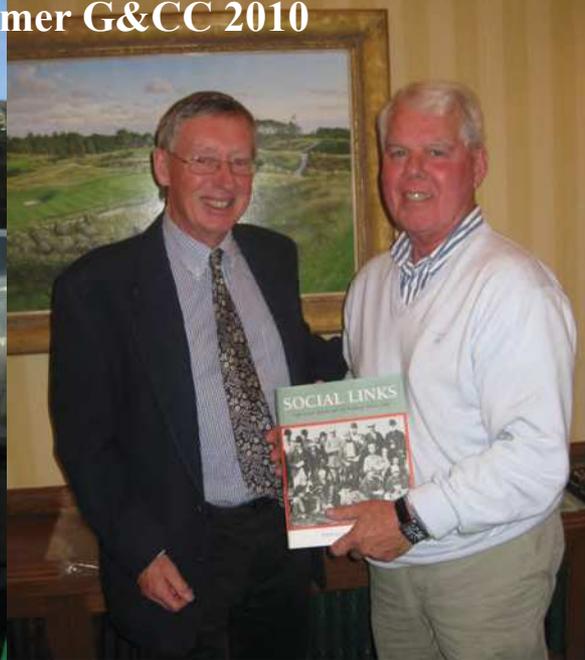


5th Annual General Meeting Kennemer G&CC 2010



golfika

Images Left hand side:
Photos from the 5th annual meeting of the EAGHC at Kennemer G&CC, Netherlands, Sep/Oct. 2010



Contents of this issue:

	Page
• President's foreword	4
• Fifth annual meeting of EAGHC at Kennemer Golf & Country Club, The Netherlands	6
• Kennemer Golf & Country Club	11
• Real Club de Golf de Las Palmas 1891	19
• Golf postcards part II - What to collect?	21
• Golfika-Quiz	30
• From Colf to Kolf	32
• Golf in times of military conflict	37
• Hickory Championships Germany - Czech Republic - Netherlands	45ff

The title of golfika No.6 is again after a painting of one of our EAGHC members, Viktor Cleve, Germany's leading golf painter. As a former art director he kindly designed the title page and donated it to us. His painting shows Christoph Meister's hickory golf bag including his hickory clubs. You can either contact Viktor Cleve by info@cleve-golfart.com or find more information about his paintings on <http://www.cleve-golfart.com>.

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 (two issues per year) is included in the EAGHC annual membership fee of EUR 25,00 p.a. The magazine is sold to non-members of the EAGHC at €10.00 plus postage & packing.

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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 fellow EAGHC-members!

What a pleasure and privilege it was to preside over the recent Annual Meeting of our Association.

The venue was the classic Harry Colt designed golf course at Kennemer Golf and Country Club at Zandvoort in the Netherlands. Once again the meeting was attended by the representatives of a number of European countries who were made most welcome at the club by our host, club member Robin Bargmann.

While the first morning was more reminiscent of a damp day in Ireland the absence of golf allowed a few people to set up stalls and trade some items of golf and kolf memorabilia. I think one of the really nice things about the European Association of Golf Historians and Collectors is that the shared aspects of collecting and history come so easily together. This was obvious in many of the presentations given over the two days. The quality of all the PowerPoint presentations was of a very high standard and many gave rise to most interesting discussions. Often the chairman had difficulty keeping to the programme. Details of the presentations are found elsewhere in this magazine.

The Annual General Meeting of the Association took place and it was my hope to create a greater involvement of our members in the matters of the Association. This seemed to be appreciated by those in attendance and some good ideas were forthcoming. On the subject of the venue for the meeting it was proposed that the Annual Meeting should not always be in a different country, some of which are more difficult to travel to, but perhaps a more central venue, such as Paris, should be chosen once every few years. This would give other members the opportunity to host meetings in the intervening years. It was also agreed that our Meeting should take place at the last full weekend in September. Members would then be able to plan ahead more easily. It is hoped that both these measure will encourage more members to attend meetings which have all been very successful so far.



I would also like to see an increase in our membership and even if each member was able to encourage one new member to join then our membership, and income, would be doubled. We are a small Association spread over many countries. It is difficult to organise committee meetings to discuss relevant matters of the Association and its future, however I hope that we will be able to have more open discussions as to the way ahead and that each of our members will feel that they may contact any member of the Board. The Association News Sheet will be issued more frequently. It is your Association, in the same way as *golfika* is your magazine so don't be afraid to submit an article or correspondence so that the magazine is reflective of the membership and is even more enjoyable to read. Thanks to Christoph Meister for his editorship.

As another golfing season comes to an end we can reflect on what might have been, and look forward to a winter enabling us to read or write; buy or sell or simply dream of the good scores which await us next spring. I wish you a very happy Christmas and a great New Year in 2011.

John.

Golf and the Olympic Games

As a follow-up to our articles in *golfika* No.4 „Golf-Silver-Bronze Will golf be an olympic sport in 2016“ by Stephan Wassong and „1900 Golf events in Compiègne - three American victories“ by Georges Jeanneau Kuno Schuch from the Deutsches Golf Archiv in Cologne would like to point the member's attention onto the following web-site:

Rio de Janeiro is elected as host city and the golfball has just arrived on the green - look at <http://www.omegawatches.com/spirit/sports/golf-returns-to-the-olympics>

Centenary of Magyar Golf Club Budapest in 2011

István de Rakovszky and Christoph Meister are planning a publication for 2011 covering the history of golf in Hungary up to 1952. Budapest's Magyar Golf Club was founded in 1911 and István's father was not only president of that club but also the first president of the Hungarian Golf Federation founded in 1941.

Anyone who would like to participate in this project is most welcomed to do so. We also invite any members holding golf historical information, documents, postcards or photos concerning the history of golf in Hungary to contact us. In this context it might be of interest to note that the golf course in Piešťany (today part of Slovakia) was one of the first golf courses in Hungary when it was originally opened in 1914.

Please contact us through MagyarGC@t-online.de

5th ANNUAL MEETING KENNEMER G & CC 2011

By Kuno Schuch

Robin Bargmann, club historian of Kennemer G & CC, welcomed around 30 Members and some visitors in the centennial year of the club for the fifth AGM on 30th of September. In the morning John Hanna was remembered to be at home, looking out of the window seeing the well shaped course and regarding the weather. Not one pairing of EAGHC members was found to play a round of golf, therefore the indoor activities started with a small golf historic market and satisfying sells.

The lectures teed off with a brilliant presentation by Sara Nijs about stick and balls games: *From Colf to Kolf*. Referring to a proposal made by Steven J.H. van Hengel the spelling with C meant the ancient game, the word Kolf is regarding to the newer era.

Steven J.H. van Hengel, as a former member of the KG & CC and Dutch author, was mentioned several times and accompanied the whole group during the three days.

Colf was a winter game, mostly. Very moody when played on the low country soil and not many rules exists. On the ice, it changes from a 'distance' to a 'target' game. During the years the jeu de mail playing fields were reduced more and more. Arranged by pubs & restaurants small courses were attached to this food and beverage stations. These Kolf-Terrains have been very successful in those days and many courses were built. In 1769 around 190 Kolf-courts are known in and around the city of Amsterdam, 31 of them covered.

In 1885 the Koninklijke Nederlandsche Kolf Bond was founded. Now, it is an indoor game, with precise rules. Real impressive images of the development of stick and ball games were presented by Sara - with the great support of Geert and the members of the St. Eloyen Gasthuis in Utrecht, who were present in Kennemer, and invited us to visit their 'gasthuis' (hospice) with the ancient kolf court and the 'Early Golf' library on Saturday (*For further info see also : www.colf-kolf.nl & article on page 32 of this golfika magazine*).

John Hanna, EAGHC-president, has arrived some days earlier together with his wife Mavis and focused on *early professional golf in Ireland*. Fact-based and routined, he explored the first recorded match between Alexander G. Day (from Royal Belfast) and Alexander (Sandy) Herd at County Club Portrush in summer 1890. From 1894 many Pro-Tournaments, organised by the Clubs, started off.

How *golf* was played *during war times*? Albert Bloemendaal and Pius Muskens (best wishes to him, because he couldn't attempt the meeting) examined this field (*see also article on page 37 of this golfika magazine*). Europe was the battle field and special rules by the R&A provided relief for nearly every circumstance. Especially during WW II and afterwards, many courses changed to agricultural grounds or military camps.

In the United States, the topics were different: Can we go on playing during war times - for example Bing Crosby, Ben Hogan and other famous golfers asked themselves? The winner cheques on the pro-tour changed to *war bonds* and the military machinery profits. Some pros had special skills, measuring distances for example, and support the army in their training camps. About General Eisenhower it is said, that he was playing golf at all possible grounds trough the war.

David Hamilton was well prepared and could jump in to fill some twenty minutes with his observations on *Golf's Internal Spread*. The Scottish east cost golfers delivers the game to the

Glasgow or, for example, Yorkshire region. English activities usually began with meetings to conclude, that clubs are “needed” or “wanted”. Scrub land was used in the beginnings and in the years before and after 1900 some 30 courses were built in Yorkshire. Mostly young men constitute a club together with Misses to get a ‘critical’ mass (more than a group of 25 – around 40 was good to build up a living club) and, may be, it would work as a marriage bureau as well.



John Hanna with Albert Bloemendaal, David Hamilton and Dutch golf course architect Frank Pont (f.l.t.r.)

The final presentation at Thursday, given by Frank Pont, was a close look at *Golf principles by Colt*. In 2001, he took up to study golf course architecture at the Heriot Watt University in Edinburgh. There he specialized in the classic golf courses & currently he is working with 20 Colt, Simpson, Cotton and Pennink designed courses to help them bring back the strategy and style principles of the original design. Some of these are:

- work with the natural features of the site
- defend the green by its location, size and surrounding hazards rather than through an extreme putting surface
- design severe for the scratch player, but sympathetic for the bogey player.

These principles have been surveyed by some of us during a game at KG&CC on Friday afternoon with great sunshine.

(For further information on Frank Pont pls. check www.infinitevarietygolf.com/index.html)

5th Annual General Meeting, held at Kennemer G & C C on 30th September 2010

The meeting was opened at 17.00h by John Hanna and our president asked for a minute of silence to remember the two members who passed away during the year:

- Krisztina Fodor, Hungary
- Mort Olman, USA

Apologizes from the members, who are not able to attend were expressed & post cards signed for some of them.

Finance report

Reporting for Georges Jeanneau, Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak (JBK) pointed out, that the figures aren't bad, but “we can progress” getting more members paying their fees. It is possible to make one payment for the Membership Fee for two or three years. A discount of 5 € or 10 % was discussed, but not adopted.

Board

Regarding the Current by-laws (only available in French at the moment), it is proposed to realise an English translation. JBK will make it. Leif Einarsson expressed his wish to improve the communication between the board members.

Some members asked, if there should be a permanent site for the AGM with easy access to the meeting place in the middle of the continent. John made the proposal to discuss this matter next year.

Golfika.com

The website is working again. A short discussion came up, whether the articles of the *golfika* magazine should be presented for download from the website? A possible solution can be to publish only the content of magazines together with the authors' names. No decision was adopted.

Newsletter

There will be EAGHC-newsletters twice a year, alternating with *golfika*. Extra newsletter will be send out if necessary. All members are asked to submit news, information, offers and questions to JBK.

Annual General Meeting 2011

It was decided to stage to 6th AGM (around the last week-end in September) in France. Members expressed, that it should be easily reachable and that we try to renew the engagement of French historians and collectors in the EAGHC. And as another reason we hope that Lally Segard can participate as our Honorary President. Brioni (with Damir Ritosa), Prag (Prokop Sedlak) and Brussels (Patrick Massion) have been mentioned, too.

JBK was present at the meeting to give additional information and the majority voted for Paris. Interested members to organize the 7th AGM in 2012 in their country are asked to be present in France next year to underline their interest and helping us starting off with a proper organisation.

May be – like running the Open championship every five years at St. Andrews – the AGM should go back to France each five to seven years, for example.

Questions

No more questions, but the good news of four new members:

Two couples: Annie & Harry Altmann and Ton & Coby Born.

Heartly thanks to the Kennemer GC were expressed by John Hanna. The official Centenary Print of the course & Clubhouse of KG&CC by Graeme W. Baxter was presented by Robin to John. The AGM was closed at 17.55 h and followed by a superb social evening.

Friday, October 1st 2010

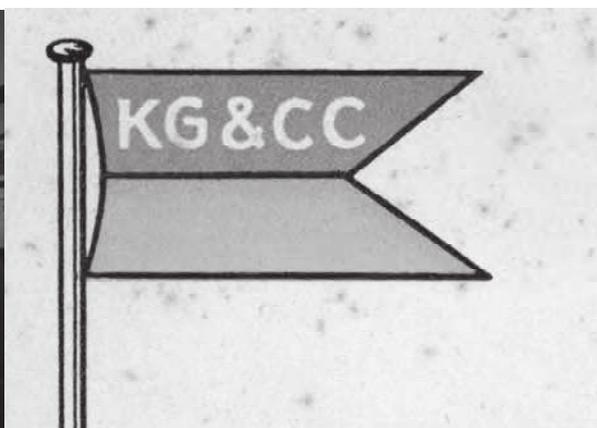
Friday morning, Iain Forrester was on the first tee with a substantial and extended presentation on the development of balls, clubs & swing. Iain, who is Head professional at Hoenshuis G&CC in the Netherlands and also a golf enthusiast in the fifth generation, referred on the influence of equipment on the swing and the game. The development from wooden balls to featheries and later on, the Guttapercha and Haskell periods forced tremendous changes. The relating club characteristics and swing models were well explained

and shown by Iain. In spring 2010 he had already demonstrated his knowledge at the Rheingolf public golf fair in Cologne and of course he was also in action at the second German Hickory Championship at Bad Wildungen in August 2010. The *1. Dutch Hickory Championship* on Saturday, 2.10.2010, was organized by Iain (see article in this magazine).

