

Over 58 million people play golf worldwide. The game has generated more economic activity and employment than any other sport and is a byword for good conduct, honesty and integrity.

This book is about how one man, Tom Morris of St Andrews, presided over the greatest period in the development of golf. We relate how he, more than anyone before or since in any game, stamped his individual character upon his sport and how, in large measure, he made golf what it is today.

Born in a humble weaver's cottage in St Andrews in 1821, he was uneducated even by the standards of his day but, by the time of his death in 1908, he had become a figure of international renown. He was the friend of dukes and earls, prime ministers and politicians, judges and felons, golfers of every calibre and caddies of every kind. When he was buried with all the pomp and ceremony befitting an eminent Victorian, The Times eulogised him in a long obituary. Newspapers throughout the world reported his funeral, followed by his internment below the effigy of his son, Tommy, amidst the ruins of St Andrews Cathedral.

In the course of his long life, he witnessed huge social and scientific changes in the world, none more so than in the game of golf that he had, in many respects, overseen and directed. When Tom Morris was born, golf was little more than a parochial Scottish pastime played by a few thousand Scots on some twenty rudimentary courses, where conditions were almost entirely left to nature. By the time of his death, the game had expanded to become the most popular and geographically widespread of all sports and the essential recreational pursuit of gentlemen. North America, much of Europe and the colonies of the British Empire had enthusiastically embraced golf and the name of Tom Morris was synonymous with it. He was painted by artists, honoured by poets, patronised by royalty, revered by The Royal and Ancient Golf Club and showered with praise and affection by golfers everywhere. Tom Morris was a sporting hero in an age of heroes, as well as golf's first iconic figure.

Time, place and circumstance clearly helped Tom make his mark in golf. In his formative years, the Links of St Andrews and The Royal and Ancient Golf Club were already at the centre of the game and the Town was considered 'The Home of Golf'. When the gutta ball came to replace the feathery and the railway network reached every corner of the land, golf was on the threshold of rapid expansion. Tom Morris found himself in the right place at the right time.

We chart his journey from obscurity to national celebrity and give a new insight into his career in golf and his influence upon it, from feather ballmaker with Allan Robertson to his very reluctant retirement as 'Custodian of the Links' of St Andrews more than 60 years later. His is a remarkable and very human story, blessed with great triumphs but blighted by even greater tragedies.

Tom Morris was, of course, a great golfer. The record of Tom and Tommy, father and son, in the Open Championship stands as an enduring memorial to their golfing superiority. Between them they won eight of the first twelve Opens and are still respectively the oldest and youngest players to have won the Championship. Tom relinquished his Open title to 18 year-old Tommy in 1868, taking second place that year – a family performance unlikely ever to be repeated. Tom's 13-stroke victory in 1862 remains the largest winning margin and Tommy's four Open Championship wins in succession are unequalled – his was the first name to be engraved on the Claret Jug, the new Open Golf Championship Trophy, when it was first presented in 1872.

This book is not, however, a catalogue of the golfing achievements of Tom Morris. Whilst we relate how his big money matches with Willie Park and subsequently those of Tommy and Davie Strath, established golf as a popular spectator sport, in order to appreciate Tom's total contribution to it, we look beyond his merely playing the game and building courses.

Tom Morris was the first golf professional engaged by a club to provide a golfing service to its members. He was arguably the first professional to design and build a course from scratch and his first, at Prestwick, testified to his insight and creativity and set standards for all to follow. His development of St Andrews into the 'Old Course' that we know today, has stood the test of time and remains the most popular Open Championship venue and the most famous golf course in the world.

We look at the family life of Tom Morris: his marriage, the birth and death of his first son and the birth and upbringing of his second son, Tommy; the family's move to Prestwick and the friendships they forged there. We give an insight into the unlikely match Tommy made with Margaret Drinnen who tragically died giving birth; his only daughter Lizzie's marriage to James Hunter, who amassed the family's fortune before his bizarre death in the Bay of Mobile in America – half a world away from his wife and children in St Andrews; and Tom's younger sons, the enigmatic James and the paraplegic John. We chronicle the life of a family man who outlived his wife, all of his children, his daughter-in-law and son-in-law, but who bore the cruel blows of fate with fortitude.

