

# Golf home on The Grange



Over water to the short 12th.

CREATING a hotel and sports complex to the highest standard in beautiful surroundings was a burning ambition that began in 1976 for Ken Smith, chairman of F.P.C. (Developments).

He was being shown over the estate at Letham Grange, near Arbroath by a farming partner who was a descendant of the original owner and builder of the unusual Victorian mansion.

It took him another seven years to buy the land and obtain essential planning approval before the project finally began in 1983.

The mansion has now been  
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The 6th green with sculptured bunker surrounds.

## LETHAM GRANGE CONTINUED...

converted into a first-class hotel with a four-sheet ice rink for curling – a superb housing development is being integrated into the estate.

There is a championship golf course that should be ready for play early this year. Once more, the man at the hub of things is Ken Smith, a keen golfer who planned

the fairway layout and site balance in association with Donald Steel and Cameron Sinclair. Brian D. Pierson was responsible for the construction and landscaping and Jim Arthur the consulting agronomist.

Maximum use has been made of the land's natural features and the course's routing has evenly balanced the constraints of the site and the need to develop other activities against essential and desirable design criteria.

The fundamental philosophy was that the existing landscape should direct the golf course layout, rather than the artificial im-

position of design theories and dictums.

Water has made an interesting feature on a number of holes and this has added to the strategy, character and aesthetic appeal of the layout. From a greenkeeping point of view, the course has been designed for minimum labour levels through the use of sophisticated machinery. This has been done by the careful planning of slopes on all mouldings, the design and shaping of bunkers and the distances between hazards, greens, tees and planted areas.

**John Campbell**



The imposing entrance gates to Letham Grange.



John Campbell talked to Ken Smith in front of the hotel.