Donald M. Cameron, winner of the Murdoch Medal of 2010 with his publication *Social Links*, followed into the steps with his presentation on golfing contacts at the other side of the Channel. His very keen and ambitious view on *continental golf* before the turn of the century through British sources is at the beginning, but already he has come across many important information. Military staff seems to be of greater influence to spread golf in Europe, as well as foreign visitors. For example, in 1891 St. Moritz GC was founded by Anglo-American visitors and Robin Bargmann pointed out that there were some connections to Menaggio also. The well done St. Moritz chronicle should provide additional information. This work, based on the impressive research by Donald, seems to run very fruitful for the continental golf history. John Hanna underlined the positive results for the EAGHC coming up during the lively discussion and we are all looking forward to the outcome of Donald's new project.



Robin Bargmann "in action"



Club Colours Kennemer Golf & Country Club 1928

100 Years of Kennemer history was running in front of us during the presentation of Robin Bargmann. Two books are nearly finished and will be published at the founding date in December. Mr. Cremer, founder of KGC (now KG&CC) was one of the richest men in the Netherlands and pushed the developments of Club and Course. Two parts out of the lecture gave a good example of our daily work as golf historian: In the 1910 decade, Mr. Kremer was painted by Ph. Laszlo, a famous portrait artist. Hermann Reincke, successful company leader and president of the German golf association from 1924 to 1928 is pictured in the official DGV-centenary book, painted also by Ph. Laszlo-painting. Second example is the exploration of the KG&CC-Founders trophy, a very detailed silver cup, with some luck and great endurance by Robin – well done! (see also article on page 11 of this *golfika* magazine)

Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak finished these intense performances by looking at a special golf region in France, the Cote d'Opale. This part of the country is facing Great Britain on the other side of the channel – a nice focus to include mostly all aspects of the 5. EAGHC-'colloquium'. All the pictures and information from Jean-Bernard's collection will let us expect more for next year and hope to see you all in 2011!

On Saturday, some of us took the extraordinary opportunity to visit *St.Eloyen Gasthuis* in Utrecht. Open to public only one day every year, the national heritage and visiting historic monuments day, we got a very warm and friendly welcome:



Nico H.W. van Xanten, vice-master of the house (*tweede huismeester*), introduced the group into the history and tradition of the former *Utrechts Smede Gildt St. Eloy* and invited us for a good cup of coffee, or two. Unfortunately David Hamilton was forced to leave early. I would like to know what his impression was and what arrangements he might have made to come back to this special spot?

Also David, you have missed to play at the 'Kolf baan' and to see the collection of literature. The chairman of the *Kolfclub Sint Eloyen Gasthuis*, Jaap Roell, explained the spirit of the game and the rules. And we were allowed to play some balls and have got a remarkable contact to this traditional stick and ball game. Together with Dr. J. Ayolt Brongers, the visit of the Library was the next highlight. His father was editor of *Golf*, the Dutch golf magazine which was started in 1937. A profound conversation raised and several unique documents made it obvious for us as sport historians that real treasures are to be found in the Boterstraat 22.

A special thank goes to Cees van Woerden for his kind support during the whole visit, as well!

Kuno Schuch

KENNEMER GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

By John Hisco

On 11th December 2010, Kennemer Golf & Country Club celebrated its centenary. One hundred years earlier Gérard van der Vliet had taken the initiative to invite several friends and acquaintances to a meeting in Hotel Hartenlust in Bloemendaal to discuss plans for a golf club. This first minuted meeting had a formal character with the aim to take a decision on the official founding of a new golf club.

Van der Vliet, had undertaken extensive preparations and unsuccessfully reviewed various alternative locations for the construction of a suitable course before he finally reached an agreement with Jacob Th. Cremer, who had graciously offered grounds near the railway station Driehuis. The grounds situated in the surroundings of Huis te Velzen, formed part of Cremer's extensive Duin en Kruidberg estate. Which other locations Van der Vliet had opted for is not known.



*Jacob Th. Cremer by De Lazlo (1920)
Honorary chairman KGC1910*

A.A. del Court van Krimpen, founding member of the Rosendaelsche Golf Club, and renowned golf pioneer in the Netherlands with a broad knowledge of course design and ground maintenance, attended the meeting. He had acted as adviser to Van der Vliet and with the golf professional A.J. Ife, had surveyed the intended grounds near Huis te Velzen. The conclusion reached was the grounds were suitable for a 9 hole course and that as early as April the following year it could be ready for play.

Van der Vliet told the meeting that more than ninety members had provisionally subscribed and after having determined that sufficient funding

was available, the meeting formally approved the founding of a golf club.



Duin en Kruidberg, 1909

At the suggestion of A. Koolhoven, the name "Kennemer Golf Club" was adopted. G.J. van der Vliet was appointed President, C.J. Tienhoven Secretary and G.L. Tegelberg Treasurer; other committee members appointed were A. Koolhoven and A. van de Poll. The meeting proposed to appoint J.Th. Cremer as Honorary Chairman for his kind willingness to make the grounds of Duin en Kruidberg available to the Kennemer.

Other notable attendees of the first meeting in Hotel Hartenlust in Bloemendaal were Herbert Cremer and his wife Mien Cremer-van Marken and Herbert's younger brother Marnix Cremer, who jointly represented the Cremer family of Duin en Kruidberg.

At the official opening of the club in 1911, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Cremer-van Marken presented the first silver cup to the Kennemer known as the 'Cremer Cup'. The Cremer Cup served as the trophy for the men's annual medal competition, considered by all as the unofficial men's championship until the club formally began the Club Championship for men in 1921.



Herbert Cremer Cup KGC 1910

Also attending was Herbert Cremer's brother-in-law G.F. van Tets, married to Herbert's sister Dora Cremer. He was Secretary of the Doomsche Golf Club, who in 1912 would invite the five existing golf clubs in the Netherlands to form a federation. These clubs were the Haagsche Golf Club, Doomsche Golf Club, Rosendaelsche Golf Club, Hilversumsche Golf Club and Kennemer Golf Club.

The initial title adopted for the federation was the Nederlandsch Golf Comité (now Nederlandse Golf Federatie) and formal constitution took place in 1914. J.W. Schorer, who too was an attendee of the first founding meeting of the Kennemer on 11th December 1910, would later represent the Kennemer Golf Club in the NGC.

The NGC organised its first official international open championship competition for amateurs and golf professionals at The Hague Golf Club in 1915. This championship is the forerunner of the present-day Dutch Open Championship.

In 1920, the Kennemer was host to the international open championship for the first time at its club in Santpoort. This was to be the only time this competition was held in Santpoort. Overall winner was the English professional Henry Burrows, who went on to win the overall

championship three times and was winner of the 'Wisselbeker voor Golf Professionals' five times in total, the last time in 1923. The family of Henry Burrows most generously returned his trophy to the Netherlands Golf Federation (NGF) in 2010. The intention is for it to form part of the national golf heritage collection of the NGF.

It is noteworthy that the four oldest golf clubs, Haagsche, Doomsche, Rosendaelsche and Hilversumsche all had their historic roots in the period between 1890 and 1895. Note too the Hilversumsche, although officially founded on 1st January 1910, had formed as a club with the same name as early as 1894 or before.

At this time, golf in Britain and America was booming and not surprisingly had reached the shores of the Netherlands. Why it took another fifteen years before the fifth club, the Kennemer Golf Club, eventually started is a matter for speculation.



Huis te Velsen ca. 1920, clubhouse KGC

The early origins of Huis te Velsen, the Kennemer's first clubhouse in Santpoort, date back to about 1250. It was this location on the grazing farmlands of De Kruidberg and Huis te Velsen, owned by J.Th. Cremer in Santpoort, that Kennemer Golf Club had its home during the first eighteen years of its existence. It had been eventually decided by the members the historic Huis te Velsen would be a suitable clubhouse.

Archaeological research shows that Huis te Velsen originates from before 1255 and is therefore the oldest castle house in Kennemerland. This can be determined from old cartographic maps too. Other castle houses in the neighbouring area were Huis te Aelbertsberg, Huis te Kleef and Huis te Brederode.

J.Th. Cremer had bought the Huis te Velsen in 1906 and eventually would lease it to the Kennemer Golf Club in 1911. After the Kennemer left the building in 1928, it saw use by the parish of Driehuis as a centre for social activities and by the local hockey club 'Strawberries'. Huis te Velsen was last used by F.G. Starreveld as a hotel and café. H. Rutte rented the farm. The history of Huis te Velsen sadly ended when the German military occupant blew the house up in 1944. The final resting place of the Kennemer's first clubhouse now lies under the railway track built for the Velsler tunnel in 1957.

Jacob Theodoor Cremer had Duin en Kruidberg built as his magnificent new residence in 1909. Cremer was a non-aristocrat and an extremely successful and wealthy entrepreneur, politician, banker and diplomat, who had made an enormous fortune in the Dutch East Indies in the late nineteenth century.

The relationship between the Cremer family of Duin en Kruidberg and the Kennemer had always been warm and intense. The strong support and confidence bestowed on Gérard van der Vliet and his fellow co-founders by Jacob Cremer made possible the first steps of the Kennemer Golf Club. It remains a great honour for the Kennemer and its members to have been served by such a distinguished person, outstanding in the nation's history.

Duin en Kruidberg preserves its past grandeur and breathes the special atmosphere of 1910 when Jacob Cremer and Gérard van der Vliet shook hands on welcoming the Kennemer Golf Club to this wonderful and esteemed estate. Both Duin en Kruidberg and the Kennemer benefited from this friendly partnership. By the end of 1911, the number of members of the Kennemer in the first year of existence had grown to almost two hundred. It was a flying start indeed.

The two ancestral homesteads of Duin en Kruidberg, Duin en Berg and De Kruidberg have a well-known history of their own. The family Cremer lived in the Duin en Berg house since 1895 until it was demolished and replaced by the new Duin en Kruidberg country house in 1909.

Wealthy Amsterdam merchants and bankers had built many country houses in Kennemerland. Usually, existing older homesteads were acquired and subsequently rebuilt.

The first record of the forerunner of the Duin en Berg estate dates from 1598, when Steffen Cornelis Rijcken, a rich burgher from Haarlem, bought it.

De Kruidberg has a very different history but no less intriguing and probably more distinguished. Only a small wing of the original homestead, De Kruidberg remains and it now is part of a farmhouse serving as a manège.

Stadtholder William III, Prince of Orange, once owned De Kruidberg and the estate, which was renamed *Princenbosch*. It is at this location that William in all secrecy prepared for the intended crossing of the North Sea with the purpose of invading England. The aim, to depose his father-in-law King James II of England (and James VII of Scotland) in the Glorious Revolution of 1688 to become King William III of England and Scotland with his wife, Queen Mary II. Following King William III's premature death in 1702, the lustre of De Kruidberg ended and the house rapidly fell into decline because of a severe lack of maintenance and regular sand-drifts from the nearby dunes.



De Kruidberg farmhouse - Hole 6 KGC 1910

In 1895, Jacob Cremer purchased both Duin en Berg house and estate, and De Kruidberg farmhouse. De Kruidberg was situated alongside the 7th hole of the Kennemer Golf Club in Santpoort and was a characteristic feature of the course then. This view is wonderfully preserved on the Cremer Cup, presented by Mr. and Mrs Herbert Cremer-van Marken in 1911. The old remaining part of the Kruidberg is pictured with grazing cows on the fairway in front of De Kruidberg. In the distance, there are trees and it is possible to identify the characteristic tower of Duin en Kruidberg. This club artefact is a wonderful historic remembrance of the days of the Kennemer on the grounds of Duin en Kruidberg and of the family Cremer.



Course Layout around 1915

Of the 9 hole course, seven holes were located on the farmland properties of Cremer. P.Th. van Hoorn leased the additional land needed. Here two holes were laid out on the west side of the road on the sandy dune grounds previously known as the 'Wildernis'. These two were considered as real 'links' holes, the first in the Netherlands of more to come.

Mowing machines were drawn by horse and pushed by hand. The course was primitive and as cows grazed on the fairways, there were wire fences built around the mowed greens to protect them. It was then a local rule that a ball lodged in manure 'may be lifted and dropped over the shoulder within a distance of two club lengths but not nearer the hole'. Strangely, the penalty was one stroke leaving the unattractive choice 'to play the ball as it lies'.



Hole 9, crossing railroad line
(from *Revue der Sporten* 1913)

The course was about 2249 yards and the 'bogey' was 42. The winning score of the open champion Henry Burrows in 1920 was 155 over 36 holes. It was not an easy course, especially with a railway running right through the middle as an added

obstacle. Two holes, the 2nd and the 9th hole crossed the railway line that connected Haarlem and Alkmaar.

With the help of green keeper Cees Twisk, who started in 1916 as a twelve-year-old caddy at the Kennemer, the club historian Steven van Hengel reconstructed the original layout of the course in 1985. Although the railway track has since been slightly altered, the site of the old club is hardly built on and is therefore recognisable. It is still quite possible to retrace all the original 9 hole course. The clubhouse Huis te Velsen no longer exists and the railway track now runs over the ruins of the once famous Huis te Velsen.



Cees Twisk, greenkeeper since 1916

The leasehold agreed with Cremer was not long-term and had a one-year notice of cancellation clause. The reason for this was the local authorities were negotiating with Cremer to develop close by IJmuiden into a coastal beach resort. A planned new railway and main road would cut right through the grounds of the Kennemer forcing the club to look seriously into alternatives as early as 1915. However, these plans never came to fruition, although the club President Gérard van der Vliet and his committee members quietly nurtured long-term ambitions for a grander 18 hole course in the dunes of Kennemerland.

The first professional, who was green keeper at the same time, was the young and inexperienced E.J. (Percy) Hill, the son of an English green keeper. A.J. Ife, the professional of the Haagsche, who had been involved with the course construction in Santpoort, had recommended him to the Kennemer. In 1913, after only two years

with the Kennemer, the more experienced E.N. Kettley replaced Hill. Kettley too was an English golf professional, who was mobilised later in 1917 by the British army and was forced to return to England.

