

Dalgety Bay Probus Club

Silver Jubilee 1983 - 2008

A LOOK BACK



Peter Nelson

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is a great pleasure to me to have been asked to produce this Silver Jubilee history of Dalgety Bay Probus Club. I have deliberately not produced a list of those who have encouraged and helped me in so many different ways to produce this booklet. For one thing, the list would be very long and there would inevitably be unintentional omissions. A very sincere thank you to all of you who have contributed anecdotes, insights and photographs and a particular thank you to those who produced reports of the various sections. Sometimes I have used my editorial prerogative to change, condense, expand, or relocate the text given me and I trust that the result is acceptable.

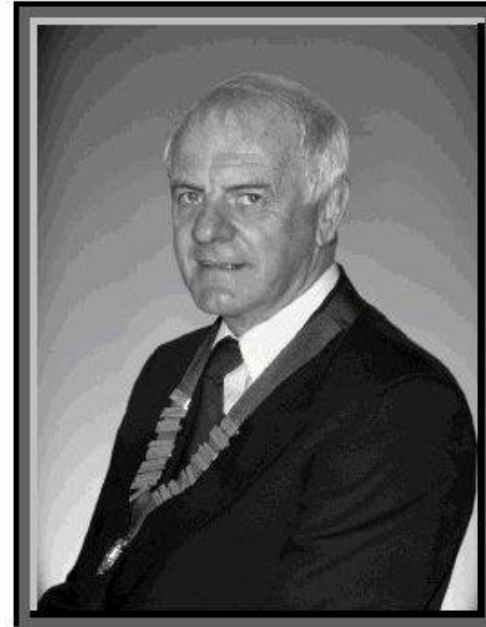
Peter Nelson

CONTENTS

Foreword	4
What Is A Probus Club?	5
What Is A Probus Club Member?	6
The Beginnings	7
Our Club	9
Presidents, Office-Bearers and Committee	10
Honorary Members	13
The Monday Meetings	15
Social Activities	18
Outings	20
Bowls Section	21
The Golf Section	23
Bridge	27
Digipix	27
Fife Inter-Club Quizzes	28
Snooker	29
Silver Jubilee	29
Anniversary Lunch	30
Anniversary Bowls Competition	32
Anniversary Golf Competition	33
Anniversary Mystery Tour	34
Looking Back – Looking Forwards	37
List of Members	38

FOREWORD

Dalgaty Bay Probus Club celebrated its 25th Birthday on April 18th 2008. This Silver Jubilee booklet has been prepared as part of the celebrations and aims to provide a selective picture of our first 25 years, as well as a record of our special events. It is hoped that our readers will find that memories – mostly pleasant – will be stimulated by it.



ANGUS CAMERON,
Club President 2008-09

WHAT IS A PROBUS CLUB?

There were "Probus" Clubs in Canada and the United States of America in the early 1920s but their functions were rather different from our British Probus Clubs.

These began in 1965 as the "Campus Club" in Welwyn Garden City and the first non-sectarian "Probus Club" in Caterham. The formation of these clubs was sponsored by local Rotary Clubs, to cater for retired PROfessional and BUSiness men.

In simplest terms, each Probus Club is an association of retired and semi-retired men who join together in autonomous clubs throughout the United Kingdom and the world. In recent years, Ladies Probus Clubs have been formed which exist independently of the local male clubs.

The purpose of a Probus Club is to provide a gathering for men to enjoy fellowship and provide various social and sporting activities.

Generally, Probus Clubs as such are not active in raising funds for charity but, of course, many of the



members are personally involved in community activities of one kind or another.

For example, several of our members have been involved in organising fund-raising events for Christian Aid and the Annual Poppy Day Appeal is well supported by our members. In fact, at the present time the local leaders of both organisations are Probus members.

Many other members are involved personally with other charities. In addition, any of our speakers who are representing a particular charity receive a donation for their funds.

WHAT IS A PROBUS CLUB MEMBER?

In our club, the member is male, from 60 to 90+ but most are in their seventies, as active as they can be, and friendly.

Of the present club members the following have been in membership for the longest time –



 *Donald Sangster*

25 years	Donald Sangster
23 years	Jim Thompson
22 years	Primmer Pollock, Myles Vance, Tom Dickson
21 years	Peter Nelson, Bob Pearston
20 years	Neil Muir
19 years	David Hicks
18 years	David Lambert, Jim Evans, Alex Purves, Alvaro Gagliardi
17 years	Maurice Everett, Alistair McInnes, Harry Owens

In the early days of the club if members were asked about war service, the majority had served in the armed forces, some in civil defence, relatively few had been in reserved occupations during the war and even they had also been part-time members in civil defence or the home guard.

Among the older members of the club today, there are retired naval, army, and RAF personnel and two ex-firemen!

To endeavour to differentiate between the "PRO" and the "BUS" amongst us would be difficult, if not impossible. Perhaps the largest group on the professional side are the engineers – chartered, BT,

civil, electrical, gas, naval, planning - most of whom held managerial responsibility before retiral.

The health care professions are well represented – dentists, doctors, pharmacists – while there are quite a few scientists who worked in different disciplines – biomedical science, chemistry, computers / IT, forensic science, fire safety advice. Then there are civil servants (home and colonial), customs and excise, a government auditor and a police officer.

There are teachers in college, school and university. Others not included in these categories are – an air freight manager, bank managers, chartered surveyors, a farmer, hotel manager, lawyer, master plumber, master slater and plasterer, merchant bank director, ministers of religion, pilot, plastering consultant, business, sales and marketing managers and finally a whisky consultant.

Most of our members have interesting hobbies many of which are active - keeping us all young at heart! The main hobbies are reflected in the various interest groups – bowls, golf, digipix and snooker – and among the many other hobbies are the arts, quizzes, ornithology, heraldry, gardening,

caravanning, computing, music, sailing - to name but a few!

Many of us would admit to being rather forgetful, especially of each others names and this commonly manifests itself in the local doctors' surgery or at the shops! Remember – if you can - you don't have to be shy – the chances are that the fellow-member whose name you cannot recall is just as likely trying to remember yours!

THE BEGINNINGS

In early April 1983, a small group of members of Inverkeithing Rotary Club who were aware of the formation of Probus Clubs in Kirkcaldy and Dunfermline thought that a Probus Club should be formed in Dalgety Bay.

With the blessing of the Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay Rotary Club, a meeting of retired business and professional men was held to discuss the formation of a Probus Club in Dalgety Bay.

A total of twenty-six men agreed to hold the first meeting of Dalgety Bay Probus Club on Monday April 18th in the Dalgety Bay Social Club. They came from Dalgety Bay [17], Dunfermline [2] Aberdour [2] and Inverkeithing [5].

This inaugural meeting was attended by thirty-one men.

