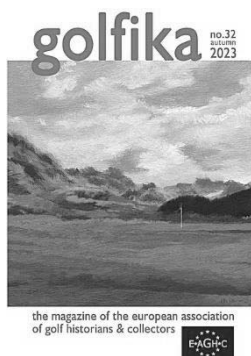




Françoise Autiero caddying for Joseph Kennedy

golfika



Contents

	Page
A Few Words from the President and Editor, <i>JBK</i>	4
Royal Golfers – Queen Alexandrine, <i>Erik Madsen</i>	6
Françoise Autiero, Joseph Kennedy's Caddie at the Biot Golf Club.	12
Her Honeymoon in the United States, <i>Huguette Kazmierczak</i>	
Sand Greens, <i>Damir Ritosa</i>	17
The First Golf Courses in Brittany: Dinard, Paramé, Sainte-Marguerite and Dinan, <i>JBK</i>	23
EAGHC AGM 2023 at Cannes-Mougins Golf & Country Club	35

The front cover of *Golfika* magazine N°32 shows an illustration by Viktor Cleve. This painting of Fano links, brings back memories of Poul Erik Jensen (President in 2016 and 2017) who passed away two years ago and who in August 2016 organised our meeting in Denmark with a hickory tournament on Fano links. Viktor Cleve is a EAGHC honorary member and a leading golf painter from Germany. As a former art director, Victor kindly designed the cover page for *Golfika* magazine.

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The Association welcomes new members – who will find all necessary information on how to join the Association on www.golfika.com

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A Few Words from the President and Editor

By JBK (*Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak*)



This issue of *Golfika* is later than usual. The main reason for this is the timing of our Annual General Meeting held during the first week of October at the Cannes-Mougins Golf & Country Club which is one of the most prestigious golf clubs on the French Riviera. A comprehensive report is at the end of this magazine.

For the first time in our history, we received many papers. We are certainly not going to complain, and we hope it continues. Even if your article does not make it into the next issue, it will in the one following.

The history of golf in Denmark is not well known and so Erik Madsen's article will be of great interest. Erik is the Honorary Secretary of the Dansk Golfhistorisk Selskab, and he has written an article on the Danish Queen Alexandrine, a Royal golfer.

We have received many e-mails and telephone calls congratulating Huguette Kazmierczak for her original work on Françoise Autiero, an emblematic figure of the Biot Golf Club and the region. This second part (on her honeymoon trip to the USA and the Doral Golf Club) will surely be just as captivating for our readers.

Regarding this last article, we would like to remind you that the history of golf is being written today. We urge our members not to overlook this aspect. How many times have we postponed an interview with a key figure in golf from the 1950s, only to find that our champion had passed away by the time we were ready to make the interview. Let us not wait until it's too late!

Some of our members have heard of “sand greens”, but what are they? That's what Damir Ritosa explains, following the remarkable presentation that he made recently at the annual meeting in Cannes-Mougins.

Most of our readers will be familiar with the Dinard Golf Club in Brittany. But before the First World War, three other golf clubs, whose history is little known, disappeared. Even for Dinard, the date of foundation displayed in the clubhouse is questionable, which is why we write about it in our magazine.

At the end of this magazine, you'll find a detailed report on the recent EAGHC AGM. But as an introduction, I would like to note that, for the first time, we arranged the possibility to participate in the meeting via Zoom. Three people were able to use this service: Leif Einarsson (following almost all the presentations), Mikael Tillström and Bill Anderson. I would like to thank these remote participants, especially Bill, who, on the last day, connected à 10am (Cannes time), which is 4am in New York. No questions asked; Bill is a true and faithful member and friend.

I can't end this introduction without informing you of some excellent news.

Those who pay close attention to the contents page of our magazine will have noticed that we have added a section “sponsor” at the bottom of the page – so far we have only one sponsor. This initiative has been made possible thanks to the French Golf Federation, which has decided to make an annual grant of 1000 euros to the EAGHC.

The letter, signed by Pascal Grizot, President of the French Golf Federation states: *'We appreciate your commitment and wish to support your efforts to preserve the historic heritage of golf'. At the recent AGM our member expressed their warmest thanks to the French Golf Federation.*

Following Leif Einarsson's suggestion, we are asking our members who have close relations with official or unofficial organisations in their country to ask for similar support. Of course, whatever the amount of the contribution, the name and logo of the sponsor will appear in the magazine.

Le Président

ffgolf®

Monsieur Jean-Bernard KAZMIERCZAK
Président
EAGHC
20 avenue Notre Dame
06000 Nice

Levallois-Perret, le 14 juin 2023

PG/lv - 2023 - 053

Objet: Soutien de la ffgolf à l'EAGHC

Monsieur,

Dans le prolongement de vos échanges avec notre Directeur Général, Christophe Muniesa, nous avons le plaisir de vous confirmer l'attribution d'une subvention annuelle à hauteur de 1 000€ au profit de l'EAGHC.

Nous sommes très sensibles à votre engagement et souhaitons soutenir vos actions en faveur de la préservation du patrimoine historique du golf.

Pour l'année 2023, le versement de cette subvention sera effectué à l'échéance du 31 juillet prochain.

Je vous prie d'agréer, Monsieur, l'expression de mes cordiales salutations.



Pascal Grizot

Fédération française de golf - 68 rue Anatole France - 92309 Levallois-Perret Cedex



A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to All our Members

Royal Golfers – Queen Alexandrine of Denmark

*By Erik Madsen,
(Honorary Secretary of the Dansk Golfhistorisk Selskab)*



MANY MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN ROYAL FAMILIES have played golf with great enthusiasm for generations, including members of the royal family of Denmark. The British royal golfers helped to spread the game of golf to countries on the continent in the latter half of the 19th century when they travelled to spa resorts such as Bad Homburg in Germany, Marienbad in the then Austro-Hungarian Empire and Cannes on the French Riviera.

In Bad Homburg, north of Frankfurt, golf was played in the spa park as early as the 1880s; but it was not until 1899, that the Homburger Golf Club was officially incorporated and became an exclusive meeting point for the nobility.

During the same period, Cannes, on the southern French Riviera, was also a popular winter retreat for members of the European royal families. Here, the royal spa guests typically met at the exclusive golf club, Cannes Golf Club, [Ed. today known as Cannes-Mandelieu or Cannes Old Course] established in 1891.

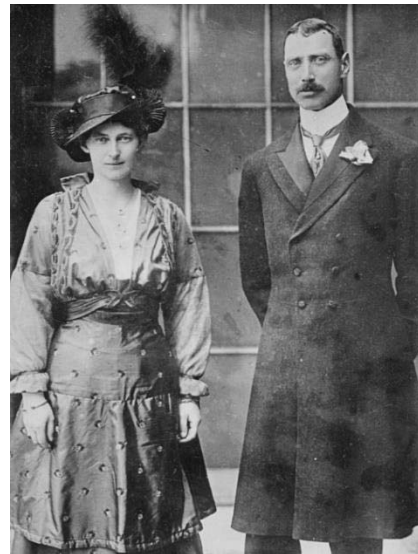
It was here, on the golf course, that the then Crown Prince Christian of Denmark, later King Christian X (1870-1947) proposed to the 18-year-old German-born Countess Alexandrine of Mecklenburg-Schwerin (1879-1952).

Queen Alexandrine was a keen golfer

Danish Queen Alexandrine (1879-1952) was a keen golfer and practiced her sport on golf courses at home and abroad. The German-born Princess of Mecklenburg-Schwerin was just 18 years old when she married the nine years older Crown Prince Christian, later King Christian X of Denmark (1870-1947).

Crown Prince Christian was on holiday in March 1897 in Cannes on the French Riviera, when he paid a courtesy call to the German Grand Duke Friedrich Franz III of

Mecklenburg-Schwerin (1851-1897) and his wife Anastasia, née Romanoff, Grand Duchess of Russia (1860-1922).



Crown Prince Christian of Denmark and countess Alexandrine of Mecklenburg-Schwerin. (Photo, private collection.)

The German princess and prince lived much of the year in their luxury house, villa Wenden, in Cannes and it was here that the young Crown Prince first met the Grand Duke's eldest child, the then 17-year-old Alexandrine Auguste, called Adini.

A few weeks later, the Crown Prince proposed to his beloved Alexandrine at the Cannes-Mandelieu golf course, but it was not because the young Duchess was playing golf at the time. Instead, she enjoyed long walks on the golf

course, where peace and quietness reigned. The story goes that her parents stayed in Cannes for extended periods of time because of the Grand Duke's fragile health as he was asthmatic.

The German Grand Duke had built, by the standards of the time, a very modern mansion, villa Wenden, in the southern French town. It was also here that the royal wedding between Alexandrine and the Danish Crown Prince took place on 26 April 1898.



Villa Wenden in Cannes (postcard)

Duke Friedrich Franz III had died the year before, aged just forty-six. The grieving widow therefore did not want any major festivities in connection with her daughter's marriage to Danish Crown Prince Christian. The wedding was held in Cannes according to French rules. Firstly, the couple had a civil wedding and then afterwards a church wedding.



Queen Alexandrine of Denmark playing golf with her sister Crown Princess Cecilie of Mecklenburg-Schwerin at the 18th hole at Golf und Land-Club Berlin Wannsee in 1934. Photo: Deutsche Golfzeitung

The Crown Prince and Crown Princess often visited Cannes and villa Wenden in the following years, but the First World War (1914-

1918) put a temporary end to their annual summer holidays in the south of France. After the Grand Duchess's death in 1922, villa Wenden in Cannes was sold. However, it still exists and today is divided into luxury apartments.

The Crown Prince and Crown Princess were both members of the Copenhagen Golf Club, but it was mostly Crown Prince Christian who, like his brother Carl, played golf at the Hermitage. It was only in the early 1930s that Queen Alexandrine's interest in golf really took off.

A contributing factor was probably that her brother, Grand Duke Friederich Franz IV of Mecklenburg-Schwerin (1882-1945) and her sister, Crown Princess Cecilie Auguste Marie of Mecklenburg-Schwerin (1886-1954), were both keen golfers. This is stated in an article in the Danish Golf Union magazine, *Golf*, written by Verner Ammentorp on Queen Alexandrine's 70th birthday in 1949.

The same article also states that the Danish queen made her first golf shot in a meadow at the family's hunting castle Gelbensande near Rostock in Mecklenburg during a family visit there.

During visits to her sister Crown Princess Cecilie of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, golf was also played at the local golf courses of Golfklub Berlin-Nedlitz and Golf und Land-Club Berlin-Wannsee, according to *Deutsche Golfzeitung*, 15 November 1934.

In Denmark, Queen Alexandrine played golf for the first few years at the Copenhagen Golf Club course on the Hermitage Plain, where Scottish golf professional James Ross was her instructor. Later, she also played at the nearby then newly established Rungsted Golf Club. It was especially during the German occupation of Denmark 1940-1945 that the Queen sought out the more peacefully situated golf course.

When Queen Alexandrine arrived at Rungsted Golf Club on Wednesdays in the royal car, she was often accompanied by her lady-in-waiting, Mrs. Anna Else Pontoppidan (1903-1998), daughter of chamberlain Oluf Pontoppidan.

When the couple arrived at Rungsted Golf Club in the late 1930s, caddies were ready to carry

the two players' golf bags. The caddies would be Svend Thrane and his older brother, who was a regular caddie for the Queen.



Prize giving in Heiligendamm in August 1930. From left to right: Princess Cecilie, Queen of Denmark, Grand Duchess of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Duke A.F. of Mecklenburg (President Golf und Sportclub Heiligendamm), John Cramer, von Seckendorff, Mr H. Gutmann (President German Golf Federation).

Svend Thrane recalled in an interview in *Golf* magazine in 2013:

The lady-in-waiting was an accomplished golfer, but the Queen was not. My brother did not do anything except looking for balls, and therefore he did not really like caddying for her.

One of the young caddies at Rungsted Golf Klub was Zenon Stycsen, who was 12 years old when he started carrying golf bags for the members.

Zenon Stycsen once told me about the royal golfer at Rungsted Golf Club:

"My sister was also a caddie, and she carried for Queen Alexandrine, who played a lot. One windy and rainy day, I ended up caddying for the Queen, and I was unfortunate enough to hit Her Majesty on the head with the umbrella, but she took it quite well."

Among the other young people who caddied for Queen Alexandrine was Finn Sylvest Jensen, who grew up in poor circumstances and who, like numerous of his friends, earned a penny or two by carrying golf bags for the players at Rungsted Golf Club. Finn Sylvest Jensen also had the pleasure of caddying for Prince Bertil of Sweden when he once visited Denmark and took the opportunity to play a round on the golf course at Rungsted.

Marselisborg Castle in Aarhus, which was given to the royal couple as a wedding gift by the people of Jutland in 1898, was used during the summer months along with the private holiday home Klitgården in Skagen. There is a film recording of the Queen swinging her golf clubs in the grounds of Klitgården, where she is said to have had one or two golf holes in the sand dunes.

