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Two postcards from the turn of the XXth century. The one above is advertising the Hotel de France, owned by J. Peyrafitte who rebuilt the Argeles Golf-Club in a new place (see below) after it's extinction in Ger.



golfika



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The front cover of Golfika Magazine n°14 represents the inaugural match for the opening of the 18 holes extension at The Hague, 24 May 1924, by Massy, van Dick, Gassiat and Del Court van Krimpen. This view has been painted by our friend and member Viktor Cleve who, again, is so kindly and so regularly designing the cover of our magazine. A very warm thankful.

You can see more of Viktor's work on www.cleve-golfart.com

Illustration credit: Authors' collections & Golfika.

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.

The price of this magazine (two issues per year) is included in the EAGHC annual membership of €25.00 p.a. The magazine can be sold to non-members of the EAGHC at €10.00 + postage & packing.

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We welcome new members – you will find all necessary information on how to join our association on www.golfika.com

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President's letter

By JBK (Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak)



Dear Fellow EAGHC Members,

When you'll be reading these words, it will be time to declare open the 9th AGM of our Association, held this year at The Royal Hague Golf and Country Club. First, we want to thank very warmly Mr Coks Bosman, president of the club as well as Mr Willem Röell, manager.

Some special words must be dedicated to Robin Bargman. Not only was he significantly helping us to prepare this event, but he took also an active help in offering us two important articles for *Golfika-Magazine* related with the event. The first one was published earlier this year, in our Spring Issue. You'll find a second one – more oriented to The Hague GC in this current issue.

In July, the French supporters were especially watching Victor Dubuisson in The Open at Hoylake. He finished well, tied 9th, but could not repeat Massy's feat in this place (in 1907). Taking advantage of this good performance, *The Scotsman* reminded their readers that last year the EAGHC re-erected Massy's burial stone. The newspaper dedicated half a page to this event. It was also noted that this action is now copied by others! And other forgotten burial places of great golfers are re-celebrated.

The Ryder Cup will be in action a few days later and Bill Anderson reminded us that a USA vs. Europe¹ event was already played in 1953. This event took place in France, at the Saint-Cloud Golf Club near Paris (where we our AGM received a very warm welcome in 2011).

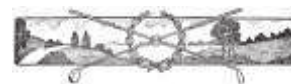
It must be also noted that, since the last year meeting, Stéphan Filanovitch, in addition to the edition of this magazine, offered to manage also our web-site. His first action was to put on-line the covers and the summaries of all past issues of *Golfika-Magazine*. PDF files can be provided on demand, but only to EAGHC members. If you have any information to pass to other members, please think of our web-site; it is an excellent media, very well-known and very well visited.

We were close to send this issue to our printer when we got an unexpected message from John Lowell (or John Scarth, his writers' name) telling us that we should receive a parcel from Ross Baker, Australia.

Ross started making and repairing clubs when he was 16 as he soon got a passion for early clubs and how they were made. After 25 years he decided to return to where it started: "traditional club making", using only tools and material similar to what was used in the 1800's.

So, we received a fantastic present from Ross: "The President's putter". It is an extremely nice long-nose putter with a head of hawthorn wood and a shaft of eucalyptus regnans. The head is engraved EAGHC President's Putter and the club will be passed from one president to the next elected one.

We have not enough space left in this issue to include more information, but in the next one we'll dedicate a paper to this very kind present.



¹ After a USA-France first match in 1913 played at La Boulie (Paris).

Editor's Corner

By Stéphan Filanovitch



Dear Members,

Welcome to your 14 th Golfika Magazine.

As you'll see, it's another exciting issue, with lots of various subjects. First, Jack Newton's article is captivating: a triumph over a tragedy. I want to give special thank to Jack for the kind letter he send us, and of course, congratulate him for his incredible life with golf.

I would like to take the opportunity of these lines, to introduce our next AGM at The Hague. I already know it will be a great one on this famous course – and even more famous club. So, I'm sure you will appreciate the Robin Bargmann 's paper, an excellent introduction to discover The Haagsche CG.

