

# EAGHC - 8th Annual Meeting



Royal Golf Club of Belgium – Ravenstein – Sept. 26 & 27, 2013

**Hans Samek - Germanys first golf star**

Olaf Dudzus, Potsdam



# Hans Samek - Germany's first golf star

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British Amateur Championship

Westward Ho! 1925

Hans Samek vs. Cyril Tolley

Hans Samek – Germanys only  
scratch player was beaten by  
the Amateur Champion of 1920  
Cyril Tolley (1895-1978) 4up and 3



Photo Sport & General



# Hans Samek - Germany's first golf star

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The world press  
commentated the first  
appearance of a  
German golfer at the  
British Amateur  
Championship:

The New Zealand Times  
August 1<sup>st</sup>, 1925

The "Golfing," writing up the Amateur Championship, says:—Among the personalities of the championship must be included Herr Hans Samek, of Hamburg, the one scratch golfer in Germany. Herr Samek was pleased to regard the acceptance of his entry as a proof of England's willingness to forgive and forget. Perhaps it is. But although we may forgive the torpedoing of the Lusitania, we are not quite sure that we are prepared to forgive a man who turns up to a championship in a red and blue plaid pull-over, a green tie, plus fours—and spats. And the gods of golf indubitably will not forgive a player who stands on the tee with the ball actually outside his left foot, and lurches on to it like a cricketer playing forward.

\* \* \*

# Hans Samek - Germanys first golf star



Who was Hans Samek?

The passenger lists to New York between 1929 and 1956  
named him:

German, Austrian,

Hungarian, Czechoslovakian, Hebrew

and finally American

Samek was born in Brno in 1882, part of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire, since 1918 part of the newly created Country Czechoslovakia, built by the allies of WW I (Treaty of Versailles)





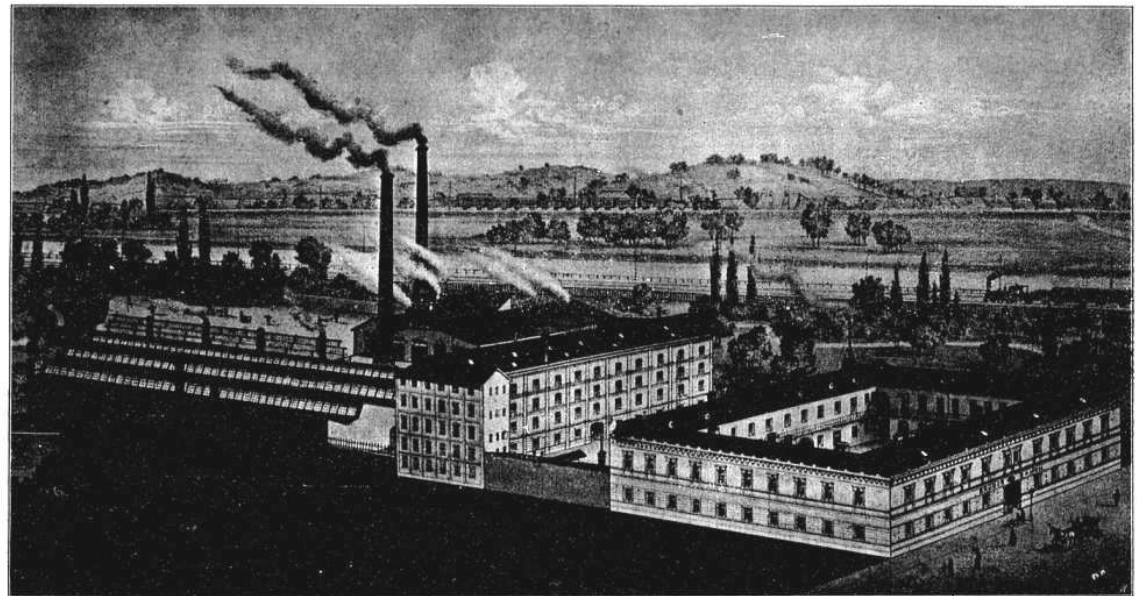
# Hans Samek - Germany's first golf star

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Brüder Samek  
Wool manufacturers  
founded 1863  
in Brno/Austria

1907 Hans Samek  
become a partner  
together with his elder  
brother Karl

1913 50th anniversary  
of „Brüder Samek“



Kais. königl. priv. Schafswollwarenfabrik Brüder **Samek**  
in Brünn.



# Hans Samek - Germanys first golf star

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In 1907 Samek married Margarethe Else Neumann and settled in Berlin as representative of „Brüder Samek, Wollwarenfabrik Brunn“.

In 1913/1914 he becomes member of the Berlin Golf Club.

In 1919 Samek becomes the first German player to win the oldest trophy in German golf, the „Squiers Cup“ (donated in 1896).



