

LOCH LOMOND GOLF CLUB

From Castle to Clubhouse

*A glorious setting, wonderful hospitality,
and top-notch golf create something special.*



By Mark Pazdur, Publisher

DUNBARTONSHIRE, SCOTLAND: Tom Weiskopf is considered one of the world's finest golf course designers (he passed away from pancreatic cancer in 2022). He also happened to be an experienced hunter. All practiced wilderness experts know the cardinal rule: always tell someone where you are going. It's a lesson that almost cost Tom his life in 1992.

During an early morning stroll to scout a stream near the planned 14th hole at Loch Lomond Golf Club in Scotland, he miscalculated his step and sank deep into oily black mud. Paralyzed by panic, he initially struggled and eventually realized that thrashing about was making him sink deeper into the quagmire (up to his chest). Through painstakingly delicate and controlled lateral movements, he inched himself out over the course of

four hours and crawled to safety in absolute exhaustion.

Despite the terrifying ordeal, he designed what is considered one of the most stunning and celebrated courses in Scotland: Loch Lomond Golf Club. It is one of the very few European clubs that has been awarded full Audubon status for its mission to conserve natural ecosystems, is widely considered the most exclusive private members' club in Scotland, and is the first course in the country to be designed by an American."



HISTORY DATING BACK CENTURIES

Earlier this year, my wife JoAnn and I had the good fortune to visit Loch Lomond Golf Club. Talk about history! The central portion of the present clubhouse, known as Rossdhu Mansion, was completed in 1773 (three years before



Loch Lomond Golf Club

“Everyone [including golfers] marches to their stomach. We update our menus every three months, but one thing is assured: we never drop our standards.”

— STEVIE WATERS, HEAD CHEF AT LOCH LOMOND GOLF CLUB

“It’s hard to define what our ‘secret sauce’ is that makes the club so special. The best way I can describe it is that there is a different emotion and stress level you will have during your arrival versus departure.”

— ALISON RODGER, ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER AT LOCH LOMOND GOLF CLUB

George Washington’s Continental Army successfully forced the British to evacuate Boston). By any definition, this is a true golf facility wherein each member must belong to another club before joining. Its members hail from dozens of countries, far and wide, with about 100 of its 600 members residing in the United States.

“Our club assets are multifaceted with golf as our centerpiece,” extolled John Blanch, general manager at Loch Lomond Golf Club. “I have worked for several golf management companies that afforded me the opportunity to work in 11 countries over the past 30 years. I’m proud of our club’s heritage, but even more excited about its future as a member-owned facility. We hosted the Scottish Open for a decade, and the boats in our bay watching the competition reminded me of what you would see in the waters off Pebble Beach in California or Harbour Town in South Carolina.

“We are located about 45 minutes from the Glasgow Airport and about 90 minutes from Edinburgh. With more nonstop flights being added every year, the journey may not be as taxing as you surmise. I’m beyond proud to lead the club’s vision in the future.”

A DRAM OF WHISKEY

Upon arrival, we were greeted with a glass of champagne or whiskey (aged for 12 years). During our stay we enjoyed fine dining (appropriately paired with even finer wine), an excursion on

the member boat around the loch (Scottish Gaelic for a sea inlet), a spa treatment within its historic Walled Garden (designed in 1797), and a stay in the Colquhoun Suite, that to this day is still owned by the Clan Colquhoun (with a storied past dating back to the 12th century). While winter days are short, during the summer, Scotland is gifted with 18 hours of daily sunlight. You can theoretically have an early dinner and then play 18 holes! Next season, axe-throwing and archery experts will be added to its repertoire.

The golf experience is everything you would expect from a course on the current *Golf Digest* “100 World’s Greatest Courses” list. Its robust caddie programming and walking-only policy add to its allure. Views of the loch are frequent. Thankfully, distances are measured in yards (unlike most of continental Europe, which is in meters). A round isn’t complete without a hearty handshake and warm smile from Willie, the men’s locker room attendant who has been at Loch Lomond Golf Club for 30+ years. ■

For more information on memberships, please visit LochLomond.com.

Did you know? The United Kingdom encompasses four areas: England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. The volume of water in Loch Lomond (totaling more than 680 billion gallons) is more than all the water combined in the lakes, rivers, and streams found in England.