With the close Ryder Cup in Scotland, at Gleneagles, you will enjoy the prequel of this Cup. And that it is the third event in world to be followed. And of course, I support our team, aren't we a European Association?

To conclude, I would like to congratulate JBK for his rich deserved medal; thank you Mister President for your great work on golf history and with the EAGHC.

Again, my best wishes for our next annual meeting in The Netherlands !

Finally, please keep in mind that we are always looking for new articles, please email to : editor@golfika.com

The EAGHC European Hickory Championship 2014



**British Golf Collectors' Society Annual General Meeting
Royal Liverpool Golf Club**

JBK is awarded the President's Medal

By Cecilia Lyon, EAGHC & BGCS member



The Annual General Meeting of the British Golf Collectors Society was held in April 2014 at the famous Royal Liverpool Golf Club. The President's Day competition (hickory and modern clubs) was played on the course with the routing that was used for the Open Championship in July, where the usual 16th hole becomes the 18th hole during the Open providing the perfect television background with the iconic club house.

Our European Golf Historians and Collectors Association has been highly spoken of at the meeting thanks to the achievements of our president Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak. Philip Truett, the President of the British Golf Collectors Society awarded Jean-Bernard with the President's Medal, rewarding JBK (who has been a member of the BGCS since 1998) for his outstanding contributions to the Through the Green magazine of the BGCS.



In 2013, JBK published in Through the Green a series of four articles covering Arnaud Massy's iconography related to French and British postcards, other images (non-postcard related) and Massy memorabilia.

Needless to remind you that these articles crown Jean-Bernard previous year's achievement of having located and organized the restoration of Arnaud Massy's tomb in Edinburgh.

And so, 107 years after Massy won the Open Championship at Royal Liverpool Golf Club, another Frenchman receives a well deserved award in Hoylake.

For those who know JBK, they will all agree that one of his many qualities is his modesty, therefore I had to request this space in our magazine to inform our members of JBK's achievement.

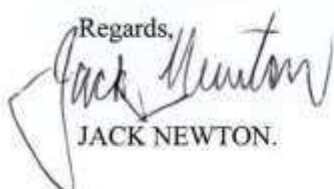
One final point: where there is JBK, there is always his wife Huguette who shares his passion for golf history. Having seen them work together in the members' library at Hoylake, I am sure that Jean-Bernard will be delighted to have, in this article, his wife Huguette associated with his achievement.



Jack Newton – Winner of the 1972 Dutch Open at the Haagsche Golf Club

End May, this year, we received a letter from Jack Newton, the Australian champion and winner of several important championships. It was an extremely nice favour, which we appreciate very much. This letter will be read during the AGM in The Hague, where Jack received the trophy.

I wish your association great success at your
Hickory Championship over the Haagsche
memories.

Regards,

JACK NEWTON.

The letter we received

Dear Gentlemen,

My fellow Australian and a member of your association, John Lovell, has requested I write this letter for delivery to you on the occasion of your 2014 Annual General Meeting at the Haagsche Golf Club.

It was at this Club's course that I won my first International – The 1972 Dutch Open with a score of 277 for the seventy two holes. I went on to win the 1979 Australian Open prior to being hit by the propeller of an aircraft in 1983 which ended my playing career.

The year 1972 was good to me, for not only did I win the Dutch Open, I also won the Benson and Hedges Festival at Fulford, England.

I wish your association great success at your AGM and in the playing of the 3rd European Hickory Championship over the Haagsche Golf Club's Course. It brings back happy memories.

*Regards.
Jack Newton.*



Jack was born in January 1950 in Australia and was one of the greatest golfers in the 70s and early 80s, until he was hit by the propeller of an aircraft.

In 1969, he won the Lake Macquarie Amateur (a competition accounting for the R&A world amateur ranking).

Two years later, he decided to turn pro and soon the success was there.

He won the Dutch Open, on The Haagsche CG course, in 1972, in front of Peter Oosterhuis and Malcolm Gregson, runners up. His total of 277 was the second best score ever recorded at that time in the Dutch Open and it was the very best one on the Haagsche golf course on 72 holes.