His successor was a Dutchman, Jacob Oosterveer from The Hague. He had grown up near Clingendael as the oldest of three brothers and had learnt to play golf from the local professional A.J. Iff. His brothers, Dirk and Arie Oosterveer later served the Haagsche as professional and green keeper. Jacob was a reputedly good player too, winning the Dutch Open in 1917. His brother repeated the same feat in 1919. Note the number of competing golf professionals in those days was limited considering the number of golf clubs in existence in the region and the mobilisation effects of the war.

In 1920, Jacob Oosterveer married Annie Twisk and together they accepted the job of steward of the club, which they kept until 1928, when the club moved to its new and portentous building in Zandvoort. Annie's father Jaap Twisk was gamekeeper on the Duin en Kruidberg estate owned by the Cremer family. Her younger brother Cees Twisk later became head green keeper of the Kennemer in Zandvoort. In all five Twisk siblings had worked as caddies at the Kennemer in Santpoort.

Jacob Oosterveer had done a good job as an old-style golf professional, teaching and playing competition or exhibition matches against other professionals, keeping the green, mastering the caddies and stewarding the club. When the Kennemer moved to Zandvoort, Jacob Oosterveer accepted the position of golf professional of the recently set up Toxandria Golf Club near Breda, which was to benefit from his vast golfing experience during his years with the Kennemer in Santpoort.



*Gerard van der Vliet,
President & honorary chairman*

As President, Gérard van der Vliet held a tight rein on all club activities and committee meetings. The Kennemer was a mixed club, with women actively involved in all social activities and serving as committee members responsible for the clubhouse.

Van der Vliet took special interest in the golfing skills of the ladies members. He made a special President's prize available to the winner of the woman's competition and named this the 'Middeloo Prize'. This competition had the informal status of women's championship until finally, the inauguration of an official Club Championship for women in 1956.

In 1925, the Committee of the Kennemer Golf Club, presided over by Gérard van der Vliet, decided that they needed to look around for a suitable new club site. He turned to the experienced golf pioneer Gerry del Court van Crimpen, whose father had previously advised Van der Vliet in 1910 on the course lay out in Santpoort. The club had already entered negotiations with Vereeniging 'IJmuiden Vooruit'. That organisation had plans to add a seaside resort to the fishing town and with the Kennemer had reviewed the grounds of Velsersduin owned by Jacob W.G. Boreel van Hogelanden for building a hotel and an adjacent 18 hole golf course.

The plans came to no avail, so discussions were held with the widow of P.Th. van Hoorn to expand the existing 9 hole to the neighbouring dune grounds where the Kennemer already had two holes. Van der Vliet had looked extensively at buying the Naaldenveld property of the Crommelin family in Bentveld, as well as at the grounds owned by his family in Overveen. The club had clearly set its sight on building a 'links' course in the dunes of Kennemerland. None of these plans worked out.

Negotiations were even held with the Noordwijksche Golf Club to merge both clubs and to expand the existing 9 hole course in Noordwijk. The travel distance to Noordwijk would have caused too much of an obstacle for this to be a viable alternative for the Kennemer members.

Finally, in early 1926 the family Quarles van Ufford, owners of the Zandvoortsch Duin property, offered the possibility of a long-term leasehold contract. Gérard van der Vliet had visited the grounds with the club Secretary A.A. Diemer Kool and their adviser Gerry del Court.

The conclusion was that Zandvoortsch Duin was 'from all angles judged to be quite suitable for golf'.

Both parties moved quickly and a Financial Committee was formed under the presidency of its energetic committee member and capable financier, J.C. Beels van Heemstede. The old hands of the Committee of the Kennemer approved a sensible investment budget of Fl 350,000. This was a large amount of money but the club had ambitions for a full-fledged country club including tennis courts.

Beels van Heemstede, with his colleague Walrave Boissevain, passionately convinced the more conservative and somewhat pessimistic committee members to go ahead with the plans. This included inviting the renowned golf architect Harry S. Colt to present an initial plan for a golf course and an accompanying cost estimate. It was decided to continue with the construction plans under the condition of the successful issue of an interest free non-redeemable debenture to the sum of Fl 300,000 to be voluntarily subscribed by members of the club.

This way the committee made sure the plans could be executed even without the financial support of all the members. In the end, only a small portion of members substantially shared in the debenture but this group did provide for all necessary funding to be able to continue. The committee finally decided that construction of the course could start after only Fl 250,000 worth of the debentures had been subscribed, as there was an added back-up mortgage loan from Twentsche Bank made available.

Bank Rhodius & Koenig provided the necessary pre-financing and funding for the project to start. Through its director W. Sommerhoff, who was passionately involved in the new building plans and therefore invited to be member of the Financial Committee, Rhodius & Koenig had provided a substantial amount of all financing needed through the debentures.

The Quarles van Ufford family firm Zandvoortsch Duin too had generously shown its firm commitment to this ambitious project, which could not have advanced without the favourable terms of the 80-year long-term leasehold contract. Gérard van der Vliet and his fellow committee members had put in a tremendous effort to ensure the implementation of all the plans.

Lex Diemer Kool with Harry Colt supervised the construction of the course according to his approved design. The well-reputed firm H. Copijn & Zn. was selected to do the construction work. The clubhouse was built following the architectural design by A.P. Smits in English cottage-style, which with its symmetrical winged shape and characteristic thatched roof harmoniously fitted into the surrounding dune landscape. Smits was a well-known architect in Kennemerland before the war and had built many English country house styled homes in the area.

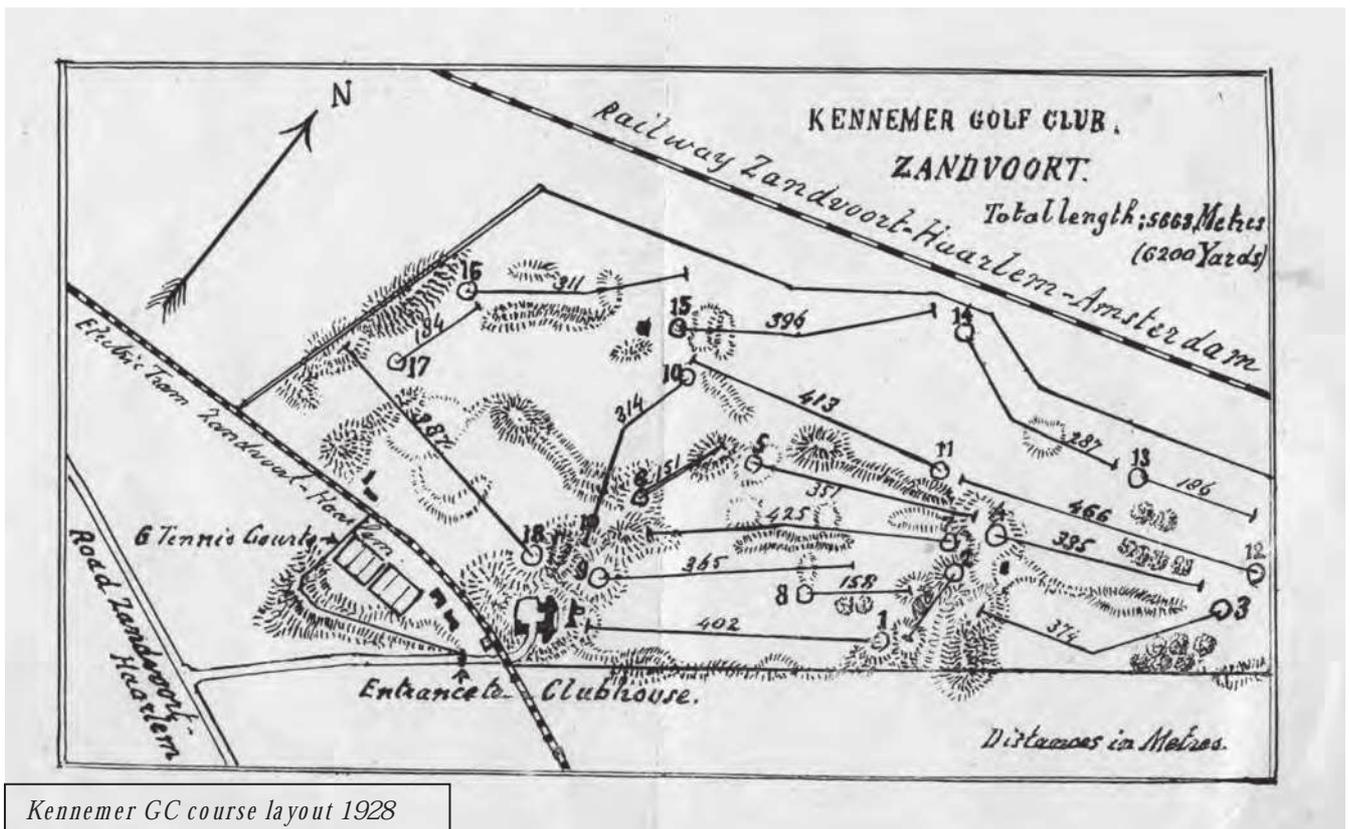
The role of Diemer Kool is worth mentioning here. As committee member, he had been assigned to preserve the contacts with Colt and Copijn during the construction phase of the project. As such, he developed a broad knowledge of course maintenance and green keeping. As Colt had done before him at Sunningdale, he switched his position as Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of the club to become a professionally paid Secretary and thus became responsible for the day-to-day management of the club.

Harry Shapland Colt was 57 years old when the Kennemer commissioned him to design a new 18 hole course. When golf's popularity exploded during the last decennium of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth century golf course design was traditionally in the hands of renowned golf professionals, most of who were of Scottish origin. Harry Colt was the first to change this and he gave a totally new dimension to the profession of golf course design. He gave the name golf architect to a new breed of course designers.



*Charles Alison, Harry Colt & John Morrison
(from left to right)*

After World War I Harry Colt met with two other former club secretaries who had decided to work professionally as golf architects. These were Alistair Mackenzie, a British surgeon born of Scottish parentage, and Charles H. Alison.



Kennemer GC course layout 1928

Together the three men formed a partnership named Colt, Mackenzie and Alison sharing new thoughts and ideas about golf course design. Mackenzie finally went his own way concentrating on work mostly in America. He is best known for his early design of the Royal Melbourne in Australia, Cypress Point in California and of course Augusta National in Georgia in cooperation with the legendary Bobby Jones, winner of the Grand Slam in 1930.

Colt continued the partnership with Charles Alison, whom he had known since their days together at the Cambridge and Oxford Golfing Society. Later in 1928, John S.F. Morrison, educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, joined them. They formed a limited company under the name Colt, Alison & Morrison Ltd. As a member of this company, Morrison was responsible among others for the design of Toxandria Golf Club near Breda.

The Kennemer was the first course that Harry Colt designed in the Netherlands. Many consider it the 'alma mater' for all the Colt Dutch course designs. Almost simultaneously, Colt worked on the redesign of the original Henry Burrows 9 hole course of the Hilversumsche and added another 9 holes. This new course opened in 1928, a few months after the Kennemer officially opened its new premises in Zandvoort on 19th May 1928.

In total Harry Colt and his company Colt, Alison and Morrison Ltd. worked on the design of nine different courses in the Netherlands: Kennemer, Hilversum, De Pan near Utrecht, Eindhoven, Noordwijk, De Dommel near Den Bosch, (Old) Amsterdam, Toxandria near Breda, and The Hague. All in their own right are considered Colt and Co. designed jewels of golf heritage. Sadly, the Colt 9 hole course of Noordwijk was lost after World War II and the 18 holes course of (Old) Amsterdam is now defunct, although an original 6 hole course remains.

The Kennemer had early ambitions to extend its 18 hole course with another 9 holes and Harry Colt provided the design for these as well. Construction began, but with only two holes completed, halted in 1933 because of the inadequate finances imposed by the economic depression of the thirties. The two holes with the addition of a short pitching hole were used as practice holes before the war.

After the war during the reconstruction phase, these two holes became holes 1 and 2 because hole 15 and 16 were taken out of service. In 1963, holes 15 and 16 came back into service and holes 1 and 2 again became practice holes, known as A and C. Finally, it was decided to extend the Kennemer to a 27 hole course.

Golf architect Frank Pennink, supervised by Steven van Hengel and aided by the club's head green keeper Cees Twisk, made a final design for the remaining seven new holes based on the original design by Harry Colt. Therefore, it is a fair conclusion to state that Harry Colt personally designed and supervised the construction by Copijn of the original eighteen holes and two practice holes at the Kennemer. In addition, that he was responsible for the original design of the remaining seven holes. It is therefore justifiably a full 27 holes Harry Colt designed golf course.



*P.N. Quarles van Ufford
President KGC 1928*

Gérard van der Vliet had handed over the presidency of the Kennemer to his confidant P. Quarles van Ufford in 1926. This was after the committee under the strong leadership of Van der Vliet had taken all the important decisions regarding the transfer of the club to Zandvoort. Gérard van der Vliet, appointed Honorary Chairman in 1926 for the vision, drive and perseverance shown from the founding of the Kennemer in 1910 to its transfer to Zandvoortsch Duin in 1928, thanked P.N. Quarles van Ufford and Lex Diemer Kool for their good work.

Fifty years after the initial long-term leasehold contract, which would expire in thirty years, the Quarles van Ufford family kindly offered to sell the Zandvoortsch Duin grounds to the Kennemer. The ownership was transferred in 1978 with the purchase transaction financed with an obligatory member debenture of Fl 1,000,000. It had been a long-standing wish of P.N. (Piet) Quarles van Ufford to transfer ownership of Zandvoortsch Duin to the members of the Kennemer and his son P. (Pieter) Quarles van Ufford finally fulfilled this wish.

Father, Piet Quarles and son, Pieter Quarles had both have served the club as presidents after WW II. For all the Quarles van Ufford family's great services towards the Kennemer Golf & Country, the members gratefully appointed Pieter Quarles van Ufford Honorary Chairman of the club. He became, after Jacob Cremer and Gérard van der Vliet, the club's third and last Honorary Chairman. It is understood that all three Honorary Chairmen substantially contributed to the well-being of the Kennemer Golf & Country Club today and played an essential role in the club's history.

