Golf in Scotland is a popular ‘business’ sport. The printing and publishing industries are no exception. Many firms had their own golfing sections and some even provided their own golfing facilities for their workers.

All levels of management and workers would play together.

In Aberdeen, the golf team of Aberdeen University Press took part in an annual city-wide trades tournament in which the Printing Trades would play against other Aberdeen industries to win a coveted golfing prize. In Dundee, the Caseroom Masters Outing was an annual event between teams from the Meadowside and Kingsway Works of D. C. Thomson, where the golfers would play for the Caseroom Masters ‘checkit jeckit’.

In 1894 several Edinburgh works golf clubs founded the Federation of Establishment Golf Clubs. They held an annual competition to play for the coveted Federation Shield. The clubs included printing and related firms such as Ballantyne Press, R. and R. Clark, Albert Press, Bertrams (Sciennes), Thomas Nelson, Taylor & Sons and Wharfdale. Though the Federation consisted mainly of printing and publishing related establishments, it also included the North British Rubber Works and the Scottish Union and National Insurance. However, when the North British Rubber Co club resigned from membership in 1903, it was agreed that future membership would be restricted to clubs from the printing industry. This made it the only association of its kind connected with the game in the UK. The Federation used public courses, and in particular Braid Hills in Edinburgh, to play the majority of its matches. Use of such public courses was often problematic with the Federation teams having to fight for green time.

In 1902 it was decided to acquire a private course for the sole use of Federation members. A call for premises led to the lease of Torphin Hill Golf Course, which was opened on 4th April 1903 by Mr W B Blaikie of the printing firm T & A Constable. In 1905 the club’s title was officially changed to Torphin Hill Golf Club. By 1919 associate members were given an equal voice in its management and the Shield competition was abandoned. However, the printers’ competition for the Shield was revived in 1950 and continued until 1977. The Shield is now competed for in a tournament open to all business establishment golf teams at Torphin Hill.