



# The History of Baildon Golf Club



## Early Years 1890-1914

Bradford St. Andrews was formed on April 16<sup>th</sup> 1891, in the Victoria Hotel, by a group of expatriate Scots.

A seven hole course was built. Land was rented from Colonel Maude the Lord of the Manor. Tom Morris supervised the extension to an 18 hole course in 1893.

Bradford golf club moved to Hawksworth in 1899 and Baildon Golf club takes over the course.

In 1901 two cottages in Northgate were used as the clubhouse and the Club cup was made and played for.

In 1907 Charlie Hodgson wins the Yorkshire Amateur championship

In 1908 Lee Nor in Northgate became the clubhouse. The name is still on the building.

In 1909 Cobble Hall sold its clubhouse in Leeds for £90.

In 1910 Amblers field was bought at a cost of £131.5.0. The clubhouse was moved by horse and cart at night, to avoid trams, to the new field. In 1911 land behind the clubhouse was bought.

## Yorkshire First Division Champions 1912



C.Hodgson, J.Ellis, H.Munro, H.Steel.

## The War Years continued

Invasion by glider-borne troops was seen as a threat, so tree trunks were sunk at intervals on the fairways, leaving seven or eight feet above the ground. Anti aircraft defences were built, in particular a ring of searchlights. The power station that supplied these lights can be seen on the corner of Bingley road and Hawkesworth Road. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> fairways were used for searchlights. Nearby is a pit in which sound detection equipment was placed. There was a gun emplacement, in the rough on the right of the first fairway, opposite the third white marker post. The mountings for a Lewis gun can still be seen. A tank park was based behind the second tee.

Sunday golf was only confirmed by Bradford Council in 1939. In earlier years large crowds gathered to watch horrific bare fisted boxing , with large amounts of money taken as bets on the winner. Many of these were probably on the wrong side of the law, but the local constabulary were reluctant to interfere.

Also knurr and spell contests were held, a variant of golf. The object being to hit a hard wood or pottery ball as far as possible - a very Northern game. Once again the lure for the large crowds was placing a bet.



## The War Years

In 1919 gas lamps were replaced by electric lighting.

In 1920 and 1922 Charlie Hodgson won the Yorkshire Amateur Championship

In 1925 James Braid was asked to alter the course. He was paid 10 guineas plus expenses, the same amount as Tom Morris in 1893.

In 1930 a bungalow was built to house the stewards as well as a billiards room and ladies lockers.

In 1937 Joe Wilkinson joined as pro from Bradford Golf club at a retainer of 25/- . He became pro, head greenkeeper and steward.

The second world war saw the moor used for military training. Units of the Sherwood Foresters, The Kings own Scottish Borderers, the Royal Ulster rifles, the Signal corps, and the tank corps used the land.

## The new clubhouse – The Waterworks at Baildon Golf Club – 2019



## 1914-1918

Baildon Golf Club were very active in the first world war, entertaining wounded soldiers in large numbers. They were entertained and fed and the fitter ones were able to take part in some physical sports.

A firing range was used along the 17<sup>th</sup> fairway. This is featured in maps dating back to the 1900's. You can still see the banking and the brickwork that supported the targets, that were located in 100 yard intervals down the hill.

The Golf club helped with fundraising for wounded men of the West Yorkshire regiment and shortage of men meant that the course had to be run by volunteers.

Between the war beer was rationed to one glass per man and no spirits were available. The land behind the clubhouse down to Springfield road was used for allotments.

Lunch was

Steak and Kidney Pie with Apple Pie or  
Rice Pudding 1s 6d  
Cheese and Biscuits 2d

Afternoon Tea

Tea, Bread, and Butter, Jam, Sweet 9d  
All with Waitress service

## The Waterworks before conversion to the new Clubhouse. The new clubhouse door is where the third window is.



## Recent History

1994 Price agreed for the Waterworks

1996 Baildon Golf Club celebrates its centenary.

2000 Course closed because of foot and mouth disease.

2014 Planning permission for new clubhouse granted

2017 The land the old clubhouse was on, was put up for sale.

2018 Conversion of Waterworks to new Clubhouse started in July

2019 Demolition of old clubhouse completed in April

2019 First use of the Waterworks January 19<sup>th</sup>



Why not come inside and see for yourself? Everyone is Welcome. Our rooms are available for hire . Visit our website [www.baildongolfclub.com](http://www.baildongolfclub.com)