On the 80th anniversary of the Kennemer in Zandvoortsch Duin in 2008 and the appointment of Pieter Quarles van Ufford as Honorary Chairman, Emilie van Cutsem-Quarles van Ufford kindly presented the club with a silver trophy, the 'Zandvoortsch Duin Beker', in honour of her father.



Zandvoortsch Duin Cup

Real Club de Golf de Las Palmas 1891

By Leif Einarsson

1891
Minutes
of the
First Meeting of the
Las Palmas Golf Club.

The first meeting of this committee was held on December 17th 1891, and the provisional rules of the club & rules of the game were adopted. Two extra rules were added with reference to a weekly meeting for play on Wednesdays and with reference to the payment of subscriptions.

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr Kitto, for his services.

At this meeting were present:-
R. C. Kitto, acting for Hon. Sec and Treasurer

1891 - 1894
Treasurer E. C. Barker, Esq.²⁵
R. R. Blandy, Esq.²⁵
Major General Thomas.
J. Forman, Esq.²⁵
The Rev. Ed. Hutchinson.
A. Ferguson, Esq.²⁵
Brian Melland, Esq. M.R.C.S.
President 92/13.

The next annual meeting of this club was held on January 28th 1894. Present:-

President R.R. Blandy, Esq.
Hon. Sec. & Tr. E. C. Barker, Esq.
Asst. Treas. Brian Melland, Esq. M.R.C.S.
Comittee Col. W. W. Cragg.
A. Ferguson, Esq.
G. Wigg, Esq.
J. H. Withers Esq.

The following were elected on the Handicapping

Since the early 1980's I and my family have been visiting the oldest golf club in Spain. It has become a favorite over the years, after at least 100 rounds on that course. Last February we were there again and I promised Christoph Meister to write this short story.



Original Las Palmas golf course at Lomo del Polvo

There are references that already in 1881 the British colony practiced golf on the island. Ten years later the Canary Islands GC was founded 1891 and laid out by R C

Kitto, late captain of the Oxford University fifteen, on the high ground behind the Catalina Hotel, Las Palmas. In 1893 named changed to Las Palmas Golf Club. The course had 13 holes and the top 6 holes were played twice to make up the eighteen. The greens were all sanded at that time due to lack of water and the hot climate.

LAS PALMAS (Canary Islands)
Las Palmas G. C. Membership, 100. Hon. Sec., Chas. E. Medrington, Studio Metropole, Las Palmas. 13 holes. Record (a), 71, R. Atcherley. Station—Las Palmas. Visitors, 25 0d per day; 10s per week; £1 per month; £2 per season.
Hotel.—The Metropole.

Golfer's Handbook 1912

In 1957 the expansion of Las Palmas city forced the golfer to leave Catalina and move up in the Bandama area next to Santa Brigida. In that fantastic volcano landscape Mr. Mackenzie Ross laid out a new course. And the year after that the club changes its name and becomes a Royal Club. Real Club de Golf Las Palmas. Most of the fairways

Golf Postcards - Part II - What to collect?

By Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak

It is extremely difficult to make an estimation of the number of different golf postcards still existing in the world, but without any doubt, it would reach dizzying heights. Even if we limit the collection to early postcards, let's say before WWI, the figure would still be astronomical. This is why most of collectors focus on some specific area. In this part, we would like to share some of our thoughts on collecting postcard. What to collect? How to structure and organise a collection of golf postcards?

What to collect? In my mind it is simple: collect what you enjoy. The collection is firstly a hobby and speculative aspects should be only secondary. Proceeding this way will always provide you lots of pleasures. This is true for all types of collection.

Nevertheless, there are certainly various options in collecting postcards. Often, the most natural way to start a collection of golf PCs is to collect those from your own country. Well, when you are living on the continent, this does make sense. But it might be much more difficult if you are a Brit or an American, as golf is so popular in these countries and then so many cards were printed there! But obviously, the geographical region is a common starting point, often observed: in France people are collecting French postcards, in Germany German, etc... The advantage of such an approach is that usually, local persons have a better local knowledge of their history. And knowledge of the history is clearly the key element of any successful collection.

Within a country, the collection will be divided into counties (or regions) and then the different clubs, around the cities.

Club postcards.

Finally a key element is certainly the club itself. You will soon realise that some places are often featured on postcards,

while others are difficult to find. Usually, touristic places, spas, resorts are very common – for obvious reasons. As an example, we would name Vichy in France. It should be easy to get more than 100 different postcards just for the club-house of the club, but we must admit that most of them will be extremely similar and only minor differences could be observed from one postcard to the other: a slightly different angle when looking at the club-house, sometimes an empty veranda and, another day, hosting a few guests; trees and bushes which have grown up... But this does not mean that these postcards are not interesting! It is fun to look after such postcards and track the differences. In addition, because of the fact that these postcards are often seen, you should be able to get them at a pretty cheap price.



The above example is pretty common while the Vichy-aquarelle in the central colour folder is a "one of a kind" postcard, very hard to find.

May be such variants will not bring a lot of information to golf evolution, but from the postcard collector point of view it will.

Let's have a more relevant example and look at another spa city in France: Vittel. You will learn that the photographer was not only taking one single picture of a place, but often two or more. The reason was that, with one negative, it was only possible to print a limited number of postcards. After printing a pretty long run – when the picture was a success – it was no longer possible to use the same negative again to issue a second edition. So, editors were prudent and photographers often made duplicates of their snap shots.



The two postcards above (from Vittel, France) are almost similar and are featuring the same number (179) and same caption "Le Golf".

Sometimes, the differences will be more relevant. As an example, the bell tower on the top of the club house at Vichy has been destroyed during WWII. It might be a way to identify the date of a postcard, when no other indications can be found.

Champions and pros.

This is an interesting approach to the collection of golf postcards. Of course the great names are extremely sought after. Old Tom Morris, the triumvirate (Vardon, Taylor, Braid) or others early players such as Herd are always fetching very high prices in transactions.



Old Tom Morris postcards are very sought after. This one is a RPCC (see text) and the editor (J. Patrick) gave an indication of date August 23^d, 1905. He was 85 years old.



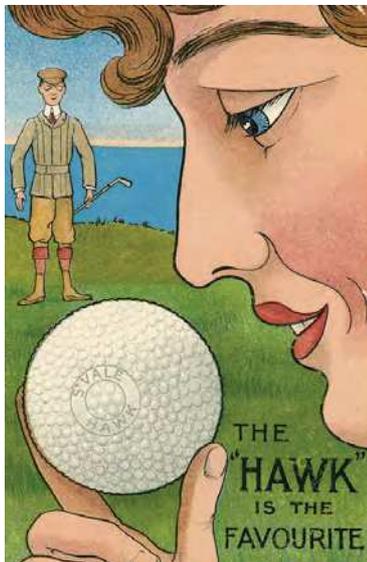
C. Warren the first golf pro at Knocke Le Zoute (Belgium) proudly posing in front of the club-house. He won the Belgium open in 1912. There is a long list of postcards showing Warren at Le Zoute including a great series of 16 cards which are showing 8 different shots (2 PC for each shot).



Herd and the Triumvirate (Taylor, Braid and Vardon)



Jack White (Champion Golfer Series)



An advertising for the Hawk golf ball



A Xavier Sager postcard in a Japanese style



Victor Lhuer (Wien)



Mela Kohler (Wien)



Ikuzawa painting of Mont Fuji Golf Course



One of a kind: a water-colour (Vichy GC) as a PC



Mary Queen of Scots playing golf



John Dunn in a bunker at Harelot



A foursome at Blackheath



Vardon pitching



Vardon vs Taylor at Seacroft



Massy at Hyères-les-Palmiers



René Vincent advertising for a medicine



Another medical advertising – Jean Gassiat



Cats golfers, by Louis Wain



Happy Easter wished on a Dutch postcard



Humour and flirt – Illustrated by Tom Brown



A souvenir card from « La Belle Jardinière »



Hold to the light postcard ...



... Here seen in the light!



A poster advertising Font-Romeu



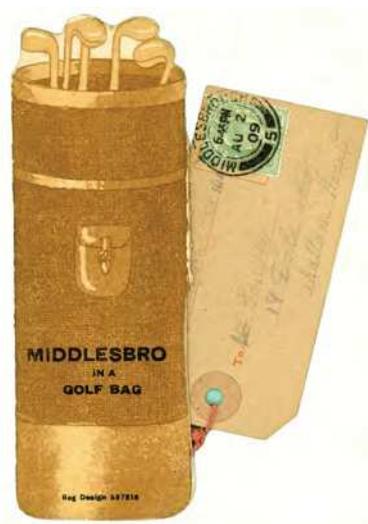
A poster by Couchinoux for Le Touquet



An uncommon Polish golf postcard



The Belgium and the British flags are "appliqués"



This postcard is in a shape of a golf bag!



A pull-out postcard from North Berwick

Great Matches.

This type of subdivision is very closely related to the previous one. Of course, it is very exciting to find a postcard featuring a match between smaller rank players. But then the postcard will be filed as a club-postcard rather than considered as a great-match!



A RPCC (Argall & Co, ed) of James Braid in a bunker, during the 1909 tournament at Cruden Bay.

Artist drawn postcards.

A very different collection is the one which focus on artist drawn postcards. Here the origin (the place, the country) is less important than the artist, or the type of illustration. Some will focus on animals playing golf, or humour, or advertising postcards. Other will prefer ladies. Flirt is also often an argument for golf postcards and the cupid is often there.

It is impossible to ignore some of the early postcards in the art nouveau or art deco style. They are extremely sought after and can fetch very high prices. The Vienna postcards are an excellent example. To our knowledge, only two Vienna golf postcards are known – but we would like to be contradicted! The first one was designed by Mela (Melanie) Kohler and the second one by Victor Lhuer (see illustrations). Many other artists deserve our attention: Xavier Sager, Georges Leonnet, or Mauzan in France (the latter is often considered as Italian!), Tito Corbella

or A. Giametti (in Italy), Gibson or Earl Christy (USA).

Some of the artist postcards were (and still some modern PCs are) edited in very limited series of 5, 10 up to a few hundreds. But sometimes you can find a “one of kind” postcard. It is then fun to learn more on the artist.

An interesting variant in “artist drawn” PC are the posters reproduction. Modern reproductions are very common, but you must know that many of the great posters from the 20s and 30s were published, at the same period, as postcards. If the posters are extremely expensive, the postcards are far more affordable, but not cheap.

Also humour might be classified here as many great artists designed such postcards: Tom Brown, Lance Thackeray, Martin Anderson aka Cynicus, Charles Crombie ...

We are presenting a very small selection in the colour pages in this magazine.

Novelty postcards.

Here, we are entering in a very different world. A short period before 1910, PC editors were looking on how to expand more and more their business. Remember that this was the golden age of the postcards and any type of postcard was often a good seller. But if you wanted to be the first on the market, you had to invent something new. Sometimes, one defines a novelty postcard as any PC which deviates from the norm. To make this a bit more precise, let's provide a short classification.

Material: Leather postcards are pretty common in the USA but we don't know any in the rest of the world. Other material was used: wood, aluminium can be found.

Appliqué (Material attached/applied): Postcards with some material attached or

glued on the cardboard are much easier to find.

Embossed: with a raised surface

Shaped: The postcard is no longer rectangular, but has some irregular shape. We know only one such golf PC which is in the shape of a golf-bag. More funnily, the address is written on a label attached to the bag. Hard to believe that after 100 years you can still find such items in good condition! (see colour illustration)

Mechanical: Some mechanical system is used to change the postcard scene: you turn a disk or flip a piece of cardboard.

Pull-out: Such postcards are pretty common. Usually, you lift up a piece of cardboard and pull out a set of 6 to 12 small pictures of the place - with views of the golf course. Three dimensional PCs are far more uncommon.

Hold-to-light: Postcards where light is used to provide an additional effect.

Earliest Golf Postcards.

This is an interesting aspect of collecting golf postcards: trying to find the earliest one for each and every club! We show some examples in the previous paper. This is not an easy task, but certainly a very appealing one and I must confess that this is one of my favourites. We shall start on our web-site a listing of such dates. With your help, this inventory will be regularly updated and improved.

Known persons and Characters.

Royalty is certainly an important topic, especially in UK, but also Belgium (see two illustrations in the Quiz answers published elsewhere in this issue). In the USA, President Taft is shown playing golf

on several postcards. Actors (theatre, cinema) posing in golf attitudes are another part of the collection attracting a few collectors.



King Edward VII was often visiting Biarritz. Royalty in Golf is a very attractive topic.

But sometimes it is even more fascinating to look after characters. Keep in mind that “named characters” (of course not the big names) are even more difficult to find.



A very beautiful postcard from Musselburgh, showing four octogenarians (December, 1906).

Reading books and magazines from the period will often add value to your collection. As an example, let's have a look at the Biarritz postcard (next page). Not only is it interesting because the cliff hole no longer exists, but also because of a curious local rule attached to it: a player had three attempts to reach the green, 108 yards above the tee. After 3 shots missed, he wrote a 7 on his card! But it is even more emotion discovering in the Illustrated Sports and Dramatic News, 16th March 1907, the same picture revealing the name of the player: Captain S.D. Maul!



Captain S.D. Maul playing the Cliff hole at Biarritz in 1907 (see the fore-caddy at the top).

Advertising.

This is an interesting aspect of collecting as it is a great illustration of social and business changes. It can be split into two different chapters: golf advertising and other business using golf image for advertising. Examples are provided in colour pages.

Real-Photo (RPC C): Such postcards are extremely interesting and usually rare as RPCC were edited at an extremely limited numbers - often just a few or a few tens.

Series / Editor. Some series are extremely sought after as great players are shown in great places.



Sandy Herd and Andrew Kirkcaldy in a competition. (The Wrench series).

Certainly the most well known is the Wrench series. Evelyn Wrench was an editor who published great quality golf postcards. Unfortunately, if he was a great

artist, he was not a great business man and his company went out of business after a few years.

Valentines also edited long series of golf postcards.

Other aspects.

Of course many other fields would merit more than just a few words. Among them, we specially appreciate the “risqué” golf postcards (yes! Nude or semi-nude golfers exist - and not only on the modern PCs).

