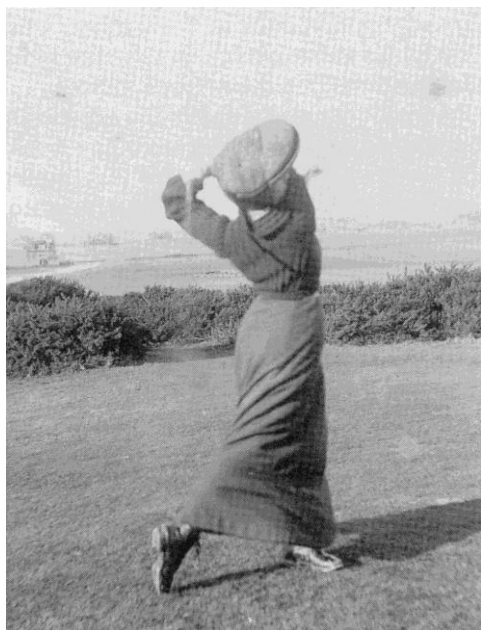


Sport in Seaford

For Olympic Year 2012, the Seaford Museum & Heritage Society looks back at the story of Sport in Seaford.

Although Bradshaw's famous Railway Guide of the 1860s was fairly dismissive of Seaford, noting it as a somewhat ruined town, by the end of the Edwardian period, the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway was happily presenting Seaford as a healthy seaside destination. In the Company's Official Guide Book of 1913, the opportunities for Golf and other active pursuits on the Downs are featured:

Seaford 58 miles from London Bridge and 17 from Brighton. The ancient borough of Seaford, a member of the Cinque Ports, affiliated to Hastings, does not profess to be a fashionable watering place, but by many who are seeking marine pleasure, and yet wish for an interesting spot to spend a summer holiday, it cannot well fail to provide a needed boon. The steep chalk cliffs in the vicinity of Cuckmere haven, carpeted with soft springy turf, and commanding wide views of the English Channel; a well-defined bay, bordered by a long sea-wall affording a charming promenade; good sea-fishing, plentiful sea-bathing, and rambles over the wide rolling Downs are pleasures that may well compensate for the few things that Seaford may not possess. Golfers will find the excellent 18-hole course at the Seaford Golf Club at East Blatchington and the Seaford Golf Links at East Cliff. Each club owns good nine-hole course for ladies.



Miss Bromley at the 5th tee, Seaford Head 1905

However, Golf was not the only sporting activity to emerge in Seaford. There are newspaper reports of a cricket match being played at Blatchington in 1776 for a prize of 22 guineas. The present Seaford Cricket Club seems to have been established around 1891-2 by Major Crook who also had a hand in establishing football in the town. One of the earliest photographs in the Museum's collection dates from 1895 and shows a game being played on Cricketfield.



Other long established sporting clubs include Seaford Town Football Club, which has been through a number of iterations since its founding as Seaford Rovers, also with the help of Major Crook in 1882.



The site of Seaford Bowling Club on the corner of Chichester Road and Blatchington Road was originally a grassy meadow with a pond in the middle, but by 1912 the club was established there and began playing on its improved grass greens and happily continues to do so. It celebrates its centenary this year.



Another long-running and vigorous bowls club in the town is The Seaford Crouch Bowling Club which dates from the 1935.



The Seaford Rugby Club was originally founded in 1938 and following an interregnum caused by the War, it was revived in 1951.

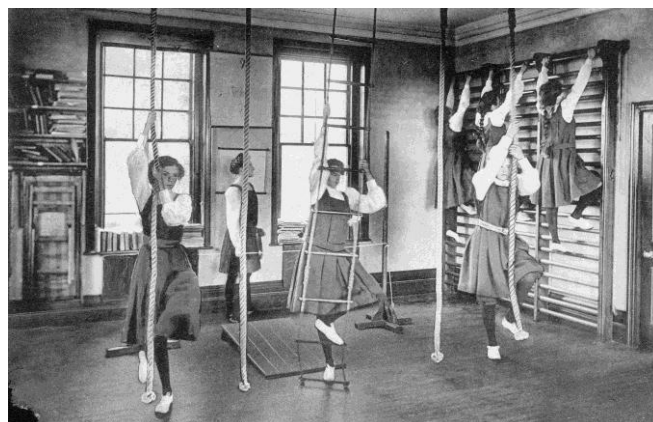


Other Clubs such as The Seaford Tennis Club and the Newhaven and Seaford Sailing Club also have long and illustrious stories to tell and are featured in the Museum's archives together with a host of other sporting groups.

Founded only in 1986, the Seaford Striders deserve mention as one of more recent but nevertheless notable additions to the town's sporting history.



A major part of the story of sport in Seaford, inevitably centres on the numerous private schools which were once such a feature of the town's life in the first part of the 20th century.



The Downs School Gymnasium in the 1920s



Tyttenhanger Lodge Gymnasium in the 1950s

Although these once flourishing educational institutions are now largely a memory, the Museum maintains a rich archive of this period and our display reflects some of this heritage whilst bringing us up to date with more recent school sporting activities.

Of course the most important thing about sport in the life of our town is participation and the Clubs and Groups who have supported our exhibition encourage you to join:

- Seaford Rugby Club www.pitchero.com/clubs/seaford
- Seaford Town Football Club www.stfc.org.uk
- Seaford Cricket Club www.seafordcc.co.uk
- Seaford Bowling Club www.seafordbowlingclub.org
- Crouch Bowling Club www.seafordcrouchbowlingclub.co.uk
- Seaford Golf Club www.seafordgolfclub.co.uk
- Seaford Head Golf Course www.seafordheadgolfclub.co.uk
- Seaford Striders www.seafordstriders.org.uk

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