

EAGHC - 14th Annual Meeting



Rosendaelsche GC – Sept. 16, 17 / Bleijenbeek Sept. 18, 2019

The Hyères golf courses on the Riviera

JBK (Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak)



EAGHC – 14th AGM – Rosendaelsche GC 16, 17 Sept. – Bleijenbeek Golf Museum 18 Sept. 2019

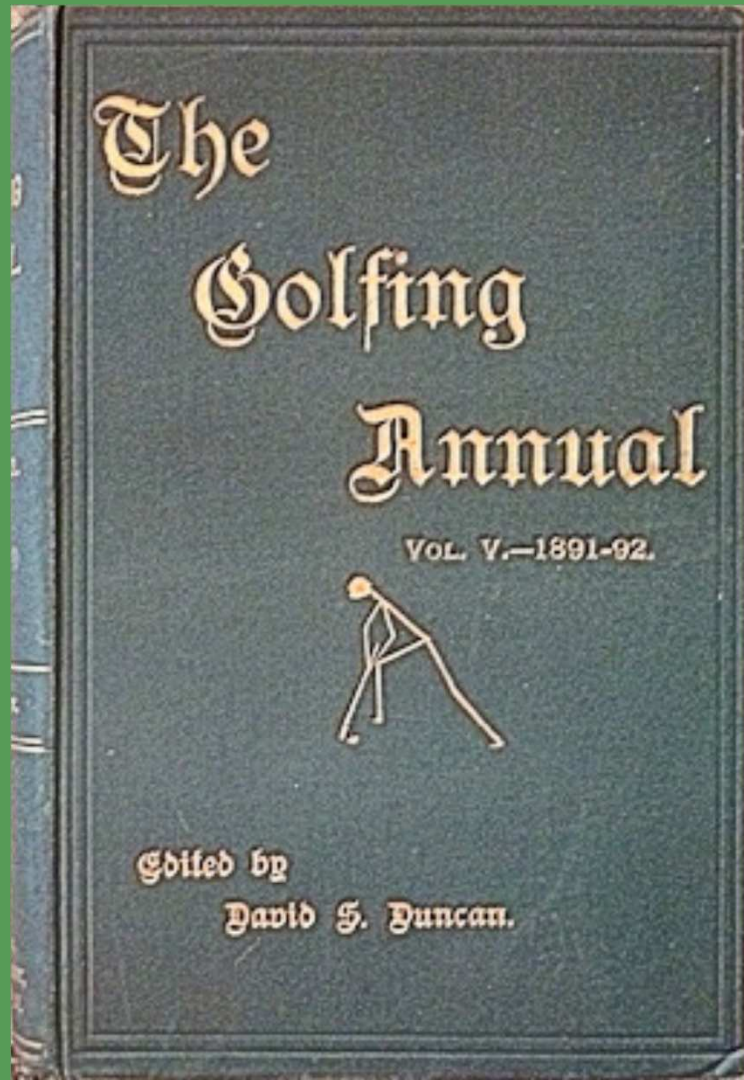


Which was the first “Golf Club” on the Riviera?

- If the Cannes Golf Club was the first *club* on the Riviera (created december 1891) ...
- A golf *course* pre-existed at Hyères, since Dec. 1890
It was attached to the Grand Hotel d'Albion

Golfing Annual – 1891-1892

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HYÈRES.

There is a course of nine holes in connection with the hotel D'Albion, Hyères.

CANNES.

CANNES GOLF CLUB, INSTITUTED 1891.

Hon. Secretary—Rev. L. J. Fish, Villa Haute Rive, Cannes.

The course, which was mainly secured through the exertions of H.I.H. the Grand Duke Michael of Russia, is situated about one and a half miles from Cannes, in a beautiful valley commanding superb views of Grasse and the Esterels. At present there are only nine holes, and the principal hazards are well-defined ditches, bushes, &c.

Both existed in 1892

Newspapers & Magazines

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HYERES

- Scotsman, Dec. 29th, 1890 →
- The Field, Jan. 2nd, 1891

Additional references: April 18, Oct. 31, Nov. 7 and Dec. 1891

- Coventry Herald 2nd Jan. 1891
“by lying out a nine-hole course at Hyères”

A few days ago I mentioned that the delights of the Riviera, with Monte Carlo thrown in, had been found to want rounding off, and that this was to be done by laying out a nine hole course at Hyères.

CANNES

- Le Littoral, (a French newspaper) Dec. 15th, 1891
- The Field, Jan. 2nd, 1892 – one year after Hyères.

The first golf "*club*" at Hyères 1891-1894

The first Hyères Golf “Club”



- Initiated by Messrs Alexandre Peyron & G.R. Corbett



Alexandre Peyron

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○ Grounding

Born close at Carqueranne, close to Hyères
(his father had a restaurant there).

He studied cooking at Lyon and Paris

Then moved to GB and served at Windsor Castle

Married to Emily Churchman *(Churchman family)*

○ Back to France, in his hotel(s)

To attract British tourists *(Queen Victoria expected at Hyères in 1892)*

Helped by G.R. Corbett a British banker & consul in Hyères

He created the first golf course at Hyères les Salins.

GOLF ON THE RIVIERA.

SIR,—I have just returned from the south of France, and think it may be of interest to many golfers to know that very good links will be opened next season on the Riviera. Through the kindness of Mr Corbett, the English banker at Hyères, I was enabled a few days ago to visit the links, and we also played a foursome. I feel pretty confident that, with some few alterations, it will become a very sporting round of nine holes.