James Alexander, Aberdour
James Alexander, Dalgety Bay
Duncan Blackie, Dalgety Bay
Harold Crawford, Dalgety Bay
Tom Elston, Dalgety Bay
Jim Graham, Inverkeithing
Reg A Hills, Dalgety Bay
John L Hunter, Dunfermline,
George Jardine, Dalgety Bay
Stuart Jones, Dalgety Bay
David Laing, Dunfermline
Herbert Lloyd, Dalgety Bay
John McGrouther, Dalgety Bay
Angus McNeil, Dalgety Bay
Owen Purches, Dalgety Bay
Frank Rogers, Dalgety Bay
George Ross, Dalgety Bay
Kenneth Ross, Dalgety Bay
Donald Sangster, Dalgety Bay
Alexander Sheddon, Dalgety Bay
John Simpson, Dalgety Bay
Arthur Smith, Aberdour
James Stewart, Dalgety Bay
John Stuart, Dalgety Bay,
Kenneth Tasker, Inverkeithing
Duncan Thomson, Dalgety Bay

Dave Turner, Inverkeithing
R Welsh, Inverkeithing
Duncan Wilson, Inverkeithing.
Tom Wilson, Dalgety Bay
George Wyness, Dalgety Bay

The first President of the club was Frank Rogers, with Stuart Jones as Secretary, and Donald Sangster as Treasurer.

Some of the gathering were or had been members of Rotary – Tom Wilson was Rotary President - while some were already members of another Probus Club. Of those who attended the inaugural meeting two are still alive – Donald Sangster and George Wyness.

Many members of the Club had retired to Dalgety Bay and the surrounding area from different parts of the country, indeed some from various far-flung parts of the world. Quite often, they had chosen their new location because family members were employed locally.

Other members had connections with RAF Donibristle, which became a Fleet Air Arm station, HMS Merlin, in 1939. Some of the earliest members had

served in the Royal Navy at HMS Merlin, others had served on ships based at Rosyth Royal Dockyard.

Most of the early members had served in one or other of the armed forces during and after the war while others were full or part time Civil Defence. Dalgety Bay is built on the site of HMS Merlin.

OUR CLUB

The first Annual General Meeting of the Club was held in April 1984, by which time there was a membership of thirty-six. At that meeting, Tom Wilson was appointed as the first Honorary President. He was recorded on the members list for that year but his name was deleted in the following year.

When I was appointed Secretary, I was told that the Rotary Club President was automatically Honorary President of our club but I have not found a formal record of this subsequent to 1985 and when I enquired of one Rotary President, he was not aware of any such arrangement.

From the records, it is clear that the kind of programme established in the early days was much the

same as that which followed in later years.

From time to time, changes have been proposed which have been rejected due to lack of support, but more often proposals have been attempts to respond to different circumstances and aimed to follow the wishes of members.

To begin with, the main activity consisted of a twice monthly one and a half to two hour Monday morning meeting with a speaker or speakers and followed by a social time with coffee and biscuits.

However, it was not long before Bowls, Bridge and Golf Sections were active. It has been suggested that some of these groups were already in existence consisting of friends playing together who invited other club members to join them thus becoming part of the club.

It was agreed at the 1985 AGM that the Bowls, Bridge and Golf Sections should be represented on the committee and that they should not depend on club funds. More recently, there has been no formal membership of the committee for the sections.

OFFICE-BEARERS AND COMMITTEE

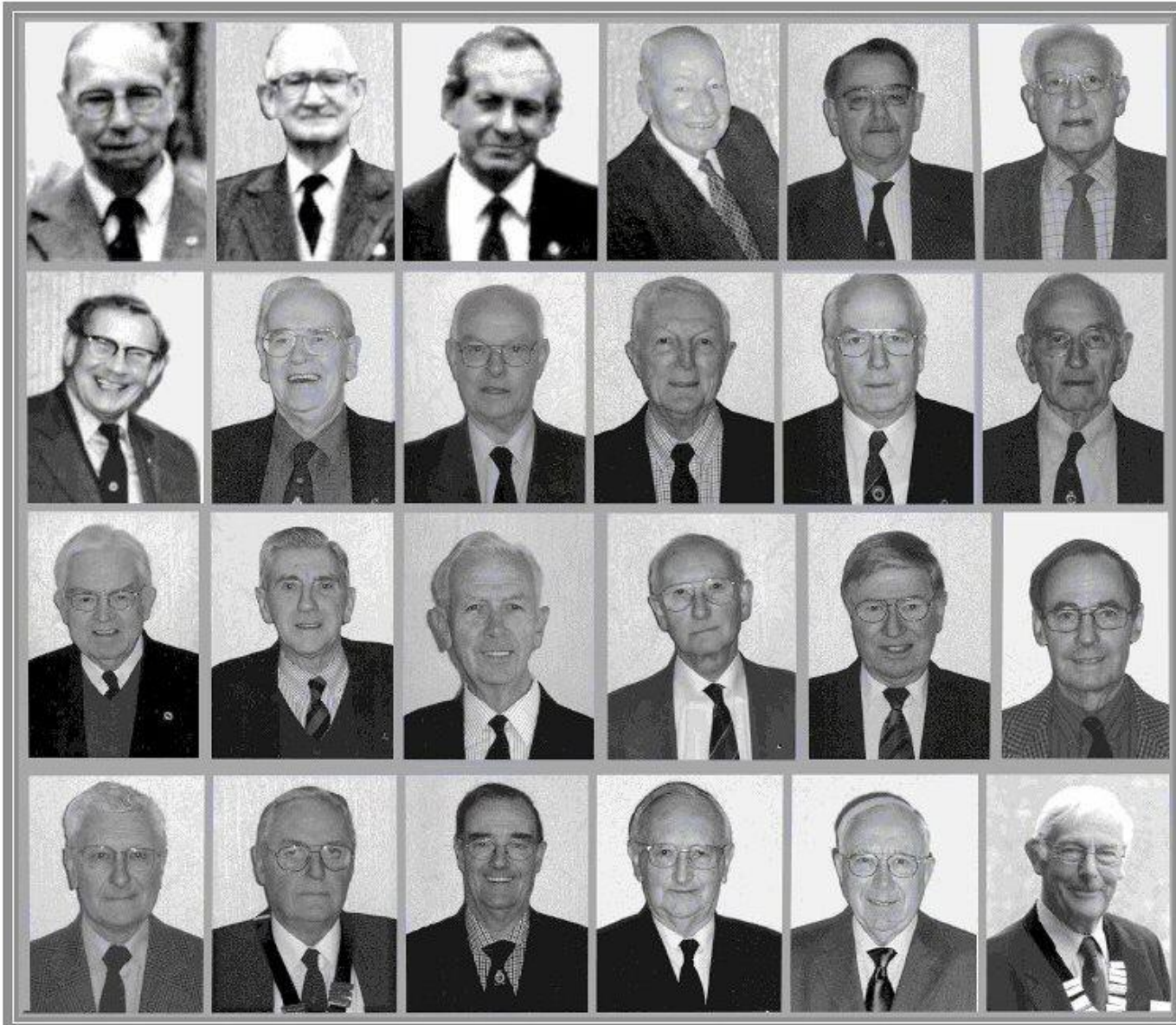
The inaugural committee was formally appointed at the first Annual General Meeting and consisted of President Frank Rogers, Vice President George Jardine, Secretary Stuart Jones, Treasurer Donald Sangster, and three committee members John Simpson, Herbert Lloyd and Alan Low.

It was decided that the President should serve for one year and that the Vice President should automatically be appointed President. George Jardine was unable to serve as President and Stuart Jones was appointed with John Simpson as Vice-President and Alan Low as Secretary. Two Vice-presidents did not wish to become President – George Jardine (1985) and Herbert Lloyd (1989). Alan Low (Vice-president 1992) died in office.