We cannot finish this paper with two other aspects:

Non-standard sizes. The court-size format (115 x 89) is difficult to find as it existed only for a few years between 1894 and 1899. But other formats can be found.

We would like to insist on the fact that there is a series from La Nivelles (close to Biarritz) where a great series was edited both in the standard format and a larger one close to the A6 format, precisely 150 x 100; the latter being difficult to find.



This La Nivelles GC - Massy playing on the 3rd green - was issued both on standard and large format. The large one has a more detailed caption, so we learn that Braid is waiting to play.

Fantasy: Last but not least - in quantity! Fantasy postcards are everything and nothing, usually soppy. They are not so difficult to find.

Golfika-Quiz

By Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak (JBK)

In Golfika-Magazine#3 I proposed a golf-quiz with a prize to win for the best fastest answer (a French golf book, “Physiologie du Golf”, written by Paul Mousset and published in 1949 is a limited edition of 2200). I did not get any answer, except from Georges Jeanneau, who kindly stated that he considers himself has non-competing in the quiz. This extremely kind attitude makes this lot still available for another quiz, published in a future issue.

The Biarritz Golf Club opened in 1888. The first competition was adding a “Duffer Prize”. It was won by the Chevalier von Cittern, with a score of 316! This price can still be seen in the club. A similar price was later offered in another sport.

Question 1: What this “duffer prize” was?

It was a **wooden spoon**. With the authorisation of the Biarritz Golf Club, we are presenting here a picture extracted from the centenarian book edited by the club and published in 1988. This excellent book is now pretty hard to find.



Question 2: What other sport is offering a similar price?

The wooden spoon is a virtual prize presented to the team finishing last in the **rugby** Nations Cup. But according to the Oxford English Dictionary, it seems that in 1803, at the origin, it was offered to the worse student at Cambridge University, in the “Mathematical Tripos” (a course in maths – so a very different type of “sport”!)

King Leopold III of the Belgians was a very good golfer. In 1939, he took part in the Blackner Cup played on the Nice GC (at Cagnes sur Mer) and in the Belgian Amateur Championship at Le Zoute, being the only monarch ever played in a golf championship. After his exile, he continued to play regularly and, in 1949, using a pseudonym, he reached a pretty good position in the French Amateur Championship.

Question 3: What was the pseudo he used?

Question 4: What level did he reach?

In 1949, he played in the French Amateur using the pseudonym of **Comte de Réthy** after the name of his second wife Princesse de Réthy (in fact Lilan Henriette Baels, a commoner raised to the dignity of a princess to marry the King). He reached the **quarter finals**.



We are presenting here two postcards from our collection. The first one is showing Leopold III with Pam Barton. Pam started her brilliant golf career winning the French International Ladies Championship at the age of 17 and her first British Ladies

Amateur two years later. Sadly, she disappeared in a plane crash at the age of 26.

The second postcard is featuring the King in discussion with Dai Rees while Arthur Lacey is passing behind. The four played a match in Ascot, on March 1937 (probably the 23rd) where the pictures were taken.



Among many appearances in the Ryder Cup, Dai Rees was, in 1957, the captain of team which defeated the US for the only occasion between 1933 and 1985. On the continent he was also winner of the Belgian (1954) and the Swiss (1956, 1959 and 1963) opens.

Arthur Lacey was also a Ryder Cup player and winner of several opens on the Continent: Belgian (1931 and 1932) and French (1932).

Before World War I, the largest golf prize fund (£,500) was offered outside UK.

Question 5: In which contest (country and year)?

It was in the second edition of the **German Open** in **1912** – won by JH Taylor after a play off on 9 holes against Ray.

Only two editions of the German Open were played before WWI. Both were controversial; both organised by the Baden-Baden

Golf Club and played over their course. The first one (1911) was named “International Open Championship of Baden-Baden” and the German Open name was only used for the second edition – in opposition to the German Golf Union (DGV). In 1913 the competition was not stopped and resumed only in 1926.

Mlle Genevieve le Derff was a French woman playing at Fourqueux and Paris La Boulie. She was the very first woman ever competed in a National Open Championship.

Question 6. When did this happen (month and year)? It was in **September 1924.**

The two last questions were answered in papers published in Golfika Magazine #5. Here is just a summary.

Golf was an Olympic game twice: 1900 in Paris and 1904 in Saint Louis. In 1908 it was planned to be played in London. The medals were struck; nevertheless golf was not an Olympic game since 1908 onwards. At the moment, it is question that golf would be back again.

Question 7. In Paris, for the first time in the Olympic Games, there was a Ladies competition. Who was the winner in Golf Women Individual?

It was **Miss Margaret Abbott**, from USA with a score of 47 on the 9 holes at Compiègne.

Arnaud Massy was married with Janet Punton, a Scottish lady and their first daughter was born during Arnaud's victory in the Open in 1907. To commemorate this fact, they christened her Hoylake. She passed away on June 1955. Massy had a second daughter; she died a few years ago, donating a bursary.

Question 8: What was her name?

It was **Lena Marie Lauga Bellamy.**

FROM COLF TO KOLF

The same word, a world of difference

By Geert & Sara Nijs

In the Middle Ages and the Renaissance era, the characters 'c' and 'k' have been used in the Netherlandish language indiscriminately. The name of the ancient stick and ball game, played from the 13th century until the 18th century in the Low Countries, has been written both with a 'c' and 'k': **colf** and **kolf**. The pronunciation remains the same. The 'new' stick and ball game (18th century), played on an enclosed field and indoors, was also written indiscriminately as **colf** and **kolf**.

It is not surprising that such name giving caused confusion in 'golf history land' through the ages. The confusing mix-up of these names has given many authors tools to prove that c(k)olf is, or is not golf, or to put it mildly that it looks like golf or does not look like golf.



Perhaps Reverend Mr. Walker saw in 1795 the Stadlander-Inn kolf court, one of the many kolf courts in and around the city of Amsterdam, at the end of the 18th century – Nicolaas Matthijsz. Aartman (1713-1760), drawn in 1755 – City Record Office, Amsterdam

Reverend Mr. Walker, one of the ministers of Canongate in Scotland, wrote about the game of kolf in 1795, when he was a resident in 'Holland'. He explained the short game of kolf, very popular at that moment, and concluded: "**C**learly **golf is no more kolf than cricket is poker.**" ('Golf', Badminton Library, 1890). Mr. Walker was probably not aware of the fact that before the game of kolf became so popular, Flemish and Netherlandish people played a long club and ball game from the 13th century until the 18th century, that at least looked very similar to golf.

It was Steven van Hengel, the Netherlandish colf historian, who suggested to split the spelling in **colf** for the 'ancient' game and **kolf** for the 'new' game ('Early Golf', 1982). Although there is no linguistic reasoning for this suggestion, it does however clarify the difference between the two games.

Some linguists have put Van Hengel to the sword about this suggestion, not understanding the non-linguistic but simple reasoning of it (Heiner Gillmeister – 'Golfjournaal', April 2005).

Van Hengel's suggestion was not taken up by too many authors about the history of golf and therefore historians are sometimes, deliberately or inadvertently, mixing up these two games.

Even modern, well respected authors are explaining the new short game as being the ancient colf game and vice versa, and as a consequence concluded that colf has no resemblance whatsoever with Scottish golf (Malcolm Campbell – 'The New Encyclopedia of Golf', 2001).

In this short study, we will try to clarify the difference between colf, the ancient long game, and kolf, the relatively new short game.

The game of colf

Much has been said and written about the game of colf as it was researched and published by the late Steven van Hengel in his book 'Early Golf' in 1982. As described by Van Hengel, colf was a stick and ball game in which a ball was hit with a curved stick, later a wooden shaft with a metal face, with the aim of reaching a target in the fewest possible strokes. Not very different from the games of crosse (choule), golf and mail (pall mall) (Geert and Sara Nijs – 'CHOULE – The Non-Royal but most Ancient game of Crosse, 2008).

The game came into being in the Low Countries around the end of the 13th century and the beginning of the 14th century. At the end of the 17th century and the beginning of the 18th century, for several reasons, the game ceased to exist.

The game of kolf replaced the ancient game and became as popular as colf was before.

Colf, a long game, was played in the streets and churchyards in the towns and later on the roads, tracks and the open acres and fields in the ramparts outside the city walls, moving also to the frozen canals, rivers and lakes during the Little Ice Age (16th and 17th century).

The game of kolf

Kolf was originally a short game, using initially the old colf clubs and balls and played on a kind of mini-jeu de mail alley, in the open air.

Today, the game has developed into an indoor game, using specific kolf clubs & balls and rules for the game, which have no relationship to the ancient long colf game.

Some call the change from colf to kolf an evolutionary development, others consider the change as degenerative. The 600 men and women who, after more than 300 years, still play this game with full enthusiasm, are proud of their colf/mail ancestors. They are assembled in 33 societies under a coordinating organisation that carries the name 'Koninklijk' (Royal) since 1985, the year that the federation celebrated its 100th anniversary.

The rise and fall of the game of kolf

It is still not clear why and how kolf developed besides colf in the 18th century and later to the detriment of colf and mail, and in the end to the total overhaul of colf, until it was in turn overhauled by, among others, the indoor game of French billiard at the end of the 19th century.

The ancient game of colf was a tiresome game, a cold game, a dangerous game, a muddy game and an uneconomic game. The Netherlandish playwright Bredero (1585-1618) mentioned the dangerous game in 'Moortje' (1615), one of his comedies:

*'At my right
a good woman
got a colf ball at her head.
If I had the power,
I would ban this game.'*

The game was played over longer distances. Because the game was played in winter, these 'playing fields' were often very muddy or hard frozen and so hardly passable. Colf did not have many written rules. Rules were made during play, or rather they were not, with as a consequence

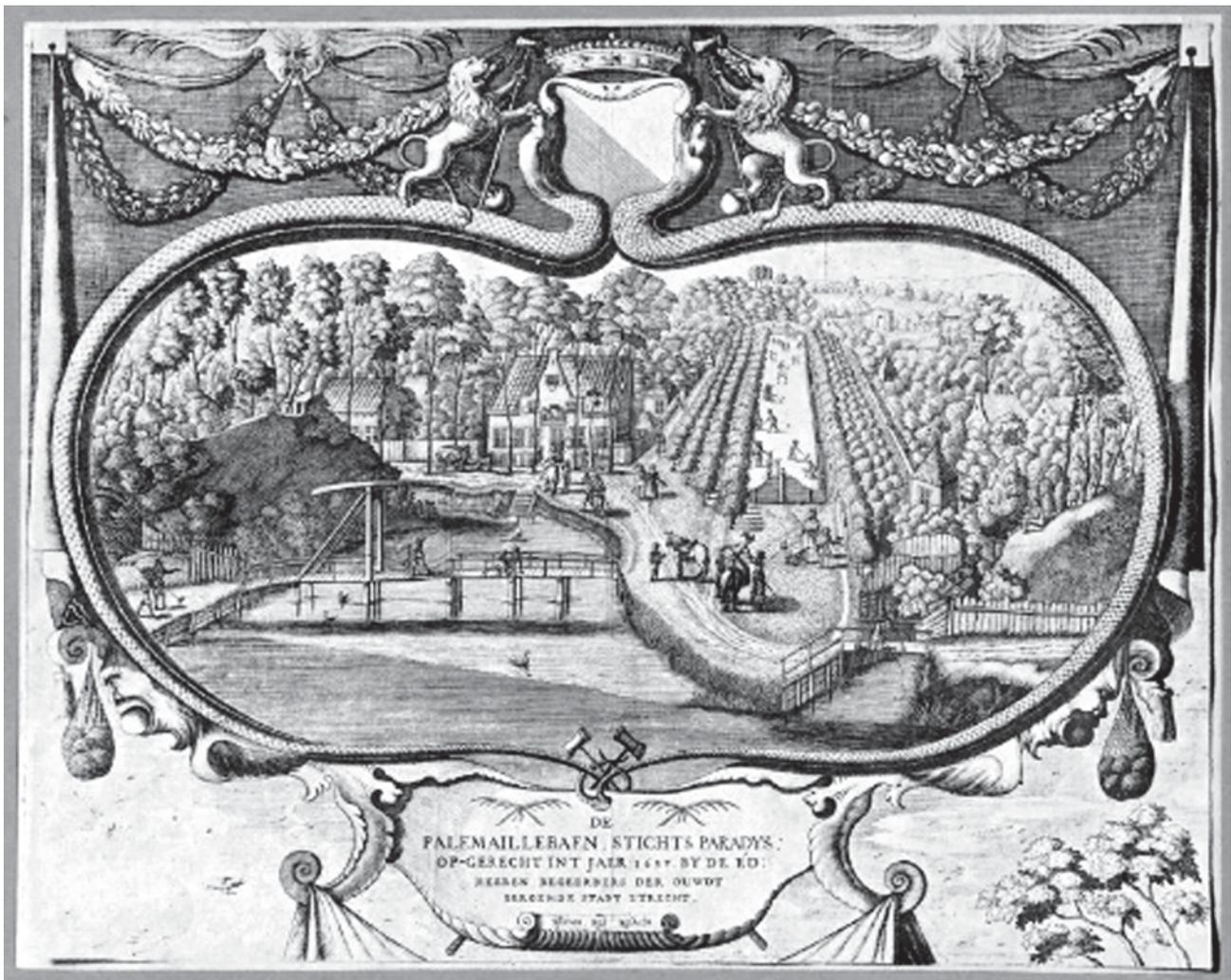
heated discussions, resulting in screaming, swearing and fighting. Accidents caused by balls flying around, hitting other players and passers-by, and smashing windows from houses and churches, forced authorities to ban colvers further and further away from the town.



One of the earliest painters of colvers on the ice was the famous South Netherlandish Pieter Bruegel the Elder; detail of 'The Ice skaters near the St. Joris Gate in Antwerp', created already in 1561 - (Engraving from Frans Huys after Bruegel's painting - Koninklijke Bibliotheek Albert I, Prentenkabinet, Brussels)

When the Little Ice Age occurred in the 16th and 17th century, many colvers took more and more to the slippery ice of canals, rivers and lakes to find a place for their game between the many other skaters on the ice. The Little Ice Age coincided with the so called 'Golden Ages' of Flemish and Netherlandish industry, trade and art. The Golden Ages brought prosperity to many people, who liked to show their wealth by their clothing and their richly equipped houses. It is said that in the age of prosperity, painters in the Low Countries produced approximately eight million paintings, including the many winter landscapes with colvers.