During the royal family summer stays at Marselisborg Palace, there were often excursions to Frijsenborg Palace near Hammel, northwest of Aarhus, which was owned by one of King Christian X's confidants, Mogens Christian Lensgreve Krag-Juel-Vind-Frijs (1849-1923).

Count Mogens Frijs was probably the first to build a golf course in Denmark, as early as 1883, and it is believed to have been in use until around 1912. It is therefore not unlikely that Queen Alexandrine played golf here when the royal couple visited the Count and Countess at Frijsenborg.

Later, the count's daughter, Countess Inger Dorte Wedell-Wedellsborg, née Krag-Juel-Vind-Frijs (1881-1975), became Chief Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Alexandrine from 1935 to 1952, and the two often played golf together. When the British Crown Prince, [Ed. Prince of Wales], later King Edward VIII visited Denmark in 1932, he indeed enjoyed a game at the Copenhagen Golf Club course on the Hermitage Plain accompanied by Queen Alexandrine.

When Rungsted Golf Club opened its course and clubhouse in September 1937 on leased land belonging to Rungstedgaard, it was only natural that Queen Alexandrine officially inaugurated the new large sports facility in the metropolitan area.

Queen Alexandrine took part in the opening ceremony accompanied by the club's chairman, Chief Justice Carl Frederik Lerche (1883-1962). This is how the event was described in the Danish newspaper *Nationaltidende* the following day, 3 September 1937:

After having refreshments, the great moment came when the Queen was to declare the golf course open. All the guests walked out onto the

golf course, *The Queen*, together with Chief Justice Lerche, went to the starting point and said: "I hereby declare Rungsted Golf Course open".



Rungsted Golf Club 1937. Photo: Postcard

Then Lerche hit the first drive on behalf of the Queen. The little white ball whizzed across the green fairway and in the same second at least a hundred little Rungsted boys rushed across the grass to find it. One little boy was the lucky one, and when he came running up to Lerche with the golf ball, he received a new ten-crown note as a reward.

When Queen Alexandrine took to the course in Rungsted, it was often "Lange Erik" who carried her golf bag and Jens, called "Pitter", who carried for the lady-in-waiting Pontoppidan.

When Queen Alexandrine, together with King Christian X and Crown Prince Frederik, paid an official visit to Aalborg on 15 July 1939, there was time for a visit to Aalborg Golf Club. "*Both the King and Queen are golfers and eagerly asked about the new course,*" an article about the visit in *Aalborg Stiftstidende* stated at the time. However, when the journalist wrote that both the King and Queen are golfers, it is a truth with modifications, as King Christian X may have played golf in his younger years, but His Majesty clearly preferred sailing.

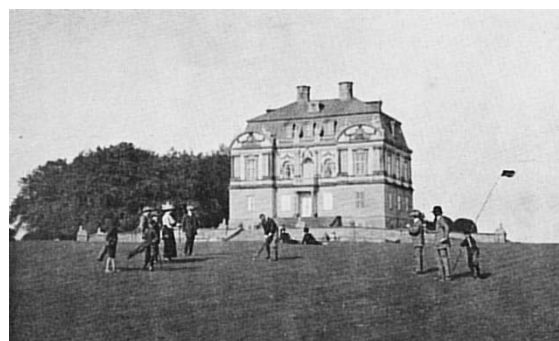
In the autumn of 1939, the royal couple spent their autumn holiday in Cannes, where they stayed at the Californie Palace. During the trip, the Queen played golf, while the King drove to the harbour to pursue his lifelong passion for sailing, according to an article in *Billed-Bladet* the same year.

So, Queen Alexandrine played golf on the courses at Mandelieu and Mougins, while the king raced on the Mediterranean.

Niels Birger Wamberg tells in his memoir "*Ansigtet på ruden*" ("The face on the windscreen") that his "Uncle Lauritz played cards with the same passion that Queen Alexandrine showed when she played golf in Dyrehaven on Sunday mornings. Not even the King was able to restrain her..."

One of the big bright spots in the first of the five dark years of the occupation was King Christian X's 70th birthday on 26 September 1940. Many paid heartfelt tribute to the monarch, who, by virtue of his tall stature and daily horseback rides through Copenhagen, had become the unifying symbol of the entire nation.

Queen Alexandrine used the great National Day of Celebration to award a trophy for an annual golf competition at Rungsted Golf Club. The Queen Alexandrine's Challenge Trophy was to be an everlasting reminder of the glorious day of celebration in the Royal House.



Copenhagen Golf Club near the royal hunting Castle Eremitagen. (Photo: Copenhagen Golf Club).

Copenhagen Golf Club had received a royal trophy three years earlier, in 1937, and it had become a coveted honor to receive it personally from the Queen. A few days after his 70th birthday, King Christian X, much to the surprise of many, accompanied the Queen to Rungsted Golf Club to watch the day's golf.

Verner Ammentorp wrote about this event in the magazine *Golf* some years later, stating, among other things:

The King first confided to me that he did not like walking. "My legs are not suitable for walking - I prefer riding.

Only once before have I walked longer on a golf course, which was many years ago - in England - I also only walked until I saw a bench, then we sat down and became engaged. It was my wife I walked with - since then I have not had to play golf," laughed the King.

But the King's thoughts were centered on his birthday. He was happy and grateful for all the tributes he had received. However, we had left the bench when the players arrived and were now standing at the sixth green watching the putting. The king approached the players and asked various questions, even during their match; but then the Queen came, shushed him, and pulled him away by the sleeve. The king was surprised, but afterwards the queen explained the seriousness of the game.

We did not follow the players to the seventh hole but walked along the second fairway back to the clubhouse, where the king sat on the bench next to the first tee. I realized that the queen's admonition had not been in vain when we spotted the players down the ninth fairway. Then the king shushed me".

When the Danish Golf Union sent its first edition of the magazine *Golf* to its members in February 1943, it was with the golfing Queen Alexandrine on the cover, pictured in front of Rungsted Golf Club clubhouse.

Queen Alexandrine called home after air raid

On Tuesday, 19 September 1944, Queen Alexandrine was, as on other mornings, at the golf course in Rungsted, but on this particular day she was not allowed to finish her game.

The occupying forces had sounded the air raid alarm and launched the so-called "Aktion Möwe," where they deported the Danish police. Only the police guard at Amalienborg Palace remained.

Author Frank Bøgh tells us in his book "19 September when the police were taken" what happened to the royal family on that very day, when the 11 o'clock change of guard was underway at Amalienborg:

"Earlier that morning, Queen Alexandrine had travelled to Rungsted to play golf. That is why her eldest son, the later King Frederik IX, had to call the golf club a little after 11 am with the message that his mother should immediately

return to Amalienborg, where her safety would presumably be greater.

Half an hour later, the Queen's car drove along Fredericiagade and was shut in behind the barricades, as the car travelled at high speed across Slotspladsen and directly through the gates of the palace, (originally built by Christian XIII).

Frederik Dreyer received the Queen's new golf clubs and her golf bag

In June 1944, disaster struck the Copenhagen Golf Club when the Nazi Brøndum Gang blew up the clubhouse in Dyrehaven, presumably because they knew that several of the club's members were prominent resistance fighters. The members' lockers with their personal golf clubs, bags, and balls, as well as golf shoes, were lost in the flames.

The Danish Golf Union immediately launched a nationwide call to collect spare golf clubs and golf balls among the country's other golfers. Among the donors was Queen Alexandrine, who had been a frequent player on the course for quite some years, though by then she played mostly at Rungsted.

Lawyer Frederik Dreyer, who at the time was among the country's most skilled and accomplished golfers, received the donation from Queen Alexandrine, which turned out to be her latest golf clubs and golf bag.

"The clubs were excellent and with steel shafts", Frederik Dreyer said. At that time, most golfers in Denmark were still playing with hickory shafted clubs.

The royal couple loved southern Europe. During their 1947 holidays, the year King Christian X died, Queen Alexandrine played golf both in Cannes and Lugano. In the summer, when the royal couple stayed at Marselisborg Palace, Queen Alexandrine often visited Aarhus Golf Club then nine-hole golf course at Katterhøj in Skåde Bakker.

Golf caddie for a royal player in Skåde Bakker

Queen Alexandrine's regular caddie on the golf course in Aarhus was Tage Bundgaard, and he

once told the Danish Golf Union magazine about his time as a caddie for the royal player: "I remember the Queen as a nice and quite ordinary lady. I would address her as "You", which was the natural form of address for all adults.

She wanted to hear about my school, my siblings, and my parents. The Queen wasn't much of a golfer, but I think she enjoyed walking alone and chatting with me."

"Now, later on, it amuses me to think that when we finished our round, the Queen would say to me: "The King is coming to fetch me, so while I go in and change my shoes, you can entertain the King for the time being."

Here are excerpts from a letter from "Uncle Tage", dated Charlottenlund, 22 January 2001: "Yes, as you know, the golf course in Skåde was built in the early 30s, when I was a big boy. It was therefore quite natural that I instantly signed up as a caddie which turned out to be an opportunity to earn some money. It was not hard to carry the bag, as it only contained a few clubs and irons. The worst part was when Billie Keppie taught the players. Here you had to pick up the balls and constantly run back and forth.

In connection with Mr Keppie, I remember an incident. Supreme Court lawyer Andreas Christensen - disrespectfully called "Old Dres" by the boys - was to have a lesson at 1.30pm; but only I and not Mr Keppie was present. When asked, I could only reply that Mr Keppie was probably at Hotel Kragelund in Højbjerg, where he was staying. "If you want to come and pick him up, jump in". I did not have to be told twice, because he had a big and nice car.

The housekeeper immediately promised to fetch Mr Keppie - a telephone in the room was yet an unknown concept. The Supreme Court lawyer spotted some new golf clubs and wanted to make a test swing. No sooner said than done: If the maid had not woken Mr Keppie, the Supreme Court lawyer's backswing would have done the job, as the driver hit the crystal chandelier with a bang!

One day my mother got a call from the club's chairman, H.A. Langballe. Queen Alexandrine wanted to play golf the following day at 10am and I was to come and caddy. This probably caused an extra inspection of hands and knees, as well as a nice freshly ironed shirt.

Once, Queen Alexandrine brought her brother with her, he was the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg. He was not happy with his caddie and scolded him. However, the Grand Duke was immediately stopped by Queen Alexandrine, who told him that this was no way to talk to Danish boys.

Another time I was at Marselisborg and was offered soft drinks. I also got a golf iron. I have never been a good golfer, only an average one. No wonder after a 50 years break!

If I had an appointment with the Queen and she was prevented from coming or the weather was too bad, there was always a phone call from the Court Marshal's Office that Her Majesty was unable to come, but that there would be another call to make a new appointment. A beautiful character trait that shows her consideration for other people, including children.

Queen Alexandrine was also very generous. Normally we got thirty-five øre for a round in Skåde, nine holes, on Sundays, however, fifty øre. The Queen always gave me 1 Danish crown."

The End

On 28 December 1952, Queen Alexandrine died at Sankt Lukas Stiftelsen in Hellerup and was buried next to her husband in Roskilde Cathedral.

Many golfers felt genuine sadness at no longer meeting Queen Alexandrine and her warm friendly smile on the golf course.

Queen Alexandrine's golf clubs and golf bag is today deposited with the Danish Golf History Society. It includes a 3-iron and a so-called Mashie, both stamped Stockholm GK and Edwin Roberts, known as "Ted" (1893-1978). He was a professional at Stockholm Golf Club for 64 years, from 1914 until his death in 1978. There is also a club stamped "Billy Keppie", the Queen's faithful coach for a number of years.

The original text of the article was written by Erik Madsen in Danish, and translated into English by Christoph Meister.

**Françoise PELLEGRINO-AUTIERO,
Joseph KENNEDY's Caddie
at the Biot Golf Club in the South of France.
Her honeymoon in the United States**

By Huguette Kazmierczak



IN THE PREVIOUS ARTICLE, FRANÇOISE TOLD US ABOUT HER EARLY DAYS AS A BAREFOOT CADDIE at the Biot golf course. In this second part, she tells us about her honeymoon in the United States of America, a gift from Joseph Kennedy, father of John F Kennedy the 35th President of the United States who was assassinated in 1963, and Robert Kennedy US Senator for New York who was assassinated in 1968 during the Democratic Party primaries which were leading up to the United States presidential election.

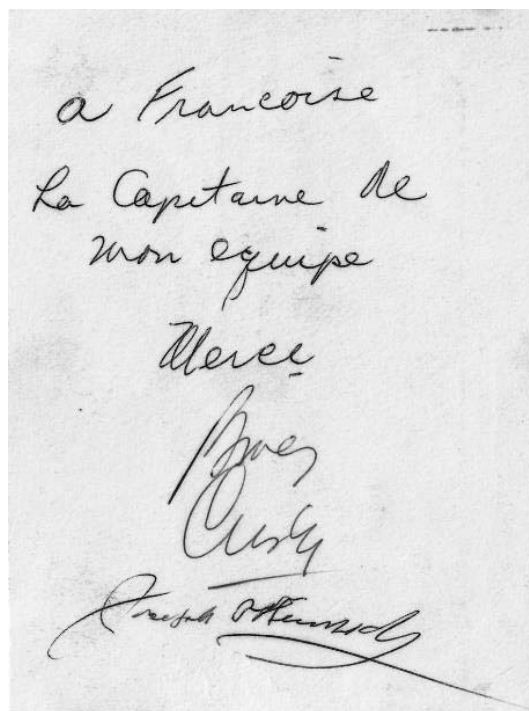


Joseph and John Kennedy

In June 1954, when I was 15 years old, I was chosen to carry the golf bag of Joseph Kennedy, the former US ambassador to the Court of St James's in London. To this day, I am amazed to have been his caddie and to have been able to appreciate, year after year, this big-hearted man. He was very respectful with all the golf staff and was full of goodness and kindness towards us as caddies.