In 2003, President Eddie Travers suggested that an album of photographs of Past Presidents should be collected and made into an album along with other appropriate photographs. Amazingly photographs of all the Presidents were assembled and the book produced by Alistair and Helen McInnes.

PRESIDENTS

1983-85	Frank Rogers
1985-86	Stuart Jones
1986-87	John Simpson
1987-88	Duncan Wilson
1988-89	John Slater
1989-90	Douglas Michael
1990-91	Bill Hutchison
1991-92	Myles Vance
1992-93	Tom Dickson
1993-94	Alex Purves
1994-95	Jim Evans
1995-96	Primmer Pollock
1996-97	Peter Nelson
1997-98	David Lambert
1998-99	Alistair McInnes
1999-00	Neil Muir
2000-01	Maurice Everett
2001-02	Dick Aikman
2002-03	Ian Clifton
2003-04	Eddie Travers
2004-05	David Smith
2005-06	Len Sneddon
2006-07	Tom Watt
2007-08	Mike Hill
2008-09	Angus Cameron



 *Past Presidents*

SECRETARIES


1983-85 Stuart Jones
1985-87 Alan Low
1987-90 Miles Vance
1990-95 Peter Nelson
1995-01 Jim Evans
2001-04 Len Sneddon
2004-05 Ivan Morris
2005-07 Ralph Johnston
2007- George Taylor

TREASURERS

1983-00 Donald Sangster
2000-02 Tom Dickson
2002-05 John Hedley
2005- Mike Dominy

At the 1988 AGM Alan Low gave up the secretaryship but was appointed "Ex officio" to arrange the programme of speakers. "Ex officio" meant "not on the committee". This arrangement continued for several years but ultimately proved unwieldy and the job of providing speakers reverted to the committee.



 *Probus Club Members, 1988*

Much of the business of the committee was fairly routine and mainly involved arranging the programme of Monday meetings and social events such as visits to places of interest, an annual Christmas Dinner, a ladies lunch in the summer and occasional cheese and wine evenings.

From time to time suggested changes were proposed by the membership and these were usually passed to the committee for consideration.

One such proposal was that it might be useful for presidents to serve two years in office. After some discussion, it was agreed that the secretary should write to all past presidents and report back to the committee. The past presidents unanimously rejected the idea. The president reported this to the next Monday meeting and the decision was accepted by the membership.

On occasion families of members who had died wished to present memorial items for their loved one. In 1991, the family of the late Alan Low who was Vice-President proposed to give an appropriate memorial to the Club. It was decided to provide a lectern and lectern light. Other memorial gifts were made to particular sections and are noted in the appropriate place.

In 1993, it was felt necessary to redefine residence requirements. Basically, it was decided that members should be resident in Dalgety Bay, Inverkeithing and Hillend. This was later altered to include North Queensferry.

HONORARY MEMBERS

Honorary Membership was instituted in 1988 to recognise members who had given outstanding Service to the club. Honorary membership would be awarded by the committee and was not to be awarded more than once every two years.

1999 Donald Sangster
2001 Peter Nelson
2004 John Slater
2006 Jim Evans
2008 Tom Dickson

Sometimes there were ongoing items which were, on reflection, rather trivial. Some of these were unresolved for years.


A typical example was the question of smoking at meetings. When I joined the Club, it was not uncommon for quite a number of members to be smoking while the speaker was talking. This was not popular with many of the non-smokers and after a speaker complained to the then president, it was decided somewhat reluctantly by a number of members that smoking should be limited to the business session before the talk.

After several further attempts, smoking was eventually banned from all indoor meetings. It is interesting to note that now-a-days the law is on our side!

Another "problem" which was raised quite frequently over a number of years was the question of the timing of the coffee at Monday meetings. From the time the Club was formed, coffee had always been served at the end of the meeting but over the years – and it was years - there were debates at the AGM discussing, sometimes rather heatedly, a proposal to have the coffee before the meeting. It was not till 1992 that the "rebels" won!

As the membership grew the question of the limitation of numbers was frequently raised, and in 1983, the limit was fixed at 50 and a waiting list was established. The first Club President, Frank Rogers, had encouraged members to keep the total rela



 *Probus Club Members, 1993*

tively small, so that everyone should be able to get to know most of his fellow-members.

Since 1983, the Club has grown, and the committee has raised the limit from time to time. In 1990, several members expressed concern about the size of the club and consideration was given to the formation of a second Club in Dalgety Bay. This was eventually rejected and the Club has continued to grow. The present membership is 100.

THE MONDAY MEETINGS

From the beginning, the Club met in the Sports and Social Club on two Monday mornings each month and has continued to do so throughout its existence.

For a number of years no charge was made for the use of the premises but in 1998 an agreement was made that the Probus Club would make a donation to the Sports and Social Club based on the number of meetings held. Our Club has also made donations to the Social Club of items such as blackout curtains and a large fixed screen. John Slater also donated a stand with silver plaques recording names of Presidents to be used along with the gavel.

The normal pattern of the meeting consists of a welcome by the President, followed by reports from the secretary, and section conveners. Any other business may be called and when this is settled, it is followed by the speaker. Over the years, the standard of speaker has normally been good especially since 1990 when an informal scheme was adopted by a meeting of Fife Clubs to exchange lists of acceptable speakers. Most speakers welcome questions and there is seldom a lack of these.

In response to a request for reminiscences, one of our former presidents commented on the quite remarkable range of interests offered by our speakers and recalled that when he was choosing speakers he picked one who was to talk about his experiences in a Russian convoy. His ship was disabled and they had to burn the furniture to stay alive. He was seriously wounded and ended up as a patient in a hospital in Murmansk for six months. His life was saved by a German doctor who was a prisoner of war.

Another talk that made a lasting impression on many of us was by the lady Governor of Cornton Vale Prison. Her ability to understand and deal with the problems of prisoners was clearly brought out in her talk and made us aware that some of them do come out from prison better able to cope with life in the community.

Our own members have often given us interesting and entertaining talks. There have been occasions when members have given insights into their experiences during the war, in their work, in different occupations, their hobbies and so forth. Several very successful meetings were held when three or four different members spoke for 10 to 15 minutes on their chosen subject.

A popular "different" programme was to hold some kind of quiz and incidentally I can tell you that when I was secretary I used to have a quiz in my pocket in case a speaker did not turn up which was not infrequent at that time! Jim Evans also kept one of his audio-visual shows on standby and we were both called on to perform more than once!

On one occasion, half a dozen of us were asked to give a five minute talk about an unusual incident in our lives and the listeners were able to ask questions and had to guess whether the account was true or false.

I chose "my first murder" which shocked quite a few of the members and all except one were sure that it was false – but it was not – I was talking about an actual murder where I had acted as an expert witness!

