



golfika

Images Left hand side:

Unforgettable Impressions from the 2008 EAGHC Annual meeting at Bad Ischl, Austria



Cover picture from the vintage golf poster collection of Alexis Orloff, Paris, EAGHC-member and author of a very fine book titled „L'affiche de Golf—Golf Posters“ (2002)

Contents of this issue:	Page
• President's foreword	4
• Book reviews	5
• Third annual meeting of EAGHC at Bad Ischl	8
• Small Adverts	11
• The history of golf in Czech Lands	12
• The lost book	18
• Golf on the French Riviera before 1914	22
• Some early European Clubs	28
• Why did golf take so much time to integrate in continental society?	34
• Choule - The non-royal but most ancient game of Crosse	40
• Golf postcards—the first one?	46

Imprint

golfika is the magazine of the European Association of Golf Historians & Collectors (EAGHC).

The views and opinions printed within are those of the contributors or Editor and are not intended to represent an official EAGHC viewpoint unless specifically stated.

The magazine is sold to members at € 7.50 postage & packing included. The magazine is sold to non-members of the EAGHC at €12.50 plus postage & packing.

No part of this publication may be reproduced without written consent of the editor. The copyright for articles on collecting and/or the history of the game belong to the authors of each article. No part of such an article may be reproduced without the written consent of the author.

The aims of the EAGHC are to encourage and promote an interest in the history of golf and the collecting of items connected with that history.



We welcome new members—you will find all necessary information on how to join our association on: <http://www.golfika.com/>

The European Association of Golf Historians & Collectors (also: Association Européenne des Historiens et Collectionneurs de Golf) is an officially registered association at the Sous-Préfecture de Mantes-La-Jolie according to the French Law from July 1st, 1901.

President's foreword

Dear EAGHC members!

Again and like in the years before it is the pleasure and honour of the president to write a few words to all of you as an introduction to this third issue of *golfika*. We had a terrific time at Bad Ischl except maybe for the weather, for some of us it was just like at home. The EAGHC is still growing and we are now 110+ members from more than 20 nations. Increasingly people from the golf historic and golf memorabilia community are beginning to understand how fruitful the exchange of information can be among a wide spectrum of golf historic and collecting lunatics.

The idea of this magazine is not only to spread the words and knowledge of continental European golf history to our members and other interested people, but also to give those who did not have the chance to participate at our annual meeting the opportunity to share the information and enjoyment all those had who were able to make it to Bad Ischl.

In this magazine you will find **Prokop Sedlak's** article about **the history of golf in Czech Lands**; needless to say for those who know, that Prokop's family is part of this history since the 1920s - so who else could be better suited than him to tell us about the tradition and history of the game in his beloved homeland. Personally I find it most amazing that Prokop seems to have a great joy playing golf with those hickory shafted again he probably thought he would never use again. Other articles in this magazine are covering subjects from the speeches of our 2008 and also 2007 meetings: Immediate Past-President **Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak** tells us the story of **Golf on the French Riviera before 1914**, again his article contains some exceptional postcards from his collection; also you find **Albert Bloemendaal's** essay based on his recent doctorate work **Why did Golf take so much time to integrate in continental society?** An article which could certainly be the basis of future discussions - members are thoroughly invited to let us know their opinion about this subject.

Last but not least **Sara & Geert Nijs** are explaining how and why they got hooked onto the **Non-Royal but most ancient game of Crosse**. Also they are sharing an information with us regarding a **Lost Book**. Most interestingly this lost book also mentions our **honorary president Lally Segard** and her family, the well known Vaglianos. Alan Jackson is sharing his findings about **some early European clubs** with us. I am sure there will be much new information for the most of you and I hope you enjoy this magazine as thoroughly as I did putting it together - which took some time - sorry for this, but there were circumstances behind my influence causing this delay....

Also I would like to **thank** Christian and his family as well as the Salzkammergut Golfclub at Bad Ischl for the good and nice time we had in Austria - **THANK YOU FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY!**

As usual it is now the moment to invite all of you to let us **share** interesting information you might have about the history of golf in your country or area or to talk about your collecting favourites - Please send in your papers - We will have **two magazines per year now** and I am awaiting your proposals in order to be able to publish a nice next magazine before end of June 2009 - pls. don't be afraid and contact me on CNMeister@t-online.de for any suggestions you might have.

The EAGHC is **your** association and it will grow by contributing to it. Thank you, to all members, for your help and support. I am looking forward meeting as many of you as possible in 2009!

Christoph N. Meister



NEW GOLF BOOKS

Golf Memorabilia by Kevin McGimpsey

A brand new book about all aspects of Golfing Memorabilia written by Kevin McGimpsey was published in October 2008.



Kevin has been the Golf Memorabilia Specialist to Bonhams auction house for many years and has called upon all his experience and knowledge to write this stunning book covering a range so diverse from golf's first recorded appearance in history by Scotland's King James 11 in 1452 to paintings of probably the greatest professional golfer ever, Tiger Woods.



The book has 220 pages, 10 chapters and an over 300 photographs explaining each section of golf collectibles. Each chapter covers an array of interesting subjects. From advertising figures, patent collectable golf clubs, books, paintings, medals, ceramics, postcards, jewelry and programs and much more. If something is collectable then information about the subject will be found within this book. The final chapter gives an insight into collectable themes. This should be of interest to the new collector as the book offers suggestions in the way that for instance collecting items starting today from the Open Championship

or the Ryder Cup over the years to come could prove to become very lucrative.



All in all this book not only helps the confirmed collector to identify items of interest from the almost endless choice on offer, but will also stimulate the potential new comer into starting a collection of golfing memorabilia and will become a great reference book in the future.

Signed copies of the book can be ordered directly by phone or fax on 00 44 (0) 1244 539414 or on <http://www.craigcampbellart.co.uk/books.htm>

Review by Roger Morton

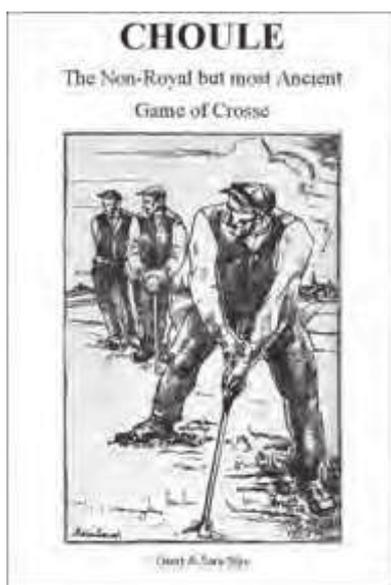
This book review was published with kind permission by Roger Morton and his web-site <http://www.golfer-today.co.uk/>

Choule The Non-Royal but most Ancient Game of Crosse by Geert & Sara Nijs

Dear Crosseurs and Chouleurs,

With all your assiduity you did not miss out anything bringing more light into the practical play and religious-literary meaning of jeu de crosse. The title picture and its metamorphosis figure wearing wooden slippers shows all but one thematic line: Not a game of the upper-class, but a popular game in its true sense.

The text remains uncomplicated as you are explaining the game in its historic-national context. There is no lack of imagination and this will certainly create grounds for further discussion.



At the end you are closing with comparative meditations and questions from an international point of view. You are successfully dissolving terminological confusion and putting things straight between the field-, street- and target-orientated games.

You are also clearing up with some superficial-associative interpretations. Especially the analysis from the Hundred Years War reminds me of Barbara Tuchmanns book covering the evil 14th century, which she derives from most interesting contemporary sources.

It's not only a sophisticated historical workbook picturously showing and allocating how alive the game is today and what the perspectives are for the future.

From a scientific point of view it is remarkable that whenever it is not clear which ball game is meant you are expressing your doubts clearly. This raises your book in comparison with so-called coffee table golf books specially written and published for the financially well-equipped reader.

With best regards,

Dietrich Quanz

This is the translation of a letter sent by Prof. Dietrich Quanz, founder of the Deutsches Golf Archiv, Cologne, to the authors after reviewing the book - published with kind permission of Prof. Quanz.

Playing Hickory Golf by Randy Jensen

The large 22 by 28cm format hardcover book with dust jacket "Playing Hickory Golf" by Randy Jensen covers hickory golf from A-Z. Each of the 300 Limited Edition copies is signed by Randy Jensen. Chapters include: 1) A Short History of Golf and Modern Hickory Golf; 2) Choosing Your Wood Shaft Golf Clubs; 3) Repairing Your Wood Shaft Clubs; 4) Custom Fitting Your Wood Shaft Golf Set; 5) The Hickory Golf Swing; 6) Playing the Woods and Irons; 7) Short Game and Sand Shots; 8) Putting; 9) The Mental Game; 10) Questions & Answers about Hickory Golf; 11) Some of my Favorite Hickory Golf Experiences; and 12) Hickory Golf Websites and Organizations. Appendices include: Best Places to Play Hickory Golf, Best Books on Hickory Golf, Modern Hickory Hole-In-Ones, Top Sub-Par Hickory Tournament Rounds, Modern Hickory Golf Championship Results, and Vintage Championship Results.

For the average hickory golfer the chapters on how to choose the right hickory club and how to repair a hickory club prove to be really helpful, especially as Randy does not hesitate to give a deep insight view into his personal experiences on how to work with hickory clubs.

Once you have chosen your clubs and made them fit for play the "Playing Hickory Golf" offers you an entertaining and enlightening glimpse into the fascinating world of wood shaft golf with over 350 photographs. The pages in this chapter reveal secrets of the game that were kept by some of the most elite players in golf's history. These techniques and insights can greatly improve your hickory golf game and knock strokes off your score.

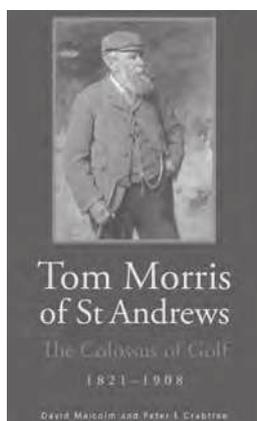
The author also tells us the cure for the "yips" and the 10 Golden Rules of Shanking as well as Harry Vardon's never-before-revealed secret that enabled him to win a record six British Open Championships!

The last chapters of the book are reflecting Randy Jensen experience from 60 hickory

golf tournament victories worldwide. He shares his vast storehouse of knowledge about hickory golf in this exceptional book that includes partly also album-like selections on the ever-increasing number of hickory events taking place worldwide and how you can enter and play in one of these tournaments!

This book proves to be helpful for the average hickory golfer who is not afraid to do the odd repair to his hickory clubs himself. At USD 100 this book is not a bargain, but well worth its price given the information it contains.

Review by Christoph Meister



**Tom Morris of St Andrews
The Colossus of Golf 1821-1908**
by **David Malcolm and Peter Crabtree**

Finally the magnum opus on Old Tom Morris and his life was published end of 2008 by David Malcolm and Peter Crabtree.

I was very glad to hold one of the first copies of this book in my hands by the beginning of December. Impressed I was because of the sheer size of the book with 384 pages plus a few introduction pages at a just above a4 format. The book I had was the Keeper of the Green edition, green half-morocco binding with a slipcase and limited to 395 copies. The book has 325 illustrations, of which 70 are full pages and also there many of the images have not been published before. There is also the Subscribers edition, in full Harmatan leather, with seven extra full plate illustrations and facsimiles of family documents in an annex to the rear, produced in a limited production run of only 87 copies.

The opus can not be beaten for quality, but as always quality does not come cheap at GBP 395

for the Keeper of the Green Edition and GBP 950 for the Subscribers Edition plus GBP 20.00 postage & packing outside the UK - but at least the current Pound Sterling exchange rate gives us continental Europeans a sort of discount on the selling price.

The book not only gives the reader a deep insight into the life of Old Tom Morris but also describes the development of Golf during the lifetime of Old Tom (1821 - 1908). One of the main subjects of this book is Old Tom Morris rise from obscurity to national and international renown. Furthermore the book gives a deep insight into the Morris family and the tragedies Old Tom Morris endured for most of his adult life. In a society obsessed by class-distinction, Tom's changing status makes for fascinating reading.

The advancement of Young Tom Morris and his short ultimately tragic life are covered as well as the crucial role Old Tom Morris played with respect to the popularization of the game. To read about the importance of the challenge matches between Old Tom Morris and Willie Park in the period 1855 to 1870 was also most interesting to me. And as it is with many works of this format the sometimes painstaking research of the authors has led to some clarifications and corrections to errors and myths repeated over the years by several writers and observers.

Last but not least there is this for us continental Europeans and specially Germans most interesting connection between Old Tom Morris and William Rusack from the family owning Rusack's Marine Hotel right of the Old Course in St. Andrews. Wm Rusack spent most of the 1920s and first years of the 1930s in Oberhof, where he was the most distinguished player at the "Herzoglicher Golf Club Oberhof" owning the Hotel "Haus zur Sonne". Effectively, and as David Malcolm and Peter Crabtree are also telling us, Wm Rusack's wife was Agnes Bayne Hunter, Old Tom Morris granddaughter, who married William Rusack in 1907. Therefore and as it is well disclosed in the book Old Tom Morris grand daughter Agnes spent many years in Oberhof "where Agnes golfed competitively with some success". It was at William and Agnes house in St. Andrews where Old Tom Morris, the father figure of golf, spent the last years of his life.

Personally I think this book is not only a very good read but also a save investment - at least compared to German DAX-30 shares.

Review by Christoph Meister



Alan Jackson being interviewed by Austrian State Television (above) -
John Hanna & Alan Jackson enjoying Austria :-) (below)



THIRD ANNUAL MEETING OF EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF GOLF HISTORIANS & COLLECTORS

Bad Ischl, Austria, September 2008

By John Hanna

Those members who turned up early in Austria were rewarded with a few days of glorious sunny weather. Those who arrived later in the week were not as the cloud level dropped and there was rain and no sun. For those of us who were there on Saturday 13th September we were entertained to a very high standard. We were asked to have a number of players using hickory shafted clubs take part in the 75th Anniversary of the *Salzkammergut Golfclub* at Bad Ischl. In a shotgun start at 7.30 in the morning we were granted the honour of starting at the first tee. This was the second of three flights, the first of which played on Friday, while the third flight played on Saturday afternoon. This was a lot of competitors playing in one competition! Our team which included Alan Jackson (England), Andreas Zeppelzauer (Austria), Christoph Meister (Germany) and John Hanna (Ireland) finished in a tie for fifth place:



The Club's celebrations continued in the evening at the famous Scalaria Hotel on the shores of Lake Wolfgang. After a reception there was a gala dinner which was followed by a great presentation by Christian Arnoldner, a member of *Salzkammergut Golfclub*, and Christoph Meister. These two EAGHC members had co-written the 75 year history of the Club.

Their presentation made from a golf cart on the lake shore was seen on a giant screen out on the water of the lake. Next all the guests on the large hotel balconies witnessed a great fireworks display over the lake. The entertainment continued well into the small hours with a dancing to a great band.