He played every morning from June to September, coming from the villa Bella Vista, 600 sqm, nine bedrooms and nine bathrooms, located in Cap d'Antibes near the famous Eden Roc palace, rented to him by the general manager, Jean-Claude Irondelle. Four players always played the game. Joseph Kennedy often played with the Duke of Windsor and Bing

Crosby, who never failed to make a joke and dance around a green. He told me that, one day, he would take me to America to be his caddie in his Bing Crosby Tournament.



A dedication to Françoise, as team captain, from Bing Crosby and Joseph Kennedy.

Mr Kennedy was always accompanied by his secretary, Mr Houghton, and a bodyguard who was always armed, pastor Cavanaugh and sometimes by his sons Robert and Ted, who were good golfers, and even sometimes by John

(who could only follow the game for three holes because of a war injury) and his wife Jacqueline. He often played with Søren Hedegaard an industrialist from Copenhagen. Play never started without introductions being made. Mr Kennedy's wife Rose played in the afternoons: she was not as good a player as her husband and often asked me for advice on improving her technique. When her husband died, she continued to come to Cannes for many years and stayed at the Hôtel Gray d'Albion. She kept in touch with me through the hotel manager, Mr Dissat.

Joseph Kennedy, a practising Catholic, often asked me if I went to mass and if I prayed. I would answer, "Yes, sir" and I could see in his eyes that my answer made him happy. His simplicity amazed me: I spoke to him as if talking to my father. He had never a word about politics, but he often talked to me about his granddaughter Caroline, John and Jacqueline's daughter, and he adored her. "She's a little devil", he used to tell me, phoning him every time she did something, almost every day. He would give me a month's notice of his arrival so that I could reserve my mornings for him, and every year, he would send me a present for Christmas and a case of champagne for my birthday. When I asked him why he always referred to me as his youngest daughter, he would say: "Why, because you are prettier than Brigitte Bardot, my dear!"¹, as reported in the *Paris-News (Texas)* on 14 September 1961.

He was very observant, and when a caddie didn't receive his fair share of the caddie fees, he would compensate, or rather, he would ask his secretary to do it. One day, he told me: "François (he hadn't understood that in French, François is a man's name and Françoise a woman's name!), never forget in your life that the sun shines for everyone". He often told me that I would go to the United States one day, and I agreed without really believing it.

Every year, Mr Kennedy would ask me if I had a boyfriend, and I'd say, "No, sir". Then one year, when I was 20, he asked me the same question again, and I told him I did, and he immediately said, "I want to get to know him". When I was eighteen, on my way to a dance in Saint-Laurent-du-Var², I met a young man

called Lucien Autiero. He was the son of a fisherman from Cros-de-Cagnes, not far from Biot, and worked with his father. We got engaged just before he left for his military service in the Navy.

On the day of the announcement of our engagement, all the caddies in our morning game, including Lucien and I, were invited for dinner the same evening. A Cadillac arrived for our group of caddies, followed by another Cadillac with Mr Kennedy, his secretary and his bodyguard. We arrived in Saint-Paul-de-Vence, where we were taken to "La Réserve", a restaurant almost as famous as "La Colombe d'Or". When we arrived, the room was packed, and everyone stood up to greet the father of the President of the United States.



Wedding of Françoise and Lucien Autiero; guests form a ceremonial arch with their golf clubs.

In June 1961, the Kennedy family arrived, as they did every year, at the villa Vista Bella in Cap d'Antibes. Lucien and I decided to get married in September of that year. While we were there, Joseph Kennedy wanted to know everything about our wedding preparations.

¹ Paris-News (Texas), 14 September 1961.

² Saint-Laurent-du-Var and Cros-de-Cagnes are close to Biot

He expressed his desire to be with us that day and to be my witness at the church. But the golf course was regularly swamped with photographers³ who had heard the news, so he admitted that he would have to give up attending our wedding on the recommendation of his head of security. But on the morning of our wedding, as I was getting ready, he interrupted his game on the 8th hole and came to our little house on the edge of the fairway to congratulate me sincerely and tell me that he hoped Lucien and I would have many children. I have to say that his financial help enabled us to organise a wonderful wedding. Some American newspapers reported that he had given me a special present when he came to see me on the morning of my wedding! Although I refused to tell journalists what it was, we soon learned that it was a paid trip for two to the United States, as well as a very rare antique tapestry that we later sold at auction. The proceeds of the sale enabled us to complete the work on our house.

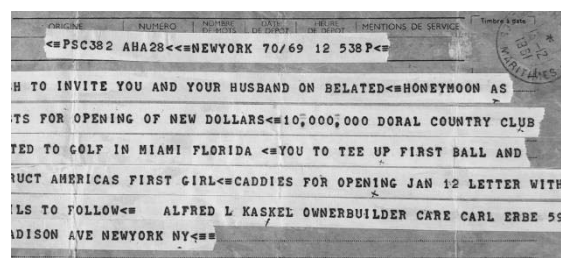
Numerous photographers and journalists had come to the church in Biot on 2 September 1961 hoping to see the father of the President of the United States, and the parish priest had to interrupt the wedding mass several times as there was so much commotion! *The Victoria Advocate* of 2 September 1961 wrote:

Joseph P. Kennedy, father of the US president, is to be guest of honour Saturday at the wedding of his pretty blonde, dark-eyed golf caddie. He is officially listed as a witness for the civil ceremony before the mayor of this Riviera village and later at a religious service at the local Roman Catholic church. Françoise says: "I call him Joe and he call me Françoise..." He told me he would come and that only the gravest thing would make him miss it". "After all," said Françoise with a playful smile, "he has all morning to play golf".

Some newspapers even published the wedding photo the day after the ceremony! For example, the photo on page 13 of this magazine appeared in the *Dubuque Telegraph Herald* on 3 September 1961. The same newspaper later confirmed that as Joseph Kennedy could not attend the ceremony, Françoise's brother Pierre took his place.

³ Indeed, the Madison Wisconsin State Journal of 3 September reported that there were over 100

On 5 September 1961, the Kennedy family returned to the United States as they did every year. I resumed my job as the youngest daughter and continued to correspond with the Kennedy family.



In December 1961, I received telegrams at the golf course inviting Lucien and me to the USA for our honeymoon. Then things happened very quickly: we were summoned to the US consulate in Nice to collect our visas and tickets. On the morning of 2 January 1962, a Cadillac with a driver came to pick us up and take us to Nice airport, where we were taken to the plane.



It was our maiden flight; the plane, a Constellation. We were taken care of straight away, and all the staff looked after us very well. We made stopovers in Barcelona and the Azores.

After an uneventful journey, we landed at La Guardia airport in New York.

The trip to New York

As soon as the plane landed, it was announced over the microphone: "All passengers on this plane are asked to remain on board. Mr and Mrs Autiero are invited to disembark first". We didn't dare move, so the captain led us to the exit. We were stunned: a small crowd was waiting for us, shouting our names; photographers pointed their cameras at us.

journalists and photographers in addition to the thirty guests to greet us.

Frozen, we didn't know what to do: get off, get back on, get off... it was panic.

Suddenly, three bodyguards in gabardines and Eliot Ness hats arrived, shouting, "Stand aside". "Welcome Mr and Mrs. Autiero; please come with us". Without going through passport or customs formalities, we were led into the airport garden where a grand reception awaited us: there was fake grass, golf clubs and photographers took pictures of us. I'll never forget the warmth of that reception.

We were then put into a limousine, and the person who had welcomed us sat beside us and took out a large wad of green bank notes from his pocket, just saying "pocket money".

It was Broadway for us! We had a presidential suite at the Edison Hotel and a dinner at Giambelli, an Italian restaurant, honouring my origins.

The following day, there was a setback that we found very distressing: Mr Joseph Kennedy was ill (he had suffered a stroke on 19 December 1961) and was unable to welcome us himself, so we were unable to thank him in person and express our gratitude. He never returned to Biot and died eight years later, on 18 November 1969.

A wonderful programme had been planned for us: visits to the Statue of Liberty, Chinatown, Central Park, Harlem and Greenwich Village. The organisers looking after us all the time.

Because our photos had appeared in the press and we'd been on television, people sometimes stopped us in the street and said: "She is the French caddie-girl...".

Our stay in New York lasted about ten days, and then we went to Florida for another ten days, where we stayed at the Carillon Hotel in Miami.

The stay in Miami and the Doral Country Club

On 15 December 1961, *The Valley Independent* published an important article:

*That does it !
Now they're going to have women caddies on
the golf course.*

The Doral Country Club, in Miami, Fla., which opens 12 January, has announced that it will become the first US country club to employ women caddies.

Not only that, but Alfred L. Kaskel, the owner and builder of the 10 million dollar club, has offered the job of teaching the women caddies to Mrs Françoise Pellegrino Autiero, the favourite caddie in Nice, France of Joseph P. Kennedy, the President's father. Kaskel believes women caddies "are more gentle, understanding and efficient than male caddies, as well as more inspiring to a male golfer."



Françoise "gives new gal caddies a lesson at the New Doral Country Club, Miami, Fla. From left to right: Kathy Church, Jo-Ann Lawson, Françoise Autiero, Connie Mith and Doloris Brown. (*South Haven Daily Tribune*, 20 January 1962)

In January 1962, *The Southern Illinoisian* and several other newspapers published another interview with Françoise, entitled « Should Women be Caddies? ».

A few days later, I was to inaugurate the Doral Country Club, a brand new course where I was to hit the first ball.

After the inauguration, I played a few rounds with journalists from the press, radio and television. As they had filmed me, I even received a small cheque. That was always a good thing!

As you can imagine, we were never alone, accompanied by friends whom I want to name in the hope that they will read this article: Alvin

and Carole Skragis and Louis and Doree Blum. We even took a few dance lessons with them and a few others.

We were invited to famous restaurants like the Fontainebleau, the Eden Roc and the Play Boy Club, full of little “rabbit-girls” so beautiful and unapproachable as to discourage the hottest male rabbits!

In the shops, I chose whatever I fancied - without exaggerating - and it was always "Mrs Autiero, no charge" when it came time to pay. Lucien only knew about golf at the time through me⁴, but that didn't stop him from participating enthusiastically, albeit a little bemused. We were invited to go sword-fishing as they knew

he had been a fisherman. I'll never forget that trip to sea; I was so sick. The fish was prepared for us that evening by a French chef.

It was after this magical three-week stay in the United States, we boarded our return flight from Miami on 22 January and we returned to Biot and its golf course in the South of France.

I'll leave you to think of all the questions I was asked on my return. For several years, the American players who came to Biot for the first time all wanted to get to know the “French girl caddie”.

Françoise ended our interview with these words: "Golf has given me everything".

Next EAGHC AGM – Oslo Golf Club – 29 to 31 August 2024 Preliminary Program



Dear members, during our recent annual meeting in Cannes-Mougins, Jens N. Engelstad, from Norway, made an interesting presentation on the development of golf in Norway. Also present was Christopher Raanaas, President of the Oslo Golf Club, where we are invited to hold our annual meeting next August 2024 in the centenary year of the club. The preliminary program for the meeting is given below. Further information on the lecture program and any changes will be announced in due course. If you would like to make a presentation during our annual meeting 2024, please let us know.

Thursday 29	Morning: Golf collectors exchange/trading/sales. Informal meetings with coffee, etc. Afternoon: Lectures, AGM proper Evening: Formal dinner in the clubhouse; dress code: jacket & tie
Friday 30	Morning: Lectures Afternoon: Practice round for players or free time or spouses program Evening: informal dining.
Saturday 31	Morning: Hickory competition; dress code 1924 Afternoon: Hickory Festival Evening: Hickory competition prize giving and cocktail party.

⁴ Lucien was a professional at the Cannes-Mougins Golf & Country Club from 1970 to 1989.

Sand Greens

By Damir Ritosa



WHY SAND GREENS? Scotland has a temperate maritime climate: cool summers, relatively mild winters and rainfall spread throughout the year. A good climate for growing grass or turf on a golf course and especially on greens. Scotland is green most of the year.

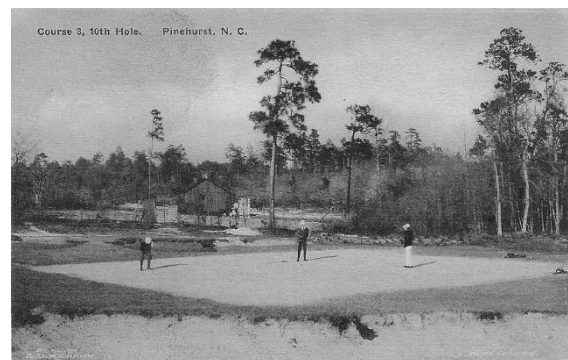


Brioni island is just a small dot off the coast of Pula.