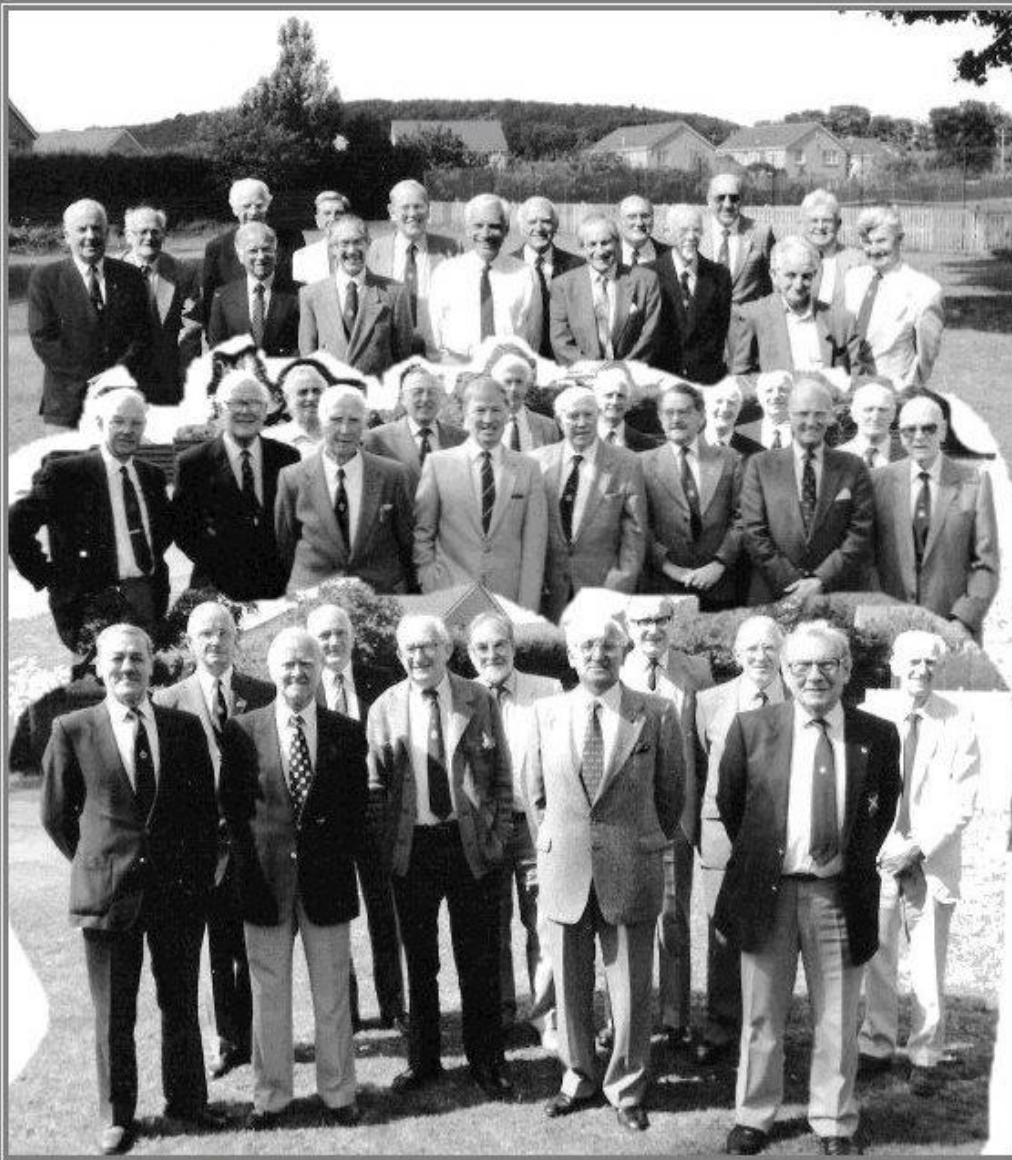
At one point, there were expressions of dissatisfaction with the lack of open discussion of committee decisions with the membership. Quarterly open business meetings were tried but proved to be unpopular and it was soon agreed that these should be dropped. It was further agreed that there would be a short business session at the beginning


of each meeting when the secretary and section leaders would report. About the same time, a six-monthly news letter was issued. These arrangements proved satisfactory.

Votes of thanks vary from a few words to an erudite commentary. One memorable one was given by Alan McQuaker who had been asked to give the vote of thanks to Professor Palmer of Heriot-Watt University who had given us a very amusing talk on the Distilling and Scotch Whisky industry.



Professor Palmer is black and came to this country as a small boy. In his vote of thanks Alan recalled an occasion when the professor had been the guest of honour at a dinner in Glasgow and had addressed them as follows – "Some of you may be surprised that I, a black man, am wearing a kilt. Let me tell you that I have probably more right to wear a kilt than many of you. I have Scottish blood in my veins. My grandfather ate two Scottish missionaries!"



 *Probus Club Members, 1994*

Other past presidents have remembered a number of things which happened during their presidencies. One especially remembered the onset of nerves when in the chair and recalled "senior moments" when a member asked if he could ask a question by putting up his hand and he, the president, could not recall his, the questioner's, name. Even more embarrassing, was forgetting the speaker's name at a critical moment – we can all sympathise!

One of our founder members – Herbert Lloyd – had to give up driving but was determined to keep mobile. His first meeting at the Club after he purchased a motorised three-wheeler was a sensation! The swing doors into the clubroom were closed and he decided to push his way in slowly but it turned out to be full throttle straight through the swing doors right into the middle of the room! No casualties but several members moved more quickly than anyone thought possible!!

Another Herbert Lloyd memory – Herbert was quite deaf; indeed had suffered great difficulty in hearing over a long period.

The older members will recall his uninhibited interruptions when he couldn't hear properly or when the speaker did not use the microphone. Incidentally, he was mostly responsible for getting our first amplifier system.

On another occasion, Herbert invited a group of his Probus friends to a birthday lunch and was holding forth about his early experiences in a Welsh village. When he was finished, a gentleman at the next table leaned across and said how interested he had been to hear stories about the village next to where he lived.

I have found such coincidences surprisingly frequent in my twenty year membership of the Club.

The member who introduced me to Probus was a friend of long standing. The speaker at one of the first meetings I attended had served with me on a national adult education board. His son had helped me organise an international conference in Dundee, and some time later he, too, was a speaker.

Two pharmacists who addressed us on different occasions were former students of mine and another former student was also one of our members for a while.

The most recent coincidence of this kind was when Professor Busuttil, a forensic scientist from Edinburgh University, was our speaker. Much to my surprise, I recognised a slide he showed of cannabis being grown illegally in an attic in one of the Border towns. We were both involved as expert witnesses but had not met as the accused pleaded guilty, so there was no trial.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

The first Christmas lunch which was open to members' partners was held in the first year of the Club's existence. In the early years, the lunch was held at the Aberdour Golf Club and appears to have been quite successful although not always to the satisfaction of everyone; most commonly, complaints were concerned with slow service. The President of the local Rotary Club is always invited as a guest with his lady and if they are not available, the Rotary Vice-President is invited in his place.

On at least one occasion, there was a speaker at the lunch – a lady - but it was felt that this did not add to the occasion. After the lunch, there is the presentation of the trophies won in different competitions in the sports sections. In 1992, the venue for the Christmas lunch was changed from

the Golf Club, mainly because of increasing numbers and since then the lunch has been held in various hotels.

One of our ex-presidents has reason to recall his Presidential Christmas lunch at the Brucefield House Hotel in 2000 – the young inexperienced waitress was serving both tea and coffee with a teapot in one hand and the coffee pot in the other. She asked his preference – coffee it was; she bent over pouring his coffee into the cup and the tea onto his left shoulder. He completed the dinner in short-sleeved white shirt – the only consolation being that the hotel picked up the dry cleaning bill!

During the summer months a ladies lunch is held in one of the local hotels, and this is also much enjoyed as another opportunity for the members and spouses to socialise together.