# Hans Samek - Germany's first golf star

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Golf impressions from the  
„Berlin Golf Club“ links





# Hans Samek - Germany's first golf star

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A GREAT ARRAY OF CHAMPIONS AT THE SPRING HAVEN CLUB, CHESTER, PENNSYLVANIA  
Leo Diegel, Canadian Open champion; Maureen Orcutt, Metropolitan champion; Helen Meehan, three times winner, Dixon and Wilbur Cup; Johnny Farrell, National Open champion; Walter Hagen, British Open champion; Dr. Hans Samek, German Amateur champion; Helen Payson, Canadian Women's champion; Glenna Collett, National Women's champion; Bill Mehlhorn

## Spring Haven Club, Chester, Pennsylvania 1928



# Hans Samek - Germanys first golf star

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**Hans Samek**

kehrte kürzlich aus Amerika zurück, wo er wichtige Beziehungen für den deutschen Golfsport anknüpfte



**Ein interessanter Vierer in Brioni**

Von links: D. Lauber, Stefan Samek, der Boxweltmeister Gene Tunney und Hans Samek

## A foursome on Brioni Island 1929



# Hans Samek - Germany's first golf star

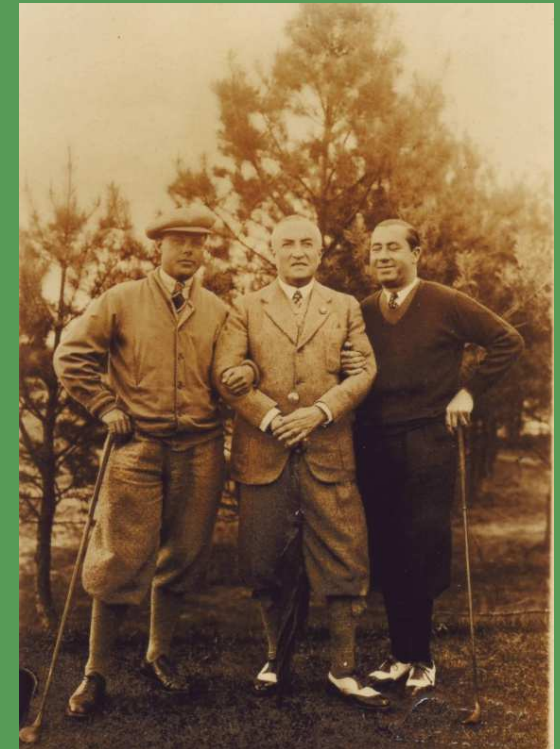
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1929

The American Ryder-Cup Team  
visits the Golf- und Land-Club Berlin-Wannsee

Gene Sarazen,  
Horton Smith  
and Walter Hagen  
were playing against  
Percy Alliss and  
other  
German  
professionals

Walter Hagen on the 18th green



Percy Alliss  
Herbert Gutmann  
Walter Hagen

# Hans Samek - Germanys first golf star

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1938

The Sameks immigrate to the US

Hans Samek was founder and header of three textile distribution companies:

British Samek, Inc.  
Wain, Shiell & Son, Inc.  
and World Weavers, Ltd.

Hans died in March 1966 / Los Angeles

„Anything worth doing is worth doing well“.

Life motto Hans was taught by his grandma

„Anything worth doing is worth doing **urgently**“.

Hans' life motto





# Hans Samek - Germanys first golf star

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Stefan Samek, einer der erfolgreichsten Spieler des Jahres



St. Samek—B. v. Limburger  
Doppelmeister von Ungarn 1928

Germany vs. Sweden (Wannsee 1928)



# Hans Samek - Germanys first golf star

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1932  
First release of the UfA-Movie  
„Der Frechdachs“  
with Willy Fritsch and Camilla Horn



Stefan Samek

(„Photo Harlip“)



# Hans Samek - Germanys first golf star

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1932

Stefan Samek wins the Czech Amateur Championship

1933

Samek was beaten by Hano Tonder

Sameks Movie-Company  
„Reichsliga Film GmbH“ goes bankrupt

Stefan settled in Brno/CZ

Immigration into the U.S.

on August 12, 1938



Hano Tonder  
(rechts) schlug in der Schlußrunde der Tschechischen  
Amateurmeisterschaft zu Prag den Verteidiger  
Stephan Samek (links)



S.S.Delftdyk



# Hans Samek - Germanys first golf star

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1936

The Samek family gets prominent relatives in the United Kingdom.

Stephan Sameks cousin Viktor falls in love with Sarah.

The brides father is really not amused!

Viktor Oliver Samek alias Vic Oliver (1896-1964)  
radio comedian, stage and movie-actor



# Hans Samek - Germanys first golf star

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February 21<sup>st</sup>, 1936

My darling,

The interview took place on Sat' noon. He professed himself quite ready to give the name & address of his mother & sister. (...) He did not impress me with being a bad man; but common as dirt: an Austrian citizen, a resident in the U.S. & and here on license & an American passport: twice divorced: 36 so he says: a horrible mouth: a foul Austro-Yankee drawl. (...)

With innumerable kisses & tender love,  
Your loving & devoted husband



# Hans Samek - Germanys first golf star

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During WW II  
Stephan Samek worked for the  
**Office of Strategic Service (OSS)**,  
the first U.S. intelligence agency


After WW II Stephan was working as  
a chartered accountant

Stephan Samek died in January 1996  
Atlantic Beach, Florida

His only daughter Stephanie lives in  
Croton on Hudson, NY, USA





A vintage, sepia-toned photograph of a man in mid-swing on a golf course. The man is wearing a light-colored, long-sleeved shirt and dark trousers. He is captured in the follow-through of a golf swing, with his club raised high. The background shows a line of trees and a grassy field. The text "Thank you for your attention" is overlaid in a yellow, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

Thank you for your attention

