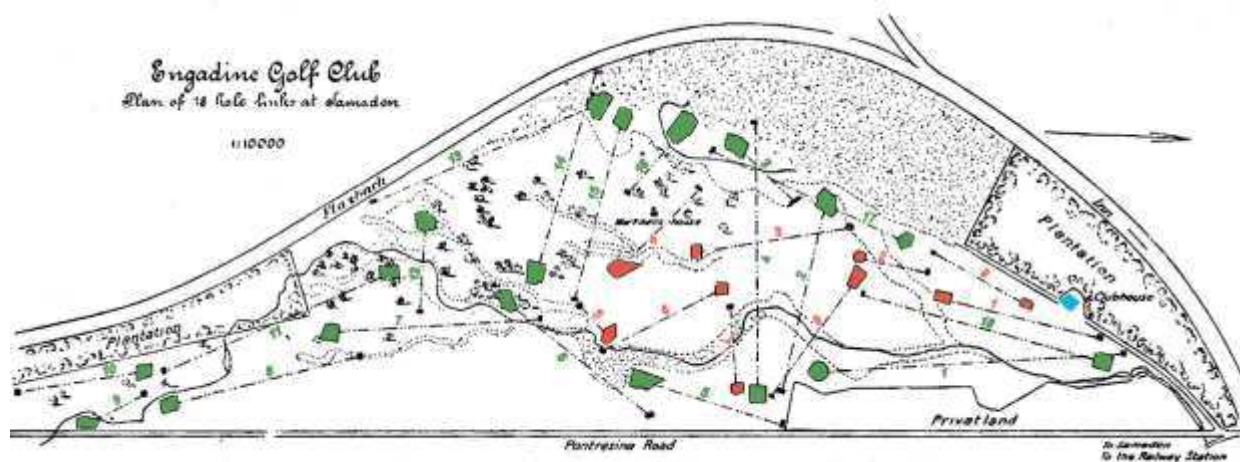




Above: A postcard featuring Princess Cecilie von Meckenburg-Schwerin at Bad Salzbrunn.

Below: Plan of the Samaden course (Gentlemen's tees in green, Ladies' tees in red).



golfika



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The front cover of Golfika Magazine n° 25 shows a painting by Viktor Cleve.

EAGHC Honorary Member Viktor Cleve, from Germany, is a leading golf painter and former art director. He kindly designs the cover page for Golfika-Magazine.

Illustrations are provided by the authors of the various articles or are from personal collections.

Imprint and disclaimer

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

The views and opinions printed within are those of the contributors and cannot intend to represent an official EAGHC viewpoint unless stated.

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

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Few words from the Vice-President

JBK (Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak)



From time to time we must change our habits, and our new President, **Robin Bargmann**, asked me if I could replace him in this issue to write a few words. Well, clearly, I am not trying to replace him, each and every member of our Association is unique and cannot be copied! My feeling is that Robin wanted me to write a few words in this issue as our next meeting will be held in Poland. And everyone knows that I have Polish origins and holding a meeting there is especially moving for me.

Our friend Czeslaw Kruk wrote a short history of golf in Poland in *Golfika* #19 (Spring 2017) and we learned that the first experience of golf in Poland dated from 1890 and that a first (9-hole) course was created close to Warsaw in 1923 ... All courses disappeared with communism and we had to wait until 1989 before golf was resurrected.

The main event will be held in Brzezno. It is a new and modern resort, hosting major events, offering all the facilities for our meeting. It is also close to Szczawno-Zdroj, perhaps better known under its German name Bad-Salzbrunn

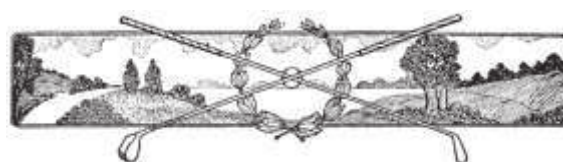
where we'll spend one full day there with lectures. A short text and a few images in this issue of our magazine are presented page 28 as an introduction – or an appetizer.

Time is flying so fast, however, I am sure we all have in mind our meeting in St Andrews where David Hamilton was elected President (and he then received the President's putter during the Pau meeting).

In the name of our President, of the Board and all EAGHC members, we would like to thank David for his support during these last two years. No need to remind everyone here what a great historian David is – and also a very experienced publisher (The Partick Press) – supporting our Association since the very first meeting in Chantilly in 2006. Thank you so much David.



David Hamilton and Angela Howe at St Andrews.



Editor's Corner

Stéphan Filanovitch



Dear EAGHC members,

Spring is coming, bringing a new issue of your favorite magazine!

I must say, it is with a very special feeling that I would like to introduce this issue. Our world is currently subject to a terrible virus. In many countries, people are confined to their homes, almost all activities are stopped, and of course, playing golf is not possible. Even the 2020 Masters Tournament has been postponed to November.

The coronavirus pandemic means that people avoid to travel, but I hope it will be finished for our AGM in September, and that many of us will participate. The meeting will be held in Poland, and as I have Polish origins by my grandfather, it will be nice to be with you in Wroclaw.

Now, let us have a look at this new issue.

As a European association, we expand our knowledge of golf history in Switzerland and

Luxembourg, with two richly illustrated articles by JBK. A great collection, JBK!

As a golf stamps collector, I appreciate Georges Jeanneau's article, about philately and golf in Japan. Unzen is the first Japanese stamp related to golf.

Always in search of the history of *Jeu de Mail*, Sara Nijs brings new information on this game in Marseille. Very interesting!

In a previous issue, we introduced a new topic: 'One object, one champion'. In the same way, with humour, you will discover how Czeslaw Kruk became a golf collector. Please, we are asking all our members to write articles like this one.

In this issue, you also will find a few words on our next meeting. Brzezno is really a great place ... and Szczawno-Zdroj (previously known as Bad Salzbrunn) seems a really great place too.

I would like to offer my sincerest best wishes to you and to your families. Stay safe and we look forward to seeing you in Poland!



We would like to announce the future publication of a book offering a selection of 200 watercolours by our friend Renato Catarsi: '*Watercolours of the Best Golf Courses on the French Riviera*'. The book, with a foreword by JBK, is presenting 30 clubs, richly illustrated with many great paintings. It should be published in May 2020. Price is 30 euros.

For more information, please write to:
dortelli@orange.fr
renato.catarsi@hotmail.fr

In Memoriam

John Still – 1942-2019.



We were expecting to see our dear friends John and Ida Still attending the last meeting in the Netherlands. They enjoyed so much participating in the EAGHC gatherings and we often saw them since they joined in 2010. But two weeks before our meeting, Ida sent us an e-mail to inform that John was critically ill, in intensive care, and would be in hospital for a long time. On Monday 14th of October at 10 pm, John passed away after a long fight against acute necrotising pancreatitis.

John was a great collector – and member of the BGCS. During our 2017 AGM meeting in St Andrews, Ida and John very kindly offered an afternoon party to our members at their home. What a great memory!



On the picture above, during the meeting, John was presenting a lecture on some rare postcards.

John and Ida have two children, Gary and Nichola, to whom we send our most sincere condolences. RIP John.

Raphaël Rossoni – 1941-2019.

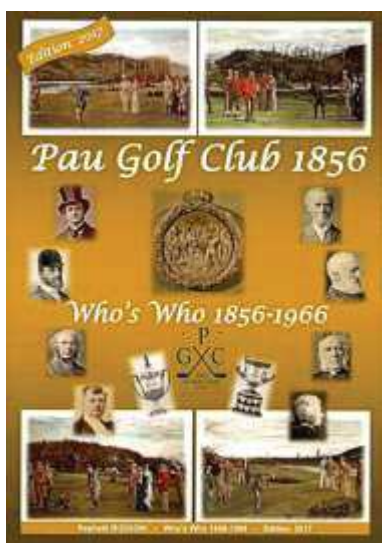


In the picture above, during the AGM dinner at Pau in 2018, Robin Bargmann presented a plate to the PGC. He bought it, a few years before, from John Hanna – who was sadly missing us during this meeting, having been hospitalized urgently and has now sadly passed away. The plate was representing a reproduction of the Sealy painting, and Raphaël Rossoni, one of the great historians of the PGC, received it on behalf of the club.

Raphaël's second family was the Pau Golf Club, which he joined in 2003. First elected to the Board, he became Vice-President in 2006 and President for the period 2008-2014.

During his term as President he relaunched the Heritage Commission of the club, setting strong objectives for protecting and transmitting the historical treasures of the club. In 2012 he was able to register all the trophies, paintings and other documents on the 'Liste supplémentaire des Monuments Historiques' (National Heritage). Soon after this success, he wrote an excellent reference book 'Who's Who 1856-1966'.

Several editions were printed on his personal account and recently he informed us that he was planning to publish a revised and updated edition.



Raphaël became seriously ill some months ago and unfortunately, he passed away on January 25th. He will remain in our hearts.



On this picture, at Pau, John and Raphaël were both present (far left) – JBK and Robin standing next. Then Bill and Fran Anderson, Mika Hjorth, Huguette Kazmierczak, David Hamilton, Patrick and Virginie Massion, Stéphan Filanovitch, Ida Still.



