

I very much enjoyed the eighteenth. This 351-yard par 4 played downwind the day we challenged it. My shot was past the two fairway bunkers on the left, which left me a much easier shot to the green, protected by gorse right and bunkers left. This is quality St. Andrews' golf, especially considering that the price was only \$37 US, and the Old Course was the next fairway over.

If the Eden Course is too busy, or you want a second course, try the **Strathtyrum Course**, which plays from the classy Eden Clubhouse and costs about \$25 US. Strathtyrum is an eighteen-hole course designed in 1993 by Donald Steel, who was also responsible for revisions to the Eden Course. This is the easiest of the Links Trust eighteen-hole courses, but is still worthy of a round. Strathtyrum is a links course where the hazards are natural rough (enough to lose a ball or two), a few well-placed bunkers, some fairly wild dips and swales on approaches to greens, and narrow fairways made narrower in the ever-present wind. Eleven was a fun par 5. At 447 yards, this short par 5 can be shorter if you can cut the dogleg left (needs a 250-yard drive). Be wary of the bunker right and some severe swales as you approach the green. For a one-shotter, thirteen is a tough hole. It's a tough green to hold, especially downwind, if you clear the two bunkers fronting the green. If you miss, gorse and heather are lurking all around to snag your ball. When we played Strathtyrum, we did so in under three hours—of course, it helped that the Dunhill Cup was being contested on the Old Course, and everyone was there watching.

These courses barely scratch the surface of the golf available in the Fife. Links and parkland jewels abound, and you don't have pay a king's ransom like you would at Kingsbarns.

PUBS

Besides great golf and scenery, the Fife has some entertaining pubs to visit. The seven we've selected to highlight are indeed diverse. They range from harbor side to city center, from college to golf pubs, and from quaint to funky to upscale.

Our first suggestion is to visit the **Ship Tavern** in Anstruther. This harborside pub was built in the 17th Century, but the barkeep said, "It's only been a tavern for the past couple of hundred years or so." No history here. Two sections comprise the tavern. In the front is a small, beautiful, old wood bar with about six-backed stools, while at the very front is a very comfortable booth with a large window and view of the harbor. Decorations throughout the tavern are, of course, nautical, but not overdone. The second room is a larger, nondescript eating section

in the back. Eat in the front booth or at the bar like we did. The day we stopped in was absolutely beautiful. The front door was open to the street, and locals would say "Hi" to the barkeep as they strolled by. It seemed that everyone knew each other in the pub—a little like "Cheers," where everybody knows your name. Great place to meet locals. The food and beverage selection was fairly limited: six taps, a few malts, mostly variations of fish and chips. This is a friendly place to stop for pint, dram, or quick bite, or to enjoy a great view.

A second suggestion for Anstruther, which doesn't have the harbor view but does have more history and ambiance, is the **Dreel Tavern** in the middle of town on the main Fife coastal road. The tavern is an old 1600s coaching inn, very traditional in design and decor. The walls are covered with old photographs, and dining areas are lighted by hurricane lamps. Stone walls and a real fireplace give Dreel a warm, rustic feeling. It offers an enticing menu with numerous specials, and a full service bar for guests. In the nonsmoking section (the conservatory), we shared a scallop and prawn starter that was delicious. Plan to book ahead, even on a week night, or be prepared to wait, since the Dreel Tavern is deservedly well-known and very busy.

In the same area there's a spot that exudes the feel of small village pubs. Just a mile inland from Elie, on B941 in the Village of Kilconquhar, is the **Kinneuchar Inn**. Interestingly, "kinneuchar" is the phonetic pronunciation of "conquhar." The village is sparse, except for a picturesque church and a few shops. The village basically serves some of the needs of the nearby Kilconquhar Castle Resort. The inn, though, serves the needs of the local population. When we stopped after a round at Lundin GC, we were the only visitors in the place. A small pub section, and an equally small dining room, comprise the pub. Staff, patrons and their dogs were friendly and the meals decent. Kinneuchar Inn would be the kind of place in which you get very comfortable very quickly.

From Anstruther and Kilconquhar we head north to St. Andrews for the next two pubs. These two are within a five-minute walk of each other, but are very different in style. The first pub, **Drouthy Neebors** (meaning "thirsty neighbors"), is part of a chain with others in Dundee, Sterling, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Ayr. It's a neighborhood pub, and the neighborhood is St. Andrews University. Located on South Street just a couple of doors down from the West Port, the old city gate, Drouthy Neebors is a meeting place for locals, a drop-in spot for students, and relaxing place to quaff a draught, and sip some leek and tattie soup, or munch a toastie (a toasted sandwich). The St. Andrews incarnation is dark, with a row of small tables in the front and more spacious seating in back. We chose a table by the front window so we could watch