Sunday morning again proved cloudy and damp and the entertainment planned by Christian and Eva to take the members high up into the mountains on the nearby rack railway had to be abandoned. Still this is an area full of historic interest and our group visited the Kaiservilla once the Summer Residence of Emperor Franz Joseph I and his wife Empress Elizabeth in Bad Ischl. Set in magnificent grounds the villa has many interesting items on display, one being the letter written by the Emperor on the 1st August 1914 declaring war against Serbia which led to the outbreak of the First World War. It is set on the very desk on which it was written. For lunch we all crossed the lake by steamer to St.Wolfgang, a most picturesque town and had lunch the lakeside restaurant, the Weisses Rössl. It was the name of this establishment which inspired the operetta the White Horse Inn by Ralph Benatzky.



In the evening it was our pleasure to be invited to the family home of Christian Arnoldner. The main hostess was Christian's mother, who is one of the most senior members of *Salzkammergut Golfclub*; indeed one of the early photographs is of her with a perfect golf swing at the club aged nine. Also present was Christian's wife Eva, who was a great hostess for the entire visit.

Monday morning saw those members already there played 9 holes of golf, while as others used the opportunity to talk golf history and exchanging the news of the day.

The get-together lunch marked the official opening of our annual meeting, and we were all very happy to see those again, we last met in Hamburg in early October 2007. And of course a few faces new to most of us.



John Hanna and the EAGHC board



Kuno Schuch, Jiri Martinka and Leif Einarsson

In the afternoon there were a number of most interesting presentations made. These included:- an introductory presentation was made on the History of the European Golf Association on behalf of its President M. Storjohann who was unable to attend; Dr. David Hamilton, Captain of the British Golf Collectors' Society gave a talk on the Scottish Golf Diaspora, particularly the impact of the number of Scottish Golf Professionals who had emigrated from the Carnoustie area to make successful careers mainly in the United States of America but also to a lesser extent in Europe;

Geert and Sara Nijs had copies of their new book *Choule*, a Non-Royal but most Ancient Game of Crosse and Sara gave a most interesting presentation on the research required to write the book; Prokop Sedlak from the Czech Republic, a committed player of golf with hickory clubs, was also able to give an illustrated talk on his new book, the *History of Czech Golf*; Our president Christoph Meister gave a most interesting talk on behalf of Dr. Friedrich Ullman, President of Herzogliche Golf Club, Oberhof, on the history of the Club and its future as a historic centre to play hickory golf in Germany; Jean Bernard Kazmierczak used his extensive post card collection to talk about early golf development on the French Riviera; and John Hanna spoke on a topic for the collectors and based on his collection of golfing ceramics. All the presentations were well received by the members and it is an area of possible expansion in the future.

On Tuesday the stay started with rain so members took the opportunity to set up stalls and sell their wares. Business seemed to be brisk and most members were able to obtain signed copies of the books colleagues had brought along. The meeting closed with a lunch and farewell words to the members by the president of *Salzkammergut Golfclub*, Gottlieb Peer, who also proved to be a perfect host to the EAGHC.



Damir Ritosa, Christian Arnoldner, Kuno Schuch, Antonie Medvejsek and Sara Nijs

Some more golf was played in the afternoon but the weather was still dull and overcast.

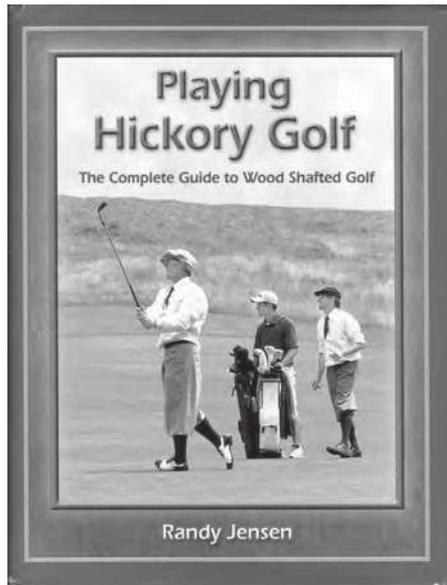


Jiri Martinka, Christoph Meister and Prokop Sedlak

Despite this Bad Ischl had proved to be a great success thanks to our hosts, the Arnoldners and to our President Christoph Meister for all his planning and hard work. Next year it is off to Malone Golf Club near Belfast in Northern Ireland where a good turnout of EAGHC members is expected on September 14th 2009.

Small Ads

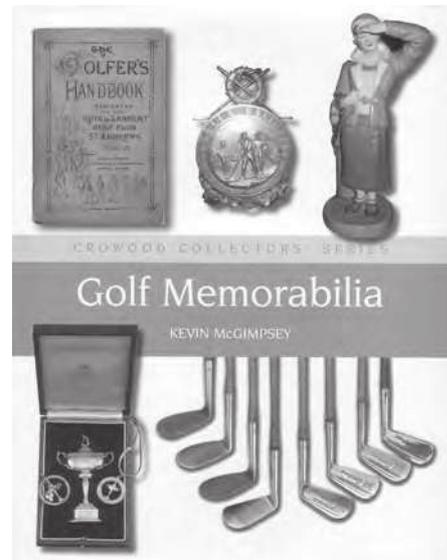
I'm permanently buying documents, postcards, prints and medals related to early golf courses in France. Any information is also welcome. Please write to golfika@yahoo.fr or call JBK on +33 608 72 87 39.



"**Playing Hickory Golf**" a new book by Randy Jensen is now available and covers hickory golf from A-Z. The book may be purchased on eBay from Randy's site "classicgolf4" or by e-mail through classicgolf@hotmail.com

Dear EAGHC Members: Please see my website <http://www.mitchellssportsantiques.com/> for some great clubs, balls, books. I have much more in inventory so email me about your special interests at tandjmitchell@msn.com **Tom Mitchell**, member GCS

U.S. Golf Memorabilia dealer offers list of almost 950 golf items. Please request list via email to dave@golfsgoldenyears.com or view his <http://www.golfsgoldenyears.com> Web-site. **David N. Berkowitz**



"**Kevin McGimpsey's** (Bonhams' golf specialist) new book "GOLF MEMORABILIA" could make the ideal gift! 10 chapters, 220 pages and 300 colour photographs on golf's relics £25.00 (no extra for signing or dedicating) and P & P ... UK £3.50 EU £5.00 and N. America, Australia etc £11.00

For fuller details of the book go to www.craigcampbellart.co.uk Or email Kevin at kevin.mcgimpsey@bonhams.com Or please fax or ring your order with credit card details and your address to: 00 44 (0) 1244 539414"

Rare and Collectible Golf Books. Free Catalog with color photos!!! Over 2,000 titles in stock in all fields, including architecture, biography, collectibles, Darwin, instruction, programs etc. **Peter Yagi Golf Books** 16149 Redmond Way #353, Redmond, WA 98052 USA (425) 562-6660 pete@moneytolend.com

Some copies of the hand-crafted limited edition books *Precious Gum* and *The Thorn Tree Clique* still available from **David Hamilton's Partick Press**, now at St Andrews. Enquiries to davidh60@hotmail.com



Czechoslovak Open Championship 1937 (from left to right) H. Lees, R. Blackett, Gerhard Müller, E. Hooker, J.T. Baker, Henry Cotton (winner), A. Lees (second), Count J.Bendern (1st Amateur), R.S. Burles (2nd Amateur), Anjo Lacinik, J.Smith



Hanno Tonder, Czechoslovak Open Amateur Champion 1933 & 1938

CZECHOSLOVAK OPEN AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP				
Year.	Winner.	Runner-up.	Venue.	By.
1932	St Samek . . .	S. Schubert . . .	Praha . . .	4 and 3
1933	H. Tonder . . .	St Samek . . .	Praha . . .	9 and 8
1934	No Championship			
1935	J. Beevár . . .	M. Altmann . . .	Marienbad . . .	5 and 4
1936	J. W. Bailey . . .	F. Gutmann . . .	Marienbad . . .	1 hole
1937	Count J. De Bendern . . .	R. S. Burles . . .	Carlsbad . . .	4 and 2
1938	H. Tonder . . .	E. C. B. Shannon . . .	Marienbad . . .	3 and 2

CZECHOSLOVAK LADIES' OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP				
Year.	Winner.	Runner-up.	Venue.	By.
1932	E. v. Szilávy . . .	Mrs M. Gross . . .	Pistany . . .	4 and 2
1933	E. v. Szilávy . . .	Miss M. Gross . . .	Pistany . . .	7 and 6
1934	No Championship			
1935	E. v. Szilávy . . .	M. Weps . . .	Marienbad . . .	4 and 3
1936	No Championship			
1937	E. v. Szilávy . . .	L. Raudnitz . . .	Carlsbad . . .	4 and 2
1938	L. Raudnitz . . .	K. Linhart . . .	Praha . . .	1 hole

CZECHOSLOVAK OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP.				
Year.	Winner.	Club.	Venue.	Score.
1935	M. Seymour . . .	Crow Wood . . .	Marienbad . . .	276
1936	M. Seymour . . .	Unattached . . .	Marienbad . . .	299
1937	T. H. Cotton . . .	Ashridge . . .	Marienbad . . .	279
1938	T. H. Cotton . . .	Ashridge . . .	Carlsbad . . .	282

From Golfer's Handbook 1947, Edinburgh



The Masaryk Cup. This Cup was in 1930 and 1931 Trophy for the National Amateur Champion, from 1932 to 1939 and from 1946 to 1950 for the International Amateur Champion. After the disbandment of the Czechoslovak Golf Union the Cup was stored by one member of former board of Union and in 1995 handed over by his son to Golf Club Lisnice.

THE HISTORY OF GOLF IN CZECH LANDS

By Prokop Sedlak, Prague

The Czech Lands are Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia. The first golf club in the Czech Lands was founded in the town of **Carlsbad** in Western Bohemia. The Club was instituted as the golf section of the *International Sport Club Carlsbad* on 6th September 1904. The construction of the new golf course began during spring 1905. The first competition for the Fürstenberg-Cup was played there on 16th September 1906. In the same year the Amateur Championship of Austria was also played at Carlsbad.



The second golf club in the Czech Lands was founded in **Marienbad** on 30th July 1905 (*see above picture*). The construction of the nine-hole golf course was already completed on 1st June 1905, but its official opening ceremony took place on 21st August 1905 in the presence of His Majesty King Edward VII of the United Kingdom.

The third golf course in the Western Bohemia was in **Franzensbad**. The nine-hole golf course was located near the town centre and was 2.700m long. The *Golf-Club Franzensbad* was domiciled in the hotel *Königsvilla*.

The spa life of these golf courses was abruptly interrupted due to the Great War. The Franzensbad golf course vanished. The other two courses survived. When the Czechoslovak Republic arose in 1918 the Golf Club Carlsbad and Golf Club Marienbad were its first golf clubs.

One year before the First World War the Czech industrialist baron Ringhoffer began to build the first golf course in the Central Bohemia on his lands in **Volesovice**, near Prague. This course was completely private.



Baron Franz Ringhoffer

After World War I the west bohemian golf courses had returned to their spa life. They served to spa guests mostly originating from Great Britain and the United States. These sojourners often became members of the local golf clubs. Domestic founders and members of these clubs belonged to the German speaking population, which were in West Bohemia in the majority.



Golf Club Prague, Clubhouse

Up to 1926 the Volešovice golf course was the only one in the Central Bohemia. This year, after two year preparation the first golf club in the Central Bohemia, *Golf Club Prague*, was founded. This club built a new golf course at **Prague-Motol**.

Independently of this activity there was a group including my father practising the game since 1923 on a private piece of land in the little town of Strančice, not far from Prague. This group was constantly looking for a piece of land near Prague suitable for a golf course.



Prokop Sedlak and his friends during the early 1920's

Such an appropriate place was found in 1928 near the village **Lisnice**, twenty kilometres from Prague and the *Golf Club Lisnice*, the second golf club in the Central Bohemia, was founded the same year.

In 1928, golf course **Piestany** in Slovakia was restored and Golf Club Piestany, originally founded in 1914, revived its activity.



Piestany, 9th green 1936

At the end of the twenties there were six golf courses and six golf clubs in Czechoslovakia. In the meantime the Ringhoffer family had founded Ringhoffer's Golf Club Volesovice. Marienbad was the only eighteen-hole course.

In 1931, four clubs – Golf Club Prague, Golf Club Lisnice, Ringhoffer's Golf Club Volesovice and Golf Club Piestany, met in order to launch the **Golf Union of Czechoslovakia**. The clubs from West Bohemia stood away. Baron Franz Ringhoffer became the Union's first president.

The first International amateur Championship was played in Czechoslovakia in 1932. The Championship of men was played in Prague-Motol and was won by the young German player Stefan Samek from Berlin. The Ladies Championship was played in Piestany and was won by Hungarian lady Elisabeth von Szlávy.

In 1933 both Championships were again played in Motol and Piestany. The Championship of men was won by a Czech player Hanno Tonder, the Ladies Championship again by E. von Szlávy.

In 1934 the Golf Union of Czechoslovakia cancelled the International Championships due the bad state of both the courses at Motol and Piestany. It was clear that the next championships had to be played on golf courses of higher quality. The Golf Union of Czechoslovakia began to negotiate with Golf Club Marienbad about using Marienbad golf course for the International Championships in 1935. The negotiation was successful.

The period between 1935 and 1938 was the golden age of the Czechoslovak pre-war golf.

It was in 1935 when the Golf Union of Czechoslovakia, together with the golf clubs of Western Bohemia, arranged the first Open Championship of Czechoslovakia as well as the International Amateur Championship of men and women at Marienbad. Several professional and amateur players of highest international level took part, including Henry Cotton and Harry Bentley – the latter one of the best world amateur players. The Open Championship was won by Mark Seymour.

During that same year the new eighteen-hole golf course at Carlsbad, designed by the French golf architect of Polish origin, Christophe Noskowski was opened.

The 1936 Open championship of Czechoslovakia was again played in Marienbad, where also the International Amateur Championship of men took place. There was no Ladies Championship arranged in 1936.

Germany was host to the Olympic Games that year. Golf was not an Olympic sport, but in connection with the Olympic Games the Great Competition of Nations in golf was arranged at Baden-Baden. Seven two-men teams from Great Britain, France, the Netherlands, Italy, Germany, Hungary and Czechoslovakia participated in it. Czechoslovak team was formed by Hanno Tonder and Sasa Schubert. A nonplaying captain was Miroslav Svestka. Hanno Tonder was placed fifth among the best amateur of Europe. During the Competition, the meeting of captains of teams was arranged and process of foundation of the European Golf Association was initiated.

In 1936 two new golf clubs were founded in Czechoslovakia, the Golf Club Tremsin in the Central Bohemia and the Golf Club Brno in Moravia. But only one of them had a golf course, the golf course Tremsin.

In 1937, the third Open Championship was played in Marienbad. The Championship was won by Henry Cotton. The first big tournament played on the new golf course in Carlsbad was the International Amateur Championship of Czechoslovakia. Winners of this Championship were Elizabeth von Szlávy from Hungary and the count John de Bender from Great Britain.

In 1937 the European golf Association was founded in Luxemburg. Miroslav Svestka and Josef Charvat represented Czechoslovakia in the foundation conference.