To limit ourselves to the biggest international competitions, in 1974 he won the British Match Play and in 1978 the Buick Goodwrench Open.

In 1979, at the Metropolitan Golf Club, he got the Australian Open, one stroke ahead of a young player called Greg Norman, but far ahead of Gary Player or Seve Ballesteros.

But some of his second places were also really thrilling. In 1975, despite an injured ankle, The Open was played at Carnoustie and during the third day, with a 65, Jack established the course record. In the final round, Jack was leading during the last nine holes but had some misfortune. Tom Watson took his chance and holing out a twenty foot putt for a birdie on the very last hole, he tied with Jack.

On the next day, for an eighteen holes play-off, Tom Watson chipped for an eagle at the 14th hole and finished just one single stroke ahead of Jack Newton, to win his first major.

In 1980, he tied for the second place at Augusta for the championship when Seve Ballesteros won his first Masters.

On July 1983, he was hit by the propeller of an airplane. He lost his right arm and eye.

Today, Jack Newton is a TV and radio commentator also writing in newspapers and magazines. He also designed golf courses and is Chairman of the Jack Newton Junior Foundation.

With his left one-hand swing he still plays in the mid-80s!

Comment by Robin K. Bargmann

I remember Jack Newton's victory of the Dutch Open in 1972 at The Hague quite well. His burst onto the international golf scene was very similar to what Severiano Ballesteros did later in 1976 when he won his first European victory at the Dutch Open at the Kennemer in Zandvoort.

Jack was a new boy on the golf tour in Europe only 22 years of age. A bright youngster with a gutsy play. He won the Dutch Open at The Hague with record breaking scores, ahead of the pre-championship favourite Peter Oosterhuis, who desperately wanted to win the Dutch Open as an almost local boy with his Dutch roots in

South Africa and having a few distant relatives living in The Hague.

I attended this memorable Dutch Open in 1972 and remember following Jack's third round the full 18 holes. I don't think I had ever seen better golf being played by anyone before. He scored an exciting course record 8 under par 64 including an adventurous triple bogey 8 on the relatively easy par 4 15th hole. That same year he went on to win the Benson & Hedges at Fulford.

Of course we were all routing for Newton to win the 1975 Open at Carnoustie when unknown Tom Watson snatched victory away from him on the final hole and then beating him by a shot in a 18 hole play-off on Monday. This would be the first of Watson's five Open victories. How different would Newton's golfing career have been had he been a little less unfortunate. He's on my list as one of the world's greatest golf players and personalities together with Watson and Ballesteros. He did miraculously survive the horrific propeller accident in 1983, which unfortunately ended his playing career in golf.

In 2007 Newton was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for services to golf, particularly through youth development, fundraising and other executive roles.



Jack Newton receiving the Dutch Open trophy in 1972 from Mrs. Schiff, wife of the NGF president.

Hague Golf Club – Freule Daisy’s dream

Koninklijke Haagsche Golf and Country Club founded in 1893

By Robin K. Bargmann



The oldest golf club in the Netherlands is Hague Golf Club (or Haagsche Golf Club) founded in 1893. Of all the Victorian sports introduced from Britain in the Netherlands in the second half of the 19th century, the oldest was not golf. Football (rugby), cricket and lawn tennis had arrived earlier with active clubs formed in various towns and cities in the country to facilitate a growing number of enthusiasts of these sports. In The Hague, these sports clubs had become solidly rooted in the upper crust of society before golf players took to the grassy fields to demonstrate their odd antics with club and ball. This was the first time the game of golf was introduced to the Netherlands, albeit on a yet unpretentious scale.

