

# Honesty box raider gives up his takings

## Gatehouse club thief comes clean after more than 50 years

STUART GILLESPIE

**A thief has finally come forward after half a century on the run.**

And appropriately the man responsible is called Rob.

But Rob Livingstone is unlikely to be ending up in court any time soon as he has repaid the cash he and his pals took from Gatehouse Golf Club in 1969.

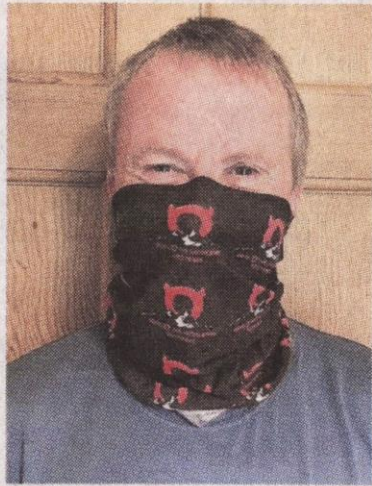
The group helped themselves to the princely sum of £6 and 12 shillings from the honesty box and split it three ways – a fourth chum refusing to take any of the ill-gotten gains.

However, it has never sat quite right with Rob, who now lives in Perth, and he recently handed the club £120 – the present day equivalent of the total sum stolen.

Rob, now 65, said: "I've thought about doing it a few times.

"I've always told my kids to be straight with money but I was a hypocrite speaking to them.

"It didn't sit right with me and I



**Cash return** Rob Livingstone

checked on the Office of National Statistics site, which said £6 12 shillings was worth £109.35 now. I made it up to £120.

"I emailed the club captain and said it felt good hitting the transfer button. It means my conscience is clear."

Recalling the raid, Rob said: "My family farmed at Borgue although we'd moved away by this point.



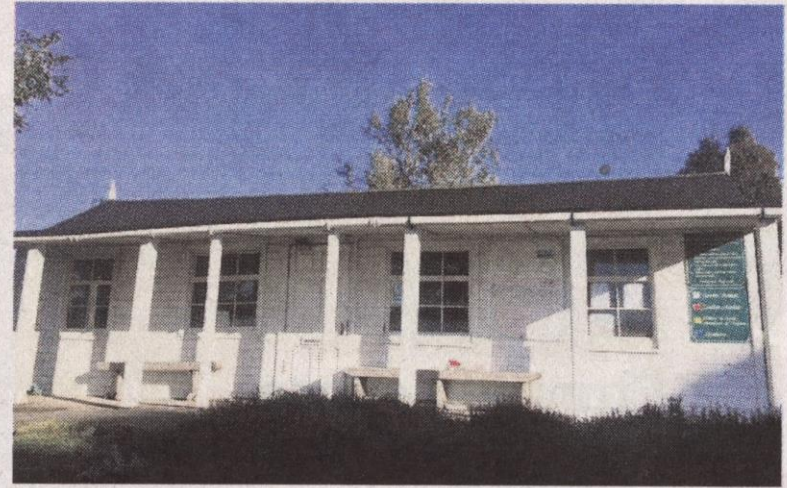
**Club captain** Pete Haslam

There were four of us staying in a caravan near Gatehouse and I think we'd played nine holes.

"One of the four suggested we take the money but I said it didn't seem right.

"I got persuaded but one of the four kept his moral compass.

"The hard thing after that was keeping the money hidden from our parents so they weren't asking



**Crime scene** Gatehouse golf club where the theft took place in 1969

where it had come from!

"I'm still in touch with the other two 'criminals' although I'm not in contact with the other. It might be they don't think about it and that's fine."

Present day captain at Gatehouse, Pete Haslam, said: "It was a strange one to get this after more than 50 years but we had a nice chat and he said it had been

playing on his mind and he has given us a very nice donation.

"We have offered him a free round of golf if he's ever back in Gatehouse.

"It's not something I was aware of – I was six at the time and 200 miles away!.

"But it's one of the perils of having an honesty box and we now have a safe."