John Still, John Hanna and Bill Anderson, Saint-Cloud, 2011



Michael Sheret and John Still, Saint-Cloud 2011



Another picture at Pau with Jean-Loup Lacombe (far left) current president and Raphaël Rossini (far right), past president.



Scottish pipes band, invited by Raphaël at Pau. Let's dream they are playing for our absent friends.

Golf in Switzerland The Early Years 1891 – 1914

By JBK (*Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak*)



Since the first issues of *Golfika Magazine* we have always dedicated some space to the history of golf in the Continental European countries. We are resuming today with a brief history of early golf in Switzerland, focusing mainly on the period before WWI. At that time, all the Swiss clubs were seasonal clubs, opening only during the summer. Interestingly, we shall notice, in this text, that there is a strong connexion between golf in Switzerland and golf on the French Riviera, where golf clubs were open only in the winter. Many prominent actors in one place were often to be found in the other one; seasonality is certainly one of the reasons.

1891 – St Moritz – Kulm Hotel

In the first days of August 1891, various British newspapers were reporting that a golf club had been started at St Moritz Engadine, and play was planned to commence on Monday the 3rd. But the opening was postponed by two weeks due to bad weather. There was only a nine-hole course, described as ‘*a sporting, not to say a difficult one*’. It seems that, at that time, it was the highest in the world, being nearly 6,000 ft above the sea level. We must recognise here the importance of the action of Mr Paul Springmann in the creation of the golf club.

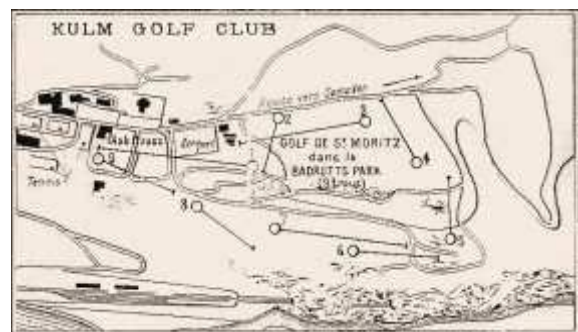


A rare postcard from the turn of the century featuring the Kulm Hotel with a tennis court and one hole of the golf course.

The first championship was held on 18 and 19 August 1893. The Ladies competition was won by Mrs Mosley (with 57 strokes for 9 holes) and the

gentlemen’s competition by Mr Springmann (84 strokes for 18 holes). During the summer season, competitions were regularly organised, as we can read in the *Clifton Society* (29 August 1895): ‘*The weekly handicap took place the other day at the St Moritz golf links, amongst a crowd of spectators, for whose benefit as well as the players, the cup that cheers, without any intoxicating results, was provided in a pavilion by Mrs Holland and Mrs Rutherford*’.

The success of St Moritz GC was so great that during the summer 1895, a practice course (6 short holes) was opened on the ice rink place near the Kulm Hotel.



In 1897, the Kulm GC moved to a different place at Badrutt’s Park.

The *Daily Telegraph* (15 Sept. 1903) wrote: ‘*On the pretty links at St Moritz the championship of the Engadine was decided the other day and resulted in a popular victory for Mr A. H.*

Crosfield, who has now won the trophy which he originally presented to the club on four different occasions'.



A. H. Crosfield was the well-known member of the Royal Liverpool Golf Club (and also St Andrews) who was regularly visiting Cannes. When he was in St Moritz, he was often staying at the Savoy Hotel. He presented a cup to the first Swiss golf club and which would be renamed, in 1905, the *Crosfield Trophy*, and attributed to the amateur champion (gentlemen) of Switzerland; the ladies were competing for the *Lloyd Cup*.

The first professional at St Moritz was John Morris (grandson of old Tom, he was professional at Hoylake during the summer), hired in 1896, but we know that W. Freemantle became then the professional from 1904 until 1917.

After WWI, the golf club reopened in 1922 (9 holes at Kulm and 18 holes at Samaden).

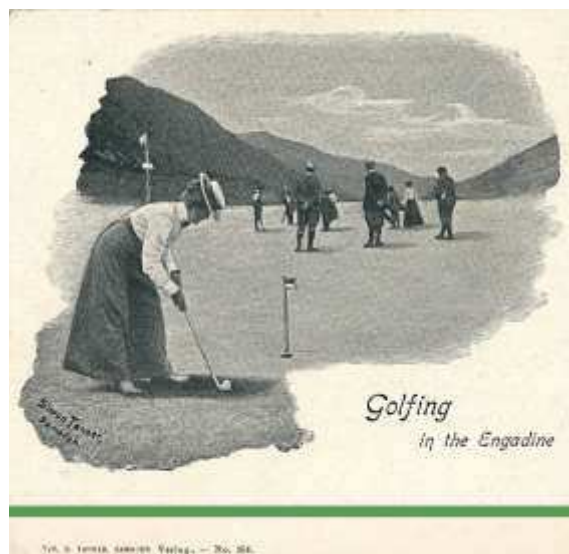
1893 – Engadine GC – Samaden

The newspaper the *Queen*, dated 12 Sept. 1891 informs us that '*Pontresina and Maloja ... a praiseworthy but abortive attempt to start golf*'! So, we had to wait before seeing a second club in Switzerland. Mid June 1893, not far from the first location, the hotel Bermina, at Samaden, opened a 18-hole golf course, three miles long, with holes ranging from 100 to 600 yards that do not cross. The *Field*, 17 June 1893, wrote: '*The links are on sandy soil, covered by short crisp, burn up grass. They are well furnished with bunkers, which are unfortunately not sand pits, but only the broad bed of a nearly dried up stream, which meanders through the ground in a truly convenient manner*'.

The first meeting was held a few weeks later, on August 1st and 2nd, and had a great number of entries and was of great interest to the general public.

¹ *The Field*, 12 August 1893

A 'golfing lunch' followed the competition: 'roast beef in bunkers of Yorkshire pudding' 'mashie prunes' 'oxtail soup à la approach shot' 'caddie cheese' and 'rice milk in casual water.' The ladies' prize was won by Miss E. Saunderson (four ladies entered) and the gentlemen's prize by Mr Paul Springmann (among five), the latter being the Honorary Secretary of the club ... but also the Honorary Secretary of the St Moritz Golf Club! These two clubs, with two courses sharing the same Honorary Secretary. The following meeting was announced¹ for August 24 and 25.



Top and bottom of a very early postcard (c. 1898).

Notice that there were in fact two courses on the same ground: one for men (18 holes) and one for ladies (9 holes). Please refer to the plan of the course on page 2.

In 1896, special conditions were proposed to the members of the St Moritz GC to become members of the Engadine – and vice versa.



A postcard featuring the club-house at Samaden

In 1902, the two courses (Kulm and Samaden) officially merged into one single organisation but one year earlier, the *Field* was already announcing: ‘Monday and Tuesday, Aug. 12 and 13. – At Samaden (St Moritz G.C. Links) Championship of the Engadine’.

In 1904, the Engadine was augmented by a third course: the San Gian Golf Club located at St Moritz Bad, which was lengthened in 1927 by Peter Gannon. It closed with WWII.

In 1904, in the Open Championship of Lucerne (see page 13 in this article), W. Freemantle is listed as the professional at St Moritz ... but as the merger was made two years earlier, he may have been the professional at Samaden as well. In any case, from 1908 to 1910 the professional was C. Callaway who was later replaced by A. Covington (1912-1919).

We cannot omit to report here a few words on the match played between Arnaud Massy and J.H. Taylor on Monday 27 August 1906 at Samaden over 36 holes and ended in a tie – and the purse of £24 was divided. Among the spectators were Prince Albert of Schleswig-Holstein, the Honorary F. G. and Lady Mary Hamilton-Russell, the Marchesa di Rudini and Mr A. H. Crosfield, M.P.

The following summer (July 1907), Massy was back in Samaden, but this time he was accompanying M. Marino Vagliano (both coming from La Boulie), for the summer months.



An early colourised postcard featuring the Samaden GC. Note the American flag.

1894 – Maloja (Maloga)

Although in 1893 some adverts were already referring to this course – possibly in construction, the Maloja GC was most probably opened in July 1894, at a few miles from the two first links, as

announced in the *Queen* of July that year and in the *Golfing Annual*, vol. VII (1894-1895). Curiously the *Golfing Annual*, ignored this club for a few years before it appeared again but with the spelling ‘maloga’.

In 1897, the club had 22 members.



Two early coloured postcards of Maloja.



In August 1900, the course was redesigned by John Morris and after WWI, it was, for a couple of years, extended to 18 holes, but reduced back to 9 holes before disappearing in 1939.

After 1904, the Honorary Secretary was Col. Woodward (who in winter was the Honorary Secretary at Cannes) and the professional Bernard S. Callaway (until 1919) – who during the winter season was also at Cannes!

1898 – Geneva

The very first Geneva golf course was established in 1898. Its existence can be found in the local newspaper (*Le Temps*) and also in *Golfing Annual* vol XIV (1900-1901). It was located at Parc des Sports, aux Charmilles (half a mile west of Geneva – and could be reached by tram). It was described as small but excellently kept.

