

## **Grange Golf Links**

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The Grange-over-Sands Golf Club has recently celebrated its centenary since it opened in 1919. If you read the newspaper archives of the early years in the 1920s, 30s and 40s, the course is referred to as the 'Grange New Golf Club'. This begs the question where was the old Golf Club? Clearly this has no association with the other course in Grange, the Grange Fell Golf Club, which was constructed in 1950 [1].

The 1910 OS maps reveals the answer! The first course in Grange-over-Sands was located at Fellgate on Cartmel Road and to the north of Wart Barrow (Fig. 1) and is mostly in the District of Grange-over-Sands, except for the north-western corner in Lower Allithwaite. There is also short incomplete entry on the website Golf Missing Links [2]. A search of the digitised newspapers on FindmyPast reveals 39 articles between 1894 and 1899, with 12 in the next decade, and none in the following decade.

The 9-hole course was known as Grange Golf Club or sometimes the Grange Golf Links [3]. In March 1894 the reports states: 'The Links are now completed and play has commenced. Already an unusual amount of interest has been shown in the game, both by residents and visitors.' [4]. Grange Golf Club was formerly opened on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1894 [5]. In the early days, the club was supported by a donation of £1 1s from Mr R Cavendish MP [6].

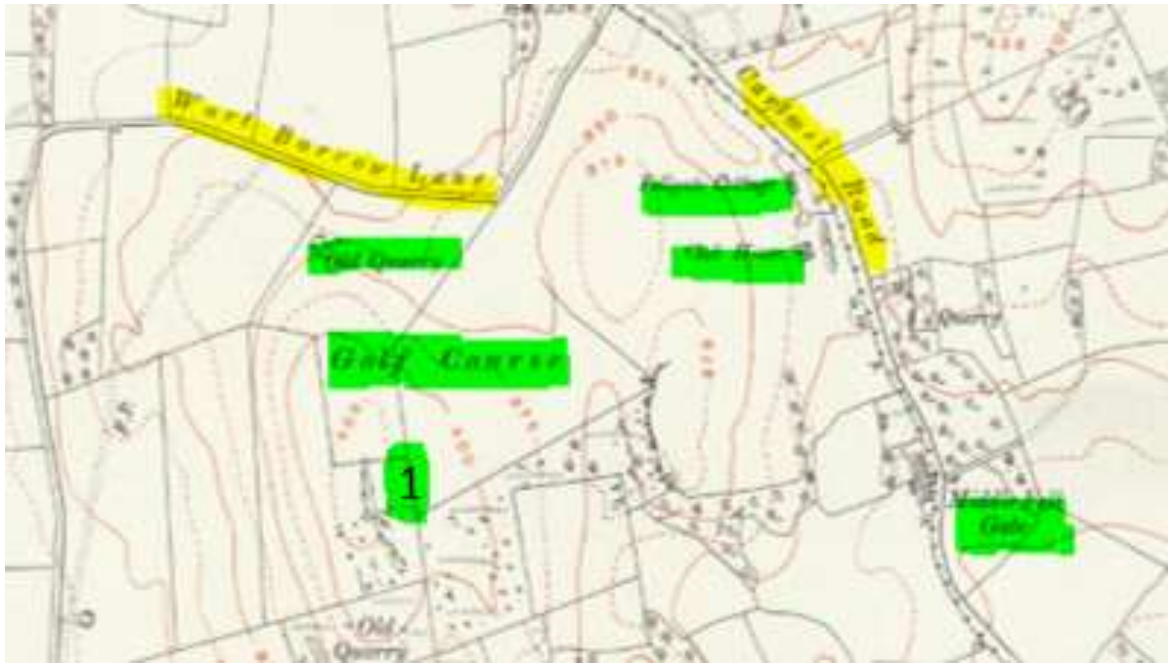


Fig 1. 6-inch OS map, Revised 1910, published 1919. 1: The boundary wall between Grange and Lower Allithwaite.