In 1938 the forth Open Championship was played on the new golf course in Carlsbad. The Championship was won again by Henry Cotton. Hanno Tonder won, for the second time, the International Amateur Championship played in Marienbad. The Ladies' Championship was played on the new, but not still finished, golf course Klanovice. The Championship was won by Luisa Raudnitz, future Lady Abrahams.

752

CZECHO-SLOVAKIA

BRNO
Brno G.C., Veversg. Managing Director, J. Bouchek.

KARLSBAD
International Sports Club (Golf Section). Tel. No. 3342. Membership, 400. Hon. Sec., Dr. Otto Fleischer, (p), and Greenkeeper, S. Klement. 18 holes and 9 holes. Station—Karlsbad. Visitors' fees, 40 kr. per day; 150 kr. per week; 400 kr. per month. Sunday play with caddies.
Hotels—Imperial; Savoy; Popp; Richmond.

LISNICE
Lisnice G.C. Hon. Sec., Dr A. Hoffmeister. 9 holes.

MARIENBAD
Marienbad G. C. Tele. No. 2267. Sec., J. Wagner (p), H. Lees. Records (a), 70, H. G. Bentley; (p), 67, A. Lees. S.S.S. 74. 18 holes. Station—Marienbad (2 miles). Visitors' fees, 40kr. per day; 200 kr. per week; 600 kr. per month. Sunday play with caddies.

PISTANY
Golf Club of Pístany. Tele. No. 12. Membership, 109. Administrator, The Bath Directorate of Pístany. Hon. Sec., Col. W. B. Henning, (p), J. Wolf. Records (a), 37, Capt. J. Clark; (p.), 36, J. Wolf. 9 holes. Station—Pístany (5 minutes by motor car). Course 5 minutes from the Thermia Palace and Grand Hotel Royal. Visitors' fees, 30 kr. per day; 150 kr. per week; 400 kr. per month. Sunday play.



Thermia Palace Hotel connected with the Baths

Play Golf at the foot of the Carpathians and contemporaneously Cure Your Rheumatism in the Mud Springs of

**SPA
PISTANY
C.S.R.**

Inform.: Golf Club and Bath Directorate.

PRAHA
Praha G.C. Tele. No. 40105. Membership, 200. Sec., Ing. J. Charvat, (p), Ch. Warren and G. Wilson. Records (a), 35 S. Schubert; (p), 30 Ch. Warren and G. Wilson. 9 holes. Station—Pražská (10 minutes by motor). Visitors' fees, 25 kr. per day. Sunday play.
Hotels—Aleron; Esplanade.

TATRANSKA LOMNICA
Tatranska Lomnica G.C. 9 holes.

From Golfer's Handbook, Edinburgh, 1937

After the death of Franz Ringhoffer junior in 1937, the best Czech player in early thirties, the Golf Union of Czechoslovakia organized the nation-wide tour of teams, so called Ringhoffer Memorial. All eight golf clubs of Czechoslovakia have taken part in the tour. Soon after beginning of this tour it was interrupted because of separation of the Sudetenland from Czechoslovakia. By this separation the Czechoslovak golf lost three best golf courses. For significant competitions the Golf Union of Czechoslovakia could use only the golf course in Klanovice. The golden age of the Czechoslovak prewar golf was over.

In 1939 occupation of the Czech lands and the Second World War began. It was also the beginning of the long period of difficult days of the Czech golf. All golf activities during the war were only in Klanovice and Lisnice. In 1944 the golf course Klanovice was closed and the only golf course was Lisnice till the end of the war.



Lisnice, 1942

After the war the golf course Klanovice was opened. Both golf courses in Carlsbad were destroyed. Golf course in Marienbad was occupied by the US army, repaired and used by the US soldiers. The US army left Western Bohemia by the end of 1945. In 1946 the majority of German speaking inhabitants were transferred from West Bohemia to Germany.



Klanovice, early 1940's

In the same year golf was excluded from the united state sport organisation. It means that golf in Czechoslovakia was not considered as a sport. It usually depended on local authorities whether golf was tolerated as a sport as for example in Marienbad or its playing was considered as an antisocialist provocation, as for example in the Central Bohemia.



U.S.Army at Marienbad, 1945

Golf Club Marianske Lazne was accepted as a division of the Sport club Slovan Marianske Lazne, the Golf Club Prague was disbanded, the Golf Club Lisnice only existed as an underground club.

Paradoxically, in 1949 a new golf division of the Sport Club Slovan Karlovy Vary was founded in Carlsbad and in 1950 this division began with the reconstruction of the pre-war "New golf course" in Carlsbad.

Since 1947, the golf course in Marienbad was used again by the Czech golfers. This year the new Golf Club Marianske Lazne (Marienbad) was founded. The Czech golfers used in postwar period three golf courses, Klanovice, Marienbad and Lisnice. A lot of former prewar or war cadies were among the best players.

In the fifties the centre of Czech golf was in Marienbad. Golf was also played continually on weekends on inconspicuous Lisnice golf course. Also the first part of reconstructed golf course in Carlsbad was used in the second half of the fifties.

In 1948 the communist putsch was in Czechoslovakia and forty-one year period of communist regime began. All activities including sport were under control of communist party and communist offices. Golf was identified as bourgeois sport characteristic for the western way of life. All golf clubs had to incorporate into the united state sport organisation or to finish their existence. In 1950 the golf course Klanovice was closed and in 1952 it was completely destroyed.



Lisnice 1955

At the end of the fifties three golf divisions of three sport clubs were founded in Prague. These sport clubs were Slavia Praha, Tatra Praha and Slavoj Praha. Most members of golf divisions Slavia Praha and Tatra Praha were former members of Golf Club Prague, golf division Slavoj Praha was completely former Golf Club Lisnice.

The foundation of three golf divisions in Prague strengthened the position of golf in Czechoslovakia. Still golf was not accepted by offices on the highest national level but was accepted on the lower local level including Prague.



Olaf Bergquist (Swe), Jan Kusta & Sven Tumba (1967)

In 1960 the national golf league (the tour of teams) was restored. Matches of this league were played in Marienbad and also in Carlsbad. All five golf divisions in Czechoslovakia participated in it. In 1965 the division of Slavia Praha organised the First International Tournament and well known Swedish ice-hockey player Sven Tumba Johanson was among the foreign players. Participation of Sven Tumba in golf tournament influenced the national communist sport authorities and in 1966 golf was officially accepted. In 1968, sixteen years after excluding golf from sport life of Czechoslovakia, the Czechoslovak Golf Union was founded again.

So called Prague Spring in 1968, the liberation of rigid communist totality rules, was ended under the belts of soviet tanks and any ideas of progress of the Czech golf also ended immediately. Golf was accepted as a sport but without any financial support from the state. All other sports were strongly financially supported by the state for propaganda reasons. Also international golf contacts were minimized.

In the seventies and eighties and despite of minimum support by the state the Czech golf was growing and the number of golf divisions was increasing. Golf was played in Prague, Marienbad, Carlsbad, Lisnice, Pödebrady, Ostrava, Brno and Semily. The first post-war golf division was founded in Slovakia.

During that time players from Sweden, Austria, Germany, Slovenia, Great Britain and Denmark regularly participated in the Czechoslovak Championships.



Eric Cullin (Swe), Jiri Kunta & Jiri Dvorak, Marienbad 1977

In 1979, The European Junior Championship was organized in Marienbad.

At the end of the eighties, there were 1.400 golfers in Czechoslovakia.

After the Velvet revolution in 1989 discrimination of golf in Czechoslovakia finished and a big golf boom started particularly in the Czech Republic after the division of Czechoslovakia into the Czech Republic and Slovakia in 1993.

Today there are 123 Golf clubs in the Czech Republic, 30 eighteen-hole golf courses, 86 nine-hole golf courses and more than 40 000 golfers.



Czech EAGHC-Hickory golfers at Lisnice 2008(f.l.t.r): Prokop Sedlak, Vladimir Ferles & Jiri Martinka

THE LOST BOOK

By Geert & Sara Nijs

Some time ago we received from Pius Muskens (EAGHC) some cuttings from the Dutch journal 'Golf', August 1939. In this issue, J.A. Brongers, the then well known golf and colf historian, discussed a book published in 1718 about an exploratory expedition of Frézier, 'the engineer of the King of France', to Chile, Peru and Brazil ('Reisbeschryving door de Zuid-Zee' (Travel story through the South Sea) by Isaak Verburg). In Chile, Frézier saw Indians playing left-handed a kind of golf.

Brongers referred to a book called 'Around Golf', published in 1939, in which A.M. Vagliano refers to the game of 'chôle', played in France, in which game 30% of the players played left-handed, although they were not lefthanders.



During his exploration of South America in 1712-1714, Frézier saw Chilean Indians playing the game of 'sueca', hitting a ball with a curved stick

As 'Jeu de Crosse' researchers our interest was aroused by what Vagliano wrote. We mailed Pius to ask him about the 'Around Golf' book, but he did not know it. Ayolt Brongers (EAGHC) from the Early Golf Foundation could not help us either. In the meantime we surfed unsuccessfully on the internet. However, we found that A.M. Vagliano once was a famous French amateur golfer and even the president of the French Golf Federation. So we contacted JBK, past president of the EAGHC, the know-all of French golf.

Alas, also Jean-Bernard couldn't help us. But what he did know was, that André M. Vagliano was the father of our honorary president Lally Segard. He would contact Lally and ask her about the book and the literary qualities of her father.

Impatient as we are, we also wrote Madame Segard a letter. Alas, she did not know the book nor the story her father once wrote. Also Henri Jakubowicz (EAGHC), a passionate book collector, did not have the book in his personal library and could not confirm us the existence of this article.

Although we were very disappointed, we didn't give up. We continued surfing on the internet and suddenly: 'bingo!'



The Belgian artist from the Borinage Marius Carion showed the charm of the old miner's customs. Also this player plays left-handed

In Calgary, Canada, somebody had the book and was willing to verify if the book contained a contribution of a certain Vagliano, describing lefthanders playing 'chôle'. He confirmed that the book contained such an article, after which message we ordered the book. So now the book is ours and we would like to share with you the contribution of André Vagliano about French Golf and French 'La chôle' in 'Around Golf':



ANDRE M. VAGLIANO

No one has done more for the game of golf in France than André Vagliano. He won the French Amateur Open Championship in 1925 and has won the French Amateur Native Championship on numerous occasions. He reached the final of the President's Putter tournament in 1931. He has captained the French golf team on many occasions. His wife has captained the French lady golfers, and his daughter, Lally, won the Girl's Championship in 1937. -

Photo and verbatim subtitle from the book 'Around Golf'

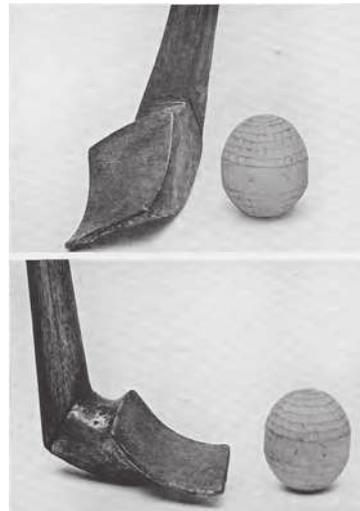
GOLF IN FRANCE

Written March 1938

The Origin of the Game

It is generally conceded that the game of golf was first played in France around Pau by Scottish officers of Wellington's army, because it has not been possible to establish a link between the Scottish game and the much older French game of "La chôle", which dates back to the twelfth century and is still popular in the north of France and in Belgium. Nevertheless the two games bear a striking resemblance to each other; the only fundamental difference is that in "La chôle" the ball must hit a steak instead of being holed. In "La chôle" a single club, an unpleasantly heavy one, is used to hit a solid wooden ball, only slightly larger than the modern golf ball. The club head is so shaped that by addressing the ball with the toe, one can loft it or extricate it from the worst lies, a necessary precaution as the game is played over rough country. The "holes" are about the same length as at golf. The swing used is identical (as will be seen by the photographs of a player who has never seen golf played). Sometimes as many as 400 players, mostly miners, foregather, and one is struck by the fact that 30 per cent. of them play

left-handed, although they are not otherwise left-handed.



LA CHÔLE

The club used for hitting the ball at La Chôle, an old French game with some similarity to the game of golf. Upper picture shows how the club is used for long shots and, lower picture, how it is used to loft the ball or get it out of a bad lie. -

Photo and verbatim subtitle from the book 'Around Golf'

Beginners are told that they must keep their eye on the ball, and those who are not left-handed are warned against bending their left arm. Pierre Dupas, the president of Hardelot and Valenciennes Golf Clubs, and a keen golfer, has done much research work on the subject and discovered many interesting documents in northern cities, mostly edicts prohibiting the game in the neighbourhood of villages where it was a danger to the public ('St. Omer - 1270, Valenciennes - 1780), or damaging to the crops (Valenciennes - 1718, under penalty of six pounds).

In later years, however, it seems to have been unnecessary to resort to legislation to prevent the game of "La chôle" from spreading, and although the royal and ancient game made a slow start, Pau G.C. 1856 (forty-two years after the original game referred to above), Biarritz G.C. 1888, Cannes G.C. 1891, Compiègne G.C. 1896, and Deauville G.C. 1899, developments have been at a much faster pace since the beginning of the twentieth century.

Progress of the Game

Pierre Deschamps, who founded La Boulie in 1901, was the moving spirit of the game in the pre-War period.

The young Basque caddies around Biarritz who had been brought up on pelota took to the game like ducklings to water, and Pierre Deschamps was not long in realising that Arnaud Massy was the most promising of the bunch and just the man he needed to teach Parisians the game, so he appointed him professional to La Boulie, in those days the only Paris golf club. The climax came almost at once. Massy won the Open Championship in 1907 at Hoylake and the game of golf had taken a permanent grip of the French people. I do not think the lovers of the game here realise all they owe Massy, the sensation created in the golfing world by this first foreign triumph, the achievement of defeating the great masters Braid, Taylor and Vardon, who won sixteen of the twenty championships contested before the War.

For years after Massy's victory, La Boulie, where all the championships were held, was visited by the leading amateurs and professionals, and on four occasions strong bids for the French open title were successfully challenged by Massy in 1906, 1907 and 1911 and by Jean Gassiat in 1912, and the famous triumvirate was always represented in the opposition. In 1912 Massy very nearly won the Open Championship again at Sandwich but after a tie he lost to Vardon on the replay. French men and women were now beginning to take an interest in the game, and courses were being constructed near several seaside resorts and large cities, the clubs of Le Peck, later transformed to St. Germain, Chantilly, Fontainebleau, were founded, but very few amateurs had mastered the game sufficiently to compete in the championships, and when Baron François de Bellet in 1911 and his sister Pauline, now Mme. Roger de Vilmorin, in 1913, won the French amateur titles they were the only French representatives in a field of British and a few American competitors. The St. Cloud Country Club had not been opened a year when the War broke out and for five years practically all the courses were closed and the game of golf ceased to be played.