Its President was Mr Colgate (who regularly funded the club) and Lucien Pictet, the Honorary Secretary and treasurer. The professional, who

designed the course, was A. Covington (during the winter season, he was the professional at Nice). In March 1901, the Vice-President, Louis Roux, presented a positive report after two difficult years. The third annual budget was a balanced one with 150 members listed.



Postcard with the stamp of Ch. Eisenhofer, owner of the Hôtel de Paris and Golf Club.

The same year, on Saturday 19 October 1901, an interclub competition was organised between Geneva and Montreux (recently established). Six players from each club were competing. Singles were played in the morning (Geneva won by 14 holes) and foursomes in the afternoon (Geneva, again, was the winner by 5 holes). In addition, there was also a competition between the two professionals and Cassidy (from Montreux) beat Covington, by two holes.



An interesting medal of the first Geneva GC with the motto of the city of Geneva 'Post Tenebras, Lux' (after darkness, light).

But at the end of 1906, the lease of the ground at Parc des Charmilles, was coming to an end and the club had to move to a new place. Plan-les-Ouates (about 4 miles south-west of Geneva) was chosen: an 18 hole-course was announced but for as far as we know, only nine holes were completed.

We were able to find² that, a new club would be starting on, 1st May 1907. It was supposed to be an

² *Le Temps*, 3 October 1906 – referring to the *Anglo-American Gazette*.

18 hole-course on a land which belonged to eleven different owners and many farmers. On 20 June 1906, an agreement was signed for three years and the club was officially constituted, adopting the bylaws (11 articles), on September 20. A short list of first members was given: MM. Colgate, Oswald Pictet, Ch. Vernet, Achard, de Lessert, Mlle Peyrot ...

During the next six years, the golf was played there but in January 1912, the 'Société des Hôteliers de Genève' was trying to find a better place – we didn't find the reason why they had to move. After two years of research, les Treize-Arbres (on the French side of the border) was suggested – but it was more than 12 miles distance from the city! Finally, nothing was completed by the time WW1 started.

After the war, the situation changed with the arrival of numerous international persons from the League of Nations, the International Labor Office etc. The hoteliers' syndicate resumed its research and its first attempt, at Collex-Bossy (about 7 miles north of the city) – very attractive – was disregarded as too expensive. In July 1922, the Syndicate was still searching and advertising its research in the newspapers. This time a place was found at Onex, only three miles from Geneva. The land was about 10 acres where a nine-hole-course was soon designed and a club-house was planned. In 1923 the club was listing 150 members which was increased to 200 the following year. In 1928 the course was extended to 18 holes (about 5120 yards). Alex Ross was the professional between 1923 and 1939.



The 5th Hole at Onex.

In 1972, the club moved to its current place at Cologny. Its course was designed by Robert Trent Jones (the father), and later redesigned by his son.

1899 – Lake of Thoune

There is only one reference in the newspapers regarding this club in *Journal de Genève*, 3 May 1899, it was reported that the Swiss Military Department offered a piece of land on the *Allmend* to the Tourism Office of Thoune to build a golf course in order to attract British travellers. So, it seems that it was rather a project than a realisation. Nevertheless, the *Golfing Annual* vol XIV (1900-1901) informs us that the club was instituted in 1899 and that the Honorary Secretary was located at Hotel Bellevue, but no name was provided. The season lasted from April until November. On 1st July 1899, the course offered 9 holes and the Honorary Secretary was E. Bilmaier at the hotel Thunerhof ... This information remained unchanged until the last issue of the annual (1909-1910) where the club is no longer listed! The professional could have been T. Freemantle. We have serious doubts that this first trial lasted so long. Despite a long search in various newspapers, we were unable to find any article on this club (except for a short notice in the *Queen* – 21 Oct. 1899 – just mentioning that there is a 18-hole course at Thun!)



A rare RP postcard from the Thoune GC.

After the war, the club was relocated to Einigen and inaugurated on Saturday 19 May 1923 by Mr Cheetham, British ambassador to Switzerland – who made the inaugural ‘drive’. Professionals then opened the course and Alex Ross, from Geneva won the competition (with 119), followed by W. W. Merks (Thoune, 127) and H. B. Roberts (Montreux-Aigle, 135).

The following year, on Saturday 23 August 1924, after a week of local competitions, the club hosted the Swiss Open Championship. The Boomer brothers (from Saint-Cloud, Paris) were present and Percy Boomer won the title, Alex Ross being runner up.

The club closed in 1940 and was resurrected in 2001.

1900 – Montreux



Two early postcards featuring the Montreux GC.



According to the *Golfing Annual* vol XIV (1900-1901), the Montreux GC was established in October 1900 – but we know, more precisely, that it was inaugurated on 27 September 1900. Mr F.M. Govett was the Honorary Secretary of the club, assisted by M. Van de Wall Repelaer, Honorary Dutch Consul. At the opening, there were about 50 members and about 100 people were seated at the inaugural luncheon.

The *Queen* (6 October 1900) reported: ‘*The golf links at present comprise nine holes, though it is hoped shortly to extend them to the regulation eighteen. The soil is light and well drained; bunkers are for the most part artificial, but between greens, in several places, course rough grass and potato patches penalise wild drives and faulty approaches. Some time and much labour are necessary before the greens are deserving of their name. [...] A clubhouse and restaurant will add considerably to the comfort of players, and next spring should see the golf links a popular rendez-vous for visitors in the neighbourhood.*’

W. Entwistle, formerly of Dinard, laid out the links. The holes were varying from 147 to 345 yards (total length 2289 yards, par 33).

Some sources indicate that the course was extended to 18 holes in 1912 but restarted with a 9-hole course after the war. It was re-extended to 18 holes in 1931.

The management of the course was in the hands of the *Société des Divertissements de Montreux et Environs*.



A medal of the Montreux GC, won by J.G. Griffith in 1906 (Bogey competition).

1900 – Zurich



An early postcard of the Zurich G.C. Note the square greens.

Although the club website mentions ‘since 1907’, it must be much earlier. We’ll see later that G. Morton, was professional at the Zurich GC, and played in the Open of Lucerne, in 1904. The *Queen*, 15 June 1901 reported ‘there are also good golf links at the Grand Dolder, Zurich, with a St Andrews pro in attendance’. This professional was James Tabor, as we know³ that ‘for the last three seasons he has had charge the links at Zurich, Switzerland’. Which means that the course must have been instituted in 1900. This date is also

³ From the Dundee courier, 3 April 1903 and Daily Telegraph & Courier (London), 15 September 1903.

confirmed by the *Golfing Annual* 1900-1901, Vol. XIV.

We were able to establish a list of professionals: 1900 – 1903, J. Tabor; 1904 – 1910, G. Morton; 1913 – 1914, E. Carter; 1925 – 1927, F. Phillips; 1927 – 1931, Hugh Williamson.

1901 – Davos

It was sometimes written that a golf course was opened at Davos as soon as 1893. But we were unable to find any serious confirmation of it. Most probably, it opened just after Montreux. The links were situated in the meadows along the Landwasser, between Davos-Platz and Davos-Dorf.



Davos GC – A modern postcard.

1903 – Lucerne



A postcard (posted in August 1905) of the Lucerne course – with a flock of sheep.

In April 1903, Mr James Tabor, a well-known St Andrews professional, was completing a nine-hole course at Lucerne and would remain in charge of it until the end of the season⁴. The club was officially opened on Monday 22 June 1903 and an international competition was announced to take

⁴ Tabor was then supposed to move to Crans-sur-Sierre, Montana, to lay out a new course.

place on September 14 to 16 and for which the prize presentation was presided by Countess Greffhule. At that time, Mr S. Herbert Marsh was the Honorary Secretary of the club.

A few months later, in May 1904, the Grand Duke Michael, President of the Cannes GC, would also become the President of the Lucerne GC, organising a series of tournaments, extending for more than a week, from August 28 to September 2nd, for a number of valuable prizes. A team of amateur players was invited by the Swiss Golf Association (formed in 1902) for a competition which would officially become the Amateur Championship of Switzerland the following year.



Two medals won in 1906

In addition, an open tournament was organised – the ‘real’ first open in Europe, outside the British Isles – in which seven professionals competed. Several amateurs entered the event but, by their request, their scores were not published! For the professionals, in the Qualifying Round, the best returns were⁵:

*‘W.E. Reid (Versailles) 74, 78 = 152
W. Freemantle, St Moritz & Hyères 79, 79 = 158
G. Morton, Zurich & San Remo 85, 78 = 163
B. Callaway, Maloja & Cannes 84, 83 = 167
A. Covington, Geneva & Nice 84, 87 = 171
A. Chevalier, Interlaken, Valescure 92, 79 = 171
J. Tabor, Lucerne & Rome 85, 93 = 178
Reid, Freemantle, Morton and Callaway were the four players who qualified to take part in the Hole Tournament, for prizes of the value of £10, £7, and two of £4 each, and gold, silver, and bronze*

⁵ According to the *London Evening Standard* – 16 September 1904.

medals. In the semi-final, Reid beat Callaway 5 and 3, and Freemantle beat Morton 1 up. The final produced an excellent match. Reid, a brilliant young golfer, drove a very long ball, but Freemantle displayed excellent judgment, and was seen to great advantage in approaching and putting. Freemantle ultimately proved successful by 2 holes up and 1 to play. The golf on both sides was excellent, despite a heavy downpour of rain. Each player accomplished an approximate score of 77. The meeting, which was due to the enterprise the captain of the Lucerne Club, proved great success.’

