still there.

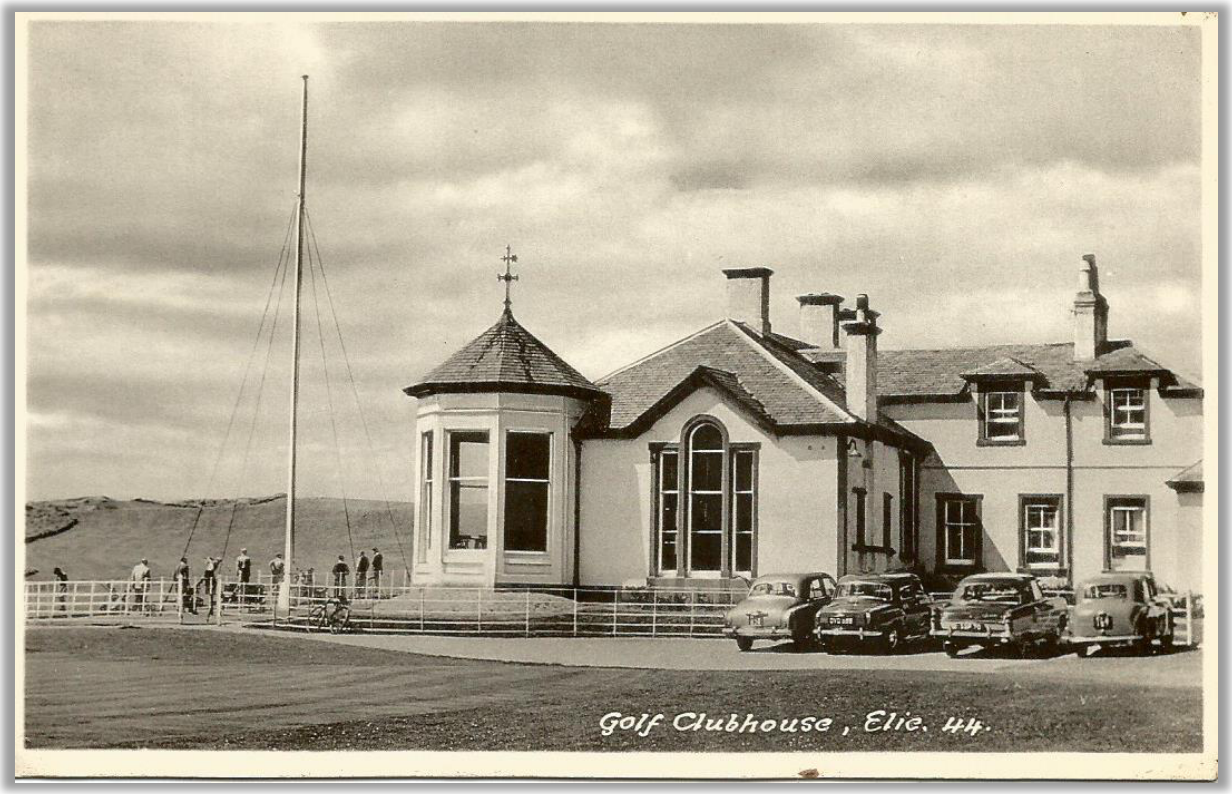


This is the OS plan of about 1910. It looks very much as if there is a bay window here and again it looks as if the contours follow very much the outline of 1907 photo - assuming the OS have drawn this accurately although it is significant that the bay window is not outlined on the later OS in 1930s which looks on a smaller scale.



This one shows bay window clock and golf shops along the wall of car park. The shops are first seen in the OS map of 1910. We can accurately date this as post 1910. Note also the caddy car shed on the extreme left of this photograph which later became the shop of the first professional, J.M. Sunter, in 1921.





This is much later but the cars suggest about late 1950s. Note no ship weathervane.



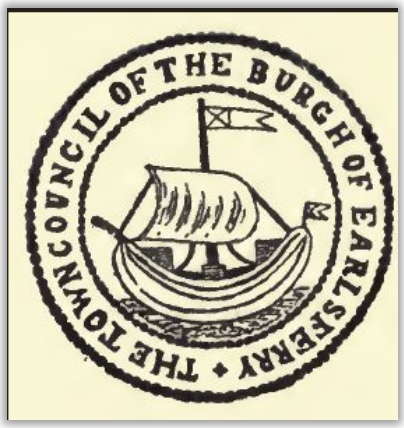
This is certainly post 1910 and it has all the bits added on over the years, clock, flagpole and bay window.



Ship logo.



This appears on the first page of the 1925 Jubilee history of the club by Mrs. Clark and on the front of Alasdair Drysdale's book of 1975 albeit slightly different so that would suggest that it has been used for quite some time and may well have been intended to represent the Earlsferry ship as shown on the Royal Burgh Crest and stone carving on the steeple of Earlsferry Town Hall.



It looks as if this has always been the traditional emblem and the current one retains some of the original features.



This is probably therefore meant to be the Earlsferry Coat of arms prior to joining Elie when the full coat of arms of both villages was matriculated by Lord Lyon Kings of Arms in 1929. The first and fourth quarters represent the ancient arms of the Royal Burgh of Earlsferry namely a ship with the arms of the old Earls of Fife upon the sail. The second and third quarters refer to the burgh of barony of Elie erected in favour of William Scott of Grangemuir and the burgh seal in terms of his charter in 1598. The current ship motif certainly seems to accord more with the Earlsferry ship than that of Elie which in itself is significant standing the apparent antipathy towards Earlsferry in 1875 when the Golf House Club was established. On the other hand the current motif may have adopted features of both ships in a spirit of compromise.



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