Post-War Golf

Although the game had been developing fairly rapidly prior to the War, it was not very old in years when it was brought to an utter standstill, and its revival was a slow process. Baron de Bellet and Massy, the best amateur and professional, had both been wounded. Pierre Deschamps died in 1923 and the presidency of the "Federation" was entrusted to the Duc de Mouchy, an Old Etonian, a good golfer and a

thorough sportsman with a public school philosophy of games which has proven a great asset to French golf at a time when the tendency, the world over, has been towards the commercialisation of the games.

The first post-War events to place French golf once again in the international limelight were Mlle. Simone Thion de la Chaume's (now Mme. René Lacoste) win in the Ladies Championship at Newcastle, Co. Down, in 1927, followed the very next year by that of her future sister-in-law Manette le Blan (now Mme. Robert Thion de la Chaume) at Hunstanton. Both achievements contributed much to the popularity of ladies' golf in France, and in 1931 it became possible to institute an annual international match between the ladies of Great-Britain and France which has provided several closely-contested encounters and a drawn match in 1934 at Chantilly. Although the French ladies have not yet succeeded in defeating their very friendly rivals, they expect to put up a strong side in a year or two and are nursing a number of girls ranging from fifteen to seventeen years old who show great promise, one of them is my daughter Lally, who won the Girl's Championship at Stoke Poges in 1937.



Lally Vagliano (left), having her victory on the British Girls in 1937 -

By courtesy of Georges Jeanneau, 'Le Golf en France', 1999
Simone Thion de la Chaume had won the same event in 1924, her first of a remarkable series of successes, six native championships in a row, then forced abstention and later two more, and the cup is still, as I write, on her mantelpiece. In the French Ladies' Open Championship she put a stop to a long string of British and American victories

and won the event four times, relayed on one occasion by Jeanine Gaveau who held the title in 1931.

French amateurs have no such crowns to boast about as have their fair companions, but in 1936 Michel Carlhian recovered the French Open Amateur Cup which has resided abroad ever since I had won it in 1925, and in 1937 Jacques L'église made it secure for at least another year. In international matches Frenchmen have had a successful year on the Continent, defeating Belgium, Germany, Italy, Holland and Switzerland, but they have never yet proved a serious menace to the English side with whom an annual match was instituted in 1934.

Nor has a French professional succeeded in winning the Open Championship since the War. Marcel Dallemagne came the closest to doing so in 1936 when he tied for third place at Hoylake, only two strokes behind Padgham the winner. In the same year he won the French Open at St. Germain after a tie with Henry Cotton, and successfully defended his title in the following year at Chantilly. Marcel Dallemagne and Auguste Boyer have made a family affair of the French Native Open Championship in the last eight years and honours have been evenly divided. Both these players have won the Belgian, Dutch, German, Italian and Swiss titles many times. Any survey of professional French golf in recent years would be incomplete if it did not include Aubrey Boomer, the well-known St. Cloud professional, who, although not strictly speaking a Frenchman, has spent the whole of his golfing life with us. Aubrey Boomer has won the French Open five times and in 1927 was second only to the great Bobby Jones in the British Open at St. Andrews.

I have laid stress on the achievements of the chosen few because their glory has well served the popularity of this relatively new game, but the great bulk of players have not the means of climbing to such heights. Some play the game for their health just as their fathers played the old game of "Mail", another close relation of "La chôle", almost as ancient and still existent in parts of the south, of which it was said, "De tous les jeux d'exercice, le Mail est le plus agréable, le moins gênant et le meilleur pour la santé. On peut en même temps jouer, causer et se promener en bonne compagnie. L'agitation qu'on se donne fait un merveilleux effet pour la transpiration des humeurs; et il n'y a point de rhumatisme ou d'autres maux semblables qu'on ne puisse prévenir par ce jeu ..." (Extract from the rules of "Le noble jeu de Mail de La ville de Montpellier", edited 1844) But still the great majority of both

good and indifferent performers play the game for pleasure and that is as it should be.



André M. Vagliano, President of the French golf federation (FFG) from 1941 till 1943 -

By courtesy of Georges Jeanneau, 'Le Golf en France', 1999

I have always fought the tendency for amateurs to take any game too seriously lest it lead them unconsciously to bitterness and ill feeling. During my too short stay at Oxford University, unfortunately curtailed by the War, I appreciated the spirit in which games were practised by public school and college men. Certainly the desire to improve, to excel, to conquer was always present, but so was the care not to become the slave of a pastime, and when in 1924 the late Arthur Croome invited me to bring over a side of ten to play a match at Rye against members of the Oxford and Cambridge Golfing Society, I jumped at the chance and made every effort to collect all the best players we had and we started the first of a long series of matches which have taken place ever since more than once a year in England or in France, and have left us all the most pleasant memories. It was only in the first match at Rye on 26th April 1924, and in the last one, to date, at Sandwich on 5th and 6th March 1938, that all our opponents were members of the "Society", but the spirit was always the same. When Arthur Croome died, leaving sincere and universal regrets in our small golfing world, Gerald Fairlie undertook to keep these friendly battles very much alive, relieved on occasions by John Morrison and Dale Boum. I am pleased to think that these matches have done more than provide great games and much entertainment for those who have taken part in them, and that they have had an influence on the psychology of many of my countrymen and helped them to get the maximum of enjoyment out of this game we all love.

Full copy of the text from André M. Vagliano from 'Around Golf', edited by J.S.F. Morrison, first published in 1939 by Arthur Baker Limited, London

GOLF ON THE FRENCH RIVIERA BEFORE 1914

By Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak, Paris

The Grand Duke Michael (GDM) of Russia.

The dawn of Golf on the French Riviera is closely related to the history of H.I.H. Grand Duke Michael of Russia (GDM in this text) so it is impossible not to start with a short account on Michael Michailovitch. He was born in 1861, on October the 16th, in a city close to Saint-Petersburg. The following year, his father, Michael Nikolayevich was nominated as the vice-king of Caucasia. The young Michael grew up there, in this region dividing Europe from Asia, receiving a very strict education. It is worth to note that he was not the preferred son of his mother, Cecilia von Bade, who considered him as a pretty stupid boy.

In 1881 he was 20 years old when his father was nominated President of the State Council and the family returned back to Saint-Petersburg. Michael was now an elegant person but still not considered as the cleverest one. The tsar Alexander the 3rd called him "the idiot". Possibly for this reason, his different trials to get married failed. In 1886, asking for Marie de Teck's hand to her father François he got a refusal. A few months later, he wanted to marry Princess Iren von Hessen-Darmstadt but received the same answer from the Duke Ludwig IV von Hessen, her father. The third trial finished in a similar way when, in 1887, the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII) refused the union with his daughter Louise. In 1888, he wanted to marry Princess Walewski. Being still unsuccessful, he tried then to marry Countess Catherina Nikolayevna Ignatievna, but this time, it was his mother who did not give him her blessing!

At that time, the family was regularly spending long trips in Nice, on the French Riviera. This is where, early in 1891, he met Sophia von Merenberg - daughter of Prince Nicolas von Nassau-Weilburg and hismorganatic spouse Nathalia Alexandrovna Pushkin (whose grandfather was the well known writer and poet). He immediately felt in love with her and, knowing that his parents would refuse the marriage, he decided to go to San Remo, in Italy, with Sophie, to marry her. The wedding was celebrated on February the 26th, 1891.

Thismorganatic union caused a great trouble in the Russian court and Michael was destitute from his rank, disclosed from the military honours and condemned to the exile. But a pretty mild one: he was spending the winter time on the French Riviera, travelling the rest of the year to Great Britain, Germany or Switzerland. Also to Luxemburg where his friend the Grand Duke Adolph obtained that Sophie was entitled Countess of Torby.



The GDM and Sophie decided to establish themselves for a few years in Wiesbaden and Nassau, but in 1899 they definitely moved to Cannes. They lived in a villa they called Kazbek - after the name of a Georgian mountain.

After his father's death in December 1909, the GDM returned back to his native country - but without Sophie. He made another trip to Russia in 1912, for the centennial of the Borodino battle. On this occasion, he was reinstated in his military position and even promoted as honorary colonel.

He died from the flu, in London, on April 26th, 1929 and was buried in the Hampstead cemetery, lying near Sophie.

The GDM and golf.

The GDM was often travelling to Great Britain and in 1900 he rented the Keele Hall manor, in Staffordshire, close to Newcastle under Lyme. He was there an active participant to the local social life and the Council of the city conferred him the distinction of Lord High Steward of the Borough. But, after a few years, in 1909, the family left the Keel Hall Manor moving to Hampstead, near London where the GDM rented a manor. Regularly, the GDM and his wife were visiting the king Edward VII at Windsor and Sandringham. They were also invited at Buckingham Palace for dinners.

During his trips over the channel, the GDM was often spending some time in Scotland, frequently visiting the sea-side resort of North Berwick. It might be there he discovered the game of golf. Other sources pretend that it was in Saint Andrews after hunting with friends that he discovered the game. In any case, it is well known that it is in North Berwick that he improved his game, taking lessons from Ben Sayers.

The Cannes Golf Club – 1891.



Not surprisingly, in 1891 that the GDM convinced a few friends of him to start a golf club close to Cannes and they soon created a limited company called “Cannes Golf Club”. He was the first president and sitting next him as board members the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Cambridge, the Baron Saint-Genest, the Prince of Thurn und Taxis, the General and Viscount de Bernes, the Count Suzannet, Colonel Cragg, Colonel Woodward and Captain Perceval. Reverend Chaplain John L. Fish was appointed as Honorary Secretary. Although many Brits were Board members, the Cannes GC can be considered as the first golf-club which has been

established by a non-British initiative – but obviously it was still not a French golf club!

The initial place was not the very best one and Horace Hutchinson in his “*British Golf Link*” (1897) is writing “*In 1891, after a deal of anxious consideration as to where a fitting piece of land could be found, the Golf Club of Cannes, then consisting of an hundred members, finally marked out their first links on a low-lying piece of ground to the right of the Napoule road. They had no club house in those days. The course was too wet. But worst of all, their landlords numbered no less than thirty-six. These thirty-six owners of land upon which they played had to be consulted upon every change made. Thirty-six landlords were thirty-five too many. The situation was intolerable and untenable. The club resolved to move.*

New ground was found a little further away, quite near the small village of Napoule [...] In the centre of the these new grounds was an old farm, picturesque enough, lying under the shade of a great overhanging pine.” This farm was kept and internally redesigned and served – is still serving today – as the club-house.

Nine holes were created in 1892, soon expanded to eighteen. On March the 17th, a dinner, prepared by the prestigious César Ritz, was offered by the members to thanks the GDM for his initiative. One year later, the P.L.M. railway company (P.L.M. for Paris-Lyon-Méditerranée) accepted to establish a station in the small city of La Napoule which was very close to the course. The first train made a stop on February 18th, 1893. It was a so big event! The GDM, when he got out from the train, was greeted with 21 gunshots!

It must be kept in mind that on the Riviera at that time golf was a season game. Clubs usually opened on the first of November and closed just after Easter! This was a great opportunity for British pros who could work in the very best conditions almost all the year: spending winter season on the French Riviera and the rest of the year in other places.

Bernard Nicholls was the local pro here in 1896 and 1897 – most probably the first one in this club. About 1910, the Callaway brothers (Chris and Bernard Samuel) took this position. As almost everywhere in the world, they were Scots. The first French professional was J. Rousselie, appointed after the Great War, about 1925.

During the spring 1903, Michael invited a British team to play against the best club members. The British team was conducted by Arthur H. Crosfield, captain. Team members were John Ball and H.H. Hilton from Hoylake, J. Graham, J.R.T. Tarver, C.F. Hutton, W. Ryder-Richardson and Lord Eldon. From the local side: A.C. Edwards, G.W. Hillyard, H.C. Wigham, G.L.M. Boyd, captain Saunderson, H. Bacon, H.L. Doherty and H. Tophan. No French name in the local team! The tournament finished in the most balanced way: a tie, four victories each side.

A few years later, in 1906, during the Open, in Muirfield, the GDM conceived the idea of popularising golf in the South of France by organizing a tournament in Cannes. He invited, for the next winter, ten of the leading professionals who accepted the offer: James Braid, Harry Vardon, J.H. Taylor, Sandy Herd, Jack White, Rowland Jones, Arnaud Massy, Ted Ray, Ben Sayers and Tom Vardon. The two professionals of the club, B and C Callaway were also invited to compete.

The first day was devoted to a 36 strokes competition and the first prize, of £50 presented by the club plus £12 and a golf medal by the city of Cannes; the second prize £25 presented by the club and £8 and a silver medal by the town. The third prize was of £15. The match was a great event and among spectators there were the GDM and his wife Countess Sophie de Torby, Prince and Princess Christian of Denmark, the Grand Duchess Anastasia of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, the Duchess of Devonshire, the Countess of Essex, General Sir Arthur Paget, Lord Granville Gordon and Admiral Sir E. Hotham.

On the first day, Arnaud Massy won the singles with an aggregate score of 149. Ted Ray was second with 150 and J.H. Taylor third with 152. The next day was dedicated to four balls. Again Massy, paired with Rowland Jones, was the winner (138). The team Ben Sayers and Tom Vardon was second (141). The third place was tied between the teams Braid - Harry Vardon and Ray - B. Callaway (143). In addition to the money prize, Massy got a golf medal struck with the coat of arms of the TGM (see picture).

This great success of Massy was certainly a kind of announcement for a fabulous year: the one which led him to the Open victory in Hoylake.



Massy wore those three medals attached to his chain. One was won in Cannes, 1907 and one was offered to him by La Boulie after his victory in The Open (Hoylake).

The Hyères (Les Palmiers) Golf Club – 1894.

In 1894, British visitors decided to rent a large but marshy land called le Pré Durandel to the Count David Beauregard and start laid out a small practice course. The Hyères Golf Club was born. The initial place was abandoned in 1895 when six holes were opened in a nice valley, offering a park-like aspect. In 1899 the course was extended to 12 holes and reached the standard of 18 holes in 1906, thanks to Mr Zick, owner of the Golf Hotel, and Mr Logan expert in cultivation of grass - who later helped at Nice G.C.

One of the most characteristic peculiarities of the original course was that hurdles were replacing the usual bunkers. The landlord was keeping horses on the course during the summer season and was fearful that they could break a leg if trapped in a bunker. These hurdles can be clearly seen on an illustrated postcard by E. Lessieux (see pictures next page). Later, when the course was extended, modern bunkers were implemented.



The next year, another tournament was played at the Hyères Golf Club as a prelude to the Tattler cup (see below: Costebelle). Also, it must be noted that this club was often referred to as “Hyères Les Palmiers” in order to avoid any confusion with another club in Hyères: Costebelle.

The Valescure Golf Club – 1895.



According to A.H. Crosfield, writing in the Horton & Smith *“The Royal & Ancient Game of Golf”* (1909) *“One of the best holes is [...] the 7th – a two-shot hole well guarded part of the way by rough ground all the way by woodland, and requiring a fine second shot to achieve a par 4. Another noticeable hole is the 8th, which is much the shape of a bottle, the tee being in the place of the cork, and fifty yards of the tee-shot travelling down a narrow opening with woods on either side – as it were the neck of the bottle. Then the hole opens out, and the putting green, which can be reached by a full driving-iron shot, is located on the end of a narrow bit of tableland.”*

In 1907 and possibly until WWI, W. Freemantle was the local pro (spending his summer time in Engadine, Switzerland).