The following year, the Swiss Open was played at Lucerne again and this time it was A.E. Reid, now attached to the club, who won the tournament. His scores (four rounds of nine holes) were: 38, 39, 37, and 41, total 155, which beat the ‘Bogey’ by nine strokes. Callaway, of Cannes, was second with 168. We must add that two amateurs competed, C. W. Trask, of Bath, finishing fifth, with 174, and A.H. Crosfield, Royal Liverpool Club, sixth, with 177.

After the war, in 1920, the golf club would move to Dietschiberg and in 1925, the golf course was extended to 18 holes.

1904 - Interlaken



An early view of Interlaken and the golf course.

The official opening was celebrated in July 1904 (or end June?), however Chevalier was already engaged as a professional in 1903, possibly supervising the layout of the course, so he represented the club at the Lucerne competition – even before the club was opened!

In 1907 the Championship of the Swiss Golf Association was played there, at the end of

August, at the same time as the Interlaken Golf tournament. In 1909, the International Amateur Championship was hosted by the Interlaken club.

The club was officially closed in 1915 (and would reopen only in 1965) but it seems that a soldier from Muerren was able to play at Interlaken in 1916.

1904 – Ste Croix – Les Rasses

According to the *Golfing Annual* vol XVII (1903-1904) 'there is a course of ten holes in connection with the Grand Hôtel des Rasses. It is laid out on the plateau near the hotel, and there are plenty of natural hazards. The course must be about the highest in Europe.'

Three years later it was presented as an 18 hole-course. After WWI nine holes were opened (Alex Gaud being the professional). It would close with WW2.



1904 – Bad Ragaz

Although the *Queen* dated 15 June 1901 reported that 'there are also small links at Ragaz' we follow the *Golfing Annual* and consider that it was

instituted in 1904. This is confirmed by Garden G. Smith, writing in the *Tatler*, on 11 May 1904 that a golf course has just been opened at Raga(t)z – providing a picture which we reproduce below.



Note that the club website gives the date 1st April 1905, for the official opening.

In 1904 a small booklet was published by the club from which we extracted the drawing of the clubhouse and a plan of the golf course indicating nine holes, while the *Golfing Annual* mentioned only eight holes!



In April 1906, a match-play competition for the *Championship of the Upper Rhine Valley* was played there and resulted with a win by Mr F. A. K. Stuart, of the Royal Portrush Club, who in the final defeated Mr Ganson Depew, of Buffalo,

U.S.A at the 19th hole. Mrs. Bolt won the ladies' competition, Mr. J. M. Chambers the gentlemen's handicap competition, and Miss Branstons and Mr Wright won the mixed foursome.

After the war, the club was reopened in 1922 and redesigned by Donald Harradine in 1929.

The only professional we identified at Ragaz was W. Tunner, around 1937.

1906 – Montana



The *Queen* newspaper suggested that there could have been a golf course in Montana in 1894, but it seems that nothing really started before 1905 when Arnold Lunn, owner of the Palace Hotel, was convinced that a golf course could be established on a land near the hotel ... a land where there were no fewer than 240 tenants⁶!

The design of the 18-hole course was provided by W. Freemantle (professional at Hyères and St Moritz) and Mr C.B. Gedge (from the Fulwell and Cromer GC). It is interesting to notice that even only 9 holes were available to play in the summer 1906 – while the remaining holes were planned to be opened for the next season. The *Field*, dated 11 August 1906, gives a full description of the 18 holes. The interesting thing is that there is not a single made bunker on the course! The professional was Phillips (coming from Aigle, Montreux) who established the first professional record with 34 strokes. At the same period, W.H. Milligan had the amateur record with 35.

The full course, 5306 yards, would be opened in 1907 (official opening on 8 Nov.) and a major competition was then organised. It was won by J.H. Smith with the poor score of 96; but being offered a handicap of 16 he was among the eight best qualified players. The rest of the competition

was by match play, and ... *'beating men with lower handicaps, he won the fine cup held it for a year'*.

In 1907, Callaway was the new professional replaced by W. Est between 1910 and 1919.



After WWI, in 1921, MM. Elysée and Albert Bovin, two hotel-owners, built a 9-hole course for their clients, and in 1924, the Crans-sur-Sierre GC was instituted. Mr René Payot was its first President.

The decision to extend this new course to 18 holes was taken only two years later but we would have to wait until the summer 1929 to achieve the project. The course would be soon revised by Harry Nicholson.



On 1939, the club organised the Swiss Open – which would become, in 1983, the European Masters.

⁶ The *Sportsman* - 19 September 1907

1907 – Axenfels

The *Golfing Annual* 1909-1910, Vol. XXIII and the *London Evening Standard*, 11 June 1908, reported: ‘At the Palace Hotel, all the visitors, with very few exceptions, are English [...] The golf links laid out last year have added considerably to its attractions’.



An early postcard of Axenfels GC featuring the clubhouse and the green-keepers, the professional and a few members.

The golf course had nine holes and the professional might have been G. Roberts. After a competition organised in August 1909, the *Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News* reported the menu of the golf dinner – as follows:

*‘Green Soup,
Filets de Sole à la Mer du Golf,
Selle d’agneau à la Bunker,
Sorbet d’Axenfels,
Choux-fleurs sauce Ecosaise,
Weed Salade de Greens,
Poulardes de Bresse,
Sweets Pastry Clubs
Fruit de Links.*

It was, I believe, very jolly, and the table was decorated with blue and yellow flowers in a stand of golf clubs.’

On Friday 30 August 1912, a professional competition took place at Axenfels, organised by the Swiss and Central Europe Golf Association. ‘W. Freemantle, of St. Moritz, won with 131. B. Callaway, of Maloja, was second with 133, and Carter, of Zurich, third with 134.’



Axenfels GC a general view, after the first World War.

The club reopened after WWI and Arthur Padley was the professional, in about 1925.

1907 – Lac de Joux

The *Golfing Annual*, 1908-1909, Vol. XXII, indicates that the club was instituted in 1907 and was offering a 9-hole course. Some local newspapers (*Le Matin*, June 1907) were advertising for the Grand Hôtel du Lac de Joux emphasizing that a golf course was adjoining the hotel. It is interesting that this club, which is located at the border between Switzerland (about 30 miles north of Geneva) and France is listed in Massy’s book (published in 1911) as a French golf club!



Philately and the Olympic Games Golf in Japan

By Georges Jeanneau



The history of golf in Japan is rather recent, and the success of the sport itself came much later. The first Japanese golf club was founded in Kobe in 1903, on Mount Rokko by an English expatriate, Arthur Hasketh Groom (1848-1918). When inaugurated, it was a nine-hole course, but it was extended to 18 holes one year later.



Arthur H. Groom

As in continental Europe at the beginning of the 20th century, golf was only played by British visitors. We had to wait ten years for the founding of the Tokyo Golf Club: the first Japanese club in Komazawa, near Tokyo. But golf would remain elitist and excluded the Japanese until the 1950s, even if a federation of seven clubs was initiated in 1924. A big change took place in 1957 when two Japanese, Torakichi Nakamura and Koichi Ono, surprised the whole

world by winning the fifth Canada Cup (now the World Cup) at the Kasumigaseki Country Club in Kawagoe. It was a thunderclap! The Japanese soon became passionate about gorufu (golf in Japanese) and the development became phenomenal. Since the 1970s, the number of driving ranges and players in the country boomed. Today the Japanese federation lists 2400 courses in the country (almost equal to Germany, in size) and more than 13 million of players – just less than in the U.S.A. – for a population of 126 million.

Philately was in its golden age in the 1950s, and the Japanese issued several stamps depicting Japanese national golf courses. Among them, in November 1953, a five-yen stamp bearing the caption “Mount Unzen from the golf course”. Strictly speaking, it is not a golf stamp but it remains the first stamp illustrating this theme.



Since then, golf has been featured on many Japanese stamps. Perhaps, we'll see a Japanese stamp related to golf in 2020? That is possible, because golf is again in the Olympic program in 2020 after its reintegration in 2016 in Rio. The same format is retained, a four day, 72 holes stroke play competition for 60 men and then 60 ladies. The event will take place at the Kasumigaseki Country Club, about sixty

kilometres from Tokyo, on the same course opened in 1929 which hosted the Canada Cup in 1957.

It is a very posh and exclusive club (in Japan, golf is still a sport of wealthy people and in this club the daily green fees are about 300 euros), also very male chauvinist, but under the pressure of the IOC the club by now has allowed women to become members.

The Olympic Games will take place August 5 to 8, on the East course, which has been extended to 7,466 yards, with a fifth hole of 640 yards. The West course will be available for practice.

The great Japanese champion, Tsuneyuki 'Tonny' Nakajima, (56 victories in the world, 48 victories on the Japan Tour, he finished in the top 10 in each of the four majors in the 1980s) spoke a few months ago about golf at the Olympic Games: 'I'm frustrated because now that I think about it, I would have liked to participate in the Olympic Games when I was younger,' he said, adding that 'golf was not highlighted in Rio', ending by saying, 'I believe that the true value of golf as an Olympic event will be judged after Tokyo.'

