

The History of Borth & Ynyslas Golf Club

A general overview of the way the course / club grew, developed, and was shaped.

1876



Uppingham School relocates to Borth because of Typhoid epidemic. Masters of the school played golf in a largely unorganised way.

1885

Colonel Cognes reports 'that he had played the course in 1885'.



1882

The earliest known competition records for golf played at Borth.

1889/90

Golfing Annual of 1889/90 refers to a recently established 18-hole course at Borth. Also, a report in the Aberystwyth Observer on 1st June 1889 entitled 'A Walk to Borth' talks about a 'Hydropathic Establishment' and it is possible from the 'assembly room' to 'walk out on to the tennis or golf ground, which adjoins.'

1893

Mr P Morton a master at Uppingham School is appointed the first captain of Borth Golf Club on 3rd August 1893.



1895

Formation of The Golfing Union of Wales, of which Borth Golf Club were one of the founder members.

1895/96

Course considerably lengthened and improved. The 6th and 14th holes being now 470yds and 490yds. The 10th and 11th holes are new. 'Both are very sporting; the former being guarded by a tremendous bunker'. Small clubhouse erected.

1898

Yardage of the course was 4,865 yards with a bogey (par) of 82.

1901

Bogey of the course had reduced to 77.



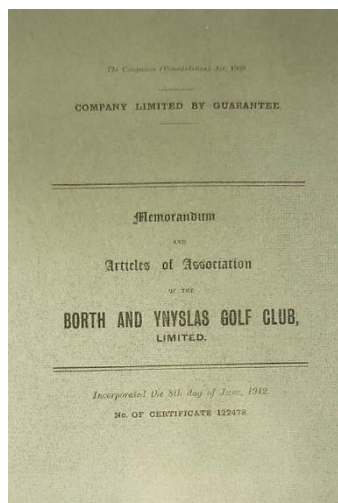
Borth Golf Club House and Bungalow, May 1904



1906: 11th green. 'Much bigger than of old'

Borth and Ynyslas Golf Club Limited was 'incorporated on the 8th day of June 1912', when the Articles of Association were completed and signed in the Birmingham offices of Sir Francis Henry Pepper. Sir Francis was later to become president of the club from 1920 to 1936.

1912



Borth and Ynyslas Golf Club re-elected to Welsh Golfing Union having withdrawn 12 years earlier.

1924



6th Hole, June 1927

1906



1906: 12th tee

1912

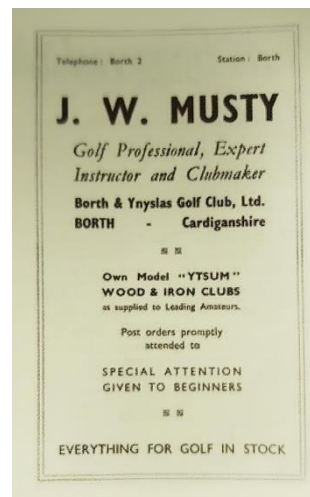
The change of name, to include 'Ynyslas', probably arose from land being acquired at the northern end of the course, amongst the dunes adjoining the Dyfi estuary. This led to major changes in the course layout and to the clubhouse being moved, on rollers, to a position adjacent to the 1st tee. But the par for the new layout remained at 77.

1925

Borth and Ynyslas Golf Club par reduced to 75.

1925/
59

Joe Musty had during his time at Borth two assistants who were later to become very renowned golfers and played a significant part in the history of the Ryder Cup. They were Dai Rees and Harry Wheatman. Both learnt about links golf on this classic seaside course.



Joe Musty
Club
Professional
at Borth
and Ynyslas
Golf Club.

1928

Dai Rees was runner up in The Open Championship in 1953, 1954 and 1961. He made 9 appearances in the British Ryder Cup team between 1937 and 1961. Dai Rees was the captain of the 1957 team which won the Ryder Cup and the only defeat the USA had between 1933 and 1985, this was the last win for Britain before the Ryder Cup team became a European team.

Borth and Ynyslas
Golf Club House,
July 1926

1926



Borth Club House, July 1926

1934

Borth and Ynyslas Golf course
yardage was 5,878 yards, par 71 and
SSS 73.



5th Green, 6th Fairway, 12th Green, circa 1927

1937



Harry Wheetman, joined Joe Musty as his assistant. He explains 'This was my first experience of real links and playing under sea-side conditions helped to improve my game enormously'. Wheetman was an English golfer who was one of the top players in Britain and Europe during the 1950s and into the early 1960s. He won more than 15 notable tournaments during that time, and also played in numerous Ryder Cups (1951-63). (He captained a Ryder Cup [1965] squad, too.) He was a powerful golfer known for his long, but wild, driving. Yet he had a good touch in the short game, and was known for his ability to sometimes pull off great escapes from the trouble his wayward drives landed him in. (Probably learnt in Borth!)

1945

Following requisition of the course by the military during World War 2, the club received compensation for the damage caused by the army during the war, and in 1947, the course was re-designed by Harry Colt to a total length of 6,061 yards, par 72. The 7th was extended from a par 3 to a short par 4, the 8th and the 10th were both lengthened to become par 5 and the 9th reduced to a par 3. Colt also introduced changes to the 14th and the 16th holes.