Above all, we investigate the people, the places and the events in Tom Morris's life that shaped his character, a character that he transferred to the game of golf.

It is 100 years since the Reverend W.W. Tulloch published the only other biography of Tom Morris. He clearly laboured under the constraints of Victorian sensitivity and the fact that his subject was still living. We have been under no such burdens. After many years of research, we have related Tom's life as it was, his virtues and strengths as well as weaknesses, and have laid to rest some of the myths perpetuated and embellished over the years by other writers.

We hope that in some small way we have brought Tom Morris to life in this book.

Tom Morris of St Andrews

- The content of this book is the result of more than 15 years of research. Much new and hitherto unknown material is revealed.
- We have been privileged to have had unfettered access to the respective archives of the Morris, Morrow, Hunter and Rusack families, both in the UK and USA.
- We have received help and cooperation from all the golf clubs, institutions and individuals which have been approached for assistance. In particular, The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews has been unstinting in helping and supporting this project.

Topics covered include:

- In-depth analysis of Tom, his antecedents and contemporaries in golf.
- Tom's rise from obscurity to national and international renown.
- New detailed insight into Tom's forebears, his family and the tragedies he endured for most of his adult life.
- Tom's contribution to the game and his influence in the context of his time have been completely re-assessed. In a society obsessed by class distinction, Tom's changing status makes for fascinating reading.
- His son Tommy's ascendancy in golf and his ultimately tragic life is covered in-depth, as well as the crucial role both he and Davie Strath played in popularising the game.
- The importance of the challenge matches between Tom and Willie Park in the period 1855-1870.
- James Hunter's (Tom's son-in-law) success in the timber business in Georgia and Alabama which transformed the Morris family's financial situation.
- A new appreciation is given of the part played in the development of the game in the 19th century by the leading golf clubs of the day, particularly Prestwick, Royal Liverpool and Royal North Devon.
- Corrections to errors and myths, repeated over the years by writers and observers.



David Malcolm

Born and raised in St Andrews and the East Neuk of Fife, David is a Past Captain and Life Member of The New Golf Club, St Andrews.

A graduate of Edinburgh University, he was a research geneticist in the USA and Europe before returning to work in St Andrews University and latterly teaching science at Madras College in the Town. A life-long student of golf history, he has written numerous articles for golfing magazines, periodicals and the national press.



Peter E. Crabtree

Peter, a retired Yorkshire businessman, has been a life-long golfer and a golf historian for over 30 years.

A Founder and Past Captain of The British Golf Collectors Society, he has for many years collected early golfing artifacts, particularly those associated with St Andrews and Tom Morris.

He is a Founder and Trustee of 'Keepers of The Green', the golfing registered charity based in St Andrews that provides powered mobility for the needy.