They are most conveniently situated close to the station of Les Salines, which is about four miles from Hyères, the start for the first hole being within 150 yards of the station. The round has been laid out by the Pau professional, and Mr Corbett has several men at work removing the meadow reeds which grow there, and sowing grass in their place. A young Frenchman, who was employed on the links at Pau, is now looking after the greens. He is enthusiastic over the game, and also a good player and club maker.

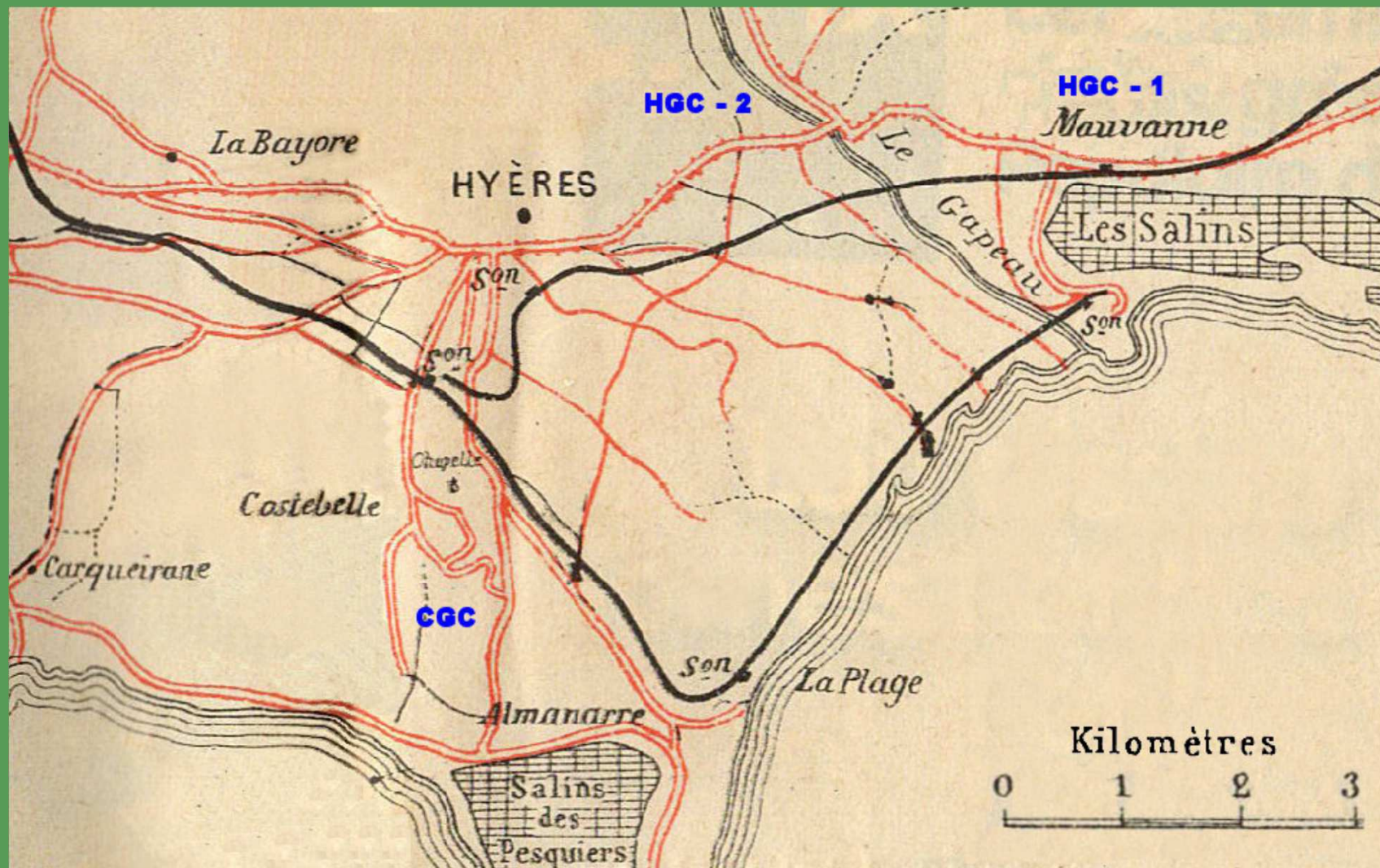
The links are close to the sea, with lovely views over the Isles of Hyères and the hills around, and altogether will be welcomed by those who prefer bright sunshine, lovely flowers, and the purest of air to the fog and east wind of a winter in England.

East Sheen.

C. HOME SINCLAIR.

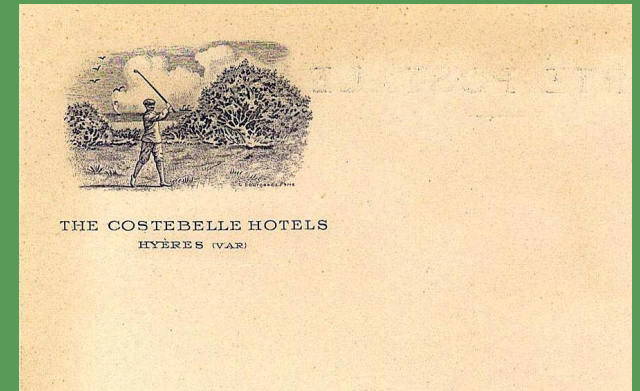
Location of the first course: HGC - 1

10



Location of the first course: HGC - 1

11



An "undivided back" postcard (before 1903), featuring the first Hyères GC related to the "Costebelle Hotels of Mr. Peyron).

The Costebelle GC did exist at that time !

The golfer is driving close to the sea, and "Les Salins", with the typical bushes. The postcard could be dated 1894 or earlier.