Trotting through muddy fields did not fit into the ideas of the well dressed new rich. The clean flat surface of the ice was more appropriate. However, it was also clear to them that playing colf as they did in the fields, was not possible on the ice. A full swing could propel the ball for 'miles' and would certainly hit the many others on the ice. The rather crude iron headed clubs and the wooden balls were gradually replaced by the all wood 'kliek' (Scottish cleek) and the hair or feather filled leather ball. Therefore, colf became a shorter game, more target oriented than distance oriented. The ball was kept low, or even rolling, when pushing towards the target. The target itself changed from a tree, a door or a hole towards a stake in the ice.



The 'Maliëbaan' (Mail alley) in Utrecht. In 1637, the court was built especially for the bourgeois and for the students of the new university. The court was considered by King Louis XIV of France as the most beautiful he had ever seen. –

Copper engraving by Hendrik Winter, 1645 – Het Utrechts Archief, Utrecht, The Netherlands

The wealth in some parts of the Low Countries opened the door for the sophisticated culture of the French bourgeois, visible in the attire of men and women. The 'importation' of the game of 'mail', called 'malie' in Netherlandish, fitted in quite well.

'Jeu de mail' was a French game, played on hard courts with a length of up to a 1.000 metres, bordered by several lines of trees, adjacent to the wine house. On both sides of the alley, a post was positioned. The object of the game was to hit the posts in the fewest possible strokes. The game was played by kings, nobles and bourgeois.

In the first half of the 17th century, several 'maliebanen' (jeu de mail alleys) were constructed in both the Southern and Northern Netherlands, to provide the bourgeois with a far more sophisticated stick and ball game. No mud, no swearing and fighting and no interference with

other people: only 'our kind of people' (Louis Beumer, 'Geschiedenis van de Utrechtse Maliëbaan en het Maliehuis', adaptation of a manuscript by W.A.G. Perks, 1970).

The game of mail had two drawbacks. First, you had to pay for hiring clubs and balls (you were not allowed to use your own colf clubs and balls) and paying a 'green fee'. These people were like the Scots – they were real misers – hating to spend their money unnecessary.

The other drawback was that the game was tiresome. You had to walk 'for miles' and therefore, the wine house was too far away to recover and to have one or two glasses of wine.

The innkeepers of the wine houses were not very satisfied with the money they earned with the maliëbaan and the wine house; it was not a profitable business. They saw economic advantages in providing the mail players with a

comparable game that was less tiresome and took them not so far away from the consumptions.

They constructed short versions of a mail alley, some 30 metres long, on which their customers could play with their own colf clubs and balls. Playing on such a small alley did not take much time and the terrace in the shadow of the lime trees was nearby and very tempting for a glass and a nice conversation.

The revenues for the innkeepers were so interesting that in a rather short period of time, hundreds of pub owners in and around the towns started to exploit these mini-mail/colf alleys.

The new game became very popular and hand-tennis halls and 'beugel' (ring bowls) courts were adapted to accommodate the kolvers (*C.A.M. van Woerden*, 'Kolven "Het plaisir om sig in dezelve te diverteren"', 2002).

In the town itself, the available space for a kolf court was fairly limited. Therefore the dimensions of the courts became smaller, so that they could more easily fit in the fore courts of the inns. In town, some of the new kolf courts measured only 8 to 12 metres (*Dr. A. van Hulzen*, '250 jaar Kolfbaan', 1981), not so different from the size of the unofficial dimensions of beugel courts: 10,5 x 5,5 metres (*Erik de Vroede*, 'Het grote volkssporten boek', 1996). Furthermore, many hand-tennis and beugel players left their ancient games and joined the ranks of the kolvers.

The move from the long colf game to the short kolf game had, of course, severe consequences for the equipment and the rules of the game.

The clubs became heavier, sturdier and longer. The balls also became bigger (twice as big as colf balls) and relatively soft. These balls were pushed, not hit anymore and kept rolling over the flat, hard surface of the small playing field. The posts were not the final target of the game. The ball was hit against the post and from there it ricocheted into small marked fields behind the post with different point values.

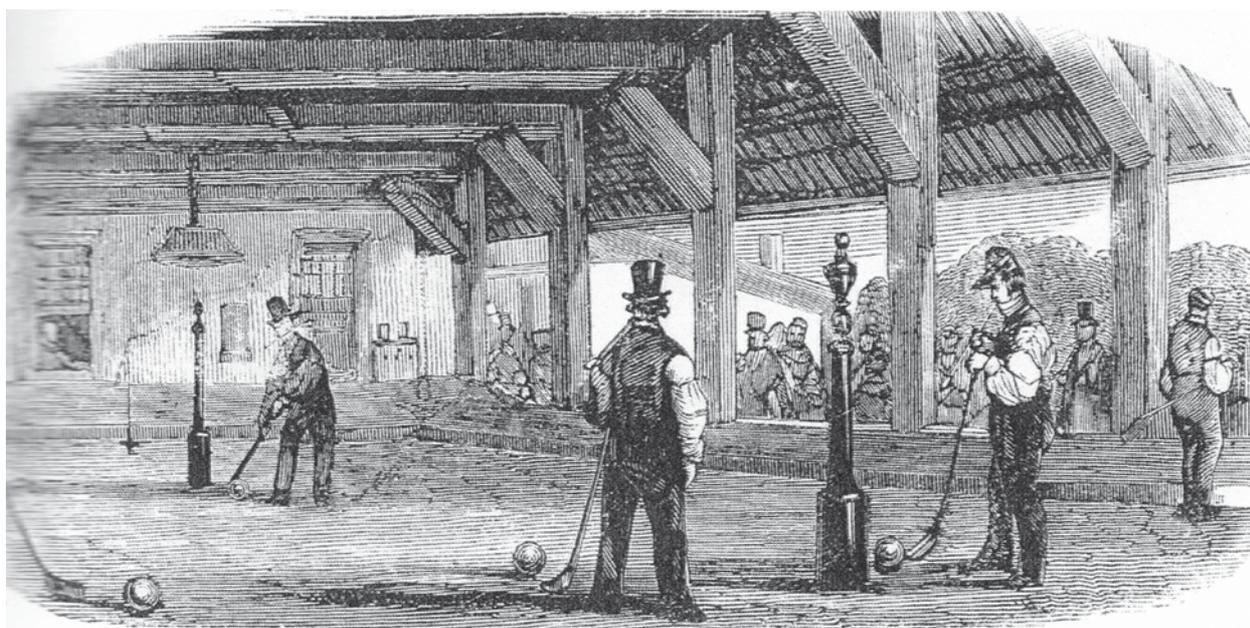
At the summit of its popularity, there were more than 500 of these indoor kolf courts all over the Northern Netherlands.

Also in Brussels, Antwerp and other towns in the Southern Netherlands jeu de mail alleys were laid out. For unknown reasons the new game of kolf never caught on in the Southern Netherlands (present Belgium).

However, nothing is forever. In the course of the 19th century a new game, French table billiard entered the entertainment field, followed by theatre and dancing. Again the landlords, probably the world first entertainment 'marketeers', saw this as a more interesting market for their 'kolf' halls.

In a kolf hall, only a few people could play the game at the same time. Such a hall could accommodate several billiard tables and even more dancers and theatre lovers.

As with indoor 'kaatsen' (hand-tennis) before, in a relatively short period of time kolvers were ousted from most of the halls by the billiard players, dancers and theatre lovers. Also many kolvers became billiard players.



For the game of kolf also special half open courts were constructed, as shown in this drawing from 1841 – Illustration from Henry Brown in the book 'De Nederlanden', 1841

Already in 1878, the last kolf hall disappeared in Amsterdam. In 1911, there were approximately only 100 kolf courts left and the numbers continued to drop.

At present, only in a small part of the province of North-Holland and in the city of Utrecht, the game of kolf is still alive. There are 250 women and 350 men, organised in 33 societies, under the umbrella of the Royal Netherlandish Kolf Federation, who still enjoy playing the more than 250 years old derivate of the ancient game of colf (by courtesy of Annette Klinkert, former President of the Royal Netherlandish Golf Federation).



In the course of time kolf clubs and balls, originally from the colf game (on the left), were adapted to the specific requirements of the kolf game (on the right). Clubs became bigger heavier and sturdier to push balls rather than hit them. Balls became bigger and softer to limit the bouncing effect.

The resemblance between colf and kolf is only the use of a club and a ball, that is all. The clubs are different, the balls are different, the playing field is different and the rules of the games are completely different. As a consequence, we could say, as a variant of the expression of Reverend Mr. Walker in 1795, that: **'Clearly, kolf is no more colf than golf is poker'**.

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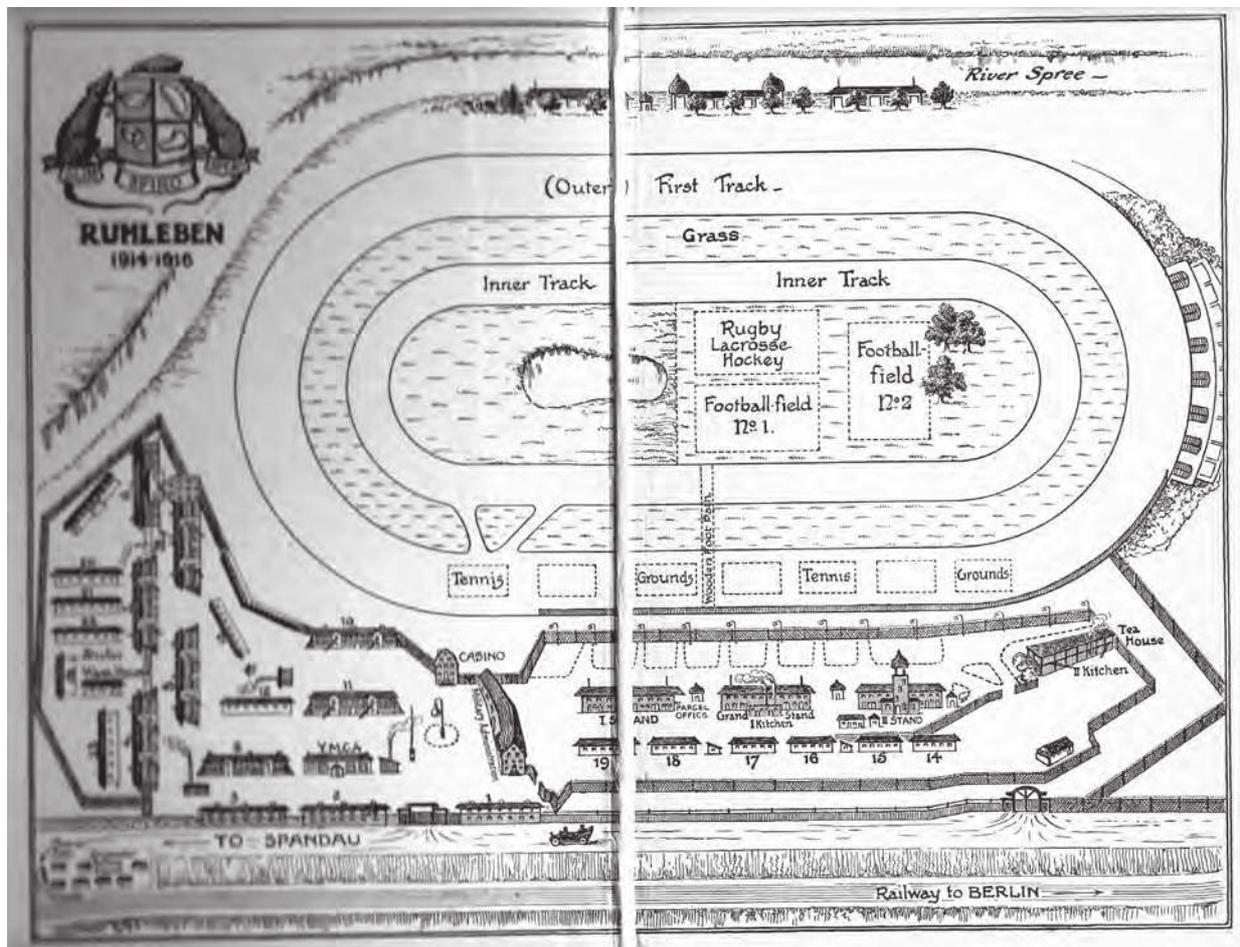
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In no way kolf today resembles the ancient field and ice game of colf. Only the use of clubs and balls reveals the parentage of the game.

Golf in times of military conflict

By Albert L. Bloemendaal



*Map of Ruhleben WWI camp showing barracks outside and sport grounds inside the race track
(from "The Ruhleben Prison Camp", by Israel Cohen, Dodd, Mead and Company, New York 1917)*

Introduction

The subject of golf in times of war seemed at first a rather limited subject. The last serious international conflict on the European Continent is meanwhile more than sixty years ago and in those days golf was a very limited activity outside Great Britain. However delving into the historic sources, I found a bewildering variety of details.

Golf, so it seemed, survived in spite of the often grim circumstances of war. Soldiers at a theatre of war do not, as war films may suggest, fight a continuous battle. On the contrary, stories written from a battlefield suggest long periods of boredom while waiting for action. Finding a fitting distraction became

a major duty of the officers, which surprisingly more than once proved to be...GOLF! Photographs taken in 1915 show British army men at a Belgian golf course within reach of the enemy's guns. A photo of the clubhouse taken later shows to what effects this could lead though.

Similarly, where men are being detained in a POW camp, lack of action will lead to boredom. So it came as no surprise that the most spectacular improvisations in attempting to still find ways for playing golf, took place in prisoner of war camps (POW camps) during WW II. Through the years of WW II, thousands of captured Allied military personnel – many of which pilots and other aircrew shot down over Germany and the

occupied countries – would spend years in captivity. POW's always have been famous for, apart from their attempts to escape, trying to give daily life an appearance of normality. And what could be more normal for a golfer than, indeed, to try and play golf?