In March 1907, after the Grand Match in Cannes – and Massy’s victories – and before returning back to Great Britain, a tournament was organized in Hyères. The *Scotsman* newspaper was writing: *“Alexander Herd and James Braid the Scots regained some of their prestige lost in Cannes. Jones was again well to the front, and so, too, was Ray, who, with the wooden clubs seems to be as powerful as ever.”*

Located at about 20 miles from the Cannes GC, the club was founded by Lord Ashcomb in 1895 and inaugurated after five years of hard works by ... The Grand Duke Michael! Nine of the best Cannes golf players were present and welcomed at the train station by Sir Lawrence Jones and Colonel Call. A lunch was organized, also attended by Hon. John Marsham, Sir William Plowden, Mr T. S. Bentall, honorary secretary of the Valescure GC and Mr. Ferrier Kerr, honorary secretary of the Cannes GC.

The first years, there was no club house. After the Paris Universal Exhibition 1900 was completed, the Norway Pavilion was dismantled and rebuilt in Valescure to serve as a club-house. At that time, only twelve holes were available for the players. Arthur Grant was professional there just before WWI.

The Valescure links were considered as “the most natural” of any of the Riviera golf courses and were not considered as being very challenging as only three holes exceeding 300 yards. The total length of this 12 holes course was just slightly exceeding 3000 yards.

The Nice Golf Club – 1902



In 1902, on April the 11th, Mr Nicolas Xantho registered the “Société Anonyme du Golf de Nice”. The Society had its first General Meeting a few days later (April the 14th). Mr Xantho was elected President of the Board, Reverend Canon as Vice-president; J.-L. Langford, Browne, J.-R. Hay Gordon and Baron Jean de Bellet were members.

It must be emphasized that the success of the club was mainly due to the effort of Mr Xantho and J.-R. Hay Gordon. The help of later Vice-President Mr Thornton must not be forgotten.

The course was located at Cagnes-sur-Mer, less than ten kilometres from the city centre of Nice and a tram was offering an easy connection. It was offering 18 holes and it must be noted that the grass used for the course was very resilient and there was no need to sow again new grass every year on the course ... as this was the case for all the others courses on the Riviera! The first part of the course was laid out in a quite open land till the 8th. On the second part, trees were an essential part of the game.

It must be noted that, until 1910 and the construction of the Monte-Carlo GC, the Principality of Monaco was subsidizing the club with an annual prize of 3000 francs.

The baron de Bellet was the leading amateur of the club. In 1909 he won the Nice Amateur Championship and, same year, the French Amateur. He was also a member of the Paris GC (La Boulie) and won the Championship of this club in 1906, 1907, 1909 and 1921. His daughter, Pauline, was also a great golfer, winner of the French Ladies Championship in 1913 and runner up in 1910. She won the French Ladies Close Championship in 1908, 1909, 1910, 1912, 1913, 1920 and 1921. It must be noted that this

tournament was not played in 1911, so it is fair to say that Pauline de Bellet won it 5 times in a row, demonstrating a strong domination over all the other Ladies playing at that time.

An important professional tournament for total money prizes of £165 was organized on March 17th and 18th, 1908. The triumvirate - Harry Vardon, James Braid, J. H. Taylor - was invited as well as the Open Champion Arnaud Massy. Two others French players were participating: Jean Gassiat and B. Bomboudiac. Also, the local professional A. Covington and the Cannes GC professional, B.S. Callaway, were present.

The course was very hard due to ten weeks of drought. Harry Vardon won the medal play competition with an aggregated score of 143 before Arnaud Massy, 147. Braid and Gassiat tied 3rd with 148. On the second day, for the four balls competition was won by Braid paired with Gassiat, Massy and Callaway finishing second.

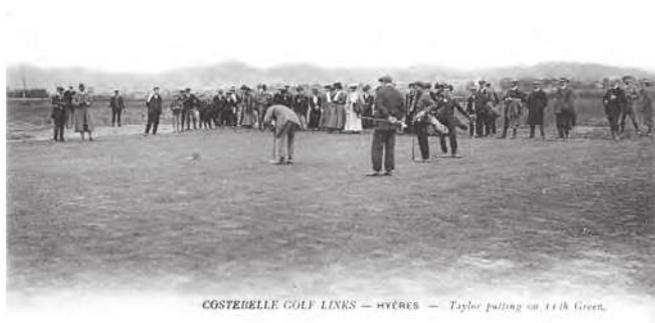
The Costebelle (Hyères) Golf Club – 1907

The Hyères (les Palmiers) Golf Club was a very attractive and pleasant one but was not reaching the international standards developed at that time. The need for a second club was clear to Mr Peyron, the proprietor of the Costebelle Hotels, who decided create an eighteen holes golf course close to his main hotel. During the summer of 1907 Covington, the Nice professional, laid out the course which opened on November the same year. In 1908, it was significantly improved by Willie Park. The course was 6200 yards long with a good number of long holes. But very flat, in an open land, it would have been without any interest if the genius Willie Park had not placed the bunkers, not less than 52, at the most strategic places.

In March 1908 The Tattler (a British magazine) organized there an important tournament called “The Tattler Riviera Cup” (or, in France la “Coupe de la Riviera”) played on the Costebelle course. The first prize was a 25 guinea silver trophy and the total money offered was certainly over 1200 francs.

After the Nice tournament (see above), on their way to Costebelle, the triumvirate plus Massy moved to the old course in Hyères for a two days tournament. Taylor won the competition with 139 (72 + 67), Braid second with 142 (71 + 71), Vardon third 144 (71 + 73), Massy playing badly

and finished fourth with 150 (76 + 74) eleven strokes behind the winner. Gassiat, Macdonald, Freemantle and Bomboudiac got respectively 153, 160, 166 and 167.



COSTEBELLE GOLF LINKS - HYÈRES - Taylor putting on 11th Green.

The next day, the Tattler Riviera Cup was played on the Costebelle Golf Course. Bomboudiac was initially supposed to play the competition but suffering from a cold, his place given to R.G. McDonald, the local pro, coming from Dornoch.



COSTEBELLE GOLF LINKS - HYÈRES - Arnold Massy driving

Vardon won the Cup with 151 (76 + 75). Massy was second with 155 (78 + 77), Braid third 158 (83 + 75) and Taylor fourth 162 (83 + 79). Macdonald finished with 170 and Gassiat with 171.

The Mentone Golf Club (Sospel) – 1909.

Located in the small town of Sospel, the course could be accessed by an electric tram after a 15 miles but not less than 40 minutes journey from Mentone. By car the trip was even longer as the tram was taking advantage of a tunnel. Such a situation might sound unattractive but the place had a significant advantage: water was abundant.

It was an eighteen holes course, laid out at some 800 feet above the sea. Most of the holes were between 300 and 350 yards. It seems that few bunkers were present but the second hole had a

high road bunker trapping the balls after a bad drive.

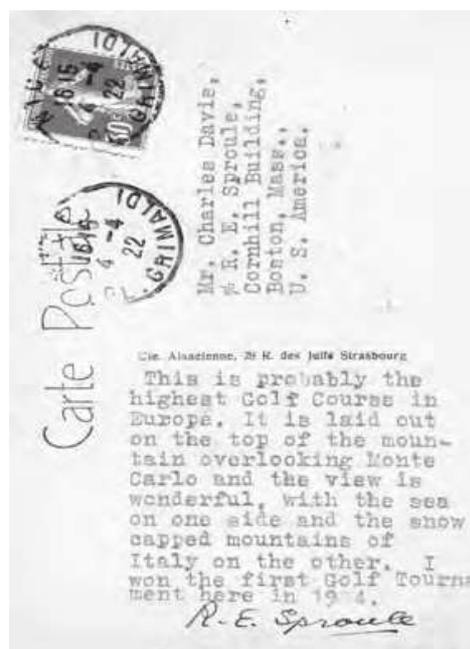


The club house, an old farm house which can be seen on most of the postcards, had several bedrooms reserved for players.

The Monte-Carlo Golf Club – 1910.

Initially the course was planned to open during the winter 1910. But because of heavy flooding, the inaugural was postponed until November the 16th, 1911.

This eighteen holes course was situated at Mont Agel, at 820 meters above the sea. Willy Park – him again – and Mr Chantepie – who also conducted the construction of many courses in France, including La Boulie – designed an eighteen holes courses with a very luxurious clubhouse owned by the SBM (Société des Bains de Mer) of Monaco. The club was less a sporting than a social place. The first competition was arranged not before 1914, won by a certain Sproule (see postcard).



SOME EARLY EUROPEAN CLUBS

By Alan Jackson, Gloucester

I recently had access to a substantial run of *Golfing Annual*(GA) from which I was doing some research into early golf clubs. During my work, I noticed that there were some European clubs which I was not aware of and began noting them down as a matter of principal. A couple of points came to mind: a good number were associated with hotels, obviously one way of attracting custom. The other was that they did not survive overlong, why I am not too sure.

These are the ones I noted. It is by no means an exhaustive list, because I did not note obvious ones such as Pau, Antwerp, Brussels, etc and while some are not strictly European, they were located in European colonies or protectorates. Further, some of the locations are now in different countries. I have included the full text of the entries as I believe they give an interesting insight of the times.

AUSTRIA

Carlsbad G C (Section of International Sports Club)	1904	<i>"The course, of nine holes, varying from 160 to 360 yards, with good turf a great variety of natural hazards, is near Café Kaiserpark, conveyance by motor. Visitors 5 Kronen a day, 20 Kronen a week, or 50 Kronen a month. Clubs for hire."</i> (GA 1907-08)
Franzensbad	1907	no details (07-08)
Marienbad	1905	<i>"The course, of nine holes, varying from 130 to 450 yards (par 35) is fifteen minutes from the town. A clubhouse has been erected. Sunday play."</i> (GA 1907-08)

EGYPT

Cairo	1888	<i>"A competition handicap, for a set of clubs, presented by Mr Dunn, the well-known North Berwick maker, was played for on Saturday, August 25th, on the links, Gezeirah. The match was keenly contested and won by Surgeon-Major Rogers; Mr Mortimer and Captain Dormer being second and third respectively."</i> From <i>The Field</i> Sept 8th 1888. (GA 1888-89)
-------	------	--

CAIRO.

CAIRO GOLF CLUB, INSTITUTED 1888.

The golf course is in the grounds of the Khedivial Sporting Club, all members of which are entitled to play; and there is no separate subscription for golf. Visitors can become members of the Sporting Club on payment of 1l. a month.

The golfing community is so small and of such a changeable nature, consisting chiefly of officers of the army, who are frequently absent on leave or on duty, that anything in the way of prize competitions is difficult to arrange. A silver medal exists, which was presented to the club in 1888 by J. E. Laidlay. It is played for annually.

"The green consists of nine holes, and the shortness of the course, which only stretches over a length of 2200 yards, is compensated for by the abnormal number of sandy lies and the difficulty of the 'greens' which are brown patches of puddle earth, over which sand is sprinkled daily. These at first present an exasperating puzzle to veterans from St Andrews and Prestwick, owing to their being much keener than the surrounding stubble or desert sand."

- The game languished during the summer months, though a small number of enthusiasts may be seen wandering over the ground in even the sultriest weather. In winter the visitors furnish a large contingent, amongst whom an occasional crack player imparts a degree of virility to the noble game that is sadly lacking during the rest of the year. The course is about a mile outside Cairo, and the beautiful scenery and pure atmosphere render it a healthful attraction to the visitors addicted to golf.” (GA 1891-92) - 07*
- Alexandria Sporting Club 1890 *“The course is in the Sporting Club’s grounds. at which four trains to and from the city stop daily.” (GA 1901-02) - 07*
- Pyramids 1889 *“Mena House Hotel is within five minutes walk of the great Pyramid, and in connection with this hotel is a seven-hole golf course, which, if properly looked after, would be hard to beat out of England. It is situated within a minute’s walk of the hotel, is well sheltered, and as the whole surface is flooded by the Nile every year, the turf would be very good if only horses were kept off the putting greens early in the season; as it is at present, a great amount of labour is necessary to get the hoof marks out of the hard clay. There is great pleasure golfing in a place like this; the weather is perfect, it never rains, and if only the hotel proprietors would spend a small sum on a few improvements early in the season, there is no reason why Mena House golf course should not become a favourite one with golfers who cannot remain in England during the winter. There is only one objection to the course at present, and, as the proprietors have promised that this will be remedied, other two holes can easily be added making a nine-hole course.” (GA 1891-92)*
- “There is also a course in connection with the Mena House Hotel, only an hour’s journey from Cairo. It consists of nine holes (par 35), and is laid out on a beautiful stretch of grass, in close proximity to the Great Pyramid. As the grass is, however, rather thin, players are requested to play in rubber soles. The hazards are sandy roads, mud walls, etc, and the greens are keen and tricky.” (GA 1906-07)*
- Ramleh 1893 *“The links are situated near Bulkeley Station, which is about three and a half miles from Alexandria. There is a frequent service of trains throughout the day. The course is a nine-hole one, laid out on the desert and on the sand hills close to the sea shore. Thus ensuring a cool breeze at all times of the year. There are no crossings. The hazards consist of a railway embankment and a number of bunkers. Part of the course occupies a site held by the British Forces in 1892, and one of the entrenchments thrown up then is now used as a hazard.” (GA 1894-95) - 02*
- Port Said GC
Suez GC
Helouan 1895 *No details - 02*
“Handicap competitions are held monthly.” (GA 1895-96) - 00
“There are two courses, one on either side of the town, and each of nine holes, but the one is much more appreciated than the other.” (GA 1901-02)

FRANCE

- Paramé 1893. *“The course, of eighteen holes, is situated at ala Guirndrais, near Paramé, and there is a clubhouse, where lunch can be obtained. A brake leaves the Hotel de la Plage for the course on Mondays and Thursdays. Wednesday is the ladies’ day. Members of any recognised golf club may play for three days on being introduced. The charges for visitors are 5 francs per week, 15 francs per month, and 30 francs for six months. Ladies 5 francs per week, and 15 francs for any longer period up to a year.” (GA 1893-94)*
- “The links, consisting of eighteen holes, are situated on sandy downs on a rocky promontory, surrounded by lovely sea scenery, about three miles from*

Paramé, on the coast of Brittany, and are naturally adapted for golf. The clubrooms are in the Hotel of Madame Thiery where good accommodation can be obtained. The hotel is about 500 yards from the links. The green charges are as follows: Temporary members, six months, 30 francs; one month, 25 francs; fortnight, 10 francs; one week, 6 francs. Strangers (members of recognised clubs) are allowed to play one day free. Tournaments are held at Easter and October,”