Let us see.

Note. By the time of publishing this article, the Tokyo Olympics have been postponed to 2021.



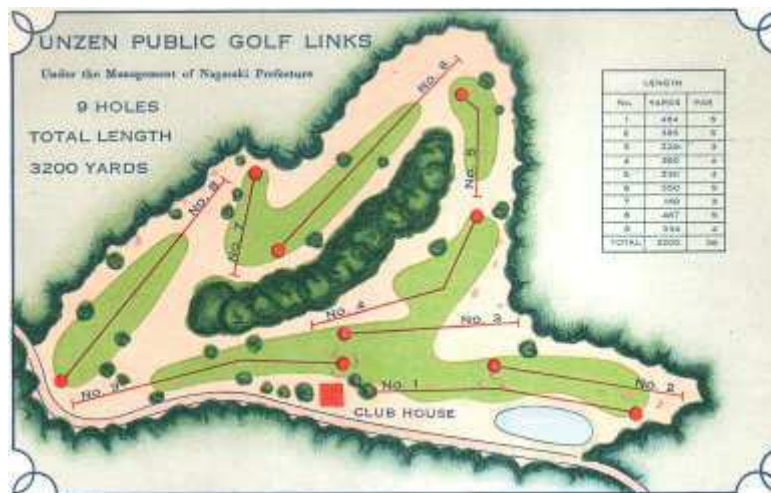
Venue of the next golf competition in the Olympic Games in Japan.



Torakichi Nakamura and Koichi Ono winning the Canada Cup in 1953



Rare commemorative envelope.



The Unzen golf course



Mt Miyoken from the Unzen golf links



National Park, Unzen – Playing Golf



View of Unzen Golf Course in the Distance



Unzen Park GC



Golf Links Unzen Nagasaki-Ken



A view of the golf links

CONFESSIONS OF A GOLF COLLECTOR OF ADVANCED AGE

By Czeslaw Kruk



Czeslaw Kruk with Archie Baird in his shop at Gullane, during Aug. 2014

I believe I was born a collector because, as long as I remember, I have kept things I found or was given. Twenty years ago, I began collecting golf memorabilia. I bought my first golf book, *British Golf links* by H. Hutchinson, then *The Golf book of East Lothian* by rev. John Kerr; next was Henry Cotton's: *This game of golf*.

Soon I needed a bigger bookcase with books slowly arriving as I started playing hickory golf and became a member of BGCS and then EAGHC.



Naturally collecting hickory golf clubs followed as they have such history and natural individual beauty in comparison to modern clubs. My collection started with simple inexpensive putters, then came niblicks, mashies, spoons, brassies and the more special long-noses putters or drivers dating from 1870-80.

I was keen to increase my knowledge during meetings with other collectors and lectures organized by David Hamilton, Archie Baird (who sadly passed away while I was writing this text), David Kirkwood, Philip Knowles, John Hanna or JB Kazmierczak at different golf clubs or places such as Royal Burgess, the R&A Museum, Royal Black Heath, Muirfield; discovering private collections enabling me to feel like a proper golf collector.

At one point I had over 300 golf clubs and an equal number of books in the flat and so a storage became a problem. I decided to utilise over the enclosed terrace.



On 8 April 2018, for no special reason I lit some candles (left over from a birthday celebration) among the plants then went into the kitchen to make a cup of tea.

The rest is history!

My wife's opinion is that collecting is a similar disease to playing golf so I should perhaps now accept the inevitability of advanced years!

The morale of this is that collection of wooden golf clubs, golf pictures, postcards, books ... does not mix with matches!



*After the fire – All burnt.
Below: damaged irons*



Fact-finding on ‘Jeu de Mail’ (Pall Mall): Marseille

By Sara Nijs



Much is written about *jeu de mail* in France, especially about the cross-country game as played in Montpellier until the Second World War. All over France, there are some three hundred indications where the game could have been played on laid out alleys in castle gardens and in towns and villages, as well as the cross-country variant. In Marseille, there were two public mail alleys, a small one and a large one, initially both outside the city walls.

The small *jeu de mail* was installed at the beginning of the 17th century. The course was bounded at the north side by what is long since La Canebière. The course had a length of 175 metres and a width of 27 metres, where the players started on the east side and from the side of the harbour, they played back to the starting point to have a 350 metres course. [1]



Detail of the city of Marseille in 1642. The arrow points to the Porte Royale and the small *jeu de mail* is partly hidden by the index. – Drawing of Jacques Maretz ‘Histoire de la ville de Marseille’ by Antoine de Ruffi, 1642 – www.edition-originale.com

In 1622, King Louis XIII visited Marseille. The Communal Archives of Marseille have a manuscript in which this visit is described: *‘Ils sortirent par la porte Royale à cause de la presse du peuple, joint la compagnie du sieur de Cabries qui estoit encore au chemin de la Tuilliere, passèrent du côté du jeu de mail et à l’autre chemin tirant au Roet pour se rendre à*

ladite plaine Saint Michel, en laquelle ne furent pas plustost arrivés que voila le train du Roy.’ [2]

The whole town had turned out, which is the reason why the reception committee, being delayed, left the town via de Porte Royale to go along the *jeu de mail* to the so-called St Michel Plain where they arrived almost at the same moment as the king and his entourage.



Detail of a drawing, probably made just before the Arsenal des Galères was built in 1665. At the bottom left the *jeu de mail* with, at the side of the harbour, its turning point. [3]

On a painting, dated 1666, one can see a player on the small *jeu de mail*. The painting is property of the Musée de la Marine of the Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie Marseille Provence (CCIMP) and alas, when visiting the museum, the picture was not on exposition but stocked 'somewhere' in the building. The painting is in a very bad condition, as one can see in the image the CCIMP was kind enough to provide.

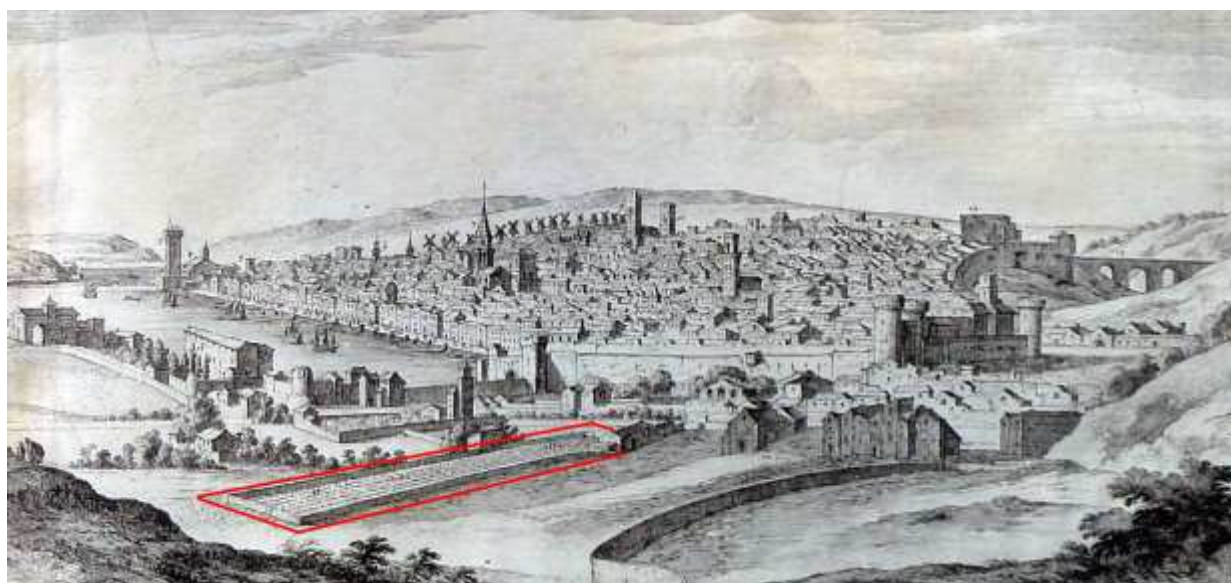
After the town extension from 1666, the family Vellin who owned the course, wanted to replace it by a street to connect the Arsenal with the new laid out course, but the plan was not carried out.



Already in 1693, or even earlier, the course was no longer used for *jeu de mail* since in that year the brothers Gautier leased the ground for nine years and built an opera on it. [4]



On the left the 'Port de Marseille et l'Arsenal des Galères', attribué à Jean-Baptiste de la Rose, 1666. In the detail (see above) in the middle on the left, behind the wall, a mail player is about to make the turn back to the starting point of the small *jeu de mail*. On the other side of the wall labourers construct the Arsenal des Galères. This is so far the oldest painting of a mail player I have come across. - © CCIMP



When Silvestre drew this plan of Marseille, the great *jeu de mail* (red outlines) was still outside the city walls, although one can see that the town is beginning to extend, and the first buildings appear on the plains. It looks as if there was already a gatehouse at the entrance of the mail court. According to Marc Bouiron (1), the mail course could be situated along today's Rue de Rome. – Detail of 'Marseille', drawing Israël Silvestre, engraving Pêrille, between 1640-1653 – By courtesy of <https://israel.silvestre.fr> – 'Israël Silvestre et ses descendants'.