Surprisingly however something like that had happened as early as WWI. Though not in POW camps but in general internment camps. Foreign nationals of the countries at war in Britain, France or Germany were accommodated (!) in such camps. In Germany, where golf as a new pastime was progressing in the upper classes, the game was being taught mainly by British professionals. So when war broke out in 1914 they too were put in internment camps, the best known of which was at Ruhleben, on a racecourse near Berlin.



*One of the famous browns
(Photo courtesy Karin Meister)*

However, it was not only in Europe that battlefields and golf came together. During the periods of preparing for the Gulf Wars of 1991 and 2003, American soldiers stationed in that area, suffering heat and boredom while waiting for action, were given the opportunity to take golf lessons. The meanwhile famous “browns”, patches of desert sand impregnated with thick oil which took the place of the greens, served novices to the game, as well as proficient golfers. The word still goes around that anyone who took part in that game, became a champion bunker player.¹

¹ Although the author once actually saw movie pictures of golf lessons in the Kuwaiti desert in that period, he was unable to trace them back for



*A Belgian artillery camp among the sand dunes 1914 –
Country typical of Golf and the Lombartzyde course*

And then of course, there were the golf courses which suffered from being either a nuisance or an opportunity to the warring military. Maybe the latest to become known in that field was the Kabul Golf Course in Afghanistan. It became part of a war zone during various hostilities between Russia and Afghanistan as well as the following interventions by the Taliban. After termination of the hostilities, golf enthusiasts were keen to make use of it again, albeit with the leftovers of battle still very much in place as the course had been right in the middle of the warring parties.

Overall, this paints a clear picture of how people who had golf in their hearts were able to find ways to play their beloved sport, even under circumstances adverse to the purpose. Still, the one story that drew the main attention as it later formed part of the well known film “The Great Escape” and is remembered as maybe the most spectacular.

Altogether a picture of a world in which battle, imprisonment and occupation were found incapable to stop true golfers to try and play... GOLF.



this article. He would be very grateful if someone would be able to find them and let him know.

The period of WW I

Britain

In Great Britain golf had become a major factor in general sports and the number of courses that had been laid out ran into the hundreds. Golf was fast becoming a free time occupation for also the lower middle classes. Britain however needed every able man and the majority were sent into the battlefield of France and Belgium. Many of those however hated being excluded from their beloved sport while being bogged down near the front line, and would play and even give instruction whenever an existing facility was nearby.

Many had even brought their golf equipment with them. Bernard Darwin, the first real golf reporter working for The Times of London tells of a course "Lombartzyde" near Nieuwpoort in 1915 (*see photo above*) where soldiers would play golf until the clubhouse was demolished by gunfire.

In Britain towards the end of WW I, Many a golf course would be tilled over for the production of agricultural products that must replace products whose imports had become impossible. When war was over in 1918 Britain had lost not only the cream of its professionals, teachers and playing professionals, but also a great number of its splendid golf courses.

A side effect of the war period in Britain however was those women who had taken over factory production making shells, ammunition and general war materiel giving them a feeling of importance and independence which would play a great rôle after the war. One more stimulant to demand also ordinary playing rights on golf courses!

That war could rob a country of its best players and so almost drive golf into annihilation altogether - that had happened before. In the period of the Napoleonic wars between 1800 - 1815 Britain needed every able man for their navy. The coastal area of Scotland was almost cleared of men amongst which many golfers. St. Andrews had to sell the land of the Old

Course as there were hardly any people left to play.²

Germany

As referred to above, under the specifications of the treaty of Geneva, foreign nationals of countries at war would be interned. In that era, when soldiery was a matter of career and officers were gentlemen, or were regarded as such, civilians who had to be interned would be treated with respect. Internment camps had lenient regimes and people could freely have correspondence with their family back home.

And so fourteen British golf professionals working in Germany at the moment war broke out were accommodated at Ruhleben race course where a camp was constructed. One of the "inmates" (!) a golf professional, tells of his stay there:

"... We had luck that the old Count Schwerin was appointed as Kamp Kommandant over the two thousand interns, among which all British golf professionals in Germany. He did his utmost to make life as tolerable as possible. There was a sports hall in which at set times sports could be played. From eight o'clock in the morning golfers had two hours of freedom in the hall. On the outside lawns, nets had been erected against which golfers could practice their swing. It was funny to see how at eight in the morning two hundred enthusiasts charged onto the lawn for their two hours golf practice with a motley collection of woods and irons, many of which had been put together from leftovers. Once a year we had a championship tournament over three holes. Golf helped us to get through the years of internment..."

A column in the New York Times saw things in a different light by reporting that "(...) the prisoners at Ruhleben have organized the first Concentration Camp Golf Club..." The newspaper goes on telling that: "...The British professional of the Berlin Golf Club, who has been made Chief of Police) at the camp, laid out a short course within the race grounds..."³

² See Hamilton: *Golf Scotland's Game*. (Dalliefour 1998)

³ The New York Times June 1915 . The "British Professional" who is referred to here must be C.S.

In general an atmosphere that does indicate that sportsmen, golfers in any case, will try and continue what they regard as an essential part of their lives circumstances notwithstanding.

Apparently few of them had hard feelings later, for not long after 1918 many of them regained their positions and some years after the war, more British professionals followed. One of them was Percy Alliss, father of Peter Alliss the famous BBC golf commentator. Percy Alliss played in Germany not long after WW I and stayed until 1931. He won the German Open no less than five times. Peter Alliss himself actually was born in Berlin in 1931.

One anecdotic detail though not directly connected with WW I may not go untold. The first golf club in Germany was founded by Graf Spee, or as his full title was: Maximilian Johannes Maria Hubert Reichsgraf von Spee. The occasion of the proposal for the founding of this first golf club took place in a very unusual fashion. While he was commanding the mine layer PELIKAN in 1901 he communicated to the authorities at home, that the founding of the KIELER GOLF CLUB should take place forthwith.⁴

The period of WW II

The matter of the POW's

Though at the beginning of WW II golf had settled on the Continent, it was still a minor sport and mainly a pastime for the upper classes. Golf courses were a rarity so in the first years golf clubs would go on with their competitions and their monthly medals without being noticed much by the authorities.

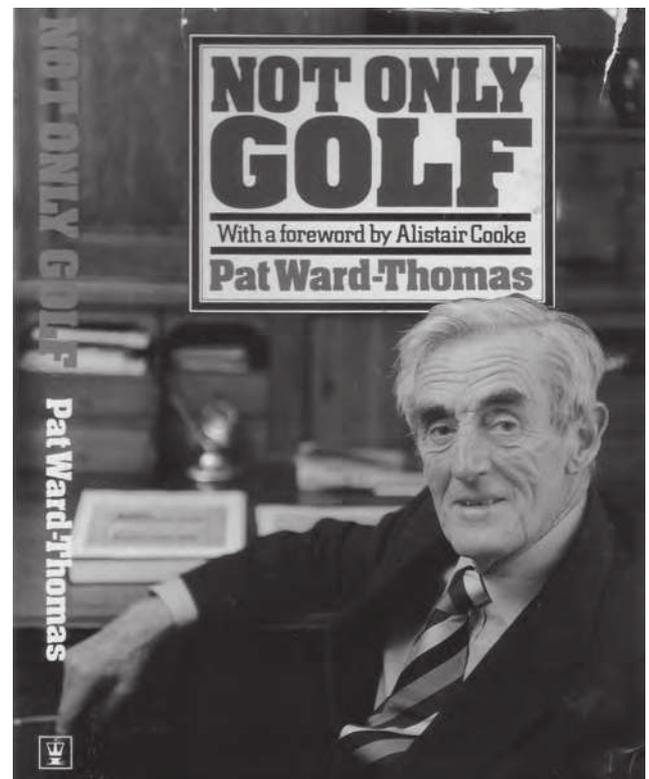
This changed completely when during the ensuing years of the hostilities, military personnel of Great Britain doing "their thing" in, or mostly "over", Germany were made

Butchart. His real function was somewhat more humble than the title inferred. In "100 Jahre Golf in Deutschland" the authors specify that it mainly had to do with supervising the hygienic regime which included "Überwachung der Latrinen..." (supervising the latrines!) pp. 142 - 145 Albrecht Golf Verlag GmbH, Gräfelfing 2007

⁴ In *100 Jahre Golf in Deutschland*. (Albrecht Golfverlag GmbH 2007) pp 140, 141

prisoner of war. From the campaigns in 1939 and 1940, not many of those made prisoner of war stayed in German POW camps but were transferred back to their own - now occupied - country, save for the British of course.

In the course of the later years it were mainly crew members of aircraft brought down over Germany who were filling the POW camps that came to be known as "Stalag's". Short for "Stammlager". Air Force personnel were accommodated in special POW camps called "Stalag Luft". In the old military tradition, officers were taken to special Stalag's. Not that it made much difference in general accommodation or food. That remained the same monotonous diet typical for military at war and even more so for those who got captured. Since Air Force personnel developed into the major line of POW's, the major tales of what they undertook in trying to survive the monotony of camp life, were told by airmen. Take any number of British men and you can be sure there are a not too small percentage of golfers between them. So it was not a great surprise that among the Air Force POW's in a Stalag Luft a telling number of golfers would be present. One of them became famous as he happened to be an apprentice journalist of a London Newspaper: Pat Ward Thomas.



Just out of College with war approaching he applied for training as a pilot. Already in late 1940 he had been brought down (for the second time as a few months earlier he had spent half a day in a dinghy in the North sea) over Holland after a mission over Berlin, which he described in the typical under cooled way of the British: *"(...) trundling back from Berlin, having deposited our little load of bombs which may have mildly inconvenienced a few citizens..."*

He and his crew were transferred to POW camps in Poland and later to what would become their digs for the remaining of the war: STALAG LUFT III. It was situated near Sagan in the province of Nether Silesia some 160 km south east from Berlin.



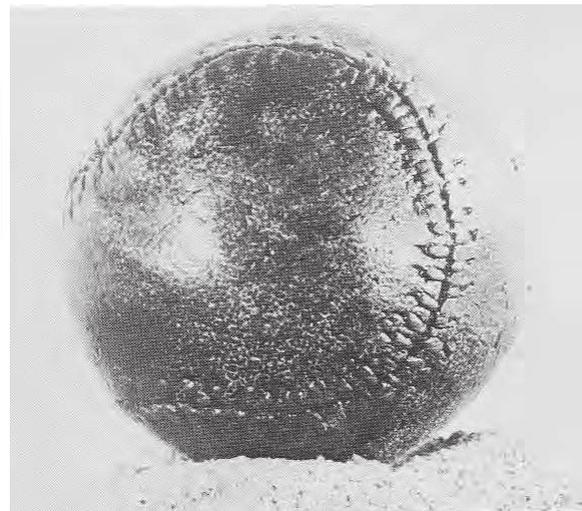
Model of golf course at STALAG LUFT II Danish Golf Museum, Vejle (Photo C. Meister)

After some time Pat persuaded the camp authorities to permit trying to lay out a mini golf course on the grounds, arguing that POW's who have nothing to do and bore themselves to distraction in the end get silly ideas such as trying to escape. In general they may be inclined to be naughty which again causes trouble and a lot of extra duties for the staff. He got his permit and the Sagan golf course came into existence. However, that whole idea could only be affected because meanwhile the major implements for golf, balls and clubs had been "constructed". The way these balls and clubs came into existence is a story of its own.

The way these activities in this specific Stalag Luft III developed into a serious activity, became widely appreciated when later a movie

picture called "The Great Escape" was made out of a side activity. POW's in that same camp used the distraction which the golfers created when enthusiastically playing their game, to dig a tunnel under the wire and escape. Typical for the rather relaxed regime in that Stalag Luft III was that after a while, golf could be resumed, albeit with the officer's solemn promise not to undertake another attempt to escape.

Pat Ward Thomas wrote down his impressions of the various matches, the making and repairing of clubs and balls from the most unlikely materials and the general way golf took a major place in their lives. Perhaps the most telling of their efforts to "manufacture" golf balls, was that when new sport shoes arrived via the Red Cross, they were sliced into thin strings so they could be used to wind elastic band around a piece of wood or better even a marble if they had one. Leather shoes fell equally to their destructive but ever so creative hands for the outer finish.



Golf Ball from Sagan as on display at British Golf Museum

Quite unexpectedly these were later found to be very close to the real thing. When after the war they were compared to real golf balls, some of them were unbelievably correct: 1.62 ounces x 1.62 inches. These were the specifications of the golf ball in those days. (Now 1.68 inches x 1.62 ounces) One of them is on display at the British Golf Museum in St. Andrews.

Until the very end of the war golf in Stalag Luft III was played with meanwhile more than two hundred participators most of which developed into sublime players at the pitch and putt. The only time Ward Thomas gave in to the temptation of hitting a real shot, was when somehow a real driver arrived. He hit a ball that soared way out of the premises to burst through the windows of the guards. They were not amused but still brought back the ball to him. After his return to Britain, Ward Thomas was appointed golf correspondent at The Times which he stayed all his life.

In that period golf reporting in papers and magazines in England had taken great interest and two of the most well known were Bernard Darwin (indeed a grand son of the great scientist Charles Darwin) and Henry Longhurst. To the latter, Pat sent his POW golf report, meanwhile a small book – and to his surprise Longhurst suggested the story be published as a book. He sent the manuscript back to the POW camp –surprisingly it came through! – giving an English reading German censor officer quite a job, as much of the text referred to a sport he didn't know the language of. The only thing he took out was a reference to the escape of three officers through the tunnel.

There were a number of similar reports from other POW's busy to find means for playing golf. They all found ways of manufacturing the necessary implements that was no less that ingenious. It all amounts to: You cannot stop a golfer from playing golf.