The very first competition at Hyères

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HYÈRES GOLF CLUB.

These links have been enormously improved during the last six weeks. Several labourers have been at work every day under the direction of Tingey, the professional. The number of players, both ladies and gentlemen, has very much increased, and the constant trampling of the course has made the lies through the green much better than they were. If the course could be extended so as to avoid one bad piece of crossing and to give two more holes, it would be very creditable for a country where good turf is unknown.

On Friday, February 12th, the first competition ever held on the green was organised by some players at the Hotel d'Albion, who fixed the handicaps and drew up a few bye-laws to suit the special conditions of the course. There were nine entries, and a double round of the seven holes was played for a sweepstakes. The winner was Mr. R. Lodge, who played a consistently steady game, but the best single round was done by Mr. F. Dun, who would probably have won but for bad luck in his first round. Mr. Blane played brilliantly for a time, but fell off slightly towards the end, and had to be content with second honours. The following scores were handed in:—

			1st	2nd			
			Round.	Round.	Gross.	Hcp.	Net.
Mr. R. Lodge	...	...	35	36	71	8	63
Mr. G. G. Blane	...	...	35	36	71	5	66
Mr. F. Dun	...	...	40	33	73	3	70
Mr. J. Foggo	...	...	35	36	71	scr.	71
Mr. J. E. Sinclair	...	...	44	47	91	14	77
Capt. Swinford	...	...	41	45	86	8	78

Mr. J. T. Brunner (25), Mr. F. Medwin (30), and Mr. J. D. Baldry (40), made no return, or were over 100.



Feb. 12, 1892
And similar information on
Feb. 20, 1892 (The Field)

Constraints

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- Mr Peyron's idea was excellent but ...
 - The course was attached to an hotel (even if "open to all")
 - Only private (limited) resources could be used
 - No grant or subsidy could be provided by the town
 - Only 7 holes were available
- A true "club" was necessary
 - Mr Corbett (banker and UK consul) who supported the first Hyères Golf Links will suggest the creation of a "true club".

The second golf at Hyères 1894-1939

Instituted March 9, 1894

15

HYÈRES.

HYÈRES GOLF CLUB, INSTITUTED MARCH 9TH, 1894.

Entrance Fee, Twelve Francs Fifty Cents; *Annual Subscription*, Sixty Francs. *President*—Colonel St. J. Barne. *Hon. Vice-Presidents*—Earl of Erne. Rt. Hon. A. J. Balfour, M.P., Sir. T. Sutherland, K.C.M.G., M.P., Count de Beauregard, Count de Lèautaud, Prince de Rohan. *Captain*—Captain Slazenger. *Committee*—Colonel Leyland-Needham, F. J. Patton, Wm. Peel, F. C. Rowe, R. Fogg, J. R. Corbett, J. B. W. Maunder, J. Roberts, R. H. Caird. *Hon. Secretary*—G. R. Corbett, British Vice-Consul, Hyères, France. *Greenkeeper and Professional*—W. Hamlet.

Club Prizes.—Prince de Rohan Prize (Tournament), on February 8th and 9th; Corporation Silver Cup (handicap), open to annual and

Club Directory.

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season members only, on February 18th; Ladies Prizes, presented by Hon. Secretary, on February 20th; Captain's Silver Cup, on February 23rd.

Records for Green.—(1) Professional, 38, by W. Hamlet, in January last; (2) Amateur, 35, by F. J. Patton, in December, 1894.

The course of nine holes is situated on the banks of the river, ten minutes' drive from the town, and is covered with beautiful turf. The length of the holes varies from 110 to 350 yards. A break leaves Costebelle daily for the green, passing through the town, and omnibuses will run frequently. Hyères is the most southerly and the nearest winter station on the Riviera, being only twenty-eight hours from London.

Golfing Annual 1894-95

The previous edition was announcing the club with "No particulars forthcoming".