I did not find any information as to when the great *jeu de mail*, or simply the *jeu de mail*, was founded.

In 1636, the course was leased out to Marc Antoine Rousson [1]. He was probably responsible for the maintenance of the course, collecting the 'green fees' and the money for the

hiring out of the clubs and balls, storing and repairing the equipment and collecting the fines. And perhaps, he exploited a wine-house as well. In the city plan of Israël Silvestre (see picture previous page), the *jeu de mail* is clearly visible. Silvestre drew this plan somewhere between 1640 and 1653, the period in which he made three journeys to Italy before he settled in Paris.

In 1678, more than a third of the course was incorporated in the extension of the Rue de Rome [1].

During the Great Plague of 1720-1722, the name '*jeu de mail*' turns up again. The capacity of the existing sickbays was far too insufficient to admit all the sick people, who thus ended up in the streets. The need for straw and tent-cloth was so great, that many even did not have this comfort.

The town council chose the *jeu de mail* alleys to build a new hospital because of its dimensions and its location outside the town centre. Moreover, at the entrance of the mail course was a large house, probably the gatehouse or perhaps even the wine house, which had all the facilities needed. For the emergency, the hospital was constructed from a wooden frame, covered with tent-cloth. Due to lack of materials and manpower (healthy people had fled the town) and great expenses, a sickbay was in the process of being built when a strong northern wind demolished the whole construction which then had to be rebuilt [5, 6, 7].



Detail of the city plan after the plague with (in red) the former jeux de mails. The 'grand jeu de mail' (great jeu de mail) went up to the Porte de Rome. If this course still existed in 1743, I do not know. The 'petit jeu de mail' (the small one), bordered by La

Canebière, has been replaced by the opera which still existed in 1743. – Joseph Razaud, 1743 – <https://journals.openedition.org/liame/262>

Finally, in mid 1722, the town was declared clean of the disease. In the evening of July 24, the city celebrates the aldermen and members of the health council, all of them carrying a flambeau in their hands, heading the cortege which followed the musicians: two trumpets, violins and the oboe playing in turn, while Pouget, the palemardier (club and ball maker), showed up with his 'chevalet' (little horse) and while two dancers danced around the horse, the armourer started to sing the song of the 'Danse du chevalet' [8], a custom in the South of France when there was really something to celebrate [9].

The fact that there was still a clubmaker in town, makes it likely that the great *jeu de mail* still was in use until 1720.

I did not find any proofs that the game was played again after 1722.

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Short Introduction to Bad Salzbrunn now Szczawno-Zdrój

Christoph Meister



This short text is an extract from a text initially published in Golf's Missing Links, a website managed by John Llewellyn (golfsmissinglinks.co.uk). It is more an appetizer for our members who would like to join our next AGM in Poland rather than a complete history of the place. One full day will be spent in Szczawno-Zdrój, half an hour from Bzrezno and we wish to make our members eager to come and visit the place.

Golf arrived in Silesia in 1924 when a Hans Heinrich Prince von Pless zu Fürstenstein together with his English wife Daisy Cornwallis-West initiated the construction of a golf course at Bad Salzbrunn (today: Szczawno Zdrój). William J. Rusack from the famous Rusacks Hotel overlooking the Old Course at St Andrews was commissioned to design Germany's first 18-hole golf course built after World War I. After the first season some weaknesses of the new course became apparent. Some holes underwent renovation work, while other holes were lengthened using additional farmland.

Twenty-two professional players, many of them British, competed for the first Silesian Open Prize in 1925. The German Closed Championship was also played in Bad Salzbrunn that year. It was Bernhard von Limburger who won his third Germany Close Championship title. Also, the following two German Closed Championships were played at Bad Salzbrunn in 1926 and 1927.

During this time Bad Salzbrunn also saw two of the greatest continental women players competing for the German Closed Championship title, which was played in match play. In 1925 scratch player Erika Sellschopp from Reinbek golf club won 5 up with 4 holes to play against the great Hungarian amateur scratch player Erszebet von Szlavy, who took revenge in the 1926 championship by winning 3/2 against Erika.

Between 1924 and 1929 there was only a golf course without golf club at Bad Salzbrunn. The club itself was founded in 1929 five years after the official opening of the Salzbrunn golf course. In 1931 the golf club had 61 members, a number that remained almost unchanged during the 1930s.

This rather low membership proves that in the beginning the course was mainly used by spa guests and tourists. It took some time until locals found it necessary to set up a golf club, which was not the owner of the golf course. An officially recognized club was necessary in order for handicaps to be issued by the national golf union and accepted by their other member clubs. During the late 1930s the former 'Golfhotel Schlesischer Hof' was renamed 'Staatliches Kurhotel' only to be renamed again 'Sanatorium IA' after Bad Salzbrunn (now called Szczawno Zdrój) became part of Poland.



A few pictures of the golf course (circa 1930)



Bad Salzbrunn, Green 7 (Postcard)



Bad Salzbrunn, Green 13 (PC)



A view on the lake at Bad Salzbrunn (PC)



Possibly on the last green (PC)



The club-house (Album)



The Golf-Hotel (Album)

**The Next EAGHC Meeting
17 to 19 Sept. 2020
Brzezno, Poland**



This year, our Annual General Meeting will be held in Poland. Following the suggestion from younger members, a weekend day will be included in the programme. The 2020 AGM will start on Thursday 17 September and finish on Saturday 19, with the European Hickory Invitational Tournament. A great many thanks to one of our members: Czesław Kruk, who as a long time loyal member diligently prepared the meeting, and to Mrs Gradecka, the General Manager of the Spa and Golf club where the meeting will be hosted.



As you can see on the map above, the Spa & Golf Club is located at Brzezno, in South West Poland, 45 km north of Wrocław (one hour by car). Both the place and the golf course are exceptional as we can see on these two photos.



The main building.

Many of us will probably be arriving on Wednesday 16 evening for an informal dinner; but the official meeting will start on Thursday 17 with our trading/exchange session (if you have old items, hickory clubs, balls, postcards ... you will certainly find somebody interested in them). The afternoon will be dedicated to lectures.

On Friday, we'll travel by car to Szczawno-Zdroj (previously called Bad Salzbrunn). There was a golf course whose holes can still be discerned. The old club house is still there as well as the hotel. We will present lectures there – with the local historian – and visit the site.

On Saturday, we shall start with the EAGHC Hickory Invitational. In the afternoon we'll continue with the AGM and, after a short break, we'll have our gala dinner (with prize giving).

Thanks are due to the organisers, and especially to Czesław Kruk and Mrs Gradecka.



And do not forget to find some time for the spa.

Golf in Luxembourg before WWII

By JBK (*Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak*)



Nowadays there are five golf clubs in Luxembourg – but for a long time there was only one: the *Golf Club Grand Ducal*. The importance of the club is even greater if we keep in mind that soon after its establishment, it was the place where the *European Golf Association* was formed. This is why, in this paper we wish to keep these two aspects together.

At the origin of the club was the *Société Immobilière du Golf S.A.*, founded on 27 November 1934 and the Board was headed by His Royal Highness Prince Félix of Luxembourg, other members being Messrs Jérôme Anders, Gaston Barbanson, Max Lambert, Albert Philippe, François Simon, Paul Simons, Georges Tesch et Camille Wolff. The land for the course was donated by the Grand Duchess Charlotte. Mr Henri Pouillat, from the Biarritz GC was nominated as *Directeur du Golf*.

Major J.C. Symonds designed the course which was ready for play mid-1936. However, informal golf had started in 1935. The club itself, under the name *Association Sportive du Golf Grand-Ducal*, was created on 18 April 1936. Two months later the Grand Duchess gave permission to the Golf Club to display in the club emblem: orange and blue.



Prince Félix's inaugural drive on 13 June 1936. The man with his hand on the ball tube is Gaston Barbanson, the President of the Club (postcard from a series of 10 – see pages 31-32).

The opening was celebrated on 13 June 1936 followed by an inaugural competition. The results were reported in *Le Figaro* (20 June 1936):

The mixed foursome started with 18 holes medal play: 1st Miss E. Wilson – E. R. Tripple (Great Britain), 83; 2nd Mrs E. Sellschopp – C. A. Hellmers (Germany), 86; 3rd Miss F. Tollon – vicomte de Saint-Sauveur (France), 87; 4th Mrs Buma - A. Calkoen v. Limmen (Holland), 90; 5th Mlle de Thomaz - de Meulemeester (Belgium), 92.

It was followed by a match play competition where Great Britain won over Germany 4 & 2 and France beat Holland by 5 & 4. The final result was: 1. Great Britain, 2 Germany, 3 France.

The ladies's inaugural competition: 1st Miss de Thomaz (7), 77; 2nd Mrs A. Brugelmann (18), 80; 3rd Mrs A. Rothlisberger (22), 80; 4th Miss Enid Wilson (scr.), 82.