War-golf in Britain

Meanwhile also in England playing golf could not be stopped altogether and would continue in one or other form. However, players suffered from lack of balls, limited drinks in the clubhouse and continuously looking for shelter during air raids. The main obstruction however was battered golf courses. Many of them were in the vicinity of airfields near the coast and suffered badly.⁵ Still, that did not

⁵ A course near Great Yarmouth, got hit so many times by bombs which created huge craters, that after the war they redesigned some of the fairways to leave the craters – now grown over – in play forever.

stop people from adapting their game and continue nevertheless.

All the same, they had to accept that golf under war circumstances did have consequences with regard to the rules. Unperturbed by such minor interruptions as explosions or bomb craters, golfers continued. Be it that the R&A had its say about how to proceed. Here follows a selection of locally adapted rules issued in that period.

“...A player whose shot is affected by the simultaneous explosion of a bomb may play the ball from the same place under penalty of one stroke...”

“...A ball moved, lost or destroyed by enemy action, may be replaced without penalty...”

“...If a player's ball enters a minefield, he is advised not to attempt to recover it. A ball may be dropped outside the minefield within two club lengths not nearer to the hole, without penalty...”

“...If a player's swing is being interrupted by a falling bomb or an anti aircraft gun nearby, he may play a second shot. Penalty one stroke....”

Such minor disturbances as a bomb falling nearby cannot be seen as a major interruption, merely as a nuisance for which a player must not expect to get a free drop. After all we are talking about golf in Britain.

As a side note on the surprising things that happened around POW's in a foreign country is the story of a German POW in England. German POW's did not have to be guarded as strict as was necessary in Germany since Britain being an island was not all that easy to escape from. Hence, sports matches were order of the day with football as most popular pastime. They played matches against regular clubs and one German POW, Bernd Trautmann a goal keeper, was such an outstanding player that after the war he was offered a professional contract by Manchester City. Between 1949 and 1964 Trautmann played 545 games for Manchester City among which winning the Cup Final in 1956. In 2004 Bert Trautmann was rewarded an OBE!⁶

⁶ (Officer of) Order of the British Empire.

And even when it's all over... it ain't over... !

"... If the greens are black, this must be Kabul..."



*Kabul Golf Course, May 2005
(Photo courtesy of Karin Meister)*

When the Russian army withdrew their forces from Afghanistan in 1989, they left behind a huge amount of war materiel like deactivated guns, battle tanks and more assorted implements of waging battle. What was not very visible but probably most dangerous were the minefields. Whole areas were infested with non registered landmines. One of which was the old reputed golf course of the main city Kabul.



*Kabul Golf Course, April 2004
(photo courtesy of Karin Meister)*

The Kabul golf course dates back from 1972 and being pretty close to the city it was very popular in the days when life still had an impression of normality. How it came into use

for the first time after the end of hostilities was published in an article in the Daily Telegraph of 16 October 2001

The reporters found the course when making a report on the actual situation. There was no grass on the fairways, and bunkers were plentiful mainly on places where shells or bombs had been doing their destructive work. Still after some consideration, they decided to attempt and play the course for old times' sake.



Immovable obstruction? (Photo K. Meister)

They found it took a little more than just teeing off and see what happened. The first hole estimated some 350 yds and doglegged round a 75mm Russian howitzer left in the middle of the fairway. Doubting as to whether this was an immovable obstruction (!) a local man, who turned out to be the former professional, a Mr Abdul Quayum who had been professional in the good old days, told the players to be aware of certain areas which were not altogether clear of landmines. Balls in that area must best be considered lost!

Still the problem remained whether the howitzer, originally a self propelled vehicle, was a movable object. They decided that the R&A had to be consulted and through their mobile phone contacted the R&A in Scotland.

The rules secretary there said that howitzers must be deemed "moveable" under rule 24-1 if they could be moved without "unreasonable effort". And without damaging the course!

Heaving at the thirty ton howitzer proved that it was definitely "unreasonable". The question of landmines, the secretary said, was already taken care of in Section 1 paragraph 4/10!

Surprisingly, the course reopened in 2004 though yet regarded as “rugged”. With still the remnants of rougher times in view, with development money it resembled a true golf course and many of the foreigners busy with building a new future for Afghanistan, were to be found playing happily on that once war scene.

Sadly however, three years later with Taliban rampaging the country, it had all changed back

to a few dare heart players per week. But Mr. Abdul, director and professional at the course remains optimistic. Over here, he said, everything always returns to what it was. In a different fashion maybe, but still. If Afghanistan needs anything, it must be optimists like Mr Abdul.



Afghanistan's only golf professional and photographer Karin Meister



*New sign at Kabul Golf Course
(all photos courtesy Karin Meister)*

C onclusion,

The growth and expansion of golf all over the world may sometimes surprise directors and managers of other sports. Many look at dwindling figures of participation in their own sports, whereas golf not just survived through periods in which battlefields and destroyed cities seemed to be the only thing in the minds of people. Golf actually grew against the odds in a way nobody actually had expected. The daring and tenacity of those who insisted to continue their passion in spite of the dire circumstances they had to play it in inspired a later generation to take golf around the world. Where once Britain and the USA were dominant for the better part of a century, presently top players' names show their origin as from literally every country around the Globe. Even China recently.

Though in this article “adverse circumstances” concerned itself mainly with periods of war, one should not forget that the “adversity” may also mean poverty and general lack of well being that brought great players and even champions.

Golf, so it seems, knows no limits. Not in participation, nor in social background or nationality. Given the proper mentality, golf is everyone's game.

Summer 2010
Albert L. Bloemendaal
Nijverdal, Netherlands

GERMAN HICKORY CHAMPIONSHIP 2010

By Christoph Meister

The second German Hickory Championship was played on Saturday, August 7th 2010 at Bad Wildungen Golf Course in Central Germany. Most players arrived on Friday in order to play a practice round. The organizers Christoph Meister and Tobias Schöne were able to welcome 36 players. It seems that the number of hickory players in Germany is growing steadily and there are now more and more players owning their own playable pre-1935 hickory set.



On Friday afternoon there was a well-attended hickory golf clinic given by the reigning German Hickory Champion and EAGHC member Iain Forrester. He gave us a nice presentation about the development of the golf swing over the centuries using the appropriate period clubs. This was followed by a professional hickory exhibition match in front of not only of the local press but also the local crowd. Bad Wildungen Golf Club had kindly donated some prize money and a very narrow match evolved between Iain Forrester, Dutch professional Davey van Mulken and the two German based professionals Perry Somers (Australia) and Andrew Gauld (Scotland) - all EAGHC members!. At the end it was a very narrow thing with Perry winning by one stroke and Andrew finishing second on recount over the last two holes.

Again and like at last years championship competition day (Saturday) was a bright and sunny day with lovely temperatures - except for a player from England (BGCS-member) who thought it was almost too warm - still we all had a most enjoyable day of hickory golf.

The 1930 Charles MacKenzie & Karl Hoffmann designed course at Bad Wildungen remains virtually unchanged except for two added bunkers on the 9th hole. Like last year all players I spoke to told me that the course is exceptionally well suited for hickory golf and that there are not many courses alike in Germany.

After 18 holes it was Australian Perry Somers with 74 strokes who took the Championship title 2010. He was followed by defending champion Iain Forrester with 78 strokes who couldn't match his previous year winning score of 73. This compares to the course record of 69 from the 1939 Golfer's Handbook played by then Bad Wildungen based English professional Fred Norman, who of course was using steel shafts already as one of his clubs found in the Danish Golf Museum proves.

North German Boris Lietzow was the leading amateur in the clubhouse with 83 strokes followed by Michael Edin from Stockholm, Sweden and Hans Lichtenberg from Krefeld, Germany, both with 84 strokes.

Defending German Ladies Champion Britta Nord from Sweden playing out of Annika Sorenstams home club Bro-Bålsta defended her title adding yet another national hickory championship crown to her collection. The "Dr.-Jürgen-Kienle-Preis", remembering long-time golf collector and keen hickory golfer Dr. Jürgen Kienle from Bad Wildungen, kindly sponsored by Mrs. Kienle, was won by Ralph Weyda from Aalen near Stuttgart and Ivonne van Mulken from the Netherlands.

We very much felt that all players including several first timers the event was a full success and we are looking forward welcoming you and many others back for the German Hickory Championship 2011!



CZECH HICKORY CHAMPIONSHIP 2010

By Christoph Meister

End of August 2010 hickory players originating from 10 countries (*see photo below*) gathered together in order to play the second Czech Hickory Champions organized by the "Czech section of the EAGHC" lead by our member Jiri Martinka at Prague's Hostivar GC over 18-holes. This event was preceded by the already traditional 9-hole Hostivar Golf Match which was played for the third time after it was originally initiated in 2008.

The Hostivar Golf match gross trophy was won by EAGHC-member Perry Somers, 2007 winner and Czech Golf Historian Prokop Sedlak (also of course a long time EAGHC-member) from Lisnice GK finished 2nd while the Czech Golf Federations rules official Dalibor Prochaska from Karlovy Vary (Karlsbad) finished 3rd. The net price was won by Jiri Skaba from Prague whereas Britta Nord from Stockholm took home the ladies first price.

Almost 30 Hickory players and their entourage enjoyed a lovely evening with barbecue, Czech beer and the lovely Czech chanteuse with her band playing live music. Like the year before organizer and Hostivar GC president Jiri Martinka took well care of us and made us feel at home very quickly. Most of us went to bed early but in a very goof and relaxed mood as it was championship day on Sunday.

32 Hickory golfers - 4 professionals and 28 amateurs - had registered for the 2nd Czech Hickory Championship and we all enjoyed a lovely day with some good hickory golf being played by the winners. Again Perry Somers returned the best score winning the Czech Hickory Championship with 74 strokes. He was followed by Robert Schovanek with 80 and Michael Edin (best Amateur) with 87 strokes.

Britta Nord from Sweden was again the best lady with a winning score of 89 followed by Annie Altmann from the Netherlands and last years winner Jean Hamilton from Scotland. Theresia Rolfs from Germany had the best net score of 67 followed by Jan Zoulik (Prague) with net 70 and Jiri Skaba (also Prague) with net 71.

We all had a great time at Prague and I am sure all of us are looking very much forward coming back for the Czech Hickory Championship 2011. Thank you Jiri Martinka for the perfect organization and hospitality at Hostivar! We all hope to see as many of you as possible in summer 2011 when Prague Golf Club at Motol will celebrate its 85th anniversary.

Talking about 85th anniversary reminds me to point out an interesting event to you: Golf- und Landclub Berlin-Wannsee (founded 1895), the oldest golf club still existing in Germany, will play it's "Jubiläumsturnier" with pre 1935-hickory shafted golf clubs only on June 2nd 2011 celebrating the official opening of the Wannsee golf course 85 years ago. The event will be followed by a Berlin Hickory Championship on Friday, June 3rd, 2011. The club welcomes EAGHC-members interested to play in these two events - to reserve your starting place please contact Christoph Meister through CNMeister@t-online.de



Dutch International Hickory Championship 2010

The first edition of the Dutch Open was played on the historic private family owned golf course “the Ullerberg” on the 2nd of October following the annual EAGHC-meeting at Kennemer. The competitors played in 3 divisions for the Waller trophy, a beautiful silver cup presented by the Waller family, who built and have owned the course since 1923.

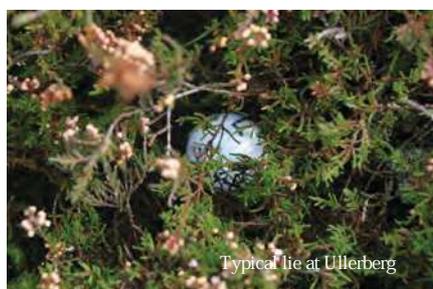


The course is unique in the world. The playing surfaces are shortly mown heather with only the tees, greens and aprons being grass, the rough is thick unwelding heather which should be avoided at all costs. Virtually unchanged since it was laid out by Dutch architect and former Dutch Open winner Gerry del Court van Krimpen the course still has classic cross bunkers that are real hazards (unraked and rough looking), small greens and grass/heather bunkers close to the greens. To sum up, a perfect location for hickory golf.

The championship was supported by several sponsors, head sponsor Staal Bankiers (financial backing and resources) together with Duchell (course equipment) and Heineken (beer) and only their involvement made the Championship possible. Initiator and co-organizer of the event was EAGHC-member Iain Forrester

Under perfect weather conditions the competitors got a completely new understanding of just how good the players at the turn of the century must have been on courses that were not manicured as they are today.

EAGHC-member Leif Einarsson won the Handicap section with a level par net 70, Britta Nord also from Sweden won the ladies section with a excellent gross 91. The men’s champion was the recently crowned World hickory champ Perry Somers (also EAGHC-member) from Australia, his incredible score of 74 was also an official course record. It was a pity that from the initial entry of 30 (from 9 different countries) there were a few late cancellations but the foundations have been set for the next editions of this Championship.



Typical lie at Ullerberg

Full results

Men’s Open

1. Perry Somers, Australia
2. Iain Forrester, Scotland
3. Davey Van Mulken, Netherlands



Ullerberg, 1st Green



Perry Somers & Britta Nord

Ladies Open

1. Britta Nord, Sweden
2. Miep Eussen, Netherlands
3. Annie Altmann, Netherlands



Britta Nord

Handicap

1. Leif Einarsson, Sweden
2. Ton Born, Netherlands
3. Michael Edin, Sweden



Prizegiving ceremony



EAGHC-member Hars Rolfs



Iain Forrester



The medal on the left was until recently owned by the grand-nephew of Robert Dunlop, a professional from Prestwick who went to Denmark and designed the Fano Golf Course, opened in 1901. An Open Championship of Denmark was then played on Fano golf course on August 10th of the same year. Robert Dunlop was the winner.

This medal was bought from a German Numismatic dealer in summer 2010.



EAGHC member and curator of the Danish Golf Museum Poul-Erik Jensen proudly presents two 1901 Open Championship of Denmark medals that the Museum was able to get hold off in 2010. As Poul-Erik points out „The acquisition of the (above) medal would have been impossible without the help of Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak together the owner of the medal and the museum.“

(photos taken during official presentation of the medals after the annual meeting of the Danish Golf Historical Society in June 2010)