On the other hand, golf is played around the globe, also in places that have more arid seasons. In those climates it is very hard or even impossible to have and maintain grass fairways and particularly greens. If not impossible, then it is very high in cost, and many times beyond sustainability. Consequently, another way of providing a flat surface for putting had to be developed. Some artificial materials had to be used, and in most of the cases the material that was used was sand. These “artificial” greens are usually made of sand mixed with petroleum derivatives which creates a relatively firm and consistent surface. The use of mineral oil also prevents, to a certain degree the development of weeds.

Nowadays, of course, investors have much more financial resources available to build golf courses, and on the other hand, golfers are ready to pay more to play on these new courses. Today this limits golf courses with sand greens only to locations with extreme weather conditions, or locations with modest golfing demand. In those regions with arid climates that once had no

alternative but sand greens, a number of such golf courses survived until the present day. At the same time, they are limited in number and in many cases their historical legacy and the cultural specifics of those regions is adding to their charm and creating somewhat renewed interest in them.



Course 3, 10th Hole, Pinehurst, N.C., U.S.A.

Sand greens were “not a joke” a century ago, and even today.

“...sand greens were certainly not a joke back in the 1920s and 1930s, especially in places in the

Midwest where a drought had created the dust bowl made famous in books like 'The Grapes of Wrath.' Grass was a luxury, even on golf courses. Players like Byron Nelson and Ben Hogan, both Texas boys, certainly played their share of golf on sand greens⁵."

Sand greens can still offer similar experiences as playing on the classical grass greens. Even more, sand greens can offer a set of distinct challenges.



Brioni, April 1925. – sand green (private coll.)

Construction and maintenance

The goal is to construct, under the prevailing circumstances, the best possible alternative to a grass covered green, which has to be good for chipping and putting.

In general, green construction requires first of all a firm base, free of roots, stones, etc. The same goes for constructing a sand green. There are two basic types of sand:

- sand that is mixed with petroleum derivatives.
- "sharp builders' sand"

In the first one, mineral oil is mixed with the sand to firm up a sandy base. The sand is mixed with the oil in a barrel until saturation. It is then spread out on the green, maybe no more than an inch thick.

In the second type, no oil whatsoever is added to the sand. This type of material is very close to the clay [Ed. crushed brick] surface used for tennis courts. Thus, the maintainance is very similar: raking to loose up the sand and then

grooming with a net to make a smooth surface across the green.

Drainage is very important, no matter which type of surface is applied to the green.

The size of the greens should be the same as with classical grass greens.

Consistency of surface: in general, we find less consistency on sand green surface as sand tends to be disturbed by wind and rain. With a high pitch shot, if the ball lands in a fluffy part of a sand green, it will simply stop nesting like a birds egg. On the other hand, if the ball lands on a hard surface it will jump off almost like hitting a concrete surface! When putting, the surface offers a variable degree of resistance to the putted ball. That is a peculiarity of sand greens.

Slope: as much as possible as on standard grass greens, yet practically slopes are lower on sand greens. Today's slopes are also much more severe than previously.

Playing on sand greens

Sandgreens offer an unconventional putting surface. Differences are in:

- speed variation: due to the texture of the sand players must have a keen sense of touch to gauge how far the ball will roll on the unpredictable surface,
- bounce and roll: lack of the cushioning effect of grass causes the ball to bounce and roll differently. Golfers need to adjust their stroke and club selection to account for the reduced friction between the ball and the surface,
- reading breaks and slopes: the texture of the sand can lead to unexpected deviations in the path of the ball,
- putting style: the same technique doesn't yield the same results on sand greens. A slightly firmer and more controlled putting stroke is necessary to minimize the impact of the inconsistencies of the sand.
- pitching: landing the ball on the green is probably the biggest difference from grass greens. The ball usually bounces hard from the sand green surface.

⁵ <https://www.desertsun.com/story/sports/golf/>

golflarrybohannon.com/2014/07/27/larry-bohannon-sand-greens/13235157/

All in all, playing on sand greens should go without any prejudices as the essence of golf is in its diversity and the ability to master a variety of playing surfaces.



Above and below: grooming and putting at Leonardville, Kansas, USA (credit Greg Echli)



In the 1930s sand greens were actually closer to grass greens as then grass was not cut as short as it is today.

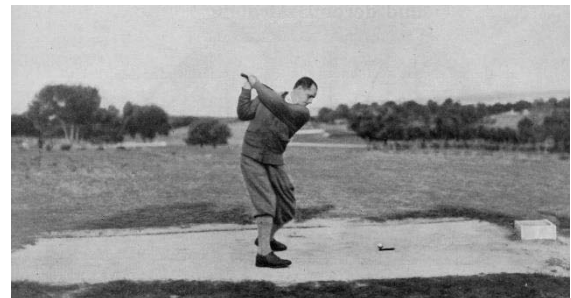
Sand greens on Brioni in Croatia: then and now

¶ Then (a century ago)

After the Great War, the situation for Brioni turned upside down. The Austro-Hungarian Empire ceased to exist, and Paul Kupelwieser who created all the “paradise archipelago” of Brioni’s tourist visitors resort died in 1919. The previously wealthy people from Central Europe were no longer able to visit Brioni, as they did before the war. Paul’s son Karl and the family were trying to do their best to attract tourists, but they needed new guests from other countries, those that were not as much affected by the war

and the Spanish Flu epidemic, such as the British and Americans. Sports facilities for cricket, tennis, polo and golf had to be available for these new tourists.

So, a few years after the Great War, it was decided to build a golf course on Brioni, which was ready by the end of the 1922. Due to the arid climate (between late spring and mid-autumn) and very limited finance available, grass greens were probably not taken into consideration at all. In fact, also the tees were constructed from the same sand material as the greens.



Brioni, sand tee, 1927.

In an article from April 1924. valuable information about the golf course itself: “The hilly, extensive course, with the fast sand greens (if you can call them that) has 18 holes that require good technique from the player...”

In another article from June 1925. we find information specific for playing golf on Brioni’s sand greens. The author Lauber [Ed. The well known Hungarian sportsman and Olympian], pointed out: “...players had repeated rains on the first day, and that presented a nuisance for all, as it was hard to adjust to the wet sand greens.” For sand greens on Brioni we can say that is characteristic: little raking, more grooming, no need for „pathing”, hard bouncing surface from which very bright sun light is reflected.

¶ Recent times (1990s onwards)

The old golf course on Brioni did not function all the time between 1922 and 1945. Almost half a century later, in 1992, 9 holes were restored. “The Resurrection” was driven by local enthusiast students and again with very limited financial means, and so sand greens were the logical choice once again. In spring 2006 the restoration of all 18 holes was completed, with sand greens similar to the original course.

Drainage has been installed but experience is showing us that after heavy rains some time has to pass for the rain water to drain away, before play can commence. Here we have a photo of a sand green at Brioni completely flooded!

Playing on moistured and completely dried sand greens differs.

On a completely dry sand green, on a typical sunny day the golfer is obliged to wear sunglasses as the reflected light from the surface can be very bright.



Brioni, nowadays – completely flooded sand green



Brioni, nowadays - moistured sand green



Brioni, nowadays - dry sand green

Sand greens worldwide: present and perspective

Locations

Nowadays sand greens persist on a number of golf courses in the Great Plains in USA, Australia, the Middle-East, Africa [Ed. and the Indian subcontinent].

Some of the golf courses with sand greens are in USA: Harrisonville (Missouri), Leonardville (Kansas) , Yellow Lake (Wisconsin) , Fairview GC-Pawnee City, Lawrence, Dannebrog (Nebraska), Wellman (Iowa) . In the Middle East: Al Ghazal (Abu Dhabi), Awali (Bahrein) , Kabul (Afghanistan), [Ed. Lyallpur (Pakistan)], and Africa: Rio Bravo-Niamey (Niger). World Sand Golf Championship took place on Al Ghazal golf course in 2004. and 2005.

According to the Golf Digest from 2013, there are estimated to be 100 or so sand green courses in the USA, mostly nine-holers in the Great Plains. Some famous golfers, such as Mark McNulty and Hale Irwin, started out in golf on sand greens.

Still, somehow Australia leads in preserving golf courses with sand greens, to name only a few: Coolamon, Walcha, Bogan Gate, Binalong, Blackall. „Approximately 25 per cent of all golf courses in Australia have sand greens“!

Not only golf courses but in rules of golf as well: Australia has Special Rules for Australian Sand Greens Golf Courses (the latest version is rather recent, from 2019). From *Golf Australia*: “Throughout Australia, there are approximately 400 courses that have greens comprised of oiled sand or some other similar material, usually due to the prohibitive cost of maintaining grass greens by small clubs in rural areas.”

Rules of Golf for Sand Greens

These special rules cover etiquette, definitions and the rules themselves. Some examples of interesting rules are as follows: that The Committee defines the perimeter of the putting green; the length of the blade of the smoother (at least 60 cm); loose impediments can be removed from the surface of the green; order

and way of raking and smoothing the putting line. If the player does not wish to smooth the putting surface prior to playing a ball at rest on the green after any stroke, the ball may be lifted and placed within 5 centimetres of where it last came to rest but not nearer the hole.

The ball is marked by two straight lines scratched in the sand, similarly as in the game of bocce.

In the end, the definition of “holed” in the Rules of Golf is extended to include where a ball is at rest entirely within the circumference of the hole – even if the entire ball is not below the surface of the putting green due to sand left inside the hole!

Sand greens championships!

A proof that there is enough interest in sand greens golf is the fact that, in 2024., there will be men's and women's World Sand Greens Championships! Those will be both held in Australia where sand greens golf plays an important part in Australia's golfing landscape, especially in rural communities.

The inaugural Women's World Sand Greens Championship is to be contested at Walcha Golf Club in New South Wales, Australia, from April 9 to 11, , with a purse of \$140,000 on offer.

The Binalong Golf Club in the Yass Valley, Australia, will host the Men's World Sand Greens Championship , from September 28 to 29th, 2024. Like the women's tournament, it too will carry a purse of \$140,000.

Researching golf courses with sand greens brings out one term related to the “naturalistic” element in golfing – “pasture golfing” (non-manicured golf courses). That could be a topic for another research.



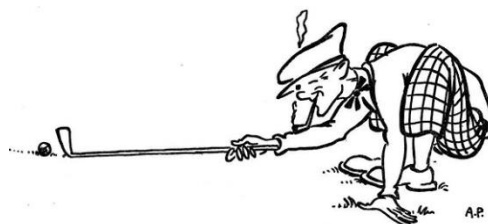
Abu Dhabi - Al Ghazal



Walcha Golf Course, Australia



Awali Golf Course, Bahrain





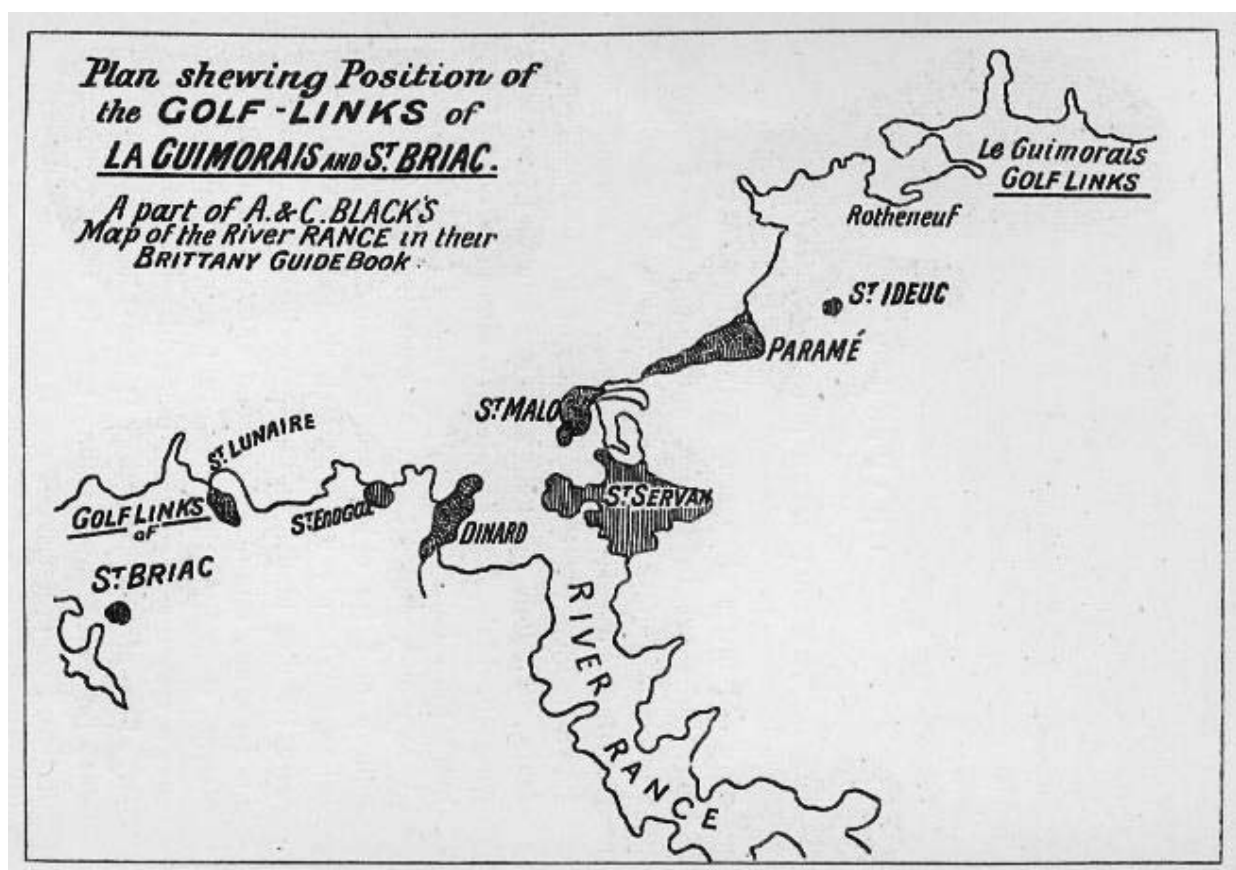
Brioni, 1930s - tourist brochure

The First Golf Courses in Brittany: Dinard, Paramé, Sainte Marguerite and Dinan

By JBK (*Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak*)



