

## YESTERDAY'S NEWS.16

### TIREE'S OTHER GOLF COURSES

My thanks to Ronnie Somerville for drawing my attention to this subject.

The first to play golf on Tiree were officers of the marines, encamped in Scarinish for ten weeks in 1886. In 1899 the eighth Duke gave £3 to the 'Tiree Golf Club'. A golf course became an important part of the Scottish tourist 'offer', but there were also plenty of men (and at first, it was just men) that had come to live on the island, who were keen players. The machair of the island presented an ideal location for links courses, which could be set up relatively easily. The Kirkapol-Vaul course was may not have opened until 1910. An earlier course was in Heanish, followed by one in Scarinish.

1903: 'A new golf course has been opened on the Machir [sic], Heanish. The Scarinish Golf Club have been enjoying excellent sport during the past week. The Club feel exceedingly grateful to the Heanish farmers for allowing them to play on this course' (*Oban Times and Argyllshire Advertiser*, 11 July 1903, 6).

1905: 'TIREE. ARGYLLSHIRE: Tiree, Scarinish, bedroom, kitchen, and scullery; near pier, telegraph and golf course. Apply Teacher' (*Leeds Mercury*, 10 July 1905). It is interesting that the schoolteacher was able to rent out the schoolhouse in the summer.

1907: 'A good deal of golf is being indulged in by visitors on the machir at Heanish Common. Among the players are Mr Whyte; Mr Melvin, banker; Edinburgh; Mr Drynoch, Linlithgow ; and Mr Anderson, gamekeeper, the local champion' (*Oban Times and Argyllshire Advertiser*, 3 August 1907, 6).

1907: 'The green sward and the sandy beaches, unsurpassed by any in Scotland add greatly to the charm, beauty, and health giving properties of this unique island, the gem of the Inner Hebrides. There are three or four golf courses on the island. Machir Heanish, where I play, is one of the best of courses. It runs along the seashore, and has nine holes with numerous bunkers, which add to the excitement of the game' (*Oban Times and Argyllshire Advertiser*, 31 August 1907, 6).

1911: 'A new golf course is to be [re-]opened at Machir Heanish, which should attract visitors to the Scarinish, Heanish, and Baugh districts of the island' (*Oban Times and Argyllshire Advertiser*, 17 June 1911, 5).

1912: 'A friendly match between members of the Kirkapol-Vaul Golf Club and those of the Heanish Club was held last Saturday over the Heanish golf course. There was a strong

south-westerly wind blowing but, notwithstanding, some very fine golf was witnessed. After playing 18 holes, the result was as follows :

Kirkapol-Vaul		Heanish	
Mr M MacLean	1	Mr Alpine	0
Mr J MacDougall	1	Mr Baird	0
Mr Anderson	1	Mr Langton	0
Mr N MacDougall	0	Mr MacEwan	1

Kirkapol and Vaul winning by two matches' (*Oban Times and Argyllshire Advertiser*, 24 February 1912, 8).

Around 1912, the Browns, who ran the Temperance Hotel laid out a course in Scarinish.

1912: 'Tourist Season: The influx of visitors to the island during the months of June, July, and August been much larger than in previous years, and those who had suitable premises reaped an abundant harvest. The hotel at Scarinish received ample patronage, the golf course recently laid around the hotel policies being an inducement to all lovers of the game to make this well-conducted house their headquarters' (*Oban Times and Argyllshire Advertiser*, 14 September 1912, 7).

Annie Kennedy, Scarinish, remembered the Scarinish course well: 'The first tee was straight across the road from where the bank is today, and then they went up to the lighthouse, and then along both beaches [one hole was on Eilean an Arbhair, the tiny mound at the shore which today carries an old telegraph pole, which would have made an interesting green!]. There were different holes and flags, and then they went over the back of what is now the Bank House and then right round till they stopped just below Slowther's house. It went over both beaches and over the road, I know that. I don't know if you remember the stream that used to run at the back of [The Willows]. They crossed there, and they always lost their golf balls there, and we went in with our bare feet and found them, after they were away of course ... I never heard of anybody being hit, no!'

1921: 'SCARINISH GOLF CLUB, TIREE.

SUBSCRIPTION LIST,

Monthly tickets 10/-

President Mr Colin Brown [of the Temperance Hotel]

Captain Secretary and Treasurer Mr J[ack] McEwen [Baugh]

For Tickets Apply Miss Robertson Post Office'

(*Oban Times and Argyllshire Advertiser*, 18 June 1921, 1).

1922: 'SCARINISH GOLF COURSE, This unique 9-hole practice course is now open' (*Oban Times and Argyllshire Advertiser*, 3 June 1922, 1).

1939: 'The 27th Paisley Company Boys' Brigade again struck on new ground by going to Tiree in the early part of August. The members on this occasion numbered 30 boys, five officers, and that very important person—the cook! A welcome to Tiree was extended by a troop of Boy Scouts from Broomhill, Glasgow, who had preceded the Paisley boys to the island. ... Various facilities were provided for boating, and fishing. Golf was obtained free on the Tiree course at Scarinish' (*Oban Times and Argyllshire Advertiser*, 2 September 1939, 6).

The Scarinish course appears to have closed in 1939. A golf course was proposed for The Reef, and Mr MacDougall, the Cornaigmore head teacher, laid a course out beside the school.

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