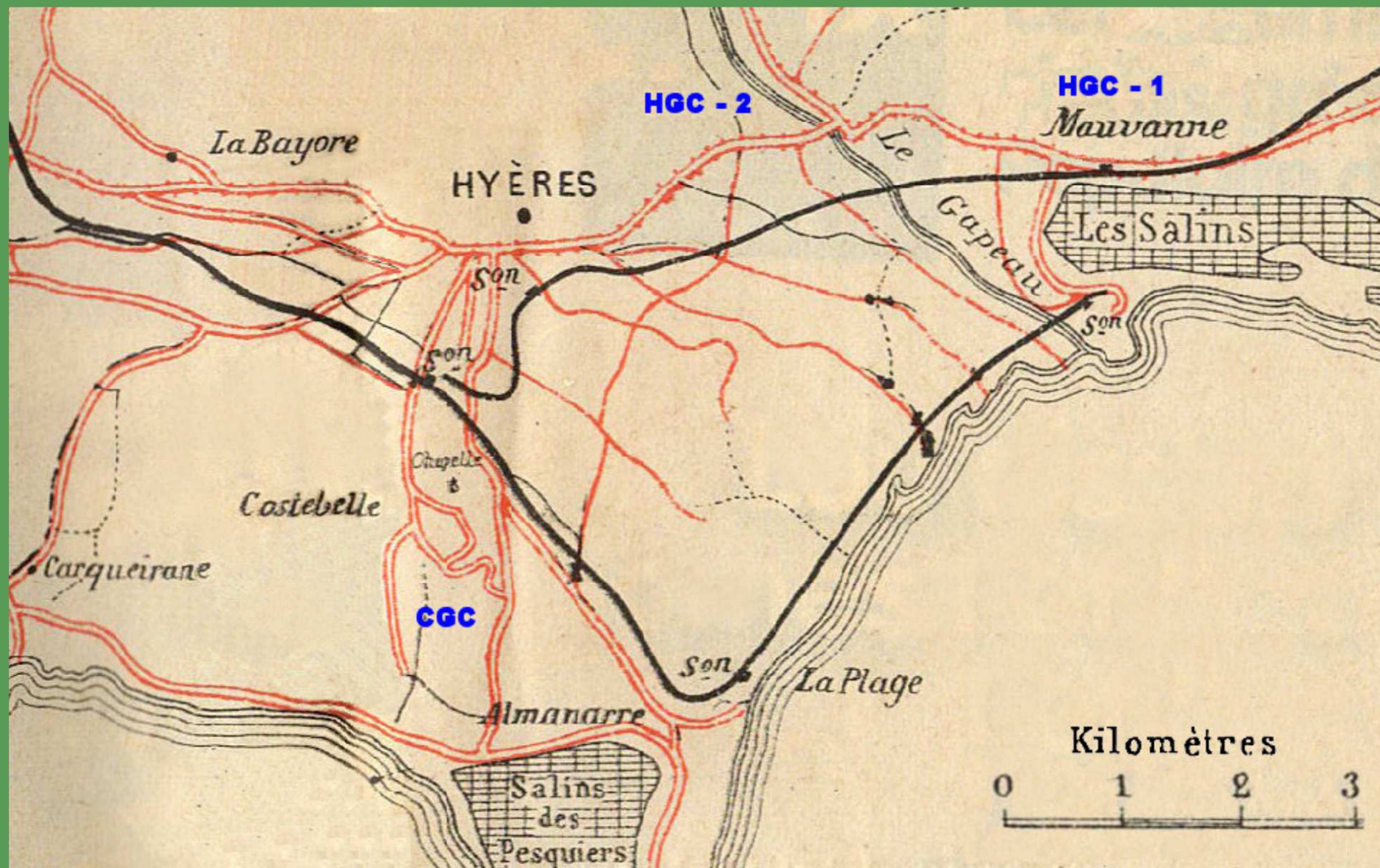
*9 holes at the beginning
Pro: W. Hamlet*

*Nevertheless until the end of 1894
the competitions are played over
the first course.*



Location of the second HGC: HGC - 2

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A letter to the Major of Hyères

17

Hyères, le 16 Mars 1894

3R1 1³

Monsieur le Maire
d'Hyères.

Monsieur le Maire,

Nous nous permettons de venir vous voir aujourd'hui, pour porter à votre bienveillant considération le "Hyères Golf Club" que nous venons de fonder.

Nous n'avons certes, pas besoin de vous faire observer le magnifique résultat obtenu à Cannes par le Cannes Golf Club fondé il y a deux ans, sous la présidence de S. A. R. le Grand Duc Michel de Russie, et du bien énorme qu'a fait ce Club à la station, en y attirant des foules d'étrangers. Nous sommes persuadés que vous voudriez bien nous prêter votre précieuse concours pour tenter d'obtenir ici à Hyères un succès tout aussi brillant qu'a connu le "Golf Links" à Hyères a été créé il y a trois ans, par la Société des Terrains de l'Ermitage, propriétaire de l'Hôtel d'Albion, qui reconnaissait déjà le grand utilité, que pouvait avoir ce jeu favori des Anglais, comme "Attraction" à notre station hivernale.

La dite Société des Terrains de l'Ermitage a dû faire des dépenses considérables pour créer et maintenir ce jeu, dont maintes étrangers hivernants à Hyères ont pu profiter sans distinction de domicile.

Nous sommes cependant desirux de donner un élan tout particulier, et une caractère plus général au Golf à Hyères en suivant le bon exemple de nos compatriotes à Cannes, c'est pourquoi nous venons de fonder le "Hyères Golf Club".

À Cannes la municipalité donne une subvention annuelle de mille francs au Golf Club, plus une magnifique coupe en argent à titre de prix, et nous osons vous demander de vouloir bien encourager le "Hyères Golf Club" en lui donnant un prix d'une coupe en argent avec inscription "Prix de la Ville d'Hyères", pour donner de l'importance aux concours qui auront lieu pendant la saison prochaine, cette coupe ne pourra devenir la propriété d'autrui, que lorsque un concurrent l'aura gagnée pendant trois années consécutives.

Notre sympathique et très aimé Capitaine du Club, Monsieur Raphaël Slazenger, se propose très généreusement d'offrir lui-même une coupe en argent pour un autre concours, qui aura lieu pendant la saison prochaine.

En vous remerciant d'avance, Monsieur le Maire, du bienveillant accueil que vous voulez bien nous accorder, Veuillez agréer l'expression de nos sentiments les plus distingués

J. J. Patton
President
Raph. Slazenger
Capitaine
G. R. Corbett Hon. Sec.

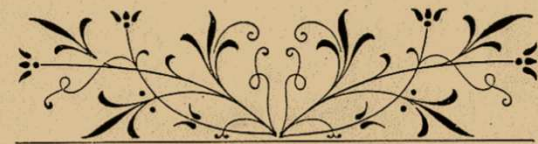
F. J. Patton
F. C. Carpenter Rose
W. Pitt.
Robert Figg.
James R. Corbett

Members
of the
Committee
1894-5

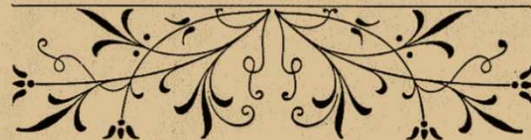
A letter, dated March 16, 1894 (7 days after institution), to the mayor signed by all members of the Board.

