

'Jewel in crown' of Menie opens doors

Event: New golf clubhouse unveiled to the public

BY CHRIS JAFFRAY

The new clubhouse dubbed the "jewel in the crown" of Donald Trump's golf resort in Aberdeenshire opened its doors to members of the public for the first time over the weekend.

Visitors from across the north-east arrived at Trump International Golf Links Scotland near Balmedie to enjoy two fun days of sport, music, food and drink.

Guests got the chance to take part in a number of golf challenges, with children also kitted out with mini clubs to ensure young hopefuls did not miss out.

Prizes on offer included a free round of golf for four people.

There was live musical entertainment, with visitors getting to sample food

from the brasserie restaurant of Menie House. An outdoor barbecue kept guests satisfied, with craft brewer Brewdog also invited to keep people refreshed.

Car dealer Peter Vardy was at the resort with two Jaguars and a Land Rover put up for display.

Last week Donald Trump praised the architects and designers behind the multimillion-pound building, which was constructed in less than half a year.

He said: "This has been a labour of love."

"As far as the clubhouse is concerned, we've worked

long and hard, we didn't want it to be too big or small.

"Martin Hawtree (golf architect) said it fits like a crown – it's the jewel in the crown."

"We've still got plenty of

"We've worked long and hard, we didn't want it to be too big or small"

land left for the second course which will offer tremendous views."

A corporate day took place in the clubhouse on Friday featuring club members, key suppliers and corporate clients, but this weekend was the first time it opened its doors to members of the public.



Families took part in putting competitions



ALL AGES: Families joined in competitions, and were entertained by musicians while food and drink was on offer at the Trump International open day

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Rescue launched for fishing trio

EMERGENCY

Three generations of fishermen from the same family were rescued by lifeboat crews after their vessel ran aground in Loch Ness.

The Loch Ness lifeboat was called out to help a father, son and grandson aboard the Iron Blue Dun fishing boat, which had been blown into shingle in shallow water at the mouth of the River Foyers.

A strong north easterly wind blew the men off course with their 13.1ft angling day boat soon becoming grounded. One of the men on board raised the alarm with HM Coastguard on Saturday afternoon.

Lifeboat crew members

Jamie Young, Stuart Latham and Garry Macleod took the Atlantic 75 class lifeboat, Colin James Daniel, to scene.

On arrival, one of the men aboard the fishing boat stepped out into the shallow water to lighten the load, and volunteer Mr Young attached a tow rope to the vessel before it was pulled to safety.

The vessel retained full power and steerage and the men were able to sail back to Foyers after being rescued. None of the men aboard the fishing boat were injured and the vessel was not taking on water.

Loch Ness lifeboat volunteer Martin Douglas said: "They were fortunate they went onto shingle."



The lifeboat approaches the grounded vessel