The gentlemen's competition: 1st P. Strassmann (12), 75; 2nd Count Walewski (15), 75; 3rd J. de Meulemeester (5), 75; 4th C. Van der Straeten (6), 76; 5th Baron de Posson (18), 76; 6th E. R. Tipple (scr.), 78; 7th A. Calkoen v. Limmen (4), 79; 8th de Saint-Sauveur (4), 80; 9th L. de Hemptinne (13), 86; 10th Pierre Peltzer (12), 81; 11th M. Wilenstein (5), 81.

The following year (Aug. 1937) the first International Championship of Luxembourg was played. It seems that mainly local players were present, with a few players coming from Belgium and the Netherlands.

Miss Demise Oury won the ladies competition with 163 strokes, followed by Miss Thérèse Toussaint (164) and Mrs W. Schniewind (173). For the gentlemen, the winner was J. Westhofen, 311, followed by P. Vanderschueren, 325 and R. Quilter, 328.

In August 1938, it seems that only the men's amateur competition was played. It was a match play. In the semi-final, M. Wellenstein b. J. Westhofen by 2 & 1 and Karl Antzen b. D. Wrigley. In the final K. Antzen won over M. Wellenstein by 3 & 2.

With regards to the year 1938, we have an interesting paper by Henry Cotton, presented at the end of this text.

We were unable to find any trace of the first two editions of the International Amateur Championship of Luxembourg but the third edition was reported in *Le Figaro*, in August 1939. It was the first time a French team was participating. The competition took place on 6, 7 and 8 of August at the GCGD. Four French players were present: Mrs André Strauss (Saint-Cloud Country Club), Miss Lally Vagliano (Morfontaine), Mlle Cécile de Rothschild (Morfontaine) and Viscount J. de Saint-Sauveur (Morfontaine).

The results were:

Men. – Semi-final: J. Wittouck b. R. D. Wrigley, 1 up (at the 21st); J. de Saint-Sauveur b. R. Quilter, 5 & 4. Final: J. de Saint-Sauveur b. J. Wittouck, 1 up, (at the 40th)

Ladies. – Semi-final: Mrs André Strauss b. Miss Denise Oury, 2 & 1; Miss Lally Vagliano b. Miss Beyril Dawson, 3 & 1.

Final: Mrs A. Strauss b. Miss L. Vagliano, 3 & 2.



From left to right: Mr Gaston Barbanson (captain of the club), viscount J. de Saint-Sauveur, Miss Lally Vagliano, Mrs André Strauss, Mr Jean Wittouck.

The real estate company and the club were dissolved in 1942. The first nine holes were

spared, the back nine were destroyed by the manoeuvres of the Allied forces. The course was fully restored in 1948.

Thanks are due to Mrs Christiane Liesch and the Club Grand Ducal who kindly shared information with us with a booklet edited for the 70 years of the club (1936-2006).

The text below is reprinted from *Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News*, 26 August 1938.

Henry Cotton on Golf My Visit to Luxembourg

‘Like many of you, I am delighted to add to my list of courses that I have played on and I like to travel abroad to add to my list of golfing countries visited, and to-day I write from Luxembourg.

I arranged to play a game on the new course at Luxembourg with a friend of mine, Mr Marcel Wellenstein, the present Captain of the Waterloo Golf Club (in Brussels) and a Luxembourger – the best player born in Luxembourg. I do not know what sort of golf course the golfer expects to find on the Continent, or for that matter in Luxembourg, but speaking in a general way every course is a good one on this side of the Channel and most of them are very good. The course at Luxembourg is no exception, well designed and with excellent greens – considering they were only sown in 1935 they are remarkable. The course is situated at an altitude of 1,200 feet. This does not seem much of a height, but I cannot think of a course in England that is as high. It is high enough for wisps of cloud often to hang about in the clumps of pines in the woods around the course. There is only this one golf course in the town of Luxembourg – in fact, in the whole State, for the town has only some 50,000 inhabitants, the club 400 members. Alas! only a fourth of that number, as yet, can be considered as playing members.

Golf in this picturesque old town is quite a new sport, but the support the founders of the club have received is very encouraging. The standard of play is as yet low, the 5 handicap of Monsieur Wellenstein being the lowest in the club, and of the rest, except for an odd name or two, we jump to double figures. This, I know will not be so in a few years' time.

Harry Burrows, the English professional at the club, told me this story, a true one, of the Luxemburger who said he wanted to learn golf and was told to place himself in the hands of the professional. This he did, but being an inapt

pupil, he had five lessons swinging without a ball, trying to learn the rhythm of the swing. He had made a little progress and so after a few minutes of the sixth lesson Burrows decided to let him have a try at a ball; so he teed up the ball and to his astonishment his pupil asked, 'What is that for?'

I saw a picture in the clubhouse, taken last October on the front steps of the clubhouse, of the wild boar shot on the course in a big hunt, which I think must be unique. I should feel proud if I played at a course where wild boar could be counted as part of the local 'hunnable material.' I was assured, on inquiry, that they are harmless, unless angered by having been hit by a bullet – a justifiable reason for getting cross.

I was impressed by the car park at the club and enclose a photo of the way the cars are parked and the solid pergola that covers the space and provides divisions – an idea to copy. Like most continental clubhouses, the clubhouse is bright, well designed and equipped, and it is set in a garden—with a putting lawn and lots of flower beds and outside seats, to say nothing of a huge terrace of paving stones.

There is no point in showing a photo of a particular hole or holes, because these photos, to me, seem much the same, but some of the holes are fine-looking ones and quite difficult to play.

There is a practice ground complete with practice bunker – quite a good idea, too, as it stops the greens getting covered with quantities of unwanted sand when players are practising.

In this small country you find the game – a new one to them, for all except a very few members have started golf following the foundation of the club – being taken seriously and being followed keenly by everybody. All the members of the Royal Family take a great interest in the club and the game.

I only had a chance to play one round on the course as it rained during the rest of the time I was there, but I always think it speaks well for the design of a course when, after a round, you can remember every hole easily. On some courses the holes are often so much alike it is not possible to remember every hole without something to refresh the memory.

When these new countries take up golf – not new in years, for Luxembourg is a very old State, but new in the game – they do so with a thoroughness which is surprising. They organise the competitive side of the club perfectly, and already the club has as many golf trophies to compete for as they can fit in the calendar. To golfing tourists, I can recommend a visit to the Luxembourg Golf Club in every way.'



*A series of 10 postcards sold in an envelope.
The first one is featured above.*



Green n°1.



Hole 4



Green n°6



Green n°11



Green n°16



Club-House



Club-House



Living-Room



In the Club-House

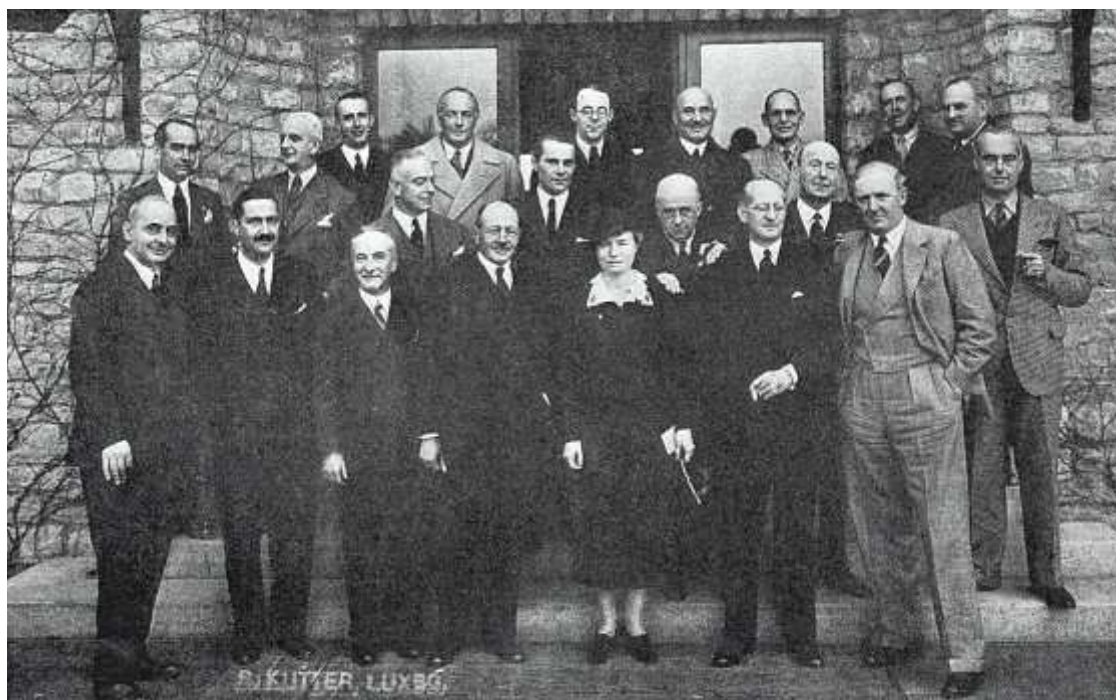


Left: A flyer edited by the Tourist Office to promote the Luxembourg Golf Course, which could be accessed easily by air. The airport is only at a short distance from the Grand Ducal Golf Club.

Bottom right: A rare 1940 card-member.