First booklet of the Club

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STATUTES
OF THE
HYÈRES
GOLF CLUB.



HYÈRES GOLF CLUB.



HON. VICE-PRESIDENTS:

EARL OF ERNE.

THE RIGHT HON. A. J. BALFOUR, M.P.

SIR THOMAS SUTHERLAND,
K.C.M.G., M.P.

COUNT DE DAVID BEAUREGARD.

COUNT DE LEAUTAND.

&c., &c., &c.

PRESIDENT:

COLONEL ST. J. BARNE.

CAPTAIN:

CAPTAIN RALPH SLAZENGER.

HON. SECRETARY AND TREASURER:

G. R. CORBETT, Esq.

COMMITTEE:

COLONEL LEYLAND NEEDHAM.

MESSRS. F. J. PATTON, WM. PEEL,

F. CARPENTER ROWE,

R. FOGG, J. R. CORBETT,

J. B. MAUNDER.

Changes on the course (HGC)

19

- 1899: new capital investors : Société Hôtelière de Marseille et de la Riviera.
- End 1900: the course is extended to 18 holes.
- And an hotel opened in 1906 (Mr Zick)

A great event in 1907

20

- After the “Great Match” at Cannes, organised by the Grand Duke Michael
- Some players made a stop at Hyères
Massy and Sayers were absent (private engagements; retained at Cannes by Major & Mrs Clayton for purpose of tuition).

A greater one in 1908

21

- After the Nice tournament.
- Most of the players (including Massy and Gassiat) will made a stop at Hyères-les-Palmier (as well as Costelle which was just opened).

The great players at Hyères, 1908

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Massy putting in front of Gassiat.

The great players at Hyères, 1908

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2. - HYÈRES-les-PALMIERS. - Le Golf

Parfumerie Chambourlier

Gassiat putting in front of Massy.

Lots of issues after WWI

24

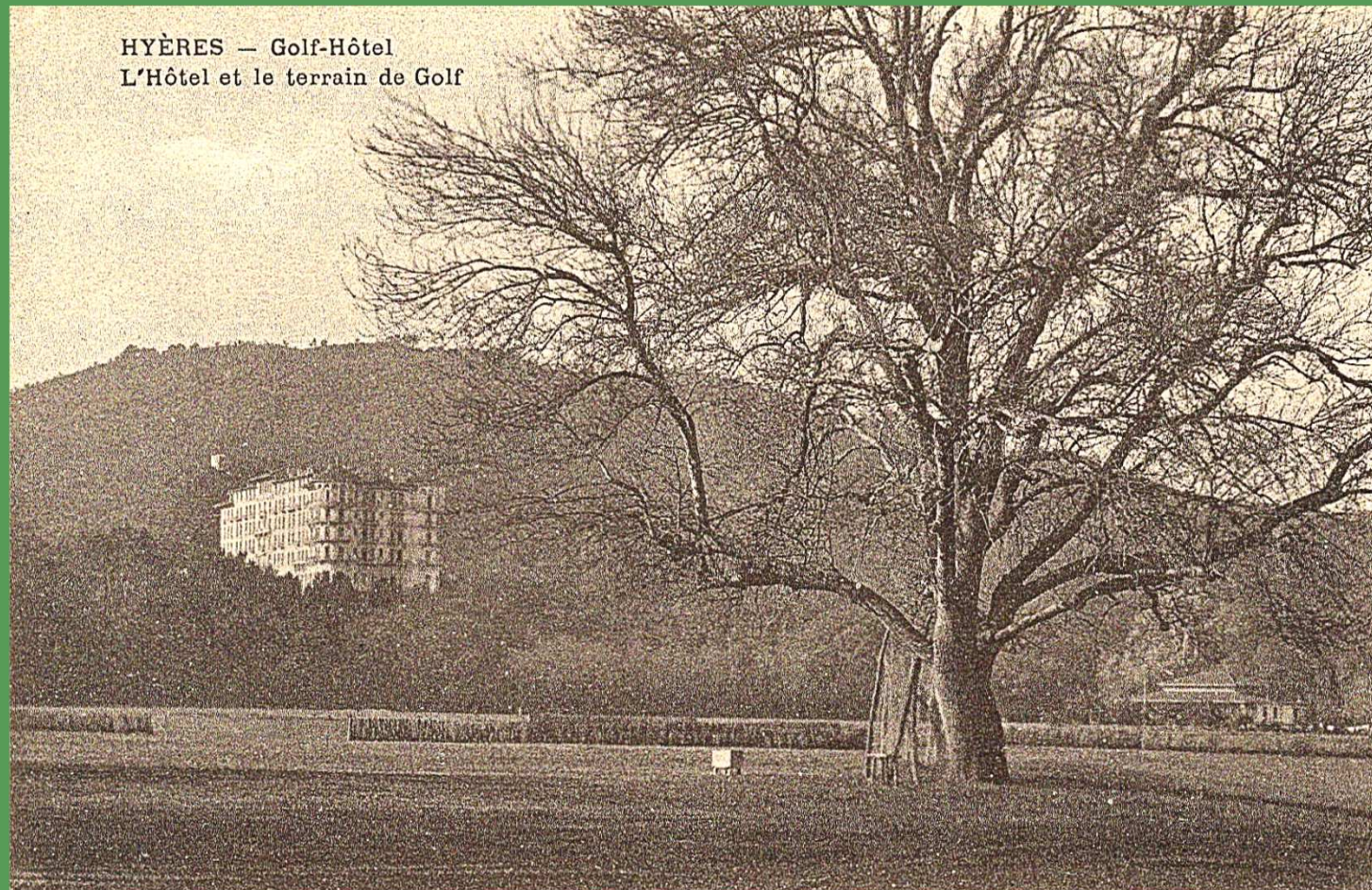
- No bunkers for a too long time.