For a number of years a series of successful wine and cheese evenings were held, usually in the Sports and Social Club. There was often some kind of entertainment provided, either by club members or outside parties. Unfortunately, there were occasionally problems with arrangements for this event and it was reluctantly discontinued.

Another winter activity when our ladies were also able to join in was skittle nights at the Officers Social Club in Rosyth. These were often quite hilarious events, especially when someone failed to release the bowl properly and spectators had to move rather quickly to avoid possible injury. The club is no longer in existence but many of us have fond memories of these evenings.

Mention has been made elsewhere of the inclusion of quizzes as part of the club programme. The club sometimes sent teams to enter various local quiz competitions, most commonly arranged as charity events. Sometimes we were asked to provide the quizmaster, more usually to provide teams to compete.

On one notable occasion, one of our members persuaded us to enter a team for a charity quiz in an Inverkeithing hotel. When the team arrived at the hotel, we found that it was a sports quiz and none of the members were at all expert in any sports subjects. Very reluctantly, the team agreed to take part, otherwise the arrangements would have to be drastically altered. The Probus team came bottom of the list and this is probably the first and only time that the result has been reported to the membership.

OUTINGS

Right from the foundation of the Club a programme of outings to various interesting places and events has been provided. In the beginning, most outings were organised on an ad hoc basis by individual members who had the necessary contact to make the arrangements. Later a convener was appointed who was not always a committee member.



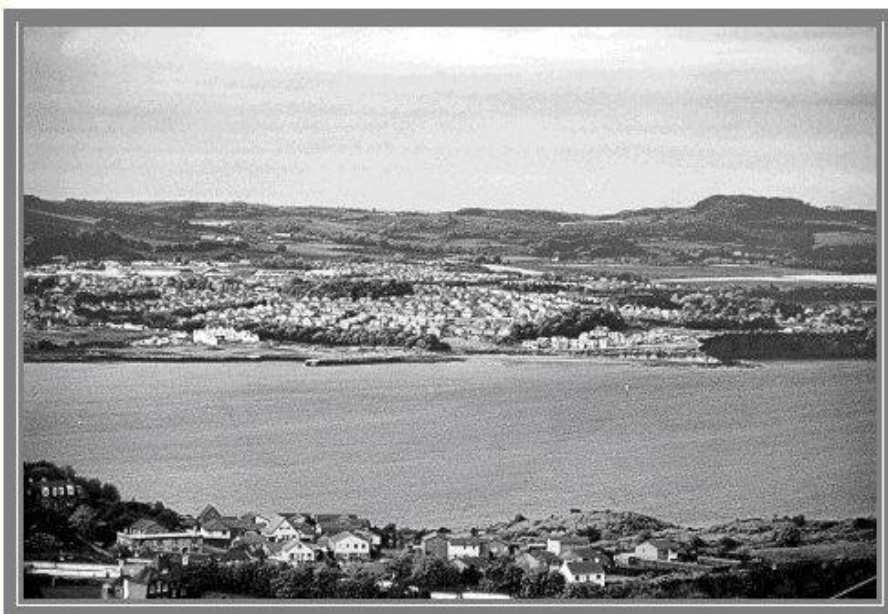
 *On the Forth Bridge*

There was one convener who arranged quite a good series of outings but who never actually went on one!

The support for outings has varied considerably. I can recall being on several with only one or two other couples.

One of these was to Falkland Palace where the other couple were volunteer guides and, as a result, we had a very good personal tour and saw many things that were not always pointed out and, of course, we had no difficulty in hearing the commentary.

Among the many interesting visits, one to the Forth Road Bridge is often recalled by those who were on it. One who was there recalls that "The Forth Road Bridge was full of interest, especially being taken to the top of the north tower, three at a time, with a



 *St David's – Dalgety Bay from the Forth Bridge*

guide to operate the lift who then took the trio out onto the viewing platform – 525 ft above sea level. Looking down the cars seemed like Dinky Toys and the view to the west with the setting sun was wonderful.”


The same member also mentions “The best of all visits was to Waverley Station Control Centre on a very snowy day. The centre controls about 50 miles of track and we were shown how to work the levers! We are all boys at heart and I got to send a loco on to the main line once a south bound London train

went through! It made my day!” Most of us who have enjoyed other club outings could equally speak of visits which gave us as much pleasure.

BOWLS SECTION

The Bowls Section has been in existence throughout the life of the club. Outdoor bowling started in Beveridge Park, Kirkcaldy and after several years moved to Aberdour Bowling Club. More recently, games have been at Dalgety Bay Bowling Club.



 *George Scott, John Slater, Olive Evans, Gordon Chadwick, Peter Nelson, Bob Halliday*

The outdoor bowlers play regularly each Friday over the outdoor season and send a team to an annual interclub match to which most Fife Probus Clubs send representatives. From time to time, they also take part in informal interclub matches with bowlers from Aberdour, Burntisland and Kinghorn (ABK) and Dunfermline Probus Clubs.

The indoor bowlers played in Headwell Bowling Club in Dunfermline until 2002 when they relocated to Abbeyview Bowling Club where bounce games are played on Tuesday and Friday afternoons. The number of members of the indoor section has increased in recent years. They also participate in a series of interclub matches arranged by the Leven club at Leven, Falkirk, Perth and Abbeyview.

Bill Galloway was Bowls Convener from 1983 to 1994 and, apart from 1999 / 2000 when Ian Clifton was in charge, the Convener has

been Harry Owens. Mike Dominy has recently taken over as convener.


Over the years, a number of trophies have been played for:

OUTDOOR PAIRS

The Duncan Blackie Trophy donated by Alan Low in memory of a founder member of the Bowls Section.

- 1987 K Ross & M Vance
- 1988 W Hutchison & D G Wilson
- 1989 W Galloway & W Hutchison
- 1990 P Nelson & R Pearston
- 1991 R Halliday & J Angus
- 1992 R Pearston & J Evans
- 1993 J Pollock & H Owens
- 1994 R Pearston & W Galloway
- 1995 A Gagliardi & J Dargan
- 1996 A Cruickshank & G Chadwick
- 1997 A Cruickshank & P Nelson
- 1998 A McInnes & R Pearston
- 1999 T Finlay & A Gagliardi
- 2000 J Dargan & R Pearston
- 2001 R Pearston & K Ross
- 2006 A Gagliardi & H Owens



 *Tom Finlay, Alec Cruickshank*

OUTDOORS LADIES SINGLES

The Elizabeth Lloyd Singles Trophy
presented by Herbert Lloyd

1998 H McInnes; 1999 H McInnes; 2000 E Smith

OUTDOORS SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP

Trophy presented by Bill Hay

- 1990 A Gagliardi
- 1991 W Hutchison
- 1992 A Gagliardi
- 1993 T Finlay
- 1994 A Gagliardi
- 1995 R Halliday
- 1996 T Finlay
- 1997 J Hanretty
- 1998 A Gagliardi
- 1999 R Halliday
- 2000 A Gagliardi
- 2001 D Lambert

OUTDOORS MIXED TRIPLES

The Ethel Owens Trophy
presented by Harry Owens

- 1994 N. Hutchison, J Dargan & A McInnes
- 1995 G Chadwick, P Nelson & G Scott
- 1996 J Dorgan, D Lambert & E Travers
- 1997 O Evans, B Galloway & H Owens

- 1998 E Smith, J Angus & A Gagliardi
- 1999 E Smith, J Dargan & D Lambert
- 2001 H McInnes, A Gagliardi & D Smith

BOWLFERS TROPHY

Trophy presented by R Halliday and awarded to winners of an annual team match played between "regular bowlers" and "bowling golfers"

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1992 Bowlers | 1995 Bowlers |
| 1993 Bowlers | 1997 Golfers |
| 1994 Bowlers | 1998 Bowlers |
| 1995 Golfers | 1999 Bowlers |

THE GOLF SECTION

The golf section had humble beginnings with four or five members, two of whom are still with us – Donald Sangster and Bill Hay. From that time until 1996 numbers increased and Bill Hay was secretary. The section now has 25 members.