Harry S. Colt

'Borth & Ynyslas makes less noise about their connection with the famous Harry Colt who in 1945 made some changes to the course and we see this in the well positioned (though sparse) bunkering, doubtless the product of the brilliant architect's work, late in his life.'

<https://finegolf.co.uk/go/lf-courses/borth->

1949/
50

Brynellen House, located where the present 8th tee is. When the military left following WW2, the house was in such a state of disrepair that it was demolished and a new 7th green was built, and the 8th hole was lengthened.



1985

Borth & Ynyslas Golf Club Centenary Year

1990/1

In February 1990 severe storms caused catastrophic damage to the course. Saltwater harm was widespread with 8 greens badly impacted, holes 8-12 the only ones left undamaged. The damaged greens after vast amount of work and reworking only became playable in September 1991. The fairways took much longer to recover, returning to a good condition in 1992, and being fully recovered in 1993.





14th January 1992 Borth & Ynyslas Golf Club's new club house was handed over.

1992



15th August 1992 The clubhouse was officially opened by Lord Judge Elystan Morgan



1st June 2002 saw the final development at Borth & Ynyslas Golf Club with an extension to the clubhouse and new car parking area on the site of the old clubhouse.

2002





2012/4

Anna Hubbard was selected on two occasions in 2012 and in 2014 to manage the GB&I Curtis Cup team in their bi-annual matches with the USA. Winning the first encounter before losing in 2014 in the USA.

In July 2013 Zach Galliford and Marc Lewis representing Borth & Ynyslas Golf Club win The Golf Union of Wales' Victory Shield at Ashburnam Golf Club. First and only time the prestigious shield has been won by Borth & Ynyslas Golf Club.

2013



2016

In July 2016 Zach Galliford of Borth & Ynyslas Golf Club wins Wales Golf's Welsh Amateur Championship at Southerndown Golf Club. The one and only time the amateur championship has been won by a golfer representing Borth & Ynyslas Golf Club.



*The Old . . .
and the New . . .*



History of the holes at Borth & Ynyslas Golf Club

Hole No.	1898	1925 (no hole names given)	Circa 1948 (no hole names given)	1960 (no yardages given)	1988 (no hole names given)	1997	2008
1	Pasture; 210 yds	388 yds	397 yards	Pasture	385 yds	Porfa; 385 yds	Porfa; 382 yds
2	Gate; 340 yds	247 yds	473 yards	Shore	455 yds	Traeth; 455 yds	Traeth; 454 yds
3	Shingle; 300 yds	176 yds	357 yards	Trapstone	360 yds	Cors Fochno; 360 yds	Cors Fochno; 357 yds
4	Trapstones; 170 yds	350 yds	500 yards	Glangors	507 yds	Glangors; 507 yds	Glangors; 513 yds
5	Beacon; 350 yds	453 yds	312 yards	Road	341 yds	Y Llyn; 347 yds	Y Llyn; 343 yds
6	Pwll; 475 yds	312 yds	345 yards	Beacon	342 yds	Gwylfa; 342 yds	Gwylfa; 341 yds
7	Pyramids; 270 yds	328 yds	280 yards	Pulpit	197 yds	Pulpud; 197 yds	Pulpud; 194/149 yds
8	Balaclava; 280 yds	243 yds	440 yards	Estuary	521 yds	Aber; 521 yds	Aber; 517 yds
9	Canaan; 190 yds	380 yds	165 yards	Caravan	177 yds	Dyfi; 177 yds	Dyfi; 175 yds
10	Crater; 110 yds	373 yds	420 yards	Brynellin	412 yds	Tegeirian-y-Gors; 412 yds	Tegeirian-y-Gors; 407 yds
11	Tanymael; 130 yds	225 yds	134 yards	Punch Bowl	165 yds	Tan-y-Moel; 170 yds	Tan-y-Moel; 170 yds
12	Rushes; 190 yds	124 yds	318 yards	Dunes	324 yds	Tywodfryn; 329 yds	Tywodfryn; 326 yds
13	Deils Own; 280 yds	270 yds	478 yards	Sahara	478 yds	Y Ffordd; 478 yds	Y Ffordd; 478 yds
14	Fence; 480 yds	476 yds	210 yards	Shingle	204 yds	Môrglawdd; 204 yds	Môrglawdd; 201 yds
15	Catacombs; 270 yds	513 yds	331 yards	Plynlumon	315 yds	Pumlumon; 315 yds	Pumlumon; 314 yds
16	Pond; 300 yds	267 yds	189 yards	Rushes	184 yds	Brwyn; 184 yds	Brwyn; 180 yds
17	Semaphore; 280 yds	300 yds	330 yards	Lerryside	350 yds	Leri; 350 yds	Leri; 349 yds
18	Home; 240 yds	352 yds	382 yards	Island	383 yds	Ynys; 383 yds	Ynys; 385 yds

Where applicable, and where it has been possible to clarify, distances given apply to White Tees

Borth & Ynyslas Golf Club wish to thank Tessa Briggs for permission to use materials from her book 'Links with the Past' which she researched, compiled, and edited in 2009 as part of the 125th anniversary celebrations of the club.