The 1910 map (Fig 1) shows the location of a Club House. In front of the Club House (Fig 2) members and visitors enjoyed the facility of a practise putting green. Frederick William Hill (a former mason's labourer from Jeremy Hill in Allithwaite (1891 census)) was the Greenkeeper living at Middle Fell Gate (1901 & 1911 census) until around 1920 when his son Mr James Leonard Hill (born 1900) succeeded him [7]. Mr Hazlehurst was engaged as the Professional [8] who played a match against Hoylake professional on the Links [9]. Later, it is noted that James Hill the Greenkeeper was the Professional [7]. Amongst the early captains were Major G H Michaelson of Yewbarrow [10] and Rev G Vickars Gaskell [11] also a keen cricketer and captain of Grange [12] and later to become Vicar of Grange [13].



Fig 2. Club House with putting green at Grange Golf Links (CPLHS Photographic Archive).

## The course

Below (Fig 3) is a wonderful description of the Grange Golf Links difficulties and features. The article highlights the challenges of the hilly course, with stone walls and blind shots. In 1927, three new holes were constructed and quickly abandoned after less than a year's trial [14].



Fig 3. Description of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> holes [15].

The entry in Nisbit's Golf Yearbook of 1905 describes the course as 'very sporting but rather hilly, and are 2500 yards in length' [2].

Features of the course may still be seen on a walk between Middle and High Fell Gate and along the top of Wart Barrow Lane. (Fig 4). The flat plateau below the disused quarry (Fig 4.1) looks like a tee, and the areas engineered with supporting dry-stone walls appear to be Greens (Fig 4.2 & 4.3). The lovely surviving dry-stone wall just above the disused quarry is the boundary between the districts of Grange and Lower Allithwaite (Fig 4.4 & Fig 1.1).



Fig 4. Features of the Course still visible (1: Tee, 2 & 3: Greens, 4: Dry-stone wall).

## Grange Golf Club 1894-1946

Membership cost One Guinea, with relatively high visitor fees of 2s. in 1905!

From the 1905 Nisbet's Golf Yearbook; Instituted 1895; Membership of 70; Hon. secretary - J E Higgin, Broughton Bank, Grange-over-Sands; Captain - O W Porritt; Entrance fee £1/1s and subs £1/1s; Nine-holes; Green-keeper, Fred Hill; Terms for visitors, 2s a day, 5s a week, 15s a month. The links are very

Fig 5. Extract from Golf Missing Links Website [2].

There are regular reports of Annual meetings in the Press. The Annual Meeting became a great social event with a dinner, toasts, a talk and songs (Fig 6). Around that time and in spite of a rival new Golf Club in Grange, the Club had a thriving membership of 74 full members, 71 Lady Members 12 Country members and 16 juniors [16].

**GRANGE.**

**GRANGE GOLF CLUB.**—On Saturday evening the annual meeting of this flourishing club was held in the Grange Hotel. The balance-sheet, presented by the hon. treasurer, Mr S. Broadbent, was considered highly satisfactory, and duly adopted. Mr G. Grayrigge was elected captain of the club, and Dr R. Beardsley and Mr S. Broadbent were re-elected to the posts of hon. secretary and hon. treasurer. The members of the Council were also re-elected Mr W. J. Waugh, taking the place of Mr P. Unsworth. Mr T Newby-Wilson wrote offering a £5 prize for competition, an offer gratefully accepted. Subsequently the annual subscription dinner took place a large number sitting down to table. After the usual toasts the evening was spent in an enjoyable social way, several of those present contributing songs. A special feature of the evening was an interesting account of some of his experiences in different parts of the world, kindly given by Mr Foster Fraser, the well-known journalist and lecturer, who was spending the week-end at the hotel.

Fig 6. Annual Meeting Report from 1907 [17].

In the early days, there were matches played against other local Golf Clubs, for example: Kendal and Seascale when Grange were the victors (Fig 7) [2].

Result of a match played on the Grange course against Kendal on 25th July 1895.