IF THE DINARD GOLF CLUB IS THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS IN BRITTANY, HOWEVER, three other golf courses disappeared around WW1, Dinard is on the north coast of Britany, 80 km south of the island of Jersey, [Ed. British Crown Dependency], and on the west side of the mouth of the river La Rance. On the other side of the river, less than 3 km from Saint-Malo as the crow flies, is Paramé. To go to Sainte-Marguerite, you must cross Britany for 175 km, down to the south and reach the mouth of the river Loire. Dinan is just 25 kilometers south of Dinard. We present here the early years of these golf clubs in Brittany, a popular region for the British to spend holidays.



Map circa 1896⁶ indicating the first two golf courses: St-Briac (Dinard) and La Guimorais (Paramé)

⁶ *Brittany for Britons*, Douglas Sladen, London, Adam and Charles Black, pp. 173, 1896.

The Dinard Golf Club, 1890.

Over the years the date of foundation of Dinard Golf Club has been vigorously debated. Some members have been known to claim that Dinard was founded in 1887 one year before Biarritz Golf Club. This is of course disputed by members of Biarritz Golf Club founded in 1888. At stake is the honour of being the second oldest golf club in France, the oldest being Pau Golf Club (1856). Marie-Christine Paris (whose family own the Dinard golf course) has informed us that there is no documentary evidence to support the claim of foundation of the club in 1887. There are only club legends from the early 20th century which claim that the foundation was in 1887. The earliest precise references we have found indicate that the club was founded in 1890.

La Vie Parisienne (7 January 1888) seems to confirm our doubts: in ‘*Dinard, poker, tennis and small horses are the three great and only distractions on this beach.*’ – no golf!

We consider that the inauguration of the Dinard golf course is dated 22 March 1890. Indeed, *The Field*, 29 March 1890, carries a reader’s letter, sent 23 March, which we reproduce in extenso because of its importance.

“It may interest some of your readers to learn that golf has been started at St. Lunaire, distant two and a half miles from Dinard. A meeting of the members of the Dinard Golf Club took place on the links yesterday afternoon by way of formally inaugurating the Royal and Ancient Game here, and after playing two rounds, the members were very hospitably entertained by one of the lady members at the Grand Hotel de la Plage, in St. Lunaire, which offers to golfers every comfort and convenience on very reasonable terms. The links are not very extensive, an only seven holes can be got into them without crowding; but the course is a very good one and has a very just distribution of good going and legitimate obstacles throughout it. An omnibus run from Dinard to St. Lunaire for the convenience of those who object to

walking, and the bus fare is only fivepence either way.”

The date is confirmed by the 1889-1890 edition of *The Golfing Annual* (vol. III), which states that the club was founded in March 1890⁷: ‘*Just as we go to press, we learn a golf club has been started here*’.

It was soon realised⁸ that the links had been so overcrowded during the autumn that a larger piece of land had to be found. A 40 hectares site was rented about a mile away, between St-Lunaire and St-Briac. In the same magazine, it ‘*expected to rank second to none in France*’... at that time, there were only two other golf clubs: Pau and Biarritz!

The club split into two different organisations⁹: one was the “Dinard Golf Club”, inst. 1890, 18 holes at St-Briac (the new location) for gentlemen, and a second one, “Dinard Ladies’ Golf Club” inst. 1891, nine holes, situated at St. Lunaire (the old place).

DINARD (FRANCE).

DINARD GOLF CLUB, INSTITUTED 1890.

Entrance Fee: Gentlemen, Sixteen Shillings; Ladies, Eight Shillings; *Annual Subscription*: Gentlemen, Sixteen Shillings; Ladies, Eight Shillings; *Monthly Subscription*, Eight Shillings; *Number of Members*, 77. *President*—G. Marshall. *Captain*—Sir George Dumtze, Bart. *Committee*—G. Marshall, Col. Stack, Col. Okoden, Col. Forbes, Lieut.-Col. Dansey, and M. Edye. *Hon. Secretary*—Lieut.-Col. Dansey, St. Enogat, Dinard. *Hon. Treasurer and Secretary of Ladies’ Club*—Miss B. Stephenson. *Greens*—St. Lunaire and St. Briac. *Greenkeepers*—W. Freemantle and H. Harris.

Club Prizes. Challenge Cup for residents, played for twice annually; Challenge Cup for Ladies; Monthly Medal (handicap).

The Golfing Annual, 1890-1891, vol IV.

But to find the necessary space, which mainly belonged to a large family with – to paraphrase the *Golfing Annual* – numerous brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts and cousins, it was difficult to negotiate a reasonable rent. It was expensive, but finally done!

The Scottish professional Tom Dunn, from North Berwick, who was then at Tooting Bec, was called in to design the new course (a hole-by-hole description is provided at the end of this article). One of his sons, John Dunn came with

⁷ Later on, with vol. XVI, 1902-1903, the date will be 1st November 1890.

⁸ *Golf*, 13 and 20 February 1891.

⁹ Clearly indicated in *The Golfing Annual*, 1894-1895, vol VIII. But, after 1902, *The Golfing Annual*,

indicates that the club had been instituted on 1st November 1890. This is most probably the new club at St Briac.

him for at least one month to help him with the greenkeeping work. The course was laid out on the coast, and a newly built villa, situated close to the links, had been acquired to serve as a clubhouse.

On this new course, considering that three of the greens were on the edge of the cliff and that the wind was sometimes very strong, it will be no surprise to learn that the scores of the first competitions in February 1891 were far from brilliant! The best gross score was 111, by Lt.-Col. Dansey. But these were tourists who liked to play golf rather than accomplished amateurs.

In 1892, A.F. Mcfie returned an 81, and in January 1893, A. Lubbock established a new course record with a 78. A few months later, in September 1893, H.G. Hutchison lowered the course record by playing 73.

It may be interesting to learn that, according to various newspapers, in 1891, the Grand Duke Michael of Russia – who was soon to create the Cannes Golf Club – spent his honeymoon at Ventor, on the Isle of Wight. Before returning to Cannes, he went to Wiesbaden (near Bad Homburg) and, end of August, to Dinard, where he stayed for almost one month. This trip is not the most direct way to go back to Cannes. We mention it because these three locations had just laid out a golf courses, and the Grand Duke possibly wanted to visit them and discuss the difficulties encountered and to receive some recommendations.

To better understand the changes between 1890 and 1891, it is good to read a paper later published by the *Pall Mall Gazette*¹⁰:

“St. Briac is by no means to be confounded with St. Lunaire, the site until the last two years of the links on which the men of Dinard used to play. These were a sorry substitute for the real raw material of the game. But the links of St. Briac are altogether of another kind. They lead

the golfer out along a bold wind-swept peninsula, where the “far and sure” of his driving are shrewdly tested. They lead him among bold sand-bunkers, over finely undulating ground, and all the way upon soil of the real sandy quality.

The putting greens are excellent – there is none of that makeshift converting of a snipe-bog or a grouse-moor into golf ground, which sad experience has led the golfer to expect when he leaves the classic soil of the recognised links.

In July 1891, the course was not yet at his best. The *Belfast Telegraph*, 31 July 1891, reports that “Balls never roll at Dinard. They drop on cattle road or into stone quarry and lie there till you have broken your niblick and your two irons.” This description was undoubtedly written with the intention to be humorous, but it must indeed be based on some truth. Not surprising as the course had just been built.

But, before the summer of 1892, everything seemed ready¹¹: a course in splendid condition and a clubhouse that met all expectations. Several tournaments were organised, and it should be noted that ladies were also playing and competing on the St-Briac course¹², and not only at Saint-Lunaire.

The quality of the links is confirmed¹³: [the links] “are everything that can be desired. A porous soil, a soft turf without rank grass, every variety of sand bunker, not to speak of gorse bushes, a Scylla and Charybdis where the promontory narrows, and views of the most picturesque and inspiring character; all combine to constitute this one of the most enjoyable greens on which to play the Royal and Ancient game.”

The number of members was quickly increasing¹⁴. In 1894 a ‘golf week’ was organised for the first time in Dinard¹⁵. The

¹⁰ *Pall Mall Gazette*, 19 December 1893.

¹¹ *Field*, 27 August 1892.

¹² In the *Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News*, 26 March 1892 we read ‘The ladies’ links consist of a nine-hole course, and this Mrs. Stewart does in 46. As a variation she sometimes plays on the men’s links a full eighteen hole course extending three miles and by no means easy’ and ‘As a reward of merit Mrs. Stewart has been elected captain of the ladies’ club during her stay at Dinard’.

¹³ *The Scotsman*, 3 September 1891.

¹⁴ 77 members in 1891 to reach 110 in 1894 (*The Golfing Annual*).

¹⁵ *Le Gaulois*, 23 October 1894. The article also explains that the club’s colours are red and blue; and *Les Annales politiques et littéraires*, 4 November 1894 adds: ‘The men wear red jackets, blue knickers and blue stockings; the women wear poppy blouses and cornflower skirts.’

event was undoubtedly a success, as it was repeated the following year¹⁶:

'At Dinard, the little watering place in the Bay of St Malo, there is a golf course of eighteen holes, and during the past five years, golf Dinard has flourished exceedingly. Latterly, the game has been the sole attraction, and the other day the Dinard golfers, following the time-honoured usage of older and more famous clubs across the Channel, closed their season with a 'golf week,' the Dinard grande semaine, by which the town was set a greater bustle and excitement than a September meeting of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club ever created in St. Andrews.'

The golf club was a great success, and there was a stable committee for the first four years of the club's life (G.H. Marshall was chairman, and Sir George Duntze and colonels Bansey and Forbes were key members). This success was attracting more and more tourists who wanted to build villas in the nearby area. As a result, land prices rose rapidly. But, the course was built on plots belonging to different owners who demanded higher and higher rents: negotiations were more challenging. The club was in danger of being closed. These uncertainties must explain that three successive editions of *The Golfing Annual* do not indicate how the club was organised! There was even talk of the Dinard golf course disappearing as early as 1893¹⁷!

When, in 1897 (vol. XI), *The Golfing Annual* resumed its precise descriptions, the club had completely changed its structure. The Hon. Sec. was changing yearly (see later in this article). However, some old members were still present; for example, in September 1897, Mr Duntze won the Dinard Cup for the third time and became its owner¹⁸. Also, on his way back from Cannes in January 1898, The Prince of Wales stopped off at Dinard for the 'golf week'¹⁹.

But the difficulties were always there, and in 1899, the course was even reduced to nine holes.²⁰

In 1905, a "rescue committee" was set up, which invested heavily in preserving the club. The golf course survived thanks to Mr Laraque, a generous landowner, who made all the land he owned between St-Briac and St-Lunaire available to the club.

But difficulties were reappearing, again due to rising land prices! Nevertheless, the course was much appreciated²¹: "*The golf links at St-Briac, two miles from St-Lunaire, are quite good. An excellent sporting 18-hole course – probably one of the best in France. There is a professional hailing from that birthplace of famous golfers, Jersey, whose whole time is taken up in giving lessons*".

But it was not until 1909 that the golf club was finally saved. On 28 December 1909, the new Golf Committee, chaired by Mr Jean Hennessy, with the help of Messrs Cornelius Harmens and Jules Boutin, created a limited company called '*Société du Dinard-Golf*'. 800 000 francs were invested to acquire the land. The Dinard Golf Club was saved.

SOCIÉTÉE
St-Malo — Formation. — Société anonyme
dite : Société du DINARD-GOLF, rue Levavas-
seur à Dinard — 30 ans — 15,000 fr. — 28
déc. 1909

Clipping from Archives Commerciales de la France, published 5 February 1910.