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|--|
| Argèles
& Gavarnie GC | 1893 | <p><i>“The greens at Argèles and Gavarnie were laid out in 1893 by Colonel Talbot-Crosbie at his own expense, and each consists of nine holes. The Argèles course is situated halfway between Lourdes and Argèles and about ten minutes walk from the Lugagnan Station. There are two first-class hotels in Argèles. Hotel du Parc and Hotel de France, the proprietors of which have arranged with the club to drive players to the green and back for the small sum of five francs, the distance being about five miles.</i></p> <p><i>The Gavarnie course is situated in a beautiful valley leading up to the famous Cirque de Gavarnie, in the very heart of the Pyrenees, and is about twenty minutes walk from the very comfortable little Hotel de Voyageurs. Play is not possible here before the middle of May, on account of snow, Gavarnie being over 4000feet above sea level.” (GA 1894-95)</i></p> |
| Sainte-Marguerite GC | 1895 | <p><i>“The links are the freehold property of three of the Life Members, who lease them to the club at a nominal rental. The course, of nine holes, with ample space for extension to eighteen if desired later on, is situated five minutes’ walk from the Hotel de la Plage, and command an admirable view, one of the finest in France. The putting greens have been entirely remade at considerable for the coming season, and a clubhouse has been erected. Sainte-Marguerite is particularly suited for golfers in the early season by reason of the mildness of its climate and pine tees exhalations. An additional recommendation is the extraordinary moderateness of the charges before the French bathing season begins (August to September). The Hotel de la Plage is managed on English lines by a Swiss couple; English and German spoken. Sanitation excellent, hot baths and dark room for photography in the establishment. Fine sandy beach, perfect bathing at all hours of the tide. Pension rates, July till October, from eight francs per day; October till July, special terms on application to Managers. Pension terms include bedroom, lighting, attendance, breakfast, luncheon, dinner with good wine, cider or milk. First-class attendance, remarkably good cooking. Gymnasium, croquet, and cement tennis court on the hotel premises. Excursions to all parts of Brittany, and to the historical “Chateaux de la Loire.” Good bicycle roads. A delegate of the Touring Club de France resides at Sainte-Marguerite six months of the year, and is a Life Member of the Golf Club.” (GA 1896-97)</i></p> |
| London
Paris GC | 1896. | <p><i>“The course, of eighteen holes, extending to about four miles, is and laid out at Mayville, Boulogne, upon ground close to the sea, recently purchased by La Compagnie de Mayville, Limited. The round was planned by Willie Fernie, and both he and J H Taylor have reported favourably upon the links. The headquarters of the club in Paris are at the British Club in the Grand Hotel. The links can be reached from London in five hours, and fro Paris in three. There is a splendid stretch of sea beach, and in the immediate vicinity are beautiful pine woods.” (GA 1896-97)</i></p> |
| Cauterets GC | 1899 | <p><i>“The course is laid out in the Pyrenees at an altitude of over 4500 feet, and amidst magnificent scenery.” (GA 1899-00) – 02</i></p> |

GERMANY

HOMBURG.

HOMBURG LADIES' GOLF CLUB, INSTITUTED 1890.

The course is one of eighteen holes, and the membership exceeds thirty.

The earliest entry for a Golf Club in Germany (GA 1890-91)

Darmstadt	1892	<i>"The course, of nine holes, is situated on the Exercierplatz, a level sandy plain extending from the station in a westerly direction, two miles in length and three-quarters of a mile in breadth. It is surrounded by woods, with large open spaces between of sand and short, crisp turf. The hazards are easy, consisting of breastworks, trees, a mound, and a shed, and the lies through the green are fairly good. Excepting between three holes, where sand and horses' hoof-marks are too plentiful. The holes are of good average length, and 39 is a steady card." (GA 1891-92).</i> Not in 1893-94
Dresden	1896	<i>"The course, of nine holes. Is very rough." (GA 1901-02) - 08</i>
Homburg	1896	<i>"The course is a short one of nine holes, and accurate lofting is essential." (GA 1896-97)</i>
Bremen	1898	<i>"re-constructed 1904. The course, of nine holes, is at Horn, and can be reached in twenty minutes from the centre of town by electric trams. Sunday play. The clubhouse contains eight bedrooms." (GA 1906-07)</i>
Cannstatt	1907	no details (07-08)
Oberhof	1907	no details (07-08)

ITALY

Sorrento GC	1895.	<i>"The first golf links in Italy have recently been established on the ridge of hills separating the Bay of Naples from the Gulf of Sorrento. They were laid out recently by an Anglo-Indian golfer, Mr J B Fuller. Of the Bengal Civil Service, with the aid of the resident physician, Dr Dunbar-Brunton, and one or two other golfing enthusiasts. The ground is an undulating plateau, about a mile long, covered with strong short-cropped grass, and though bunkers are scarce, the course is by o means an easy one. Only nine holes have been fixed at present, but there is room along another stretch of the same ridge for further extension, if the experiment should prove successful in attracting lovers of the game to this charming spot. The putting greens, of course, require time to be brought into good condition.</i>
-------------	-------	--

The site is one of the most picturesque in Southern Italy, commanding, as it does, a magnificent view of the two seas and of thee marvellously beautiful coasts of Naples, Vesuvius, Ischia, Capri, and Salerno. The height above sea-level is from 1600ft to 1700ft, and though the pull-up from Sorrento is a long one, a pleasant residence can be found for any golf-playing visitors who require a few weeks in the most salubrious air which the Mediterranean coasts affords, in the township of St Agata, where cheap lodgings and board are always obtainable, and which is situated on the ridge, within a few minutes' walk of the links. In any case, however, the ascent can be made on donkey-back, if the donkey is a good one, in less than three-quarters of an hour from Sorrento itself. In October, and in November, and again from March to June, the climate is very enjoyable, and, owing to the almost insular position of the Sorrento hills, is cooler and fresher than that of any place in Continental Italy." (GA 1894-95)

"The course, of nine holes, is about 2400 yards in circuit." (GA 1895-96) - 08

Como GC	1898	no details (98-99) - not in 02
San Remo GC	1898	<i>"The course, of nine holes, is about five minutes walk from Sagia Station, which is five miles from San Remo. An excellent clubhouse has been secured. Visitors, 50 francs a month; ladies, one half. For full particulars apply to The Bank, San Remo, Italy."</i> (GA 1901-02) - 08
Spezia GC	1898	no details (GA 1899-00) - not in 02
Florence	1899	<i>"The course, of nine holes, is in the old Demdoff Park at San Donato. The turf is good, and the hazards consist of hedges, trees, a dyke, etc. There is a good clubhouse on the ground, which is within easy reach of Florence (about a mile and a half distant.)"</i> (GA 1901-02)
Rome	1899	<i>"Prince Doria has a private course in the grounds of the Villa Pamphili Doria, just outside the city walls."</i> (GA 1899-00) - 08
Varese	1897	<i>"The course, of nine holes, varying from 90 to 270 yards (par 30), is laid out on some fields adjoining the Hotel Excelsior. The hazards are hedges, hurdles, ditches, furze bushes, and trees. The course is kept in excellent order."</i> (GA 1901-02) <i>"A new course of nine holes, varying from 92 to 528 yards (par 33), has been laid out by the Hotel Excelsior on 40 acres of moorland at Valganna, thirty minutes by electric car from the hotel. The greens are excellent, and the hazards are thickets, mounds, heather, walls, and streams. There is a large clubhouse, with putting course around it. A professional is engaged for the season, March 15th to November 30th. Visitors, 2 francs a day, 10 francs a week, or 20 francs a month; ladies 2 francs, 8 francs, or 15 francs. Sunday play. The hotel caters for golfers at 12s a day, including lunch at the clubhouse."</i> (GA 1907-08)
Lake of Como GC	1905	<i>"The course of nine holes, is at Dervio on the line from Lecco to Colica. Varenna is the most convenient place to stay, and it can be reached by train in fifteen minutes, or by steamer or motor-boat. The course can be similarly reached from Menaggio or Bellagio. Visitors, 2 francs a day, 10 francs a week, or 10 francs a month."</i> (GA 1907-08)

LUXEMBOURG

Vianden	1896	<i>"A course has been laid out at Vianden, Luxemburg."</i> (GA 1896-97) - this appears under Belgium.
---------	------	---

PORTUGAL

Bussaco	1907	<i>"The course of nine holes (to be extended to eighteen) has been laid out by the Grand Hotel do Matta for the use of guests. No charges are made, and clubs and balls are kept."</i> (GA 1907-08)
---------	------	---

RUSSIA

Moscow		Golf is now played here. (98-99)
Mourino	1895	<i>"The course, of nine holes, mostly short, is at Mourino, a small village twelve miles from St Petersburg. The soil is sandy, and the hazards are good natural bunkers. The clubhouse is close to the course."</i> (GA 1899-00)

SPAIN

Canary Islands GC	1891	<i>"The course is situated on the high ground behind the Catalina Hotel, Las Palmas, Grand Canary, and was laid out last December under the superintendence of R C Kitto, late captain of the Oxford University fifteen."</i> (GA 1891-92)
-------------------	------	--

Name changed to **Las Palmas Golf Club** in 1893.

“The course, of thirteen holes, varying from 150 to 420 yards, is situated on the high ground behind the Catalina Hotel. The six top holes are played twice to make up the eighteen. There is a small clubhouse. Monthly members are admitted at a charge of 6s8d, and can play for the Monthly Medal and Palmer Challenge Cup, which are the club prizes.” (GA 1896-97)

“The golf links, which are remarkably well laid out, are the property of Las Palmas Golf Club, and adjoin the grounds of the Catalina Hotel. The links are about two miles round, and there are thirteen holes, some of the upper ones being played twice for the full course of eighteen holes. The Bogey score for the eighteen holes is 73. There is a clubhouse on the links, which have been favourably reported on by Messrs H Hilton and J Ball Jnr., who played over them last year. These gentlemen suggested several alterations in the course, which have since been carried out. The obstacles are principally natural, consisting of “Barrancos,” or dry water courses, and euphorbia scrub, which to any badly directed ball is very fatal. These natural obstacles have been in places supplemented by dry retaining walls, which require some negotiating. The subscription to the club is very low, 10s for a year, or any part of one. No entrance fee. Caddies 50 cents (about four pence) for eighteen holes, and 30 cents for thirteen holes.

A medal, given by the late Mr G Forman, is competed for monthly, and there are at present two Silver Challenge Cups. One given by the late Walter Palmer, and the other by Mr O Robinson, the latter played for against Bogey. There is also a Silver Medal for ladies, to be played for monthly, given by Lieut-Col Wallace W Cragg.

The links, being on an elevated plateau, commanding magnificent sea and land views, are always blessed with a fresh and invigorating breeze, and are a favourite walk for the visitors, who enjoy the tea picnics given frequently at the clubhouse, which is only ten minutes walk from the hotel. All Golf requisites can be obtained in the island.” (GA 1898-99)

“The course, of eighteen holes and the clubhouse, are less than a mile from the Santa Catalina and the Metropole Hotels. Sunday play. The season lasts from November until April.” (GA 1907-08)

Gibraltar GC 1891 *“The course has been lately altered, and no low scoring has yet been made. Owing to the quantity of sand on the links, lies through the green are very bad. The course consists of nine holes, and the circuit is about a mile and a half.” (GA 1891-92)*

“The course at North Front is a very stony one of nine holes, about a mile and a half in length. The lies through the green are bad. The season commences in November and ends in May.” (GA 1896-97) - 99

Orotava GC,
Tenerife 1896. *“The course, of nine holes, extending to one mile, is situated on the promontory of Santa Ursula, about six miles from Port Orotava. Although short, the round is extremely sporting, the hazards being walls, trees, watercourses, etc. The scenery is exceptionally beautiful, fine coast and mountain views, especially the famous Peak, being obtained. A char-a-banc runs from the English Grand Hotel three days a week for a small charge.” (GA 1895-96) - 08*

Santa Cruz GC 1899 no details - 08

San Sebastian 1904 *“A course of nine holes has been laid out at this summer”*

I hope these jottings are of interest, and may even prove useful in some future research.

Allan Jackson

WHY DID GOLF TAKE SO MUCH TIME TO INTEGRATE IN CONTINENTAL SOCIETY?

Giving some thought to the influence of “free time”

By Albert Bloomendaal, Nijverdal, The Netherlands

Did golf derive and develop from already existing games? From the wonderful six kilo German publication of its golf history that last year adorned the centenary of the *Deutscher Golf Verband*, one might conclude that golf developed out of games existing already six or seven centuries ago in a kind of Darwinistic process.

As to the country of its origination the debate goes on, this will not be an issue in this publication. Indeed, present golf is very much alike a game that existed in Scotland and the Low Countries for many centuries. However, if the difference between a sport and a game is correctly given as: a sport is a game under agreed specific regulations, golf as a *sport* can pride itself of being one of the earliest regulated sports, with its origination in Scotland, where as we all know, in 1744 the golf rules were agreed and laid down.



The 1744 rules of golf
See <http://www.frontgate.com>



*Throne canopy Karl III, Duke of Lorraine (detail),
Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna*

That norm, that regulations determine the rules under which the sport is played, was at the same time the ground why Britain was so much earlier in having sports organised. Games were after all part of daily life all over the world, though we must be careful to use the word “daily”. For the majority of people in those days, work was the thing that ruled daily life six days a week from sunup to sunset. Only Sundays work could – must! – be interrupted. Funny enough, in large parts of society, Scotland to name one, this only free day must *not* be used for games, let alone sports.

It took a number of changes in public life that would greatly contribute to the development of games into sports. This had much to do with fundamental changes in society which took place in the first half of the nineteenth century, known also as the period of *the industrial revolution*. Where earlier about eighty percent of a population had their main occupation in agriculture, new methods in farming reduced the required manpower which then had to look for some other way for supporting a family. The meanwhile developed mechanical manufacture took up to half the now surplus manpower from that area to be employed in factories.

The major change in the lives of those concerned was that they had been accustomed to a life in accordance with a natural timescale, i.e. the daily rhythm and the seasons, whereas they now had to adjust themselves to a *time-controlled* life. Seasonal labour provided that outside the season, mainly between November and April, there was time to enjoy games and a certain feeling of *leisure*. Few obligations commanded daily life during that period. It is therefore not surprising to find that in the early days, golf was principally a winter sport, as Hamilton has showed.¹ Golf was not a game that could be played by the ordinary people. For them the implements needed, such as clubs and especially the balls, were too expensive. Apart from the well to do, only club- and ball makers could play the game. Still great variations of other games, later to become regulated sports, were a popular pastime in that period. This all changed when the effects of *Industrial Revolution* became more and more visible.



Industrial factory Scheibler, Lodz, Poland, 1896

It is in some way necessary to give special attention to a phenomenon which has taken such an influential place in present daily life, that it is hard to realise it once was a non existing part of a general life pattern: pastime. The English language doesn't even give it that special attention it has in Continental languages. "Freizeit" or "Freie Zeit" does not mean the same thing. Also in Dutch, one distinguishes between "Vrije tijd" and "Vrijetijd". In French one distinguishes "temps libre" from "temps á loisir". In general this means that difference is made between times in which obligations cease to exist, as distinguished from time that is given a certain meaning by using it for a different purpose. To be more precise: the negative connotation: "not-work-time", as distinguished from the positive connotation: "time to be used for something else".