For some years, Hymie Stewart was honorary captain and convener. As captain, his special duty was to purchase sandwiches for the post match get-together. He was succeeded as convener by Ben Hardy who in turn was followed by Bob Pearston, Bob Halliday, Alistair McInnes, Dick Aikman, Mike Hill and the present convener John Simons.

Monthly medal winners received an engraved medal, more acceptable than the ubiquitous golf ball, which was likely to last less time than it took to unwrap it. Individual competitions were played in the summer and a winter four was contested with great enthusiasm.

Archie Kerr presented the Kerr Quaich for competition for three clubs and a putter – very popular – partly because there were fewer clubs to carry. Members also competed in competitions run by the Fife Probus Clubs - much success was achieved.

The individual and Four Ball Competitions were gradually run down, mainly because of problems arranging ties in a rapidly growing Golf Section. Annual interclub matches played against Dunfermline (Home and Away), ABK and Kinross, along with monthly medals, made up the programme for a number of years. Events are well supported and very well managed by John Simons. A Golfing Week has recently been instituted normally centred in Pitlochry for four days golfing at different courses in the area.

We have had various winners but it is a mark of Ronnie Colman's prowess as a golfer that his name appears 18 times on the trophies either as a winner

or as a runner up. This by far exceeds the success of any of our other golfers.

During the season Fife Probus Golfing Section also promotes a further 5 competitions at varying venues. On average, some 80 golfers take part from approx. 22 Probus Clubs within Fife.

We as a club have had some individual successes but a proud occasion was Aug. 2007 when Dalgety Bay Probus won the main Team Event (Handicap) The Fred Herd Trophy. At the time of writing, Mike Hill is President of Fife Probus Golfing Association.



 a golf outing to Pitlochry

For a number of years we have played a challenge 8 man team event against Dunfermline Probus Club home and away. As a rule, they usually have more members to choose from, many of whom enjoy lower handicaps than us, however in 2006, we managed a draw and in 2007, we managed a win. The matches are always played in a most friendly manner; nevertheless, a win is a win!

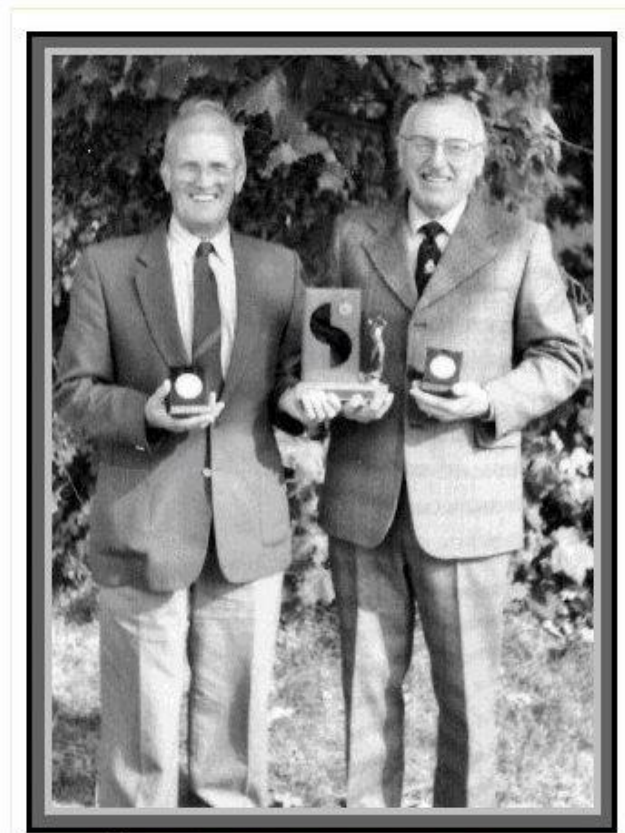
Golf Club Dinners. The annual dinner was usually held in Aberdour Golf Club or sometimes at the Woodside Hotel and was always popular. The current Club president and his wife were honoured guests.


The dinner was followed by the presentation of prizes and then came the *piece de resistance* – entertainment provided by good class amateur or semi-professional entertainers, including "Third Generation" a group of four or five singing and dancing ladies, and some of the principals from Dunfermline Gilbert & Sullivan Society.

One group of lady performers encouraged Archie Kerr to dance with them – a worth-while sight! On another occasion when the entertainment was provided by Bill Hay's daughters, their accompanist requested a piano rather than a keyboard.

Borrowed from Dalgety Church, the task of getting the piano up the stairs to the Golf Club lounge was a formidable one for the unskilled and was never repeated.

Members of the golf section compete for a number of trophies over the season:



 Bob Halliday and Bill Hay

JAMIE STEWART CUP with a Runners Up Cup (this competition recognises the 3 best aggregate stableford scores between Jan and Nov. inc) This trophy was first played in 1987

	Winner	Runner Up
1987	D Sangster	
1988	R Pearston	AR Ellington
1989	AWM Kerr	R Pearston
1990	RG Halliday	AWM Kerr
1991	R Pearston	D Sangster
1992	RG Halliday	JJ Train
1993	RG Halliday	R Aikman
1994	D Sangster	
1995	R Pearston	R. Aikman
1996	H Hanlon	R Colman
1997	R Colman	R Colman
1998	R Aikman	R Colman
1999	T Watt	R Colman
2000	R Colman	R Aikman
2001	R Colman	
2002	R Colman	J Thomson
2003	M Hill	D Patterson
2004	A Cameron	T Watt
2005	A Cameron	T Watt
2006	T Watt	M Hill
2007	T Watt	A Cameron

KERR QUAICH (Four Club Comp). The Kerr Quaich with a Runners-up Trophy (this is a one off competition usually played in September with only 3 clubs and a putter) The Quaich was first played in 1990.

	Winner	Runner Up
1990	AWM Kerr	
1991	R Pearston	
1992	D Sangster	
1993	AWM Kerr	
1994	H Hanlon	D Sangster
1995	R Colman	R Aikman
1996	A Kerr	R Colman
1997	D Sangster	H Hanlon
1998	T Watt	J Thomson
1999	R Aikman	J Thomson
2000	R Colman	
2001	G Taylor	M Hill
2002	M Hill	J Thomson
2003	D Ritchie	R Johnston
2004	R Colman	T Watt
2005	G Taylor	M Hill
2006	M Hill	A Cruickshank
2007	M Hill	R Henry

AUTUMN TROPHY Winners. The Autumn Trophy with a Runners-up Trophy (this is a one off stableford competition usually played in October)

	Winner	Runner Up
1989	A Kerr	T Chorley
1990	J J Train	D Lambert
1991	R Pearston	
1992	J J Train	R G Halliday
1993	N Marsh	D Sangster
1994	N Marsh	A Kerr
1995	J J Train	H Hanlon
1996	R Colman	D Sangster
1997	R Colman	R Colman
1998	R Colman	W Hutchinson
1999	R Colman	J Thomson
2000	G Taylor	L Sneddon
2001	M Hill	J McGuire
2002	G Taylor	R Colman
2003	M Hill	G Taylor
2004	D Lambert	T Watt
2005	A Cameron	D Ritchie
2006	A Cameron	T Watt
2007	R Colman	T Watt

BRIDGE

For the first few years of the Club's existence, there was a small bridge section which represented the Club at Inter-Club Bridge competitions. For a few years, it was inactive but there was a short revival which provided a team for the competitions but did not have regular meetings. At present, this section is dormant!


