

Practical Heraldry for the Self-Isolator

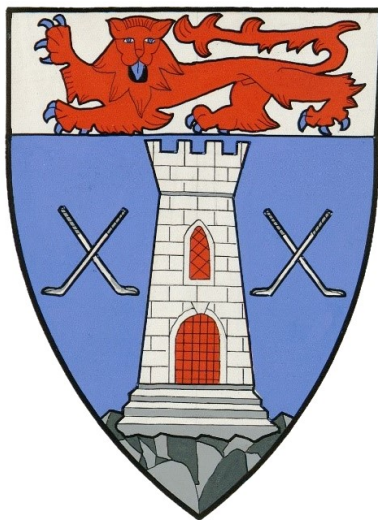
Week 7D— Heraldry for Golfers

The shout-out to Golf Clubs for providing space during the lock-down for us to walk in pleasant surroundings with plenty of space, generated some interest in the subject so today and tomorrow we will have a look at some Golf Club Heraldry. The Law of the land regarding the obligation to record all arms with the Office of the Lord Lyon applies of course to the 550+ golf courses for which Scotland is so rightly famous and many of them have recorded arms.



The Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers, based at Gullane, recorded these arms in 1994 as part of its 250th anniversary.

As well as having in a canton the common symbol for Edinburgh, the castle which, it must be said, bears no resemblance to Edinburgh Castle, they have gone for a very lovely arrangement of two silver golf clubs in saltire surmounted of a triple-flowered thistle. The effect is of a rather sumptuous silver sconce.



Golf clubs in saltire are the theme of many coats of arms of Golf Clubs. Here we have from left to right:

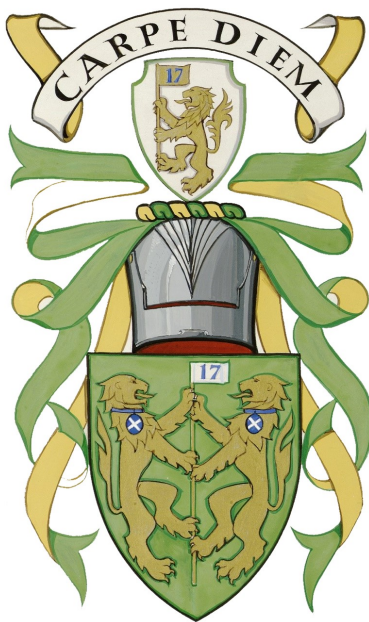
Dunfermline Golf Club 1980 borrows Malcolm Canmore's tower from the Burgh Arms. The *lion passant* in chief is perhaps a reminder of Dunfermline's ancient royal associations and the King who *sate drinking the blude-red wine*.

West Linton Golf Club 1979: the *fountain* in base is both a coloured golf-ball and a reference to the meaning of Linton which is a settlement by a pool or stream. The *mulletts Or* come from the arms of Sutherland, a local land-owner..

Bruntisfield Golfing Society had been using these arms since its foundation in 1761, hence the 18th century style, although the arms were not officially granted until 1971. The four plates are of course puns for golf balls.



Deeside Golf Club has gone for a different style, although kept the golf ball or *plate*. The *sinister flank to the base embowed Azure and fimbriated Or* is a bit of a puzzle until one looks at the map!



The Old Course Golf & Country Club, St Andrews 1982

The Old Course is home of *The Road Hole*, the par-4 17th, one of the world's most famous golf holes, reputedly the hardest hole in tournament golf and here celebrated in heraldry by the *lions rampant combatant* and the *lion rampant* holding the no 17 flag.



Glasgow Golf Club 1985

Another highly pictorial coat with the arms of the City of Glasgow as its principal charge. The *barrulet wavy* is suggestive of the River Kelvin which flows nearby.

The golf balls this time are represented by *pellets*—black roundels rather than the more usual *plates* or silver roundels, the black perhaps being more in keeping with the old-style golf clubs.