In November 1910, the Dinard Golf Club decided to join the *Union des Golfs de France*²², initiated by Pierre Deschamps in July 1910 (which had its first General Meeting end of November 1910 and would later become the *Fédération Française de Golf*).

DINARD GOLF CLUB
WINTER RESORT FOR GOLFERS.
Sporting Natural Sea-side Course (18 Holes).
NEWLY LAID OUT BY WILLIE PARK.
12 hours from London via Southampton to St. Malo.
Beautifully situated on the coast of
BRITTANY.
Mild Winter Climate.
For particulars apply—
SOCIÉTÉ DINARD-GOLF,
DINARD.

In 1912, the course improvements undertaken by Willie Park were completed and much appreciated²³.

¹⁶ *Dundee Courier*, 29 November 1895.

¹⁷ Pierre Nicollet in *Société d'Histoire et d'Archéologie de l'Arrondissement de Saint-Malo*; Chapter: *Grandeur et misères du Golf-Club de Paramé*. pp.103-120.

See also "*Une balle à la mer. Une vie de golf à Saint-Briac*", by Marie-Christine Paris (ed. Albin Michel).

¹⁸ *Le Figaro*, 1 May 1897.

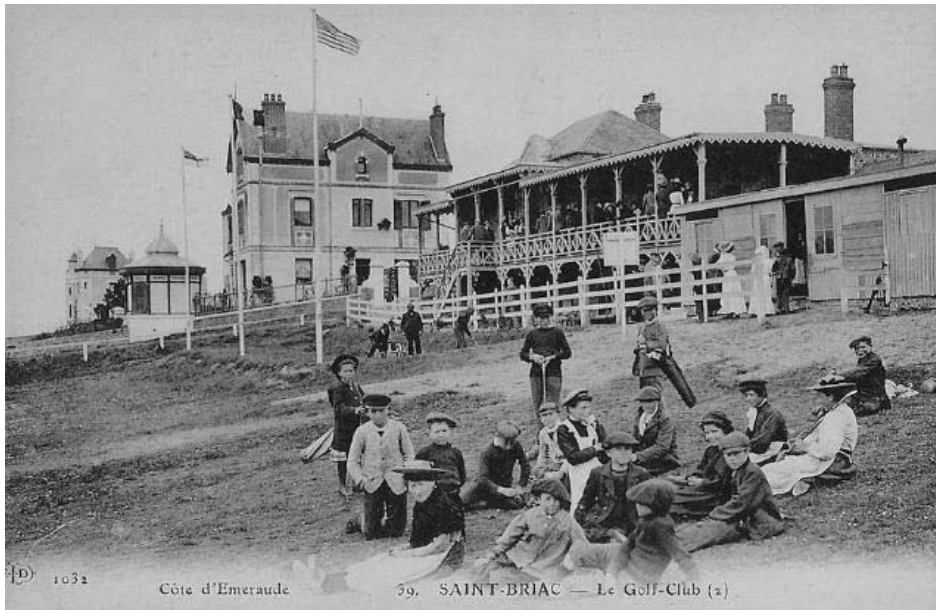
¹⁹ *L'Événement*, 16 janvier 1898.

²⁰ *The Golfing Annual*, 1900-1901, vol. XIV.

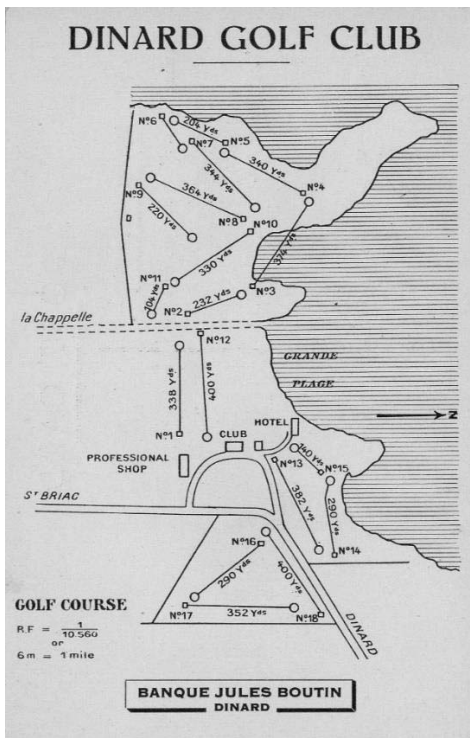
²¹ *Sheffield Daily Telegraph*, 19 August 1909.

²² *The New York Herald*, 13 November 1910.

²³ *Gentlewoman*, 10 August 1912 and *The Queen*, 9 March 1912 (advertising).



A group of caddies in front of the clubhouse (c. 1910)

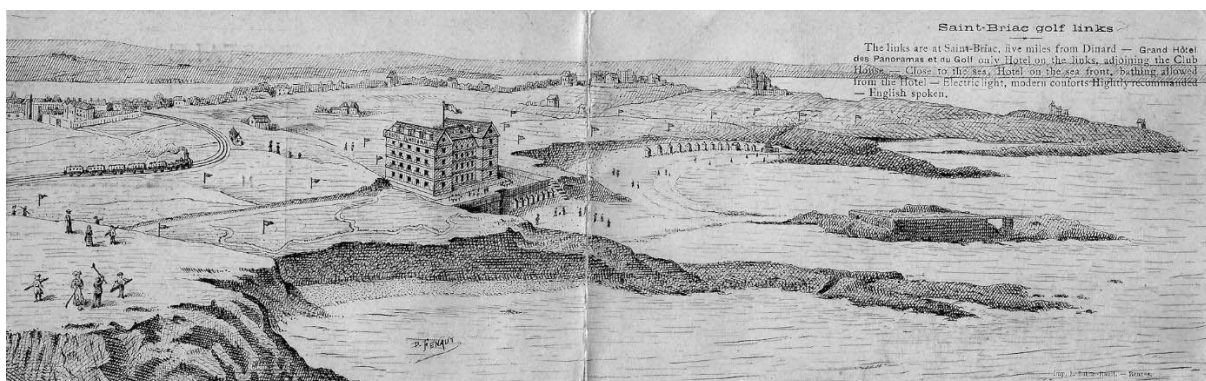


Above: A ladies' game at St Briac (the Hôtel des Panoramas et Golf in the background).

Left: Map of the course (postcard c. 1910). The Guide Plumon shows that neither the design nor the distances had changed during the 1930s.

Note about the Ladies' Links

There was a good ladies' nine holes course at Saint-Lunaire. From 1901, the course disappeared, and a ladies' club was founded at Saint-Briac.



Panoramic (double) postcard featuring the map of the Dinard Golf Course c. 1908

The first 18 holes course at Dinard, *Golf*, 20 February 1891

The drive from the first tee is over two sandy road cuttings, where a fine stretch of excellent turf is reached; the second shot being over two bunkers. Very careful play is required in approaching the hole, which lies on a promontory, and a short distance from the cliff. In going to the second hole, a good shot should take one over two deep cuttings; and another full shot is required to cross another cutting, a bunker, and a copse before the hole is reached.

The third hole requires a drive and an iron, the approach being a very sporting one, as there is a gully to cross with a large bunker at the back of the hole, and the seashore to the right. The carry to the fourth hole is over a huge bunker, which might aptly be termed 'Perdition'; and a full cleek shot is then needed to reach the green, which lies prettily situated on ground surmounting a cliff. The fifth hole, which is full of good hazards, takes a drive and an iron. The sixth is on a peninsula and is perhaps the finest hole in the round. It takes nearly two full drives, over very hilly ground, but when reached affords one of the grandest views anywhere to be met with. The seventh hole, which is charmingly placed in a hollow, requires two lull drives and an iron to reach; a large bunker which intersects the course, and the seashore on the right, forming good hazards. The eighth is also a long hole and needs two full drives and an iron. Here the hazards are the bunker just referred to, a raised earthwork, and a bed of whins. The ninth is a full drive down a slope, with bunkers and gorse to be crossed. It takes a drive and an iron to reach the tenth hole, which lies in a hollow at the top of a hill. The eleventh is a very sporting hole; a good shot carries one over a series of hazards. The twelfth takes two drives over a fine stretch of turf. The thirteenth takes a long drive to carry a steep hill, the hole lying in a hollow beyond. The fourteenth is a very pretty hole to play. The fifteenth is a drive and an iron over a deep cutting and more whins. The sixteenth and seventeenth holes present no exceptional features, but both require good play. The eighteenth, which needs a drive and an iron to clear a deep cutting, makes a grand finish.

Additional notes for Dinard

Professionals

1890 – 1896: William Freemantle²⁴

1897: F. Butel

1902: P. Lafollet

1903: Frank Chevalier (until 1929).

Hon. Sec. between 1890 and 1911

1890: Lt.-Col. Dantey

1891: M. Edey

1892: Hon. A. Cadogan (J.H. Forster, present)

1893: M. Edey

1894 – 1896?

1897: W.T. Synmott

1898: H.Y. Forbes (R.V.?)

1900: J.W. Davy

1902: R.V. Forbes

1903: R.V. Forbes & Major B. Thomas

1904: Major B. Thomas

1906 – 1908: C. Harmens

1909: R. Luzon

1911: C. Harmens



Paramé Golf Club, 1893

PARAMÉ.

PARAMÉ GOLF CLUB, INSTITUTED 1893.

Entrance Fee, 25 francs; Annual Subscription, 25 francs.

President—Lieut.-Col. Robertson. Hon. Secretary—M. P. Main. Hôtel de la Plage, Paramé.

The course of eighteen holes is situated at la Guitrerie, near Paramé, and there is a clubhouse, where lunch can be obtained. A brake leaves the Hôtel de la Plage for the course on Mondays and Thursdays. Wednesday is the ladies' day.

Members of any recognised golf club may play for three days on being introduced. The charges for visitors are 5 francs per week, 15 francs a month, and 30 francs for six months. Ladies 5 francs per week, and 15 francs for any longer period up to a year.

The Golfing Annual, vol. VII (1893-1894)

Around 1892-1893, the Dinard golf course was facing troubles: it was even thought that it was in danger of disappearing due to property

transactions! It was then natural to dream of a new golf course not too far away. Paramé was an ideal location, with many tourist attractions: horse-riding, clay pigeon shooting, fishing, baths, and a casino. It was then decided to build a golf course there to attract more British visitors.

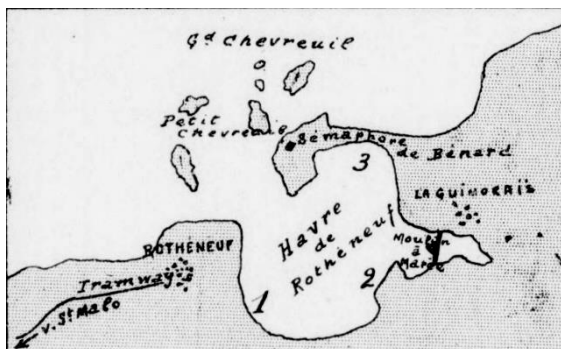
The *Newcastle Chronicle*, 16 September 1893, reported on the existence of golf at Paramé, and in *The Queen*, 4 November 1893, we read, '*the Paramé Golf Club is now in possession of first-class links [...] Mr Main is the secretary.*'

We were able to find a precise location of the course in the newspaper '*Le Yacht –*

²⁴ *Golf*, 12 May 1899, is writing: 'William Freemantle [was the] professional to the Hyères

Club and previously professional during seven years to the Dinard Golf Club.'

*Journal de la Marine*²⁵, which provides some suggestions when sojourning at Paramé, and incidentally indicates the location of the golf. We read: ‘Are you a fan of golf in the wild dunes, with delightful walks around the Guimorais and the tide mill [...] choose the beaching marked 3 under “Bénard”.’ An additional view of the place can be found on the postcard shown next page.



But an essential source of information is a book written by Douglas Sladen, ‘Brittany for Britons’²⁶.

There we read that there were two golf clubs: ‘Paramé itself and La Guimorais respectively – of the latter, I shall have more to say anon. It is a full course of a very sporting nature, stretching along a headland of great natural beauty. The Paramé links themselves consist only of six (rather short) holes but are a great convenience for practice, as they are close to the hotels, while La Guimorais links are two or three miles off, necessitating a special bus and lunch at a café near the course.’

Note that the two courses were not laid out exactly at the same time as we can read in *The Queen*, 9 February 1895: ‘Paramé has secured a second golf course, close to the village, that those who object to the distance of the extensive eighteen-hole links places at La Guimorais – reached by tri-weekly omnibus – can play daily nearer home.’

As expected, the author provided significant details concerning the Paramé (La Guimorais) golf club. As the course was at some distance from the hotel, offering an on-site clubhouse was necessary. *Café Thierry*, the best hotel in

town, was used for this purpose. The first floor was reserved for the golfers: ‘Two rooms have been fitted up with lockers, etc., for members; and two rooms have been set aside for the use of lady members, and ladies visiting the links.’