Lots of issues after WWI

25

- No bunkers for a too long time.



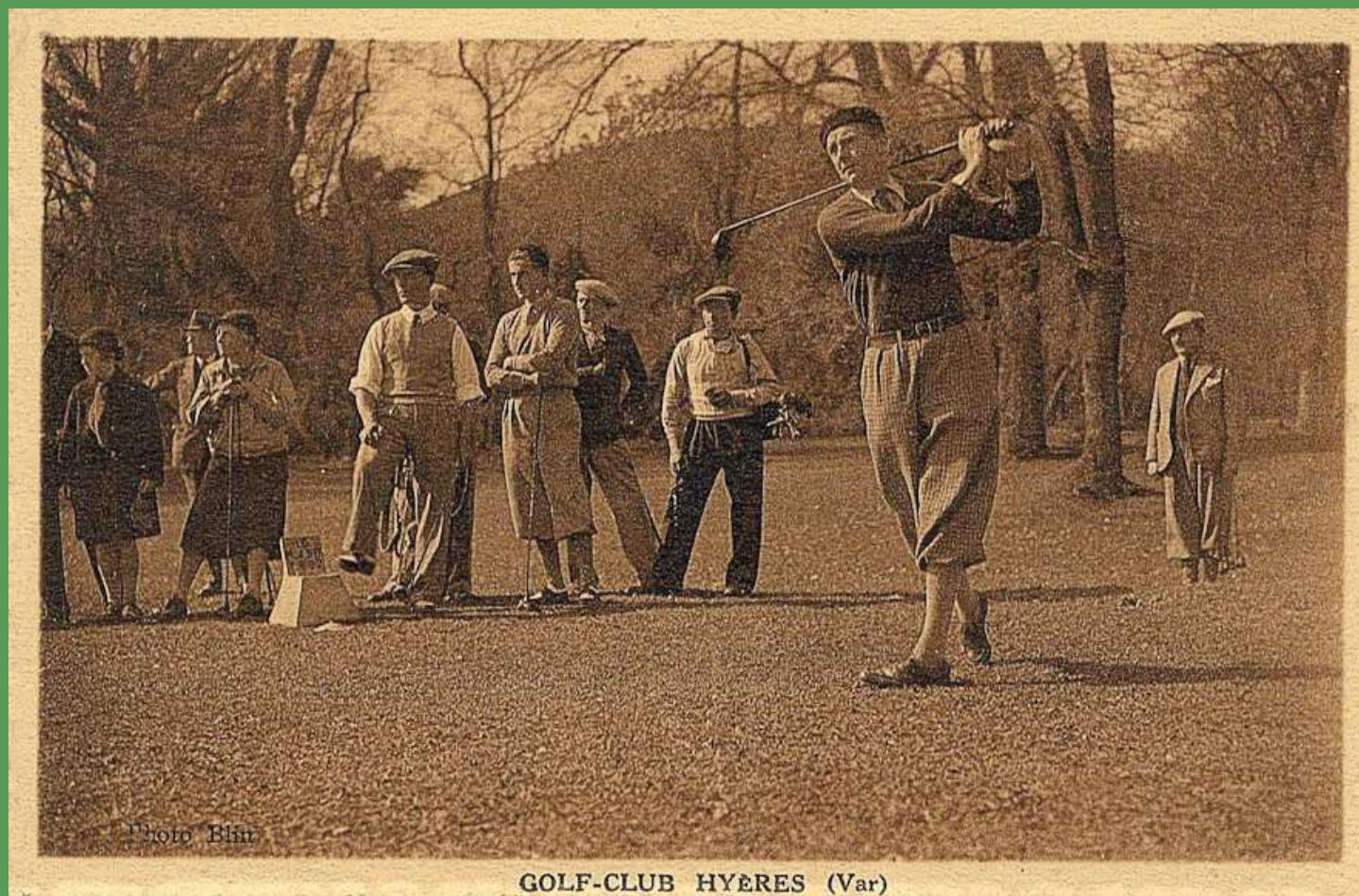
Lots of issues after WWI

26

- The land owner claiming to increase the lease
- Several trials with the City of Hyères ...