Arnout Baron van Brien en van de Groote Lindt (b.1839 d.1903), owner of the impressive Clingendael estate in Wassenaar near The Hague, took the initiative in 1889 to invite over the young John Duncan Dunn (b.1873 d.1950) from Bournemouth in England to construct a 5-hole private golf course on the Schapenweide field near the teahouse on his Clingendael estate. He was the grandson of Willie Dunn sr. (club professional of Royal Blackheath GC together with his twin brother Jamie) and son of Tom Dunn of the famous family dynasty of golf professionals, originally from Musselburgh, Scotland. Most probably Tom Dunn, by then a renowned golf architect, had been introduced to Van Brien en by Sir Horace Rumbold, British Ambassador in The Hague.

The golf course was intended as a birthday present for his 18 year old daughter Baroness Margu rite van Brien en (b. 1871 d.1939).



*Arnoud Baron van Brien en van de Groote Lindt,
first President The Hague Golf Club*

She adopted the name Freule Daisy and would remain an unmarried noble woman all her life.

She had a great passion for golf and sports in general. Daisy van Brien en would dedicate herself lifelong to the wellbeing of Hague Golf Club and was a venerable golfer herself playing from scratch from day one of the founding of Hague Golf Club. She had also been actively involved in the founding of Oranje Golf Club in Scheveningen (the seaside resort of The Hague) on the premises of Grand Hotel d’Oranje in 1899. This hotel attracted many early golfing diplomats, politicians, industrialists and other businessmen from all over the world visiting The Hague following the first Hague Peace Conference in 1899. Unfortunately the golf course became defunct in 1909 due the regional railroad expansion. The related tennis club of the same date to this

day still exists in The Hague, known as Oranje Tennis Club.

Daisy had inherited this passion for sports from her grandfather Vincent van Tuyll van Serooskerken. Her great-grandmother Mary Buchanan Smith was of American-Scottish decent and may have passed on some golfing genes to Daisy too. The adopted name Daisy was the translation of the Dutch word *Margriet* for the popular flower. Daisy frequented England's aristocratic circles and was a close friend of Alice Keppel, well known mistress of the Prince of Wales and later King Edward VII. She would stay with Daisy at Clingendael together with her daughter Violet Keppel-Trefusis in attempt to temper the infamous and scandalous love affair between Violet and Lady Vita Sackville.

Arnout van Brien en was a member of the hugely wealthy family of Amsterdam bankers and politicians in The Hague. He was also Chamberlain Extraordinary to King Willem III and later to become member of the Council of Guardians responsible for the young under aged Queen Wilhelmina. Van Brien en had a great passion for horses and was president of the Nederlandse Harddraverij en Ren Vereniging (harness horse racing). He had a grand oval racetrack with large public stands built on his Clingendael estate. This was also used for the large public festivities on the occasion of the inauguration of Wilhelmina as Queen of the Netherlands in 1898.

His wife Marie van Tuyll (b.1847 d.1903) was the daughter of Vincent Gildemeester Baron Tuyll van Serooskerken (b.1812 Bath d.1860), a tall and bearded picturesque character, very athletic with a keen interest in sports, and Charlotte Henriette Mansfield (b.1818 London d.1869). The Van Tuyll van Serooskerken family has had a long and distinguished history in the Netherlands. The father of Vincent, Carel Lodewijk van Tuyll van Serooskerken (b.1784 d.1835) became Gentleman of the Bedchamber to King Willem I of the Netherlands. His title of Baron was granted in 1822. Although much of his time seems to have been spent as a gentleman farmer at Hillegom in Holland, he had more than a passing interest in commerce, particularly in coal mining near Liège (Belgium). Through his father Carel van Tuyll, Vincent had inherited the real estate development Canada Company and locally built an attractive Regency-style

manor north of Goderich. In 1838, he became a Royal Chamberlain and, as part of the Dutch delegation, attended Queen Victoria's coronation. Vincent in the late 1840s became immediately successful in the mining and pewter production on the island of Billiton (Belitong) in the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia). In 1852 Vincent van Tuyll and Prince Hendrik of the Netherlands were together appointed government directors to develop the Dutch tin industry. He suddenly died in 1860, just before the formal incorporation of the NV Billiton Maatschappij, becoming a huge multinational company of which both his son and his grandson became president.