¹ D.Hamilton. *Golf, Scotland's Game*. (Kilmacolm 1998) p.52

As a side remark it must be noted that the French word "loisir", meaning feeling free from obligations, very likely was the origin of the English "leisure". Leisure however meant in the English society of the nineteenth century a prerogative for only the well to do, the aristocracy and the gentry. Since they had few obligations that had to do with work, the very existence of something *apart from work* like pastime did not occur to them. Hence they knew just *leisure*. Being free to do whatever one took fancy to. I had to go into this a bit further in order to stress the importance of the "free time" or "pastime" phenomenon, in the development of sports and hence, in golf.

Sport as a civilisation tool

With a good deal of the workforce then employed in factories, the nineteenth century society took a different course. Labourers were housed in building concentrations around the factory with the result that hygienic conditions suffered. Absence of clean water or a sewer system caused widespread infections. A labour day might well be up to twelve hours and child labour was rife. Life seemed to present nothing else but work, eat and sleep. It is not astonishing that on Sundays, when work was forbidden, people reacted to engulf themselves in rather radical entertainment. Fist fights, often in so called "pit fights", where two men in a pit hammered in on each other till one was incapacitated, together with other rough entertainment, along with profuse drinking, caused them to arrive only half capable at the factory on a Monday morning.²



Lord Queensbury in 1896

As a consequence production suffered in quantity and quality. The expression: "Monday product" for a product which functions badly, derives from that time. Clearly something had to be done to improve a way of life which could not be tolerated, neither from a commercial nor from a

² One of the best known regulations to suppress a violent sport like boxing, were the "Queensbury rules as they exist till today. They demanded a.o. that thick gloves were to be worn and a match be played in time limited rounds.

moral point of view. It became the beginning of an initiative known as the “civilisation process”.

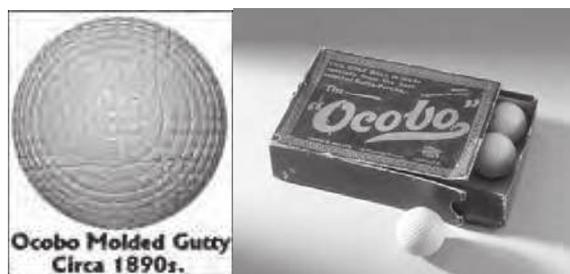
Working hours were reduced and a certain improvement in the living circumstances was undertaken. In order to structure the “non working time”, some older existing games were taken as a basis for regulated sport. The idea being that sport with its regulations, would lay the basis for the general idea of being disciplined. Football was one of the most popular as it involved a greater number of people to be trained and required physical effort. It also required very limited space. But mainly the objective was to get used to act under rules and regulations.

It must be noted that in order to be able to have groups of people act in sports against each other, means of transport had to be available so that teams from different areas could meet. In itself this requirement was a reason to regulate sport so that meetings could take place under generally known agreed rules. The meanwhile constructed railway system provided that possibility. Football became by far the most popular pastime of the workforce. It served all parties concerned, both authorities and church, for improving moral standards. The factory management for improving labour efficiency and the workers themselves for having an opportunity to meet people from other areas in friendly meetings. Authorities were satisfied by the reduction of harmful behaviour and the Church for renewed interest in living according moral standards. How did this work out for our subject: golf?

Development of golf in Britain differs from the Continent.

Other than maybe might be supposed, in England it did not take all that much time for golf to be accepted as a pastime for the general public. This has to do with an English custom in which individuals of related occupations, organise themselves in so called “societies” - most often men from the same professional area. This could involve artisans, bookkeepers or shopkeepers, which had a similar hobby. They would be very loosely organised with the main objective to just meet and share their way of pastime. Not so few of them developed “golfing societies”. A band of men with golf as their hobby, not attached to any club but using existing golf facilities - “Green-fee players” of “free golfers” as they are known presently all over the continent. In the period that followed the introduction of the manufactured golf ball around 1850, hundreds of new golf

facilities were being constructed. The cost of clubs and balls - both now under manufacture instead of hand crafted - was reduced to an extent that brought it within reach of a great many people.



Ocobo - a manufactured gutta percha golf ball

Clubs remained very private for a long time to the extent that visiting societies could make use of the course, but this did not include facilities of the clubhouse. Still, with the increasing prosperity in England gradually societies would undertake to create their own clubs.

Around 1910 already hundreds of golf facilities had been constructed, many of them for people from the working classes. Why then did it take more than half a century to introduce golf as a general pastime on the Continent? We have to look at the industrial development in the main countries of Western Europe to find the grounds for this puzzling fact.

When industrialisation with its mechanical production in steam driven factories was imported from Britain, continental manufacturers visiting that country were introduced by their English counterparts to a way of life that was the privilege of the upper classes. Most typical and completely different from the Continental way of life was however, that sports participation consisted of a mixture of working and upper classes. To be sure, the participants from either class were labelled: Amateurs and Professionals. Being *amateur* meant that the player did not *need* money he might make with sport. Different from the *professional*, who made his living through sport. So in a team the “professional” could be the captain of a team, however not allowed in the clubhouse. This custom has survived in many golf clubs in Britain until today. Members of different social classes being in close contact during sports meetings caused what the sociologist Norbert Elias (1897 - 1990) called a “drip effect”. Customs and behaviour, from the higher echelons of society, are gradually being introduced into the next lower echelon. This made the development and spreading of sports decidedly more lively.

When in the late nineteenth century young continental industrialists took the English sports back with them, they found no place in their own society to copy that way of life, although for different reasons. In Germany of the early twentieth century, class distinction was still very acute. Aristocracy and industrialists, together with the substantial “Bildungsbürger” – the higher educated people – formed a class of their own, apart from general society and few social contacts existed between them in either sport or any other part of daily life. Even the language provides for class distinctions for recognising a social position.

The Netherlands never had much place for an influential aristocracy as it had been a republic for centuries and even when made a kingdom, it was said that The Netherlands were “a republic under a sovereign”. A situation which has not altered much to this day³. Class distinctions were based on wealth and influence.

In France a kind of mixture of the two societies existed. (Descendants from) the aristocracy were – and are – still regarded as a class apart, though their direct influence remained limited. Class distinction did not entirely take that form, but influential functions traditionally went to the old families and universities were populated mainly by their offspring. However in either country industrialist families form a class apart and, unlike the situation in England, mixing of the classes was rare, decidedly so in sports. Sport clubs and organisations, also of the so called popular sports like football, were usually governed by the members of these upper classes.

Another factor delayed the introduction of particular sports. There was a certain dislike for sports which placed younger people in a situation of antagonism. The essence of most sports is to perform against a challenge either in norms such as time or distance as in athletics, or against each other in person or as a team. The fact that one side had to be better than another especially worried educators as being a source for developing less desired qualities. In Germany there was a decided preference for gymnastics and its acknowledged promoter “Turnvater Jahn” remains a celebrity to this day.

³ A socialist minister, a dedicated republican, when asked why he did not vote for reinstallation of the republic, reacted with: What’s the sense, the people would vote for the queen as president anyway.



Turnvater Jahn

Still in all countries a sport like football soon took the fancy of the greater public, not least because the employers found the effects on production and general behaviour gratifying. Sports would divide into “Volkssports” with football as the most popular, and sports that remained the selected preference of the middle and upper classes, tennis, hockey and...golf. A last factor that made England differ from the Continent was that in England from the beginning professional sport played a major role whereas in Continental Europe sport remained strictly amateur. Golf in Britain knew professionals from its early days not only in teaching but also in matches. That was the situation that would remain in existence until the first decades after WW II

Influence of the post war generation

However, the post war generation that came into view, did not accept class distinction any longer and took the end of WW II as a starting point for a complete new look at authority. In their view the disaster of the WW II was mainly caused by the views of the pre war generation based on class distinction. A rather fierce demonstration of those ideals occurred in what now is known as “the Paris student’s revolt of ‘68”. It would prove to be the beginning of a European movement by a new generation that would constitute in a few decades a more egalitarian society, in which existing privileges were challenged. It is my contention that the students revolt of Paris 1968 may have served as a catalyser for a process of fundamental changes in society. Once those changes had come to rest in calmer waters, the social strata had taken a change that would open new ways of life for the society of Continental Europe. Particularly higher education which came within reach of all social classes had its impact on the distribution of

positions of power. Habits and customs were dispersed over general society, regardless of birth or financial position.



Yet another factor contributed to a new feeling of independence. In that same period, growing mobility caused by a fast growing economy, offered possibilities for movement into activities that earlier had to remain outside consideration: Golf to name one! All this together caused that also golf could grow into one of “popular” sports. A sport considered to be within reach of the general public.

The position of golf in a changing society

Having made this sidestep into sociological considerations, where does this take us with regard to the introduction and development of golf on the continent.

Let us first look at one reason for golf so long remaining limited to the ranks of the powerful and well to do in the countries concerned.

Golf needs large parcels of land, a minimum of 25 hectares for a nine-hole course. That on its own formed already a limitation. Land was traditionally owned by either the aristocracy or the rich and powerful from the new industries or commercial companies. In Britain the social classes had their own way of mixing and staying apart through distinguishing “professionals” from “amateurs”; land in possession of the upper classes was made available for sports as golf. A special case being that the railway companies, in order to attract passengers, made land adjacent to

the railway lines available for construction of a golf course. Indeed many old golf courses - St. Andrews being one of them! - can still be found near a railway line. This again shows that golf was considered part of daily life. Not having that special social environment on the continent, land made available for golf remained restricted for those who belonged to the social class of landowners and their relations as lawyers, doctors, bankers and such. A strict “ballotage” kept membership of clubs within their own social environment. On a question why they would, in that period, exclude others from being accepted as members, a very revealing, at the same time surprisingly clear reply came our way. Golf is a very social sport. People stay in each other’s company for hours in an intimate and private atmosphere. Later you find just the two or three of them in a pastoral environment to meet in the clubhouse with its own private atmosphere.

This may invite conversation of a more private or even confidential nature. With as a consequence, as one member of an old traditional club put it: “We did not mean to keep people out; we just wanted to make sure that those accepted would fit in”. Since golf on the continent, contrary to the United Kingdom, always was a mixed sport - many clubs started with women in the committee - one had to be careful to have members acceptable within that ambience. A desire to keep possible developing infatuations from leading to less desirable marriages. A large part of the younger generation in those days, were partner in the family business concern and marriages were calculated carefully in view of possible financial consequences. This situation continued till about the period of the 1980’s when a sudden and spectacular growth in golf participation took place, though in one country more lively than in another. As stated above, movements by the new post war generation did greatly contribute to accelerate a process that in itself would have taken place, albeit perhaps in a less hectic manner.

New reasons to start a golf club / golf course

Up until around 1980, there had been little reason to begin a golf club, or a golf course for that matter, for other reasons than as a facility for a group of people to have a private place of their own for their beloved pastime. Since, as was mentioned earlier, this involved having the necessity of a large parcel of land, this restricted participation. As an example, in The Netherlands, the first club was grounded in 1893 in The Hague, the now Royal The Hague Golf and Country Club,

Thirty years hence in 1933 there were just 14 golf clubs with altogether some 2500 members. Another fifty years later in 1983 there still were only 30 clubs with a total of 15500 members - Just 16 more clubs and 12.000 new golfers in thirty years. All of them were private clubs with "ballotage".

Then, again twenty years later in 2003 this had grown into 129 courses with a total of 218500 members. The majority open to the general public. So between 1983 when the above mentioned effects of a changed society were materialising, and 2003 when the full effect had taken place, the number of courses had more than quadrupled and participation had increased by fourteen times the number of 1983. Although Germany and France do not show figures of a likely explosive nature, the growth of golf in either country is of a comparable impressive nature.

Development of golf in selected European countries 1985 - 2007

	1985		2007		Increase in %	
	Courses	Members	Courses	Members	Courses	Members
Germany	190	67.332	677	527.388	256,3	683,3
France	150	63.724	559	378.275	272,7	493,6
Netherlands	32	16.055	154	282.000	381,3	1.656,5
Belgium	18	10.000	78	48.000	333,3	380,0
United Kingdom	1.859	826.650	2.948	1.416.665	58,6	71,4
Ireland	257	125.000	409	287.000	59,1	129,6
Denmark	51	25.000	170	145.310	233,3	481,2
Sweden	181	107.000	462	532.944	155,2	398,1

It stands to reason that such spectacular numbers could not be achieved within the old criteria for founding a golf club. Presently there is more than one reason to begin a golf facility the least of which is the privately owned exclusive ballotage club. A renewed look at the use of once farming land and renewed considerations by the environmental organisations makes a golf course a welcome addition in the general landscaping. At the same time golf course exploitation as a business initiative is taking up quite a position. Globally, golf has become a major factor in the economy. Professional golfers have taken a place in society within en without the golf world itself that makes them into important public figures.

Conclusion

The introduction and development of golf took a decidedly different course when compared between Great Britain and the Continent. The main reasons being that in Great Britain for various reasons sport in general was actively promoted during the second half of the nineteenth century and the participants came from the upper classes of society as well as from the working classes. They played together on equal footing regardless of social status, be it that that remained true only insofar this was restricted to the game

itself. Outside the games little or no social contact existed and "professionals" were not allowed in a clubhouse. The costs of golf, earlier prohibitive for the general public, came within general reach when after 1850 golf balls could be manufactured in numbers for just a few cents. The existence of so called "societies" that took a liking to golf gave a decided boost to the construction of golf facilities. Many existing golf clubs in Britain descend from a society.

This situation could not be copied in the countries of Continental Europe. The social pattern developed over centuries and still lively present in especially Germany, did not allow for a comparable development. In France and the Netherlands where social statuses were less strictly divided, the fact that golf involved ownership of land still let it be a prerogative of the wealthier. In general, a mixing of the classes just was not on. Although often argued that it was the cost of the game that kept the less wealthy out, this was not the case. Membership, golf lessons and the paraphernalia as shown in club records, indicate that golf was not a very expensive sport. Definitely within reach of a larger public that actually existed up to the 1980' s.

It may therefore be argued that the fundamental changes of social and economic circumstances provided a general climate through all strata of society within which little was regarded as not feasible on grounds of a more modest public status. As a final indicator that golf has indeed become an everyday activity for just anyone, may serve, that regularly golf equipment is being officered in popular supermarkets. Golf clubs offer membership at a monthly contribution without entry fee or participation down payment. The ongoing increase in membership within and without a national organisation recently published to be at a figure of 15% annually, indicate that golf has become a general or popular, and sport altogether.

A change of this order could not have taken place without a fundamental change in the Continental societies.

Albert Bloemendaal, Nijverdal, the Netherlands,
September 2008

The above article is an abstract from the doctoral thesis which was presented June this year. Any comments to this essay are most welcomed - The editor (info@golfika.de) will kindly forward any contingent reactions to Albert.

CHOULE - The Non-Royal but most Ancient Game of Crosse

By Geert & Sara Nijs

When you have read books about the history of golf or books about 'how to swing' with a small introduction on the origins of golf, you have certainly learnt about the ancient continental golf like games 'mail', 'colf' and 'choule'.

Why these three games? Weren't there tenth of other stick and ball games on the continent (and in Britain)?