Trying to survive ... some later events

27



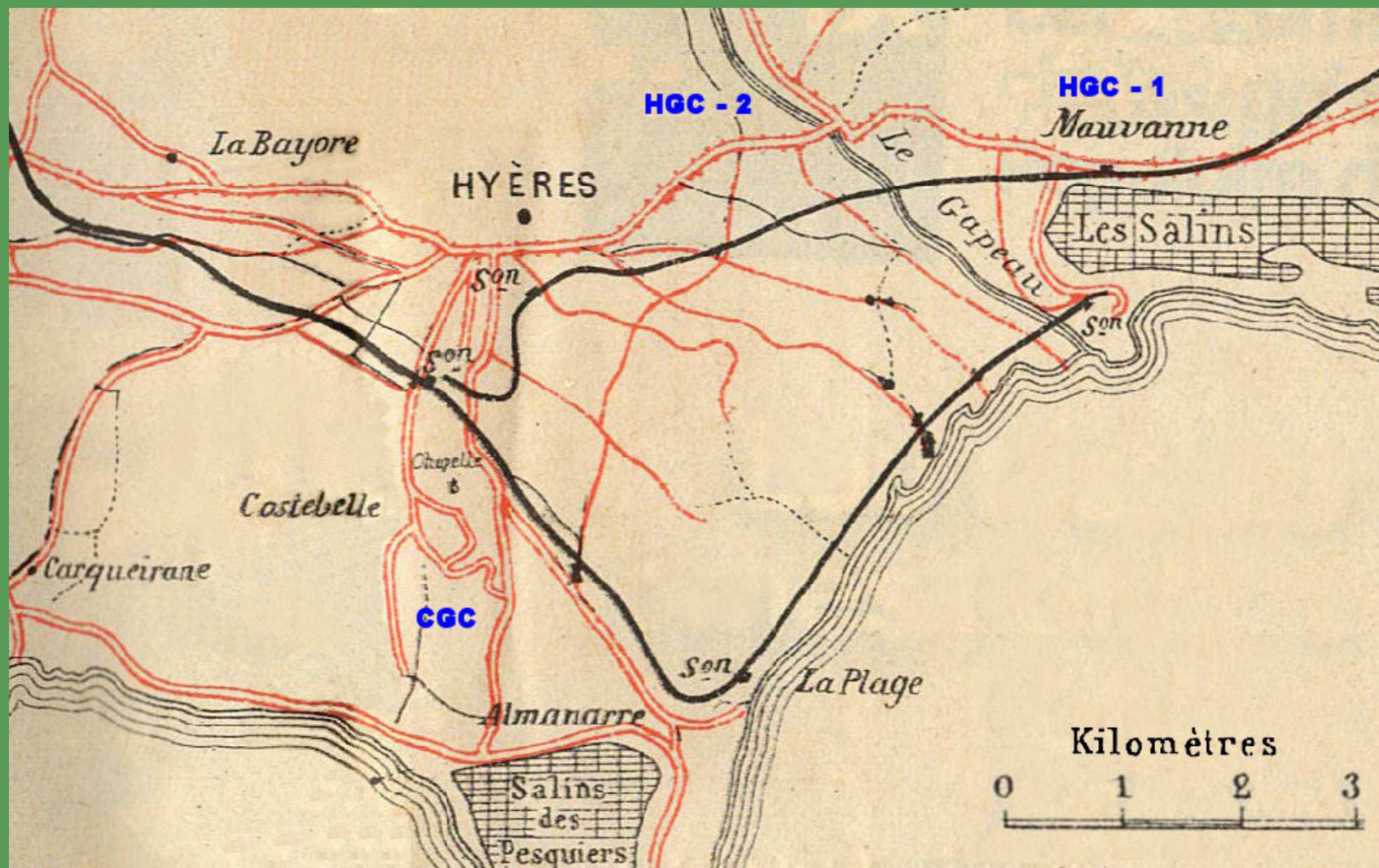
*Pro-Am at Hyères in 1934 (here Aubrey Boomer driving)
En route to play the Italian Open*

An other golf club at Hyères

Costebelle: 1907 - 1933

CGC ... Mr Peyron again

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Costebelle – A poster from the period

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THE COSTEBELLE HÔTELS, HYÈRES (Var) :- E. H. PEYRON, Proprietor

HONoured BY THE RESIDENCE OF
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN OF ENGLAND 1892

Telegrams: COSTEBELLE-HYÈRES

TELEPHONE: 0-31

General Plan of the Hôtels, Showing Gardens, Golf, Tennis, Croquets, etc.

The premier resort on the Riviera for Golf, Tennis and Croquet. Situated on a hill side 2 miles from and facing the sea amidst the pine trees 300 feet above sea level. The Costebelle Golf Links situated opposite and in Hotel grounds - 1st tee two minutes walk.

The Costebelle Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club 5 full size Tennis Courts - 8 full size Croquet Lawns all in Hotel grounds.

250 Rooms and sitting rooms. Electric Light and Central Heating throughout. Telegraph and Telephone Offices in Hotel. Extensive and well selected library.

Apartments with bath room. Large and spacious Hall adjoining Ball Room. Orchestra Badminton.

English Billiards 3 full size tables. American Bar.

English and Roman Catholic Churches in Hotel grounds.

Connected in MENTON with GRAND HOTEL BELLEVUE in MARSEILLES with GRAND HOTEL du LOUVRE & de la PAIX

WHAT THE PRESS SAYS

The Times: "A charming corner of Provence."
The World: "Costebelle commands lovely views of the sea and islands."
Vanity Fair: "The position of this Hotel is very fine."
Pull Mall Gazette: "Delightfully situated on the southern slope of the lovely Costebelle hills."
Graphic: "The panorama viewed from the Hotel Costebelle is one of exceptional beauty."
Daily Graphic: "The gardens surrounding the Costebelle Hotels are delightful."
Times: "From Toulon to Grasse, no lovelier spot can be found than Costebelle."
Daily Telegraph: "A scene of variable enchantment a panorama of endless beauty."
New York Herald: "Costebelle is unquestionably the most beautiful health resort along the whole of the littoral."
Daily Telegraph: "Costebelle is without doubt an ideal home."
World: "Costebelle commands lovely views of the sea and the islands."
Times: "These residences are interlaced with charming walks amongst the pines, olives and oaks."