The clubhouse: Hotel – Café – Restaurant at La Guimorais

In addition, there is an excellent description of the links:

The La Guimorais golf links are the most sporting that the most ardent lover of golf novelties could desire. To begin with, you can hardly ever see the hole from the tee, though there is a capital system of posts on the tops of the rises to give the direction. In one place you tee off at the bottom of a steep little hill and have to drive as if you were going to hit over a church tower – one of the most fascinating things in golf. One of the holes is right over a sweet little inlet of the sea, and if you are rash in your “approach” shot, into the sea you go. The bunkers are some of them colossal; there is one to which the “Hell” at St. Andrews is the veriest trifle; it is deep loose sand, with a cliffy sandbank several feet high overhanging it, and that bank is the foot of a steep hill. But it is one of the most exhilarating courses I ever played on, the scenery is so absolutely lovely, the sea breeze is so champagney, that neither the scorching Breton sun, nor the succession of steep little hills, nor the constant patches of deep loose sand can daunt one’s heart.

The holes are not very far apart, but the ground is so full of hazards that you feel that out of sight is out of mind for la golf balle [in French in the text].

[...] The greens are very good. I find the beauty of the course rather distracting. The very first teeing ground (where my good little caddie pulled his hand out of his pocket full of sand, and Mr MacMaster, the honorary secretary, who has done so much to acclimatise golf in France, and other old stagers produced artificial tees made of thick rubber, with

²⁵ *Le Yacht*, 21 November 1908

²⁶ Op. cit. Note that *The Queen*, under the title ‘Britons in Brittany’, 17 and 31 August 1895 gave a

very similar text (one year before the book was published).

their gay red tassels very necessary) was in the middle of a bed of dwarf roses, and a couple of cleek shots brought one to clusters of the beautiful yellow sea-poppy [...]

But the course, exquisite as it was, proved at the ninth hole too heavy for the lady [...]

In the same book, we learn that *Ladies' Practice Day*. There will be practice play on the short course on the Rothéneuf road every Wednesday and Saturday.

The Gold Medal and the Ladies' Challenge Shield are competed for every month. Meetings in October and April.

Pierre Nicollet²⁷, who devoted a great deal of time to studying this club, wrote that Mr Dunn, travelling from Biarritz, decided to spend the summer of 1904 at Paramé. He was present there between 15 June and 10 September.

Although traces of this golf course were still to be found in various publications until early 1906, the press almost forgot all about it, with the exception of an advertisement in '*Le Paramé mondain*' during the summer of 1912, stating that the course belonged now to the *Syndicat d'Initiative* (Tourism Office).

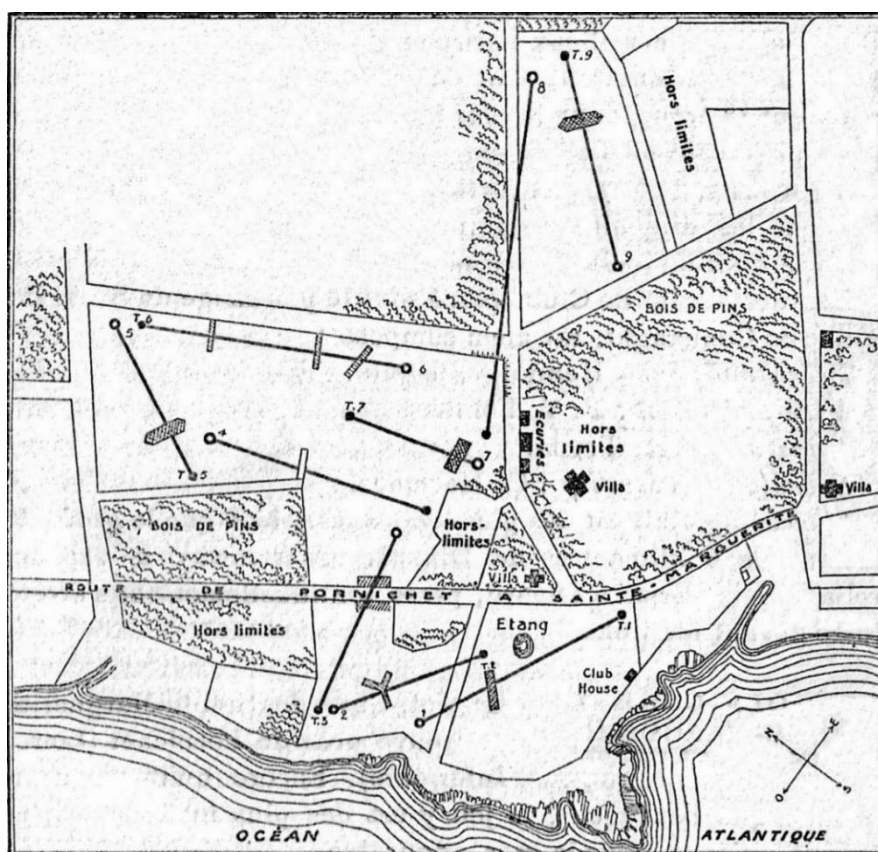
Two sides of a postcard which is extremely common when the indications related to golf are absent (First tee, links, golf) but rare when indications are present and even more difficult to find when the backside provides additional information on golf.



²⁷ Pierre Nicollet, in *Société d'Histoire et d'Archéologie et l'Arrondissement de Saint-Malo*, Annales, 1993. Sadly, Pierre Nicollet died too soon.

At that time, the history of golf was not yet a subject of interest to fans of our sport in France.

Sainte-Marguerite Golf Club, 1895



Map of the Sainte-Marguerite Golf-Link (*Le Golf*, Massy, 1911)

A similar map can be found in *The Golfing Annual*, vol. X, 1896-1897, page 500, but, in this later reference, out-of-bounds (*hors limites*) are not indicated.

According to the Heritage of Pornichet website, in 1880, a retired lawyer, Charles Mercier bought a twenty-hectare plot of land near Pornichet (Brittany, France). In 1886, he created a housing estate there, which he called Sainte-Marguerite²⁸, referring to the first name of his daughter, who was in poor health.

In 1881, Maxime Boucheron, with two other friends, all artists, decided to create a resort at the same place. Thanks to Henri Van Den Broucke, a well-known architect, they inaugurated the *Grand Hôtel de l'Océan, du Casino & du Golf*.

Clearly, as early as 1881, the project of creating a golf course at Sainte-Marguerite already existed!

The promoters were artists not businessmen and the project failed. In 1887, they sold it. The hotel was renamed: *Grand Hôtel de l'Océan*. The idea of creating a golf course had been abandoned.

The first references related to golf were found in various editions of *The Queen*. On 27 April 1895, we read that [at Ste-Marguerite] 'a new hotel has been built, golf links and tennis courts laid out ...' confirmed in the 18 May 1895 edition. Later, on 1 June 1895, we read that 'Ste-Marguerite provides a good nine-hole course with this advantage over the others [Dinard and Paramé, ed. note] that the links are close to the hotel and village.'

In its 10 August 1895 edition, the same journal provides a short description of the course:

²⁸ The name of Sainte-Marguerite is still used nowadays. It is located on the beach, 3 km from Pornichet and 10 km from St-Nazaire.

'Strange to say, Sainte-Marguerite also boasts a golf club, whose links are situated on a magnificent stretch of land, checkered and woody in parts, just enough to give plenty of zest to the noble game. From the links the view is superb, embracing the whole coast from the Pointe de Penchâteau northwards to the island of Noirmoutier southwards...'

The *Golfing Annual*, 1895-1896, confirms this information²⁹.

SAINTE-MARGUERITE (FRANCE).

SAINTE-MARGUERITE GOLF CLUB, INSTITUTED 1895.

Life Members, 250 francs; *Entrance Fee*, 25 francs; *Annual Subscription*, 25 francs; One month, 20 francs; a fortnight 15 francs; one week or less, 15 francs; the season, 40 francs; special terms for families; members of any recognised Golf Club may play for three days on being introduced. *President*—F. Ortmans. *Hon. Secretary*—C. M. Spiers, Hotel de la Plage, Sainte-Marguerite, par Pornichet, Loire Inférieure.

The course, of nine holes, with ample space for extension to eighteen if desired later, is situated in close proximity to the hotel, on the sea coast, and commands an admirable view, one of the finest in France. The hazards are good. The putting greens were deficient in 1895, but are to be improved this season. A clubhouse is to be erected. Sainte-Marguerite is particularly suited for golfers in the early season by reason of the mildness of its climate and pine tree exhalations. An additional recommendation is the extreme moderateness of charges before the French sea-bath season begins. The Hotel de la Plage, Sainte-Marguerite, is managed on English lines; sanitation excellent, hot baths, and dark room for photography in the establishment. Fine sandy beach, bathing at all hours of the tide. Pension rates from March till June: six to eight francs per day, including three meals, wine, servants, and lights. First class attendance, remarkably good cooking. Gymnasium, croquet, and cement tennis court on the hotel premises. Excursions to all parts of Brittany, and to the historical "Châteaux de la Loire."

During the first season, the greens were deficient, in 1896, they still need to be improved. A clubhouse was planned.

On 19 June 1896, the founders of the Sainte-Marguerite Golf Club (also said S.M.G.C) had a meeting at the *Grand Hotel* to decide on the opening of the new season³⁰. Now, 'the club-house in chalet style is about to be erected, and at any rate, nine holes will be ready for play this summer.'

The founders are: Messrs. Alfred Coleman, P. Keller, L. Lefebvre, L. Lhomédé, Ch. Mercier, E. Ortmans, F. Ortmans, I.H.B. Spiers, M.A. Ch. MacCarthy Spiers, H.T. Tucker, D. Van Goens and H. Van Goens. The rules were confirmed at the meeting, and Mr F. Ortmans,

proprietor of the new trilingual review "Cosmopolis," was elected President. Mr MacCarthy Spiers is honorary secretary and treasurer.'

So, the 1896 season might have started in August as President Ortmans, offered a gold medal for the first competition³¹. It is also in 1896 that he officially applied for membership of the *Union des Sociétés Françaises de Sport Athlétique*.

In fact, there were two golf medals, not just one, which were played for and won by two French golfers³².

For the first time in its editions, *The Golfing Annual* (1896-1897) informed its readers that the links are the freehold property of three Life Members, who lease them to the club at a nominal rental. If the course was only nine holes, there was enough space to extend it to 18 holes, and the greens were completely rebuilt.

In the same edition, it indicates that a comfortable clubhouse had been built.

The course, at that time might not have been a first class one as we can read in *The Queen*, 31 October 1896, after a reader's question, answered: *You were cautioned in three columns that the golf course was rather rudimentary, but everything was being done to make the greens sportive.*

I am assured that the main reason they were not grassy was the dry early spring, which was exceptional in that part of France. But first-class English and American players enjoyed the golf there this year notwithstanding (vide Visitors Book, from which I have caused many extracts to be made).

Reading the newspapers – or, more accurately, the lack of any articles in them – we may assume that the golf course of Sainte-Marguerite was more a course for tourists than

²⁹ It is interesting to note that while the first editions the *Golfing Annual* write that the club was instituted in 1895, after a few years the date is 1890! After 1903, Ste-Marguerite is still listed in the index, but no longer in the text! We must be very prudent even with the best references – and always double check.

³⁰ *The New York Herald*, 20 June 1896; also stating that the course is 'already laid out' possibly meaning 'improved' (see further *The Queen* 31 October 1896)

³¹ *Journal de la Jeunesse*, 1 July 1896 and *Le Vélo*, 29 July 1896 – where we also learn that the brother of the golf club president was president of the Tennis-Club de Paris.

³² *The New York Herald*, 10 September 1896.

a sporting one. It was a relatively cheap one, the subscription being five francs a week, and 15 francs for a month, while members of recognised golf clubs might play without any charge for three days.

FRANCE.—HOTEL DE LA PLAGE
 —STE MARGUERITE, PORNICHET, LOIRE IN-
 FÉRIEURE. Facing the sea. Highest English references.
 Charming spot. Golf, tennis. Inclusive terms for the spring,
 7 to 10 francs. Apply to the Manager, Mr. FLAEGAL. *

An advertisement published in *The Liverpool Weekly Courier*, in January 1899.

The following year, a similar advertisement as above was published by the French newspaper *Le Matin* in many editions.

Also, about 1911, Pierre Deschamps, in a rare booklet also refers to this club (with a nine hole course) adding that it is a seasonal club (only open during the summer) and having 40 members.

A detailed description of the course can be found in Massy's book, *Le Golf* (published in 1911) from which we extracted the course layout plan on the previous page.

The hilly nature of the course provides sportsmen with strong emotions. The links are dotted with ponds, fences, hedges, pine woods and sneaky bunkers, all of which make the game even more eventful and exciting, if rather tricky.

The course consists of only nine holes. The total length is 1,472 metres. The longest hole is the eighth, 260 metres from the tees to the putting green, and the shortest is hole number 2, which is only 122 metres long. Hole 8 is one of the most challenging holes on the course because before reaching the putting green, you have to avoid a fence, a route nationale and, a little further on, pine woods on the right and left, ready to swallow the balls if they have deviated from the straight line.