DIGIPIX

The DigiPix is the most recent of the Probus special interest groups, starting in 2005. The name is an acronym from "Digital Pictures", and club members are known as Digi Pixies.

Following a presentation on Digital Photography from a Probus member from another club, a few members informally suggested that something similar should prove to be popular. Most members had digital cameras and used them more-or-less adequately, but it was felt that a user-group could improve everyone's competence.

The idea was presented at a full Probus meeting, and 25 members turned up to the first group meeting. This coincided with the Church coffee morning,



 *The pixie hats were superimposed digitally!*

so maybe the coffee and cakes on offer were an added attraction. Group membership has settled at around 15 attending each meeting.

The meetings 'focus' on the technical aspects of digital photography, peculiarities of digital cameras, storing, 'tweaking' and reproducing photos.

Probus Club members have contributed to the meeting topics which have covered: taking pictures, naming, storing, retrieving, modifying exposure & framing, and manipulating the image. Recent

meetings have expanded into workshop sessions on taking photographs, using the image, preparing digital slide shows, and information pool. This latter is where there is a mutual exchange of comments and advice, which has proved to be one of the most beneficial aspects of the group.

With the major photographic film makers now beginning to withdraw from production, DigiPix seems to have a long-term future.

FIFE INTER-CLUB QUIZZES

John Slater was the instigator of a quiz competition open to all Fife Probus Clubs.

The quizzes have been well supported over the years and John presented a trophy which is competed for annually, the winning club having the responsibility to organise the following season's competition. The Dalgety Bay Club has won the trophy on four occasions.

SNOOKER

The Snooker Section was formed circa 1987. The founder members were John Slater, Douglas Michael and Tom Dickson.

The section initially played at a club in Lochgelly owned by a friend of John Slater but after a few months, the proprietor felt that a bingo club would yield greater dividends which snookered the trio! Undeterred they found out that ABK Probus Club also had a snooker section and they were invited to join with them in a club in Kirkcaldy. The ABK club was run by Peter Izzy, a well respected snooker player of remarkable ability.

Unfortunately, the club owner changed the opening time from 10 am to 12 noon which was unsuitable. Peter Izzy negotiated with the Ambassador Snooker Club in Kirkcaldy and our players were invited to join and have continued to play there ever since.

Peter Izzy has since passed away and in a touching tribute to him, the Ambassador Club donated a very fine trophy in his name which is now played for in open competition on a yearly basis.

The joint ABK / Dalgety snooker section is now organised by Bob Erskine of ABK.

The Gordon Chadwick Trophy was donated to the section by Gordon's widow in 1999 and has been competed for in most years.

Gordon Chadwick Trophy

1999	Tom Dickson
2000	Primmer Pollock
2001	Mike Hill
2002	Noel Fusco
2003	Len Sneddon
2004	Noel Fusco
2005	Len Sneddon

SILVER JUBILEE

To mark the Silver Jubilee of the Club a number of special events were arranged. The committee ultimately responsible for the organisation was convened by Colin McKenzie with George Owenson and Len Sneddon as members. Peter Nelson was invited to compile a historical account of the Club's twenty-five years existence.

The first event of the celebrations was the Anniversary Lunch chaired by our twenty-fourth President, Mike Hill. He was succeeded a few days later by the new President, Angus Cameron. There followed the Anniversary Bowls Competition, the Anniversary Golf Competition and the Anniversary Mystery Tour.

ANNIVERSARY LUNCH

The anniversary lunch was held at the Queensferry Hotel in their Caledonian Suite, which has excellent views of the Forth Bridges and beyond, on Friday April 18th 2008, the actual anniversary of the inaugural meeting of the Club. President Mike Hill, supported by his Vice President, Angus Cameron, welcomed Donald McCorkindale, President of the Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay Rotary Club and ex officio Honorary President of our Probus Club, Donald Sangster our only founder member still in membership, and our speaker, Bob Thomson.

Mike presided over the gathering in his usual jovial manner and, as he had often done when presiding at club meetings, he regaled us with a couple of his Readers Digest jokes

One of our members was telling his grandson what it was like when he was a boy "When I was your age I'd go down to the corner shop with half a crown in my pocket and come back with half a dozen packets of crisps, three bottles of lemonade and The Beano!" Grandson's reply was "Aye granddad, that would be before CCTV!"

I was reading the small For Sale ads looking for bedroom furniture when this one caught my eye:

"Four-poster bed for sale, 101 years old. Perfect for antique lover."



 *Donald Sangster, Rev Donald McCorkindale, Mike Hill, Angus Cameron, Bob Thomson*

The President called on Donald McCorkindale to speak. He reminded the President that they had both been St Andrews University students, though not at the same time. He reminded us that the Rotary Club had been involved in the birth of Dalgety Bay Probus Club and, as official sponsors, had formally certified its foundation.

Mr McCorkindale remarked that after speaking to our club he had also been invited to speak to several other Probus Clubs in Fife and Perth. He congratulated our Club on achieving its first twenty-five years and passed on greetings from his Club to our Club and hoped that we would go from strength to strength.

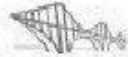
The President warmly welcomed Donald Sangster, founder member, long time treasurer and first Honorary Member of the Club.


Donald thanked Mike for his kind references and said how much he had enjoyed his long association with the Club and its members and wished the Club well for the next twenty-five years.

Apart from the top table, the rest of us sat at round tables seating eight of us which made for good social chat as we enjoyed our lunch.

The after-lunch speaker, Bob Thomson, served thirty years in Fife Constabulary, retiring six years ago as Chief Superintendent of Western Division, Dunfermline. He is a Past President of Leven Rotary Club, a public safety consultant, and is very active in the voluntary sector and several local charities.

George Owenson gave the vote of thanks to all those who had taken part in the opening event of the anniversary programme.


The Queensferry Hotel


folio
Hotels

Dalgety Bay Probus Club Luncheon
Friday 18th April 2008

Traditional Pot of Scotch Broth

Chilled seasonal Melon with Fruits of the Forest

Baked Supreme of Chicken with a Leek
and White Wine Cream Sauce

Poached Fillet of Salmon with Lemon Butter Sauce

Vegetarian option available on request

Chef's selection of seasonal Vegetables & Potatoes

Warm Apple Pie with Vanilla Ice Cream

Rich Chocolate Torte with Highland Cream

Coffee and Mints

ANNIVERSARY BOWLS COMPETITION

The guest Probus teams were from ABK, Cupar and Dunfermline, Howe of Fife, Falkirk, Kinross, Kirkcaldy, Leven, Raith and St Andrews.

