

Photos: Local history museum collection

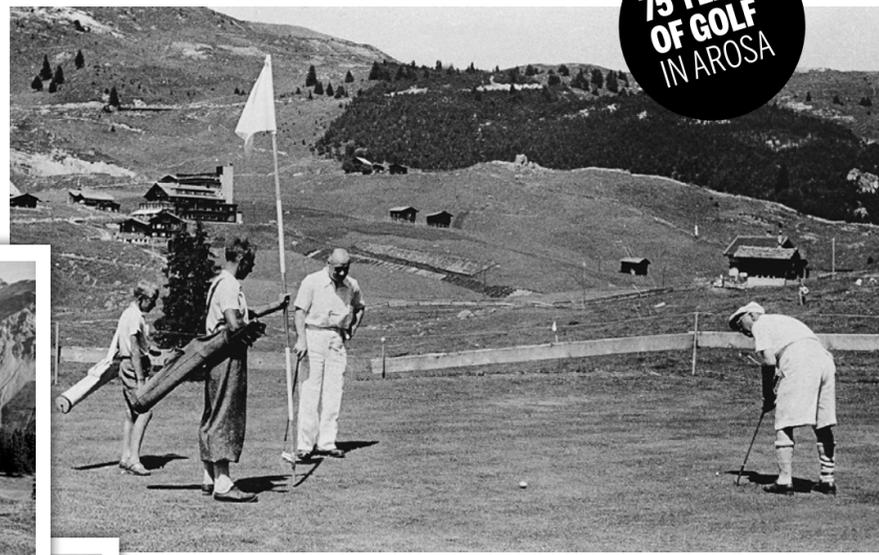


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OUR SUMMER TIP

**ALWAYS WORTH A TRIP –
A VISIT TO ONE OF
THE HIGHEST 18-HOLE
COURSES IN EUROPE**

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Maran in days gone by

The first Englishmen visited Arosa starting in 1890 to spend their summer holidays. They also came up with the idea of playing golf in Arosa. In 1928, the tourism director at the time, Hans Roelli, mentioned the idea of a golf course in the Arosa Tourist Gazette. But finding a suitable location presented a major problem. Many sites seemed to be too high up, being covered in snow for too long in summer, the Isla site might have to give way to the reservoir, and Maran was considered too rocky. The growing world economic crisis and the high costs meant that the realisation of this visionary idea took a long time.

In 1941, the first sod was turned, and five years later the golf course was inaugurated as a nine-hole course. The photos were taken on that historic date, 13 July 1946.

Beat «Gody» Lanz, the current captain of the Arosa Golf Club, literally grew up on the golf course. His father Godi was a greenkeeper on the golf course for over 30 years. Already in 1948 his father worked as a caddy for the first time. After all, that was a good way for him to supplement his pocket money. This is why he sometimes carried up to four golf bags across the course at the same time.

The handcart – catering in the old days

From the very first day, Hof Maran was involved in catering for the club members. If a golfer ordered «Rösti», for example, young «Gody» would go to Hof Maran with a handcart and fetch the food ordered – each well protected under a silver cloche – and bring it to the guest.

The 19th hole

A golf course consists of 18 holes and all of them end in one hole. The 19th hole is to be found in the clubhouse and is the place for analysing the game that has just ended. Hans Jonny Cresta once managed a swing that probably no golf professional can comprehend. From tee 10, the ball flew onto the golf house terrace. It then jumped into a ventilation pipe and landed in the basement of the golf house, which was then named the 19th hole.

Memorable: in the 1960s, the director of a well-known champagne company was a welcome guest on the golf course. Not only his sense of humour, but also the fact that he always brought a case of the popular drink with him in the evening, went down well with the people of Arosa. He was also a gifted golfer. The greenkeeper at the time, Godi Lanz, was mowing on Green 7. The director of the noble champagne company, not suspecting any harm, tried to hit the ball at the flag from a distance of about 80 metres. The ball travelled beautifully and without stopping – into the back pocket of Godi's trousers, where he normally kept his wallet.

Cows – then as now a fixture on the golf course

One evening in the 1990s, before the Arosa Open Championships, which were always well-attended tournaments, the greenkeeper at the time, Aldo Rubitschön, discovered that the cows had gone over the fence and were happily grazing around the 9th hole. He alerted all the members of management. Until the sun went down, they sat together on their knees to repair the rather deep holes with screwdrivers. Thankfully, they did a good job. The next day, none of the guests had any idea of what had happened the night before.

Since the golf course was extended to 18 holes in 2001, it is one of the highest 18-hole courses in Europe.

The remodeling of the second 9 holes in 2018 to 2020 has made the golf course even more attractive. It is worth a visit.

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