



LEVEN LINKS

SOCIETY GOLF CLUB OF THE YEAR FOR THE FIFE AREA 2015

WITH ITS WONDERFUL APPROACHES, LARGE TRUE RUNNING GREENS AND ONE OF THE FINEST FINISHING HOLES IN GOLF THAT WILL LIVE LONG IN THE MEMORY OF ANYONE WHO PLAYS IT, LEVEN LINKS GOLF COURSE IN FIFE, SCOTLAND IS WHERE CHAMPIONS AND CHAMPIONS-TO-BE JOIN HANDS FOR A GREAT GAME OF GOLF.

Whilst golf has been played at Leven since 1820, the game dates back to 1846 on parts of these links with the current configuration coming into being in 1909.

Leven Links is steeped in history not least because it is the archetypal links course. With its fine bents and fescues, its humps, bumps, hollows and 'wispy' rough it could be well used as the very definition of a true links. As such it is to be savoured by all who play here.

For its extraordinary achievement of bringing talents together and festering social relationships, Prestige Golf magazine awards Leven Links winner of Society Golf Club of the Year for the Fife area 2015. The magazine spoke to the Links Secretary and Treasurer Jen Low about what winning the award means to the links.

Congratulations! Leven Links has been conferred the Society Golf Club of the Year for the Fife area 2015 - Could you talk us through what you feel on being conferred this award? Leven Links are honoured to be conferred as we are in the early stages of implementing the development of the Visitor's Journey to attract and welcome visitors. Our visitor journey is to demonstrate that in addition to first class facilities, consideration has also been given to the total experience the visitor receives.

WHY DO YOU THINK THE CLUB HAS WON THIS AWARD?



- Leven Links is a good example of a Traditional Championship Links course and in recent years has become a hidden gem behind some of our more prominent neighbours. By raising our profile golfers are realising that Leven Links is true Scottish Links golf and a real value for money golf experience.

HOW WILL WINNING THIS AWARD AFFECT YOUR CLUB?

- An award from a body such as yourselves is a sign that we are progressing our 5 year target to increase revenue year on year which can only be achieved by providing a good product. Being able to promote this award on our website shows potential visitors Leven Links is an excellent choice.



WHAT IN YOUR OPINION ARE THE OUTSTANDING FEATURES OF THE LINKS THAT SETS IT APART AND RAISES IT TO A LEVEL WHERE IT WINS SUCH A PRESTIGIOUS AWARD?

- Leven Links is Scottish links golf at its very best; several partially blind shots provoking the imagination, numerous hazards and rolling fairways with unexpected bumps.

- The sea is visible from the course, something which any true links course should encompass. And has always been renowned as a Golfers course, we enjoy the game and also enjoy good hospitality and banter in the clubhouses after our game discussing our experiences good and bad.

- Both Links clubs Leven Thistle and Leven Golfing Society have active competitions for all levels of Golf and both compete at a high level in team matches.

WHERE TIME STANDS STILL

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOUR CUSTOMERS MOST VALUE ABOUT THE CLUB?

- Leven Links is renowned for being an excellent All Year Round golfing experience.

Being adjacent to the sea we have a mild dry climate which means the Greenkeeping staff are able to present us with a fine Links course with fast running fairways and excellent slick playing surfaces in the summer but also allowing us quality winter golf playing a full course with Winter greens only required on a few occasions.

- After a round on the Links both clubs offer a friendly atmosphere for a drink and also offer excellent food at competitive prices.

What is the club's proudest moments over the years? Is/Are there special memories you'd like to share with our readers?

The clubs are working closely together to improve the Links but have their unique identities and proud histories with Leven Links which is widely regarded as one of the best and purest links courses in Scotland, boasting input from Old Tom Morris himself.



The course has hosted local final qualifying when the Open Championship is held at St Andrews. This bears testimony to the quality of the course.

The signature hole is the 18th which is real test for golfers of all standards. It measures 456 yards with second or third shot being a carry over the Scoonie burn. In a Bunkered magazine poll, it was recently voted the 2nd hardest finishing hole in Scotland behind the 18th at Carnoustie.

Leven also has the distinction of being the 1st course to be made up of 18 tees and 18 greens (St Andrews, Musselburgh and the other older courses at the time were made up of 18 tees but had double greens)

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR THE CLUB?

The course has been strengthened by the addition of strategic bunkers, new tees, realignment of some holes to embrace the natural contours of the fairways in recent years.

Currently Leven Links is working a five-year plan to increase revenues to allow reinvestment to improve the quality of the grasses on our fairways and greens.

Meaning our members and visitors alike can enjoy a competitive golf experience in the knowledge their fees are contributing to improving the fabric of the Links to enjoy on their return in the future.

LEVEN LINKS GOLF COURSE

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