The Dalgety Bay Probus players were David Cooper, Reg Devine, Mike Dominy, Jim Evans, Iain Grant, Bob Henry, Arthur King, Alan McQuaker, Harry Owen and George Taylor.

New Bowls Convener Mike Dominy welcomed our President Angus Cameron and the guest teams to the special occasion. The guest teams were then



Bowlers in action

allocated to specific rinks and the Dalgety players were allocated to a particular visiting team by totally random selection. Mike Dominy explained how the competition would be played – 12 ends in all.

The format proved to be acceptable and the general atmosphere in which the games were played made for a very successful match.

The results were Raith 17, Kinross 16, Dunfermline 14, Howe of Fife 14, Cupar 13, ABK 12, Leven 11, Falkirk 10, St Andrews 10, Kirkcaldy 6. The winners were the Raith team which included Mike Dominy as their Dalgety Bay player.



Winning with Mike Dominy

After the match, lunch was enjoyed by all the participants. This was followed by a prize giving. A vote of thanks to all who had taken part was given by our Club President Angus Cameron who had been enthralled by watching the game.

ANNIVERSARY GOLF COMPETITION

"It NEVER rains on the Golf Course!"

The Anniversary Golf Competition was held at the Aberdour Golf Club on 21st August and took the form of a Texas Scramble competition. The weather



 Anniversary golfers - damp but happy



 Bob Pearston presents winners shields


was typical of August 2008; rain, rain and still more rain. Even the golfers admitted that it does rain on a golf course, despite the adage so frequently quoted by non-golfers. Indeed the weather was such that only nine holes were played.

Despite the conditions, the golfers claim to have enjoyed themselves and the quality of play was truly outstanding with less than two shots separating the field of six teams. The eventual winning team were Mike Hill, Duncan Ritchie and George Goldie with a team gross score of just one over par.

The members of the present golf section were joined by seven former members for lunch. All the members received commemorative prizes which, along with the winners plaques were ably presented by Bob Pearston, a past stalwart of the golf section and a past Captain of Aberdour Golf Club.

After the meal, Bill Hay gave an edifying talk on another of his pastimes – cricket.



 *Magical Mystery Tour – who parked the bus?*

Overall a wonderful day out and the golf section looks forward to celebrating the next significant anniversary of the Club.

ANNIVERSARY MYSTERY TOUR


The organisers of the mystery tour had hardly begun to get down to practicalities when they found that there were many mysteries besetting them! The first mystery they had to solve was “whose bus will we get?” Late changes in the numbers going on the tour coupled with significant coach price hikes all contributed to make their preparations rather nervous, or was it nerve-racking? Eventually the day of the outing blessed them with warm dry weather and 44 members and partners.

The coach from Allan’s of Dalkeith proved a comfortable vehicle. Allan was the driver cum courier and kept up snippets of information about the mysterious places through which the bus was travelling.

When he felt that there was nothing of interest to tell he made something up or told a joke or two reportedly of a similar standard to those of our immediate past president.

The early part of the journey took us west towards Stirling and then towards Loch Lomond, stopping at Gartocharn for coffee at The Hungry Monk. The final mysterious destination proved to be Inveraray, an ancient township on the shores of Loch Fyne, in the heart of Campbell country and famous for its Castle, the home of the Dukes of Argyll.



 *Lunch at the George Hotel*

The George Hotel where the group had lunch was originally two private houses built as part of a project started by the third Duke in 1744 which was to make Inveraray the first planned town to be created in Scotland.

The hotel building was completed in 1770, but in 1776, the fifth Duke ordered that the ground floor of the private houses be made into two temporary churches for the Gaelic and English speaking congregations.

The space occupied by these two churches now consists of a public bar, the front lounge of the hotel and a church hall. How the times have changed!

After lunch, there were two options – either a visit to Inveraray Castle or Inveraray Jail.

Inveraray Castle is the ancestral home of the Dukes of Argyll. The third Duke, who succeeded to the title in 1743, found that his castle was virtually uninhabitable and had it demolished. He then proceeded to build a new castle and at the same time, he planned and built a village some distance south – and out of sight of the castle.




 *Inveraray Castle*

This castle has been the home of succeeding Dukes of Argyll and contains many interesting artefacts relating to the Clan Campbell as well as a magnificent collection of paintings. Of particular interest is the large collection of weaponry, including a dirk said to have been the property of Rob Roy. Unfortunately, no photography was allowed inside the castle.

Inveraray Jail and its Georgian Court House was in use until the 1930s and is now an interesting museum giving an insight into prison conditions from medieval times to the 19th century.



 *Incarcerated in Inveraray Jail*

The weather throughout the day was beautiful and the whole tour was excellent and much appreciated by the participants.

LOOKING BACK – LOOKING FORWARDS

Preparing this account of the history of our club has been, in some respects, a daunting task. At times, it has been difficult to decide which things to omit, which to include and which to condense or to expand. Thinking back over the period of my own membership – 21 years – I have been reminded again and again of the many friends I have made through Probus, the many events I have enjoyed and of the many opportunities I have had to serve the Club. I know that many others of my readers would say the same.

Probus Members April 2008

Richard Aikman
Michael Anastasio
Brian Armstrong
Melvin Bell
Jack Boyd
Alistair Calder
Angus Cameron
Ronald Campbell
Tom Chorley
Ian Clifton
William Clinkenbeard
Robert Colman
Ronald Colman
David Cooper
Wallace Cowan
Alex Cruickshank
James Dargan
Peter Dean
Reg Devine
Tom Dickson
Mike Dominy
Neil Dryden
George Duthie
Jim Etheridge
Jim Evans

Maurice Everett
Bill Ewing
James Fairlie
Peter Franklin
Neil Franklin
Noel Fusco
Alvaro Gagliardi
George Goldie
Iain Grant
Michael Hamilton
William Hay
John Hedley
Gordon Henderson
Robert Henry
David Hicks
John Hicks
Michael Hill
Ian Hill
James Hughes
Alastair Inglis
Ralph Johnston
William Kelly
Arthur King
Sandy Laing
David Lambert

Alan Lamont
Malcolm Lappin
Peter Levein
Murray MacGregor
Jack McGuire
Alistair McInnes
Colin McKenzie
James McKissock
Alan McQuaker
Ewart McSkimming
Trevor Meakin
Tom Menzies
Keith Miller
Ivan Morris
James Morris
Jim Muir
Neil Muir
Peter Nelson
Thomas Nesbitt
Ogilvie Nicoll
Harry Owens
George Owenson
John Parry
David Patterson
Robert Pearston

Primmer Pollock
Alex Purves
Duncan Ritchie
Iain Robertson
Donald Sangster
John Scott
John Scott
John Simons
John Skelton
David Smith
David Smith
Keith Smith
Laurence Smith
Len Sneddon
George H. Taylor
George B. Taylor
Roger Tebbutt
James Thompson
James Thomson
Eddie Travers
Bill Twaddle
Myles Vance
Alan Wallace
Tom Watt
Willie Weir

DALGETY BAY PROBUS CLUB
SILVER JUBILEE -1983 – 2008

A Look Back

Compiled and written by Peter Nelson

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Dalgety Bay Probus Club 2008

Probus 25th Anniversary Lunch - 18th April 2008