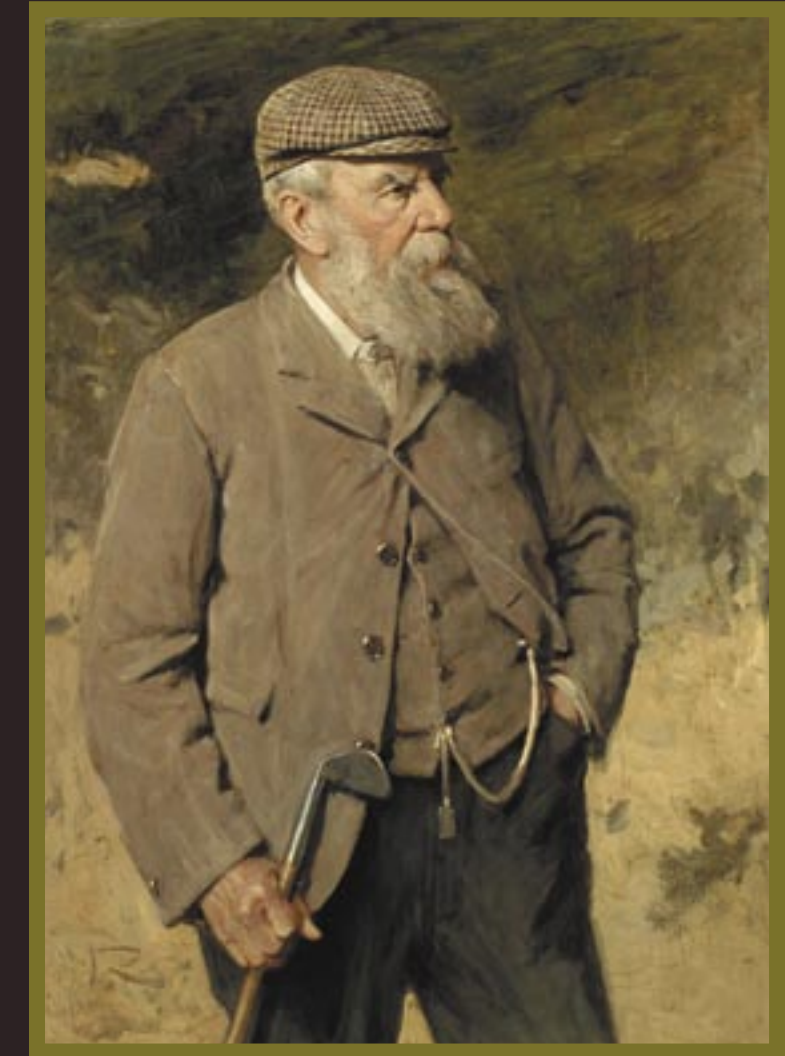
His home golf club is Ilkley and he is also a member of Keighley, Gullane and The Royal and Ancient.

THE KEEPER OF THE GREEN '395' EDITION

- This Edition is strictly limited to 395 copies
- Each copy is numbered and signed by the authors
- The main text and appendices run to 350 pages
- There are some 325 illustrations, including over 70 full page. Many have not previously been published
- The printing is high definition, on quality art paper, to give the best possible illustration reproduction
- The page size is 235 x 290mm (9 1/4 x 11 1/2 inches)
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THE SUBSCRIBERS '87' EDITION

- This Edition is strictly limited to 87 copies, one for every year of Tom Morris's life
- Specification as per THE KEEPER OF THE GREEN '395' EDITION above, with the following additional features:
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 - List of Subscribers' names
 - Seven additional illustrative plates
 - The Royal Bank of Scotland R&A 250th Anniversary commemorative £5 note tipped-in, bearing an image of Tom Morris, the first time a golfer has been portrayed on a British banknote. The last two digits of the serial number will correspond to the number of the copy
 - Included in an annexe to rear cover are four high quality facsimile reproductions of important historical manuscript documents:
 - i) Tom Morris's 1864 Open Championship winning card, the earliest extant and the first time the winner was awarded prize money
 - ii) Letter from George Glennie of Blackheath to Charles Campbell (of Prestwick Golf Club), dated 19 October 1860, commenting on the play during the first Open Championship
 - iii) Draft conditions for the first Open, in the hand of Colonel J. O. Fairlie, the genesis of the Open Championship
 - iv) Tom's resignation letter, dated August 1864, to Prestwick Golf Club



Tom Morris of St Andrews

The Colossus of Golf

1821 – 1908

David Malcolm and Peter E. Crabtree

PUBLICATION DATE : JULY 2008

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An appropriate donation will be made from the proceeds of this book to 'KEEPERS OF THE GREEN', a registered charity based in St Andrews. The charity provides powered mobility to the needy, as well as promoting the ethos and traditions of the game of golf as they were during the era of Tom Morris.