Grange Golf Club		Kendal Golf Club	
T H Wilson	3	Colonel Liston	0
J Thoms	0	D C Liston	3
Rev G Vickers-Gaskell	3	W Evershed	0
W Till	1	H Eddison	0
J Askew	2	C J Cropper	0
T Rigg	3	G E Moser	0
Dr R H Beardsley	0	Rev J Livsey	5
A Rigg	1	T H Green	0
	13		8

Below, result of a home match against Seascale Golf Club played on Saturday 8th August 1896.

Grange Golf Club		Seascale Golf Club	
W Till	0	T Pegrum	9
A R Crossley	0	P S Russell	1
E H Carr	5	A Shaw	0
J E Higgin	0	N N Thompson	2
Rev G V Gaskell	0	W J Chambers	4
T Rigg	2	G S Wilson	0
J Wilson	0	T H Coward	2
J Ratcliffe	3	J C Russell	0
G Dickinson	0	H E Wilson	4
	10		23

Fig 7. Results of matches against other local clubs [2].

Tournaments at that time attracted competitors from as far as Todmorden (Fig 8)

**GOLF.**  
**TOURNAMENT AT GRANGE-OVER-SANDS.**

A two-days' amateur golf tournament was opened on the beautifully-situated links of the Grange-over-Sands Golf Club yesterday, and attracted an excellent entry. Though fortunate in one respect, it was rather unfortunate for the players that the weather was of the most summer-like character, the intense heat having a very enervating effect on the play, and spoiling the anticipations which had been held out of good scores. The greens were in lovely condition. The winner was a member of the home club, and the other three prize-winners were the next in order of merit, the following being the scores of those who returned cards below 100:—

	Gross	Handicap	Net
W. Till, Grange	89	3	87
J. L. Wilson, Grange	93	5	88
W. H. Smith, Baversoliff	107	12	95
A. R. Crossley, Todmorden	94	3	91
Dr Challiner	104	12	92
W. W. Leeming, Kendal	105	11	94
A. Ferth, Baversoliff	106	11	95
R. G. Pennington, Kendal	100	3	97
F. Nicholson	111	12	99

Fig 8. Report of a Tournament in 1898 [18].

Play continued throughout the years of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War under the leadership of captain Mr J. Wilkinson despite losing 25 members who joined H.M. Forces [19]. In 1944 the Club celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> year (Fig 9) and shortly after issued a warning of its' continuing struggle to survive and finally a short announcement of the closure in 1946 (Fig 10).

