

# Golf Club Trophies

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A number of the original Ayton Golf Club trophies and prizes are still held in the RBS vaults – these include the Balabraes Cup, the Ladies' Bowl and the Handicap Challenge Medal.



The Balabraes Cup

The Balabraes Cup was presented by the Club Captain in 1893, Sir W.G. Simpson and sits in a magnificent wooden box with the club's initials embossed in a brass logo on the lid. The cup itself is ornately engraved with the centrepiece being a relief of Balabraes House itself. The handles have two witty puns, being a play on words about the skills no doubt required to play the game well and either the proximity of the Eye Water or the potential use of the cup! One handle states ... Eye Handy....whilst the other exhorts .... Hand an Eye. Around the rim of the Cup is the reference to the gift itself as well as the advice .... Many a slip twixt cup and lip... again no doubt a mixed metaphor!



Detail of the engraving on the Balabraes Cup

The base for the Cup is a square plinth with a shield on each side recording Ayton Course Record Scores, Handicap Winners, Balabraes Challenge Shield & Badge Winners and Ladies Handicap. Balabraes House is known as Millbank House nowadays.



The Ladies' Bowl

The Ayton Ladies' GC Berrybank Rose Bowl was presented by Joseph Mack in 1921. The winners are listed on the reverse of the bowl.



The Ayton Golf Club Challenge Medal

The only other surviving trophy is the Ayton Golf Club Handicap Challenge Medal. The Medal is still in its original box and was presented to the Club in 1892 by Alexander Wood of Dunbar – the year he won it himself! Other winners are also listed but due to the size of the piece there are very few names recorded.

Disappointingly, the silver ink stand which was presented to the club by Mr John Allan of East Reston is not amongst the items held by the bank. Does someone have it sitting on their desk still today?