

Scotland: St. Andrews Links; the Home of Golf!

This golf course dates back to the 1500's and is a pleasure to behold. I read up on the course and discovered that it is typically closed on Sundays! This allows Scots and visitors alike to meander through the course at their leisure. It turns out I was able to see the course, but much to my dismay I was not allowed to walk the course as there was an amateur tournament in full swing that day. I had to entertain myself by merely hovering on the edges and taking a myriad of photos. I also spent a wee bit of time near the Edinburgh Castle, which is a major attraction for people who weren't at the golf course.

The local Scots were mostly amazed at the weather that we were enjoying. High 60's with nary a drop of rain during the two day conference. Most of us may think this is quite normal for early June: not here! Edinburgh seemed to be a great town with loads of friendly people where everyone walks or rides a bike. Unlike other parts of the world, pedestrians truly do have the right of way. When you put your foot on the street, cars and buses stop for you.

The conference was extremely well attended as membership continues to grow. As always there was a wealth of information being presented and it was a lot to digest over just a two day period. The conference included a field trip to the world famous Falkirk Wheel.

The Falkirk Wheel is a rotating boat lift in Scotland, connecting the Forth and Clyde Canal with the Union Canal. The Wheel opened in 2002 and it raises boats about 80 feet up to the Union Canal. We were all really impressed when our tour guide told us that the Falkirk Wheel was the largest rotating boat lift in the world. He later mentioned that it is the only rotating boat lift of this kind in the world, and one of just two working boat lifts in the UK. To learn more about the Wheel or see it in action just google Falkirk Wheel and peruse away.