

Dear All,

This is a note after our Xmas letter to bring you up to speed with progress to date and our plans for 2025. In this time St Andrews Links Trust (SALT) have released additional links ticket holder times first thing in the morning and there is the prospect of times on the Duke's course as they progress their lease discussions. These changes are to be welcomed and feedback from members on these issues will be much appreciated.

We hope you saw the recent golf articles in the Scotsman by Martyn McLaughlin; Wednesday's article, that most relevant to our association is attached, the series of articles is posted on the news page of our website. We have sent a letter to the Scotsman correspondence columns, also attached, highlighting our position. We will strive to maintain an appropriate profile and media coverage of STARGA's aims and objectives over the year.

At our public meeting there was debate about how the SALT trustees might better represent resident interests; we have pursued this with Fife Council who are one of the bodies who appoint trustees. At the end of February we had a very good meeting with our local Fife Councillors who were understanding and generally very supportive of the aims of STARGA. We plan to continue dialogue with them to convince them of the case to act on our behalf where appropriate. Following our presentation to the St Andrews Community Council at the end of last year they are sympathetic to our aims but plan to remain neutral in golfing matters which is disappointing.

The list of Community Councillors and the contact details can be found at the following link if you wish to make representation about any concerns that regarding golf in the town that you would want to raise with them as individuals.

<https://www.standrewscommunitycouncil.co.uk/members>

For the rest of the year, we plan to build on work to date by seeking further engagement with SALT and Fife Council to deliver the improvements that our members have asked us to secure.

We welcome any suggestions for progressing the aims of STARGA and would encourage you to let us know if there are particular issues that you would like us to raise. As an example, one of our members has raised the issue of the 2027 Open championship in St Andrews and how this might affect resident golfers. It may be that there are issues such as 5-day tickets being made available for residents. In 2022 the closure of the west sands access was controversial and given that planning is now underway now it the time to make representation to the R&A.

I hope that you have found this update useful and would encourage you to get in contact with STARGA to let us know your thoughts about where we are and what we can additionally do to further our objectives.

Best wishes John Winter Secretary



President golfers group questions the sustainability of rising number of visitor rounds at revered St Andrews courses



Martin McLaughlin
President of the Scottish Golf Federation

President of the Scottish Golf Federation, Martin McLaughlin, has called for a review of the sustainability of the rising number of visitor rounds at St Andrews courses. He says the number of visitor rounds has risen from 10,000 in 2010 to 15,000 in 2022, and that this is unsustainable. He says the number of visitor rounds should be reduced to 10,000 by 2025. He says the number of visitor rounds should be reduced to 10,000 by 2025. He says the number of visitor rounds should be reduced to 10,000 by 2025.

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Home of golf warned historic courses are being 'overplayed'

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Sir

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Are increasing numbers at the home of golf taking their toll

Wed 19 March 2025

We welcome the article by Martin McLaughlin about golf in St Andrews.

St Andrews Resident Golf Association (STARGA) represents the views of resident golfers of St Andrews who are privileged to play on the high quality public golf courses, and welcome visitors who subsidise the cost of golf. Last year a St Andrews links Trust (SALT) links ticket holder survey did demonstrate that most people felt the Links ticket was excellent value. However what was not mentioned is that a SALT information evening last year reported that the same survey had found 87% of respondents found course access a sticking point and 64% of respondents were dissatisfied with access to at least one course. It is clear from this survey and surveys performed last year by The St Andrews Golf Club and STARGA that there is considerable dissatisfaction with golfers using the links and this is driven by the excessive numbers of rounds being played.

SALT acknowledges that it is bound by the 1974 Act which refers to residents of St Andrews, visitors and Royal and Ancient Golf Club members only. The majority of Links ticket holders are not residents of St Andrews so that when SALT refers to golf provision for Links ticket holders it is provision for a group containing many visitors and a minority of residents. The 1974 Act envisaged SALT as a management vehicle ensuring that the publicly owned links should be managed for the residents of the town as well as others. Over the years there has been an erosion of residents' influence, rights and access to the courses with the Act's provision for residents not being implemented by SALT. The Links, until 1974 owned by the Royal Burgh of St Andrews, are a publicly owned resource which in the view of STARGA should be managed by the trustees in the spirit of the the Act.

Sincerely yours

John Winter

Secretary STARGA

standrewsresidentgolfersassociation.com