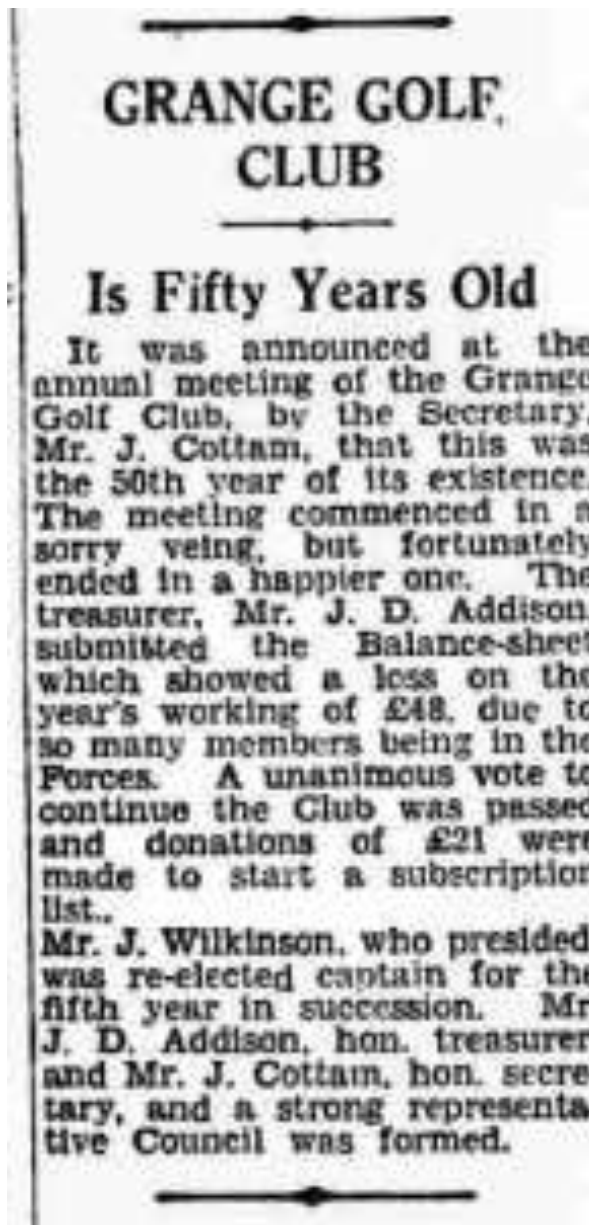


Fig 9. Annual Meeting reports from 1944 [20].





Fig 10, Warning of continuing low membership [21] and the announcement of the closure [22].

### Postscript

The Golf Links proved to be an attraction for Grange as it featured in the adverts for holiday accommodation in the town. For example: the advert for Kents Bank Hotel mentions it is within walking distance (Fig 11).

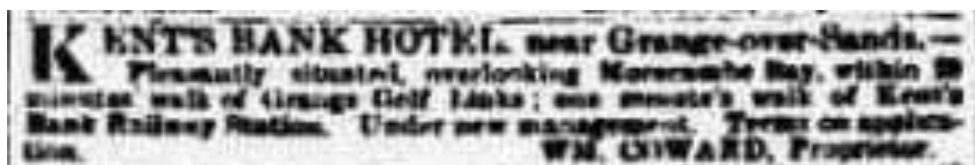


Fig 11. One of many adverts mentioning the golf [23].

The Course also gained national press coverage as it was location of a nasty accident when the brakes of a coach failed and it careered down the hill (Fig 12)



Fig 12. Accident [24].



Fig 13. 6-inch OS map, revised 1938, published 1947.

The 1947 OS maps (Fig 13) features the Golf Course which became defunct in 1946.

## References

- [1] “Grange Fell Golf Club,” [Online]. Available: <https://www.grangefellgolfclub.co.uk/>. [Accessed 03 July 2020].
- [2] “Golf Missing Links,” [Online].
- [3] J. Bulmer, *History, Topography and Directory of Furness and Cartmel*, 1911.
- [4] *Lancaster Guardian*, 24 Mar 1894.
- [5] *Lancaster Guardian*, 7 Apr 1894.
- [6] *Soulby’s Ulverston Advertiser 21 Nov 1895*., 21 Nov 1895.
- [7] *Lancaster Guardian 26 November 1937*, 26 Nov 1937.
- [8] *Manchester Courier 23 Apr 1894*, 23 Apr 1894.
- [9] *Lancaster Guardian 12 May 1894*). , 12 May 1894.
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- [11] *Westmorland Gazette 5 Mar 1898*, 5 Mar 1898.
- [12] *Soulby’s Ulverston Advertiser, 20 Sept 1906*, 20 Sept 1906.
- [13] *Morecambe Guardian* , 23 Mar 1934.
- [14] *Morecambe Guardian 11 Feb 1928*, 11 Feb 1928.
- [15] *Soulby’s Ulverston Advertiser* , 27 Dec 1894.
- [16] *Morecambe Guardian 11 Feb 1928*, 11 Feb 1928.
- [17] *Soulby’s Ulverston Advertiser*, 24 Jan 1907.
- [18] *Manchester Courier 17 Sept 1898*, 17 Sept 1898.
- [19] *Lancaster Guardian*, 19 Feb 1943.
- [20] *Lancashire Evening Post 6 Feb 1944*, 5 Feb 1944.
- [21] *Lancashire Evening Post*, 18 Apr 1945.
- [22] *Lancashire Evening Post*, 6 Feb 1946.
- [23] *Yorkshire Post 12 Jun 1896*, 12 jun 1896.
- [24] *Hartlepool Northern Daily Mail*, 23 Aug 1924.