The COSTEBELLE GOLF Links (18 Holes)
 Designed and constructed by E. E. H. GREEN
 Length: 4,805 yards
 1 - 110 yards - 2 - 108 yards - 3 - 110 yards - 4 - 200 yards - 5 - 107 yards -
 6 - 200 yards - 7 - 100 yards - 8 - 200 yards - 9 - 100 yards - 10 - 110 yards -
 11 - 100 yards - 12 - 200 yards - 13 - 200 yards - 14 - 110 yards - 15 - 200 yards -
 16 - 200 yards - 17 - 200 yards - 18 - 110 yards

SCALE
1 1/4 inch = 100 yards

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

ENGLISH CHURCH

H. M. QUEEN VICTORIA AT COSTEBELLE

GENERAL VIEW OF HOTELS

ON THE GOLF LINKS

THE GARDENS

THE TENNIS COURTS

THE WOODS AT COSTEBELLE

ONE OF THE CROQUETS

THE BALL ROOM

THE GARDENS

ALMANARCO - Vers la Mer 1500 mètres - Hyères - Vers Toulon - MALTE du COSTEBELLE - Chemin du Parc du Sud - Vers St Raphaël

Costebelle, instituted October, 1907

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HYÈRES.—HYÈRES GOLF CLUB, INSTITUTED MARCH 9TH, 1894. *Entrance Fee*, 50 francs; *Annual Subscription*, 125 francs; *Secretary*—G. H. Logan, Golf Hotel, Hyères. *Professional*—G. Walls.

Club Prizes.—Hyères Cup (handicap), January; Riviera Cup,

February; Old Club, Golf Hotel, and Hyères Club Cups, March. *Record Score in a Club Competition.*—73, by J. V. Watson, in March, 1908. *Green Records*—Professional: 67, by J. H. Taylor, on March 20th, 1908; Amateur: 73, as above. Par, 66. The course, of eighteen holes, varying from 70 to 500 yards, is on the banks of the river, ten minutes' drive from the town. Hyères is only twenty-eight hours' journey from London. Visitors, 3 francs a day, 17 francs a week, or 60 francs a month; Ladies, 3 francs, 12 francs, and 45 francs. Sunday play.

COSTEBELLE GOLF CLUB, INSTITUTED OCTOBER, 1907.

Entrance Fee, 40 francs; *Annual Subscription*, 100 francs; *Number of Members*, 200. *Hon. Secretary*—E. H. Peyron, Costebelle Hôtels, Hyères (Var). *Professional*—R. MacDonald (North Berwick).

Club Prizes.—Comité des Fêtes Cup, and Costebelle Hôtels Prize, February; Costebelle Cup, Hotel Bellevue Cup, and Palace or Louvre Prize, March. *Green Record.*—75, by H. Vardon and J. Braid, on March 21st, 1908. Par, 72. The course, of eighteen holes, varying from 131 to 531 yards (circuit, 6008 yards), is five minutes' walk from Costebelle Station, and ten minutes' from the Costebelle Hôtels. The hazards are wide ditches. There is a commodious Club-house, the dining-room having seats for sixty. Sunday play. Visitors, 3 francs a day, 15 francs a week, or 50 francs a month; ladies, 2 francs, 10 francs, or 35 francs.

Golfing Annual 1908-09

At Hyère GC
Pro: G. Walls

First reference to Costebelle GC in the Golfing Annual.
Pro: R. McDonald

The inaugural drive at Costebelle

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First drive by Drive par A. Peyron (Jan. 1908). His son is walking towards him.

Great players at Costebelle, 1908

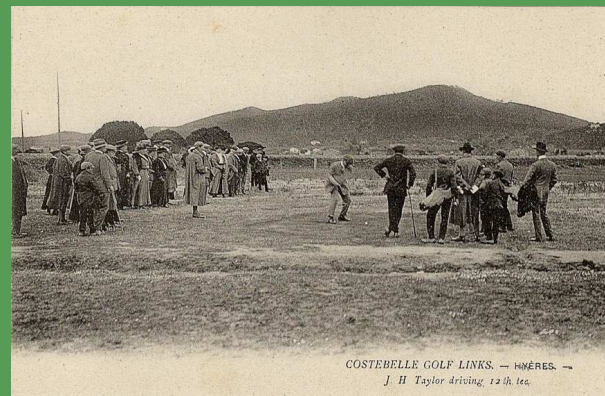
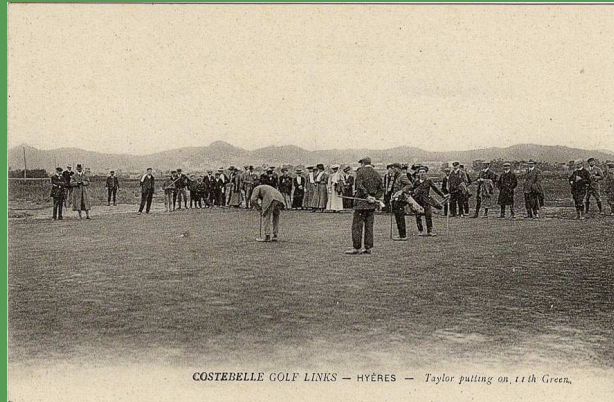
33



Massy and Taylor on the 9th Green at Costebelle. A PC from a long series.

Great players at Costebelle, 1908

34



Some of the postcards illustrating the 1908 match.

Hard times after the 1929 crisis

35

- The club will be closed in the early 30s.

Some feats on the Hyères & Costebelle links

Records on Hyères-les-Palmiers

37

- W. Hamlet 38 Jan. 1895 (for 9 holes)
- Freemantle 69 30 March 1900 (18-hole course)
- Freemantle 71 1906-07 (18-hole, modif.)
- Taylor 67 20 March 1907

From the Golfing Annual & Plumon Guides



Records on Costebelle

38

- Vardon & Braid 75 21 March 1908
- McDonald 72 ~ 1908-09

Amateur

- Bernard Darwin 71 nd. (c. 1914)

From the Golfing Annual & Plumon Guides



Thank you for your attention