The European Golf Association



*Delegates who took part in the foundation of the **European Golf Association**, Luxembourg, 20 November 1937. From left to right and from bottom to top: First row: Signor M. Piovano (Italy); Mr Cirillo (Pres., Italy); H. van Halteren (Hon. Sec., Belgium); Gaston Barbanson (Capt., Luxembourg); Mrs Nora Zahn (Sec., Germany); Max Lambert (Pres., Luxembourg); Major P.-C. Burton (Pres., England). Second row: Baron Bela Kutschera (Vice-Pres., Austria); Robert Cramer (Pres., Switzerland); Ph. Gee (England); Miroslav Svestka (Vice-Pres., Czechoslovakia); A.-W. Lavarack (Sec., England); Jhr. Snouck Hurgronje (Pres., Netherlands); Cyril J.-H. Tolley (England). Third row: Cl. van der Straeten (Belgium); Herr Karl Henkell (Pres., Germany); J. Charvat (Sec., Czechoslovakia); Duc de Mouchy (Pres., France); D. Lauber (Capt. Hungary); G. F. Roberts (England); G.-M. del Court van Krimpen (Sec., Netherlands).*

Soon after the Luxembourg GC was opened, the idea of a European Golf Association came up for discussion as we can read in the *Aberdeen Press and Journal*, dated 17 Nov. 1936 that 'A proposal to form a European Golf Federation was unanimously adopted at a meeting in Luxembourg attended by delegates from England, France, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Italy, Holland, Belgium, Switzerland, Hungary, Austria, Sweden and Luxembourg. Prince Félix of Luxembourg was chairman.

The Federation, according to the draft constitution, will abide by the rules of the game as laid down by the Royal and Ancient Club at St Andrews, but will in no way concern itself with the domestic affairs of the various national unions. The immediate object of the proposed body, which will be modelled as far as possible on the methods adopted in Great Britain, will be the arrangement of a dates calendar order to avoid clashing of important events.'

But if nowadays it seems a good and natural suggestion, Henry Longhurst, in the *Tatler* (6 January, 1937), even if he was not a strong opponent to such an idea, reported that it 'appears to have stirred up a hornets' nest [...] Writers in *Golf Illustrated*, however, editorially and otherwise, have found a great many more objections than mine. Their criticisms, as I gather, are levelled under the following heads: (1) the Federation might cost the British golfer something and even if the cost is measured in farthings, it is that much too much (2) it is none of our business to encourage golf not only nationally but internationally, as well as to develop friendly relations between the players of all countries (3) that the proposed Federation may be the same that was mooted some time ago when the object was to establish a World's Championship to supersede in importance the British and American Championships a direct and intolerable challenge to St Andrews (4) that nobody wants a European Dates Calendar.'

Hopefully, two English Golf Union members, Major Percy Burton (President) and Major A. Whitley Lavarrack (Secretary) who attended this preliminary meeting were stronger supporters and they defended this initial idea. They certainly did well as on 20 November 1937, the European Federation of Golf was created. Thirteen countries were present and elected their Board: Prince Félix de Luxembourg, Honorary President; Major P. C. Burton (England), President; Mr Karl Henkel (Germany), Vice-President; Major A. W. Lavarack (England), Honorary Secretary.

The main goals of this new Federation were to help the development of golf on the Continent, to strengthen links between existing federations, to encourage the creation of new federations and, if necessary, to set up international golf meetings – and publish a calendar for all European golfers, amateurs and professionals.

Nevertheless, the opposition was not finished and the *Sketch* (2 March 1938), under the signature of a certain courageous ‘Sandy Bunker’, wrote a paper entitled ‘*Golf’s Dictators*’ presenting the continental players as stupid enough, ‘*certain members of the club complained that the two, or sometimes more than two, holes at each green on the course were confusing. It had to be explained to these golfers that the holes to which they referred were actually the bunkers round the greens, and not the hole at which they must putt they had been playing for the bunkers guarding the greens!*’

We hope that nowadays, ‘*Golf has indeed made much progress on the Continent since the days when I was concerned in a surprising incident during the final of the Open Amateur Championship of France on a course near Paris. Two famous amateur golfers, who have been Champions of Britain and America, were competing in this final, and, apart from the caddies, I was the solitary spectator of the first eighteen holes during the morning. We came to the ninth hole, near the club-house, and here a stymie was laid – or was it a stymie? Measuring with the score-card proving useless, we searched for halfpennies, hoping that we could measure six inches with six of these coins; but no. I suggested tossing a coin to decide it, but the players put the onus on me instead. ‘We agree to any thing you say,’ they declared, ‘is it a stymie or not?’ I confess I took the line of least resistance I was doubtful, and said ‘No.’*

Everybody but I was satisfied, so I went to the club-house and asked that a referee should be sent out with the match. The President of the club expressed amazement; he raised his hands in horror, exclaiming ‘What, send out a referee now, and déjeuner is just being served?’ There was no reply to that, so I rejoined the two world-famous players and watched the final round of the Open Amateur Championship of France alone.’ The following year, Major McBurton was reelected President and Karl Henkel (Wiesbaden) Vice-President. It was announced that the German Open Championship will be played from August 14 to 20 ...

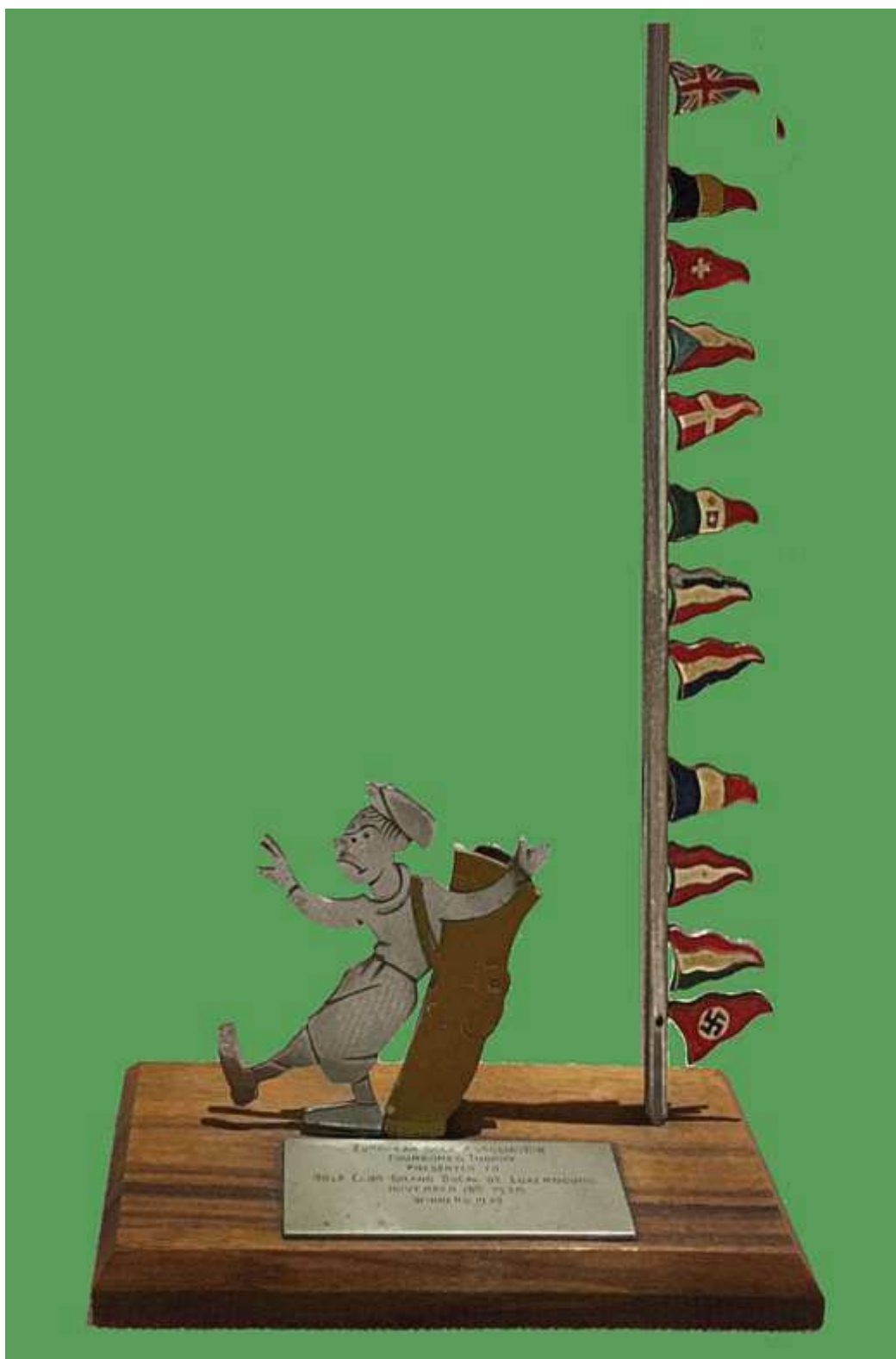
We know the story.

After the war, the EGA would have get its headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland.



The second EAG meeting in Luxembourg (Nov. 1938). See next page a similar trophy (flags).





*European Golf Association Foursome Trophy presented to
GOLF CLUB GRAND DUCAL DE LUXEMBOURG
November 12th, 1939 – Winners 1939*

(with the kind authorisation of Patrick Massion)