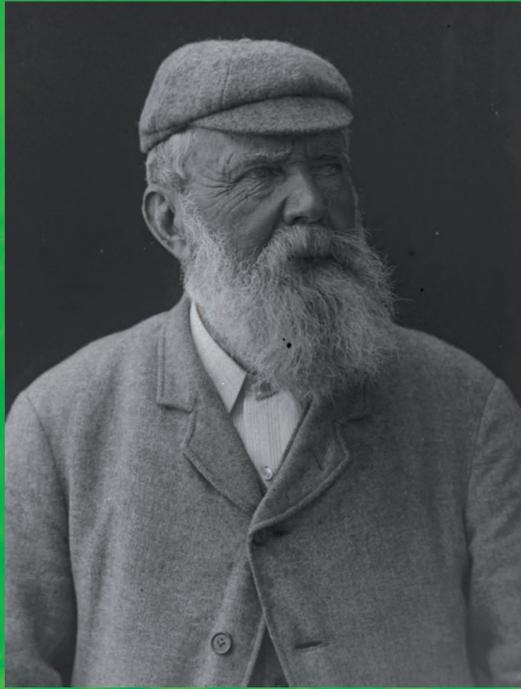


THE RULES OF GOLF



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Although golf is played all over the world, its standard rules continue to be set (and revised when necessary) by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews in Fife. Although the USA (and Mexico) has asserted its independence

by deferring only to the United States Golf Association, both bodies currently collaborate to ensure uniformity in practice. The popularity of golf in Scotland from a very early period is evidenced by the banning of the game in a 1457 Act of the Scottish Parliament. The game flourished, despite both the ban and a strict sabbatarianism; municipal courses were laid and golf clubs multiplied. Prior to 1899, individual clubs established and published their own rules (within broad but similar parameters). The oldest surviving set are those of the Gentlemen Golfers of Leith, later the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers, drafted in March 1744 for a tournament played the following month over Leith Links. The oldest golf club is the Royal Burgess Golf Society (1735) but it did not publish its rules until 1802. The R & A Rules of Golf Committee was first established in 1897 and took on its global status from 1899. This reflected the predominance of St Andrews in the game and the influence of such figures as Tom Morris. The latter was not only predominant in the early professional game but he was also at the forefront of designing golf courses and of course management. He standardised golf course length at 18 holes. He had been born in St Andrews and he died there, appropriately enough as a result of a fall in the R & A clubhouse.



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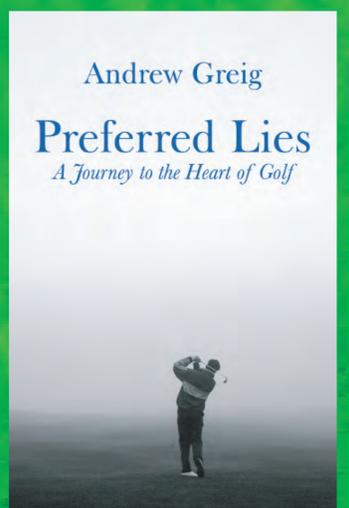
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