In addition, the clubhouse is very comfortable, and the links are five minutes from the Hôtel de la Plage and ten minutes from the village.

One of the last references we found is in the newspaper *Le Petit Courier*, 1 September 1911, which relates a 'putting competition' among other games which could be named

fairground games. It was organised, at Sainte-Marguerite, in honour of this game which attracts more and more friends of the *Entente Cordiale*. The same newspaper reports that a golf tournament (handicap) is being organised.

The same year, *The Queen*, 18 February, indicates that 'you might be able to play on a small course, at Ste-Marguerite, near Pornichet [...] the golf is, however, by no means good there.'

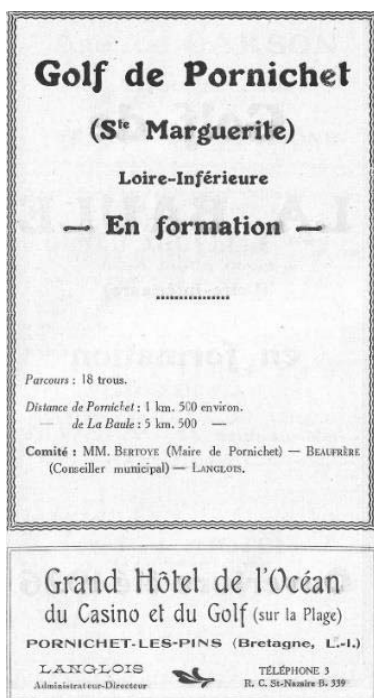
After 1912, we could not find any reference to these links. As we can expect, the situation would not be better after WWI. In 1924, *The Sphere*³³ provided a list of golf courses in Brittany: Dinard (St-Briac and St-Lunaire [*sic*]) 18 holes and Sainte-Marguerite, nine holes, but the St-Lunaire error makes it questionable.

Also, *The Golfers' Handbook*, 1923, reports its existence and adds that the Hon. Sec. is still Ch. MacCarthy Spiers. And if it also states that the amateur record is 34 for nine holes, we are more inclined to think that this club, if it still existed, would be a shadow of its former self. The *Guide Plumon*, 1926 is indicating that the Ste-Marguerite Golf Club is now 'en formation'... and is called 'Golf de Pornichet', from the name of a now better-known town located a few kilometres north of Sainte-Marguerite.

However, we must point out that a question arises. Mr Pierre Deschamps, in his booklet (*op. cit.*), writes: *In Brittany, let's not forget the Golf de Pornichet (Loire-Inférieure), and the Golf de Sainte-Marguerite (9 holes S., 40 members), well placed facing the Ocean.*

Let us finish with a reasonable guess. In 1926, a new golf course was established at Le Pouliguen (just outside La Baule). It was an 18-hole, 6,000 yards course, far more appealing than the one of Sainte-Marguerite. The distance between the two places is only 9 km from Pornichet (and 12 km from the Sainte-Marguerite Golf Club). So, this may be why the Sainte-Marguerite golf course disappeared; in any case, it was probably no longer in existence by 1932, when Charles Mercier, the owner of the land, died.

³³ *The Sphere*, 3 May 1924.



Dinan, 1906

Late in 1905, the newspaper *Les Sports*³⁴, announced the creation of a golf course in Dinan to be located on the Aublette racecourse.

The land³⁵, which belonged to Mr Even (who later became President of the club – see below), was leased to the municipality for 2,000 francs. The town then had to sublet it, partly to the golf club (1,600 francs) and partly to the Equestrian Society (400 francs).

In December, the same newspaper reported that a large sum of money had been raised in just a few days, and it was definitely decided to institute a golf club in Dinan, with head offices at the Victoria Club. A committee had been elected: the mayor of Dinan, honorary President and M. Jean Even, former mayor as President. The members of this first committee were

Messrs J.-B. Young, de la Gervirais, Minnock, Lucas-Malet, Vaux and Eugène Rolland. The Hon. Sec. was Mr Scott, and the treasurer was Mr John Le Coq. Finally, Messrs Even, Scott and Young were asked to write the Statutes and the Rules of the Club.

The opening of the Dinan Golf Club was expected by the end of January³⁶. However, in March 1906, we read in *Les Sports* that the club (now called *Athletic*) will to be open all year round but, unfortunately, heavy rain had delayed the work. We had to wait until mid-April, to see British and American amateurs and professionals playing in a competition³⁷.

However, possibly due to low attendance or the requirements of the *Société Hippique*, the golf course was closed over the summer and reopened in the first days of November 1906³⁸.

We have been unable to find any trace of the existence of this club after the first months of 1907. However, during a lecture in 1993, the eminent historian Pierre Nicollet explained that this golf course only existed until 1909, because of the constraints imposed: outside the season devoted to golf, the land had to be left to the farmers to produce hay!



The Dinan golf course could be seen on the land behind the rider.

³⁴ *Les Sports*, 10 November, 7 Decembre 1905, 7 March 1906 and 9 Novembre 1906.

³⁵ *Ouest-Eclair*, 19 February 1906

³⁶ *Ouest-Eclair*, 7 January 1906.

³⁷ *Ouest-Eclair*, 11 April 1906.

³⁸ *Ouest-Eclair*, 8 November 1906.

EAGHC AGM 2023 at Cannes-Mougins Golf & Country Club



Top-down / From left to right: Dius Lennon, Geoffrey Lyon
 Monique Gamot & Georg Kittel, Huguetta Kazmierczak, Jens Engelstadt, Christopher Raanaas, Claus Maeland (with hat)
 Virginie & Patrick Massion, Damir Ritosa, Robin Bargmann, Stéphane Filanovitch
 Eric Madsen, Christoph Meister, Kuno Schuch, Cécilia Lyon (far right)
 Gillian (centre) & David Kirkwood (far right)
 David & Jean Hamilton, Peter Fry, JBK, Françoise Autiero (with an arm on JBK's shoulder) and Lucien Autiero.



Geoffrey Lyon, Claus Maeland, Georg Kittel,
 Christoph Meister at the Biot Golf Club



Jean and David Hamilton on the terrace of the
 restaurant of the Biot Golf Club

On Tuesday 3rd morning, while a few members preferred to have a drink on the terrasse of the Biot Golf Club³⁹, a fourball better ball match play gross scores was played. After 16 holes Georg Kittel (Sweden) and Geoffrey Lyon (Monaco), Team “GG”, playing modern clubs, were two holes up on Claus Maeland (Norway) and Christoph Meister (Germany), Team “CC”, playing hickory shafted clubs.

The hickory players then fought back winning the 17th. On the 18th tee Geoffrey shared his remaining water with a dehydrated opponent from Germany. In retrospect, Geoffrey soon regretted his generosity, as Christoph was immediately revived and won the 18th so enabling team Norway/Germany to half the match.

After lunch at the Biot Golf Club, we drove to the Cannes-Mougins Golf & Country Club to welcome our members and start the official meeting with three lectures. *A short history of the Cannes-Mougins GCC* (JBK), *The Swedish Royal Game with a Touch of Cannes* (Georg Kittel) and *Before the Gutta-percha...* (David Hamilton).

In the evening, we had an informal dinner at the *Hotel de Mougins* where most of our members were staying. Eighteen people attended, and two more joined us later.

The next day began with a trading session. Geoffrey Lyon had brought along some golf books and his collection of course guides (stroke savers) and scorecards, all of which he generously gave away to interested collectors. David Kirkwood brought a few medals and postcards, while JBK had a small folder of postcards and a few books. Geoffrey and Cécilia Lyon closed the morning session with an interesting presentation of their *Modest Local Collection*.

We finished later than planned, but this annual meeting provides an opportunity for us to trade stories as well as collectors items.

After a good lunch in the clubhouse, Françoise and Lucien Autiero (see Huguette’s article in this issue of *Golfika* and the previous one),

emblematic figures of golf in the region, joined us for the meeting.

The lectures resumed. En route from the Ryder cup in Rome the previous weekend, Peter Fry spoke of Samuel Ryder, the man behind the Ryder Cup. Robin Bargmann presented discoveries based on ancient images and paintings! Christoph Meister shared with us his research on *Joe Mitchel, Germany’s first Golf Professional*.

Jens Engelstad, from Norway, presented the Oslo Golfklubb, where we have been invited to hold our annual meeting next year. We had the honour of the presence of Christopher Raanaas, the chairman of the Oslo Golfklubb.

After a group photo displayed above, we had our formal AGM, and the key points were a presentation of the accounts of our Association (a legal obligation) – including an annual grant of one thousand euros from the French Golf Federation.

We had the excellent official cocktail and dinner in the Mougins clubhouse, which had been privatised for us.

On Thursday, Damir Ritosa spoke about sand greens, and JBK rounded off the series of presentations with a Few Nuggets from his postcard collection.



Damir during his presentation. Note that the screen in the foreground was set up for communication of the meeting via Zoom.

After a quick lunch, we had the stroke play competition with Georg Kittel winning the moderns (gentlemen) with 86 gross strokes, whereas Virginie Massion took the ladies title with 103 strokes. Mika Hjorth was the best

³⁹ Antibes - Juan-les-Pins Golf Club, as it was called when it was founded in 1931. Peter Gannon and Percy Boomer designed the original course.

hickory player with 90 strokes followed by Claus Maeland (100) and Christoph Meister (105), all on this tough par 72 course. A threeball best ball without handicap was also played between Mika facing Claus and Christoph, yet Mika proved to be too strong winning the match 2/1. At the same time, we would like to thank Cannes-Mougins Golf & Country Club for having us given courtesy of the golf course. We all thoroughly enjoyed the golf as much as we enjoyed the rest of our annual meeting 2023.

Although most participants departed immediately after the official meeting closed, twelve of us met for a closing dinner in a pleasant restaurant in the old village of Mougins. A place where Picasso lived and which today is a centre for the arts, gastronomy and artists' exhibitions. As expected the dinner was great, and Georg Kittel noticed that we were "twelve people from eight different countries ... a true European Association!".



After the official meeting, on Friday afternoon, a guided visit to the Musée National du Sport was arranged. In the evening, Huguette and JBK hosted a cocktail party with canapés in their flat in Nice, where nineteen people gathered.

At the Hôtel de Mougins (unformal dinner on Tuesday)



Eric Madsen, Robin Bargmann, David Kirkwood



Patrick & Virgine Massion with JBK

Official dinner (Wednesday), starting with a cocktail on the terrasse.



Franziska & Oskar Meister



Mika Hjorth, Peter Fry, Tea Häkli, Claus Maeland



Huguette Kazmierczak, Gillian & David Kirkwood,
Christoph Meister, Robin Bargmann, Damir Ritosa



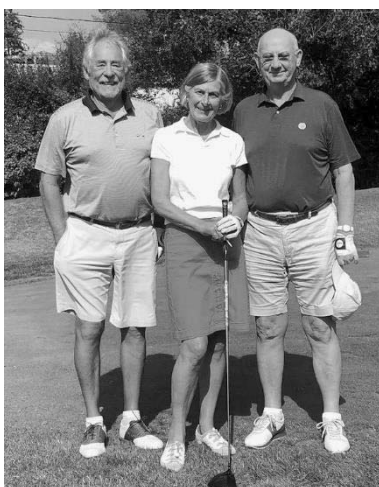
Cécilia & Geoffrey Lyon with Patrick Massion



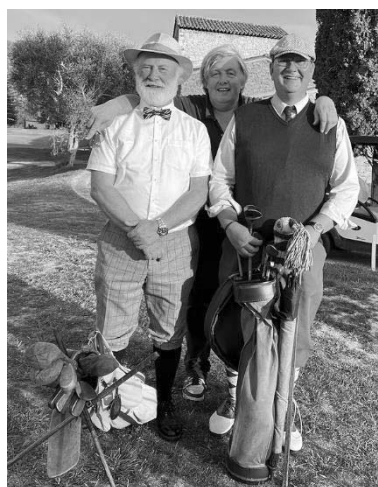
Dius Lennon, Françoise & Lucien Autiero,
Cécilia Lyon



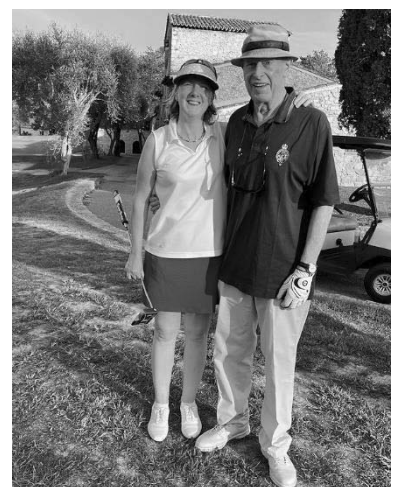
Monique Gamot, Georg Kittel, Peter Fry,
Kuno Schuch, Franziska Meister



Georg, Jean and Geoffrey



Claus, Christoph and Mika



Virginie & Patrick Massion

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1. Aargang

Queen Alexandrine in front of the clubhouse at Rungsted Golf Club
First edition of The Danish Golf Union magazine *Golf* in 1943.

Next page: Two luggage-labels, featuring the Dinard Golf Club and the *Hôtel Panoramas et Golf*