Jeu de la tapette, a stick and ball game played long ago in the Valenciennes region (France)

The Belgian historian, Katelijne Geerts, mentioned in her book 'De Spelende Mens in de Boergondische Nederlanden' (Games in the Burgundian Netherlands), 1987, already a dozen stick and ball games. Most, if not all of these games are lost and forgotten.

Probably, the game of mail is mentioned because the game was played by kings and nobles. Historians like to research and publish the lives of kings and nobles. So they also found out about the games they played.

The game of colf is probably mentioned, because you cannot ignore (although some historians do) the existence of many hundreds of beautiful colf paintings from world famous Flemish and Dutch painters in the 16th and 17th century.

But why choule, as the game is called in all these books? The game was not, or hardly played by kings or nobles, no paintings were made by famous artists and it was not played in the then centres of the world, as mail and colf were.



In the 17th century, a Dutch variant of 'jeu de mail' was played on the 'Maliebaen' (field for jeu de mail) in The Hague and various other places - Adriaen Pieterz. van de Venne, 1626



Hendrick Avercamp is famous for his many winter landscapes with colfers, painted in the 17th century



*Since hundreds of years the game of crosse is played in and around the old county of Hainaut –
Engraving by Anto Carte, 1923 – Private collection*

Perhaps it is because the game was mentioned for the first time in a golf history book, namely 'Golf' from the Badminton Library, published in 1890. The history part of the book was written by a well known golf historian, Andrew Lang. The information about the game of choule, he received from a certain Mr Charles Michel, a Belgian professor from the University of Gent. It is interesting to read that Mr Michel explained the way in which the game was played, very well. However, he used the wrong name for the game (choule instead of 'crosse'), he told that it was a Belgian game (instead of a Franco-Belgian game) and that these Belgian players could hit the 'egg-shaped' ball 400 yards (instead of 400 yards in three consecutive strokes).

Generations of (Anglo-Saxon) historians have been and still are very grateful for the information given in the 'Badminton Library' in 1890. So they did not need to learn French, nor to cross the Channel or the Atlantic to find out more about this 'hybrid' like game of crosse. Even in one of the most recent books on the history of golf (2003), the information given about the game of choule, came unchanged from the 120 years old information from the Badminton Library. It shows that in the meantime no research or information about the game has been published on an international scale.

Also continental historians have never gone into the past and present of 'jeu de crosse'. In the latest publications about golf history from continental authors the game is hardly mentioned, or even ignored altogether.

Are they right? Is the game of crosse just a less than marginal note in the history of European stick and ball games? They ignore the fact that, when golf in Britain was still a game for the happy few and when mail and colf were already dead for centuries, thousands of 'crosses' (clubs) and hundreds of thousands of 'chouettes' (balls) were produced every year in the Franco-Belgian region for thousands of crosseurs.

Why are we so interested in the history and the present of this stick and ball game which is perhaps not more than a negligible note in the history of golf?

As the game of crosse appeared perhaps incidentally in the Badminton Library, so we were also incidentally confronted with the history of golf and its continental 'look alikes'.

Coming back, on a Saturday morning from the market in our then hometown Eindhoven in the Netherlands, we passed a small 'brocante' (antique and curiosity) shop. In the shop window an old rusty hickory golf club was displayed. Because, at that time, we were looking for a birthday present,

we thought that such a club would be a nice gift. We entered the shop and after some bargaining, we bought the club. At home we noticed, after some polishing and under skimming light all kinds of marks, signs and characters on the back of the club face and on the shaft. Our interest was aroused. We jumped onto the Internet and found a 'mer à boire' of information about ancient golf clubs, golf balls, etc.

A few days later we received from one of our golfing friends a booklet called 'Early Golf' from the Dutch author, Steven van Hengel, 1982. After reading a few pages in this book about the Flemish/Dutch game of colf, we were hooked forever on the history of Scottish golf and its continental relatives.

We found out that the royal 'jeu de mail' died already hundreds of years ago, after an existence of just a few hundred years.

Also the game of colf, played in the Low Countries, died more than 300 years ago.

Steven van Hengel researched and published already about the games of colf and kolf in his book 'Early Golf', 1982.

The so called game of choule appeared to be still alive, somewhere in the Franco-Belgian border region. However, in the almost 1,000 years of existence, nobody ever researched the present nor the past of jeu de crosse.

The choule region was only a few hours drive from our home town. So, why didn't we have a look? Well, that was easier said than done. It took quite a while to find out that in Belgium the game was played somewhere around the town of Baudour, in the old mining district of the Borinage. At Baudour, nobody had ever heard of the game.



The late André Auquier, journalist in the Belgian Borinage, was of great help in our research

We asked the post office, the bakery, people in the street. In vain. At last at the butchers, after a lot of discussions with customers in the shop, the butcher thought that some elderly people played a peculiar game somewhere at the other side of the canal behind the industrial estate. It still took us hours to locate the field, where we indeed saw some people playing a golf like game. We parked the car, entered the clubhouse, explained who we were and why we were there and we were given a very hearty welcome. We were absolutely thrilled by seeing men playing with very peculiar sticks and wooden, 'egg shaped' balls. We were invited to hold such a crosse as they called the club and even to hit a few of these funny elliptical balls, which they called choulettes.



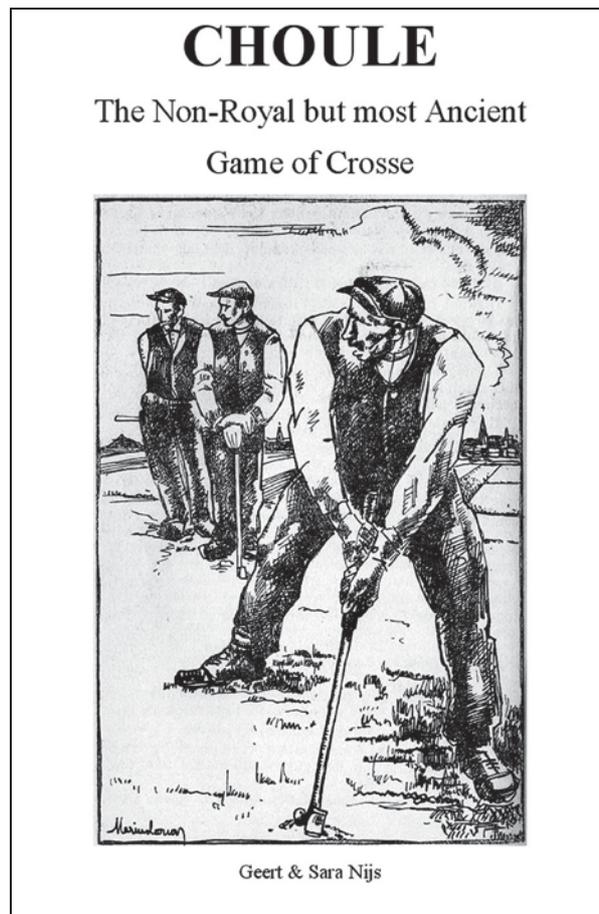
The crosse field of the society 'Pic et Plat' at Baudour, our first encounter with the game of crosse

In the meantime we were, with great enthusiasm, informed about the way in which the game was played. From that moment on, we fell in love with this wonderful, but almost forgotten game they called jeu de crosse or 'golf of the poor'. They told us that the game was also played during carnival in the streets of the towns and villages.

.... and now it is 7 years later. We have visited the crosse region regularly, on both sides of the border. We have played the game. We have talked to players, captains of crosse societies, local historians, journalists, ball makers, crossetiers, etc. We went into bookshops, second hand bookshops, town libraries and university libraries. We combed many boot sales, brocantes and visited all kinds of museums, chapels and churches and we surfed on the Internet with the expectation to find more direct or indirect information about jeu de crosse.

Slowly but securely a picture unfolded of a centuries old game, so fascinating, so special, so full of traditions. A game that still conceals so much secrets to be discovered. Although we have so far only unveiled the proverbial tip of the iceberg, we could not wait to tell you about the oldest known European golf related stick and ball game still played today. A game that was embedded in daily life of thousands of commoners. A game so closely linked to religion. A game immortalised in art, literature, music, poetry and language, as no other stick and ball game ever was ...

All we have found out about the game during our seven years of research, we have compiled in a book called 'Choule, the Non-Royal but most Ancient Game of Crosse'.



You can imagine that we are very proud to present to you the first study ever written about the game of crosse

It was not our intention to make a coffee table book. We could never improve upon the wonderful books about Austrian and German golf from Christian Arnolder and Dietrich Quanz. So we let the contents prevail over beauty.



Presidents of crosse societies both in France and Belgium told us all they knew about the crosse fields in the region

TABLE OF CONTENTS	
	Page
Introduction	5
What is Jeu de Crosse	9
Just a Sunday club match	21
Through the Ages	29
The Name	39
The Season	41
The Playing field	43
The Crosse (Club)	53
The Choulette (Ball)	67
The Players	77
Clothing	87
Food	91
Tournaments	93
Religion	99
Carnival	107
Battles	111
Images	121
Literature	141
Expressions, Proverbs, Songs and Poems	165
Afterword	181
Bibliography and Index of Illustrations	191

In 20 chapters we have written down all we have found about this very ancient relative of Scottish golf

On 198 pages with many photographs, paintings, drawings and maps, we explain how the game is played today, what kind of clubs and balls were and are used and how these clubs and balls were and are made. You will read about ancient tournaments, carnival and Saint Anthony, the patron saint of crosseurs since the 14th century. You will find out about women, boys and girls playing the game. You will see illuminations, paintings and sculptures and their possible relationship with the game. We discuss the battles between France and England in relation to golf and crosse. You will read crosse related literature, poems, proverbs and expressions and you will wonder with us about the similarities and differences between crosse, golf, colf and mail. We hope that you will enjoy reading about jeu de crosse as much as we did researching jeu de crosse.

For more information you can contact us on ancientgolf@wanadoo.fr or through our **web-site** <http://www.ancientgolf.dse.nl/index.htm>

GOLF POSTCARDS – THE FIRST ONE?



A postcard from Royal North Devon Golf Club dating from 1894 or even before

Any attentive visitor of our web-site <http://www.golfika.com>, which of course is still looked after by Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak (thank you again, JBK!), will have noticed the above picture of a very old golf postcard.

The postcard includes a request to attend a meeting of the Finance Committee and is signed by Gilbert Gorton, Honorary Treasurer. Bill Anderson kindly informed us, that according to the Golfing Annual, Gorton was Honorary Treasurer in 1892 and became Secretary in 1894. Also the type and the size of the postcard prove that it is probably dating from 1894 or before.

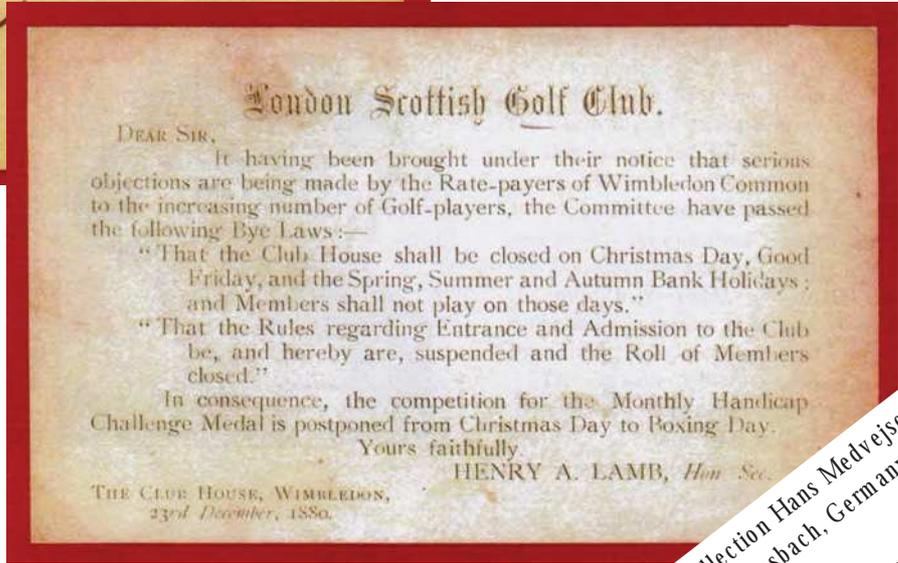
The search for the oldest postcard around, also expressed orally by Jean-Bernard on several annual meetings of the EAGHC, finally provoked our member and friend Hans Medvejsek from Bavaria to bring forward two marvelous pieces from his collection (see next page):

One Postcard from London Scottish Golf Club dating December 23rd, 1880 and announcing that the clubhouse course will be closed on Christmas day and therefore the monthly handicap competition will be postponed to Boxing Day.

A second postcard shown is the oldest known postmarked golf postcard dating March 4th, 1884. Hans, who is also a long time member of the International Philatelic Golf Society (IGPS), tells me these two postcards are also currently accepted as the oldest golf postcards known by the IGPS. Would any EAGHC member knowing of any older golf postcard please come forward and tell us on jbk@golfika.com. We would really appreciate to know. CM



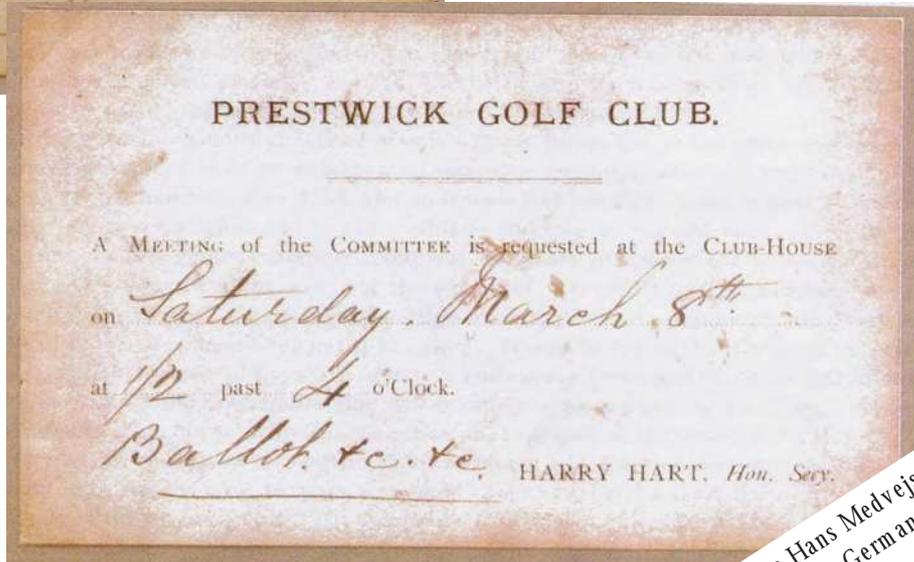
London Scottish Golf Club
23rd December, 1880



Collection Hans Medvejsek,
Miesbach, Germany



Prestwick Golf Club
4th March, 1884



Collection Hans Medvejsek,
Miesbach, Germany



This picture shows our honorary president and British Girls champion 1937 Lally Segard, née Vagliano, together with her father André after winning a family foursome in England

*From Deutsche Golfzeitung, Deutscher Golf-Verlag, Leipzig 15.10.1937
Courtesy of Deutsches Golf Archiv, Köln*