Members and caddies gathering at the Waalsdorp clubhouse of Haagsche GC (1895)

The wooden teahouse near the Schapenweide served as clubhouse and was renamed 'The Old Clubhouse'. This clubhouse very soon became the social centre point for family and friends interested in trying their luck at this new game and taking lessons from the popular Dunn. Viewing the growing enthusiasm for golf, Van Brien en took the next step.

With his friends Sir Horace Rumbold and Charles de Graz of the British Legation, he invited a group of thirty friends and relatives to present his plans for founding an official golf club. In addition, they would appoint a committee to carry out the adopted plans. The founding of The Hague Golf Club was formally approved and Arnout van Brien en was appointed the club's first President, Charles de Graz the Secretary and J.D. Baron van Wassenae van Rosande the Treasurer. Sir Horace Rumbold was appointed Honorary Chairman. Other committee members appointed were E. Graaf van Limburg Stirum, D.J.G.J. Baron van Pallandt, H. Graaf

Demonceau, F. Baron Groeninx van Zoelen and H. A. Clifford esq. It was the club secretary Charles de Graz, who was responsible for formalizing the activities of the new club and maintaining a tight discipline in the initial development phase. His laboriously handwritten minutes and photoalbum give an excellent insight in the first years of this pioneer club.

John Duncan Dunn was subsequently commissioned to replace the existing 5-hole course and construct a new 9-hole course on the Clingendael estate and partly on the neighbouring Waalsdorp estate owned by Carl Jan Count van Bylandt. Because of cows and sheep grazing the fairways, there were wire fences built around the greens as protection. The layout of the course was still quite primitive with fairways crossing one another.

A new clubhouse, a pre-fabricated wooden cottage imported from Bolton & Paul based in Norwich, England, was festively installed in 1894. In 1900, a croquet lawn had been opened in front of the clubhouse to attract a variety of members. The hunting club Nimrod was invited to use a small area next to the croquet lawn for clay pigeon shooting practice and in 1902, there were two tennis courts added. A true country club was starting to evolve from a very primitive start. The old clubhouse still stands today and has become a protected golf heritage monument.

In 1895 the first interclub challenge, the Challenge Cup, was organized as an annual contest against the Doornsche Golf Club. It was officially played according to the adopted rules of golf set by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews. Later Roosendaelsche GC and Hilversumsche GC were added to the challenge. Until 1910 these would remain the only four regular golf clubs in the Netherlands.

The most notable president of the club would become Arnout Snoeck Hurgronje, who together with Gerry del Court van Krimpen would form the heart of the committee of the Haagsche GC. Both were also represented in the Nederlandsch Golf Comité, founded in 1914, as president and secretary respectively and played decisive roles in the pre-war development of the Haagsche GC, the NGC and of golf in general in the Netherlands. Noteworthy is that Snoeck Hurgronje as club president often expressed his strong feelings in

meetings to popularise the game of golf. This was despite any fears of overcrowding on the course or sentiments among members to keep golf exclusively for the 'happy few'.



A.M. Snouck Hurgronje r. (president) and G.M del Court van Krimpen l. (secretary) Haagsche Golf Club, 1930s

In 1920 Haagsche GC elected to expand to an 18-hole course and the club acquired grounds next to the existing 9-hole course from the Van Bylandt family. G.M. del Court van Krimpen, a committee member of the Haagsche and a prolific golfer himself, worked with the golf architect J.F. Abercromby to design the additional 9 holes. The farmhouse Duinzicht was bought and rebuilt to transform it into the new clubhouse.

In 1924 the 18-hole course measuring 5915 yards, the first in the Netherlands, was officially opened by Freule Daisy van Brienon teeing-off from the first hole. Also an exhibition match was held by two well-known French golf professionals, Arnaud Massy and Jean Gassiat, both originating from Biarritz. Massy in 1907 had become the first non-Briton to win the Open Championship, which was

held that year at Royal Liverpool in Hoylake. Gassiat was best known for his incredible putting game and after whom the typical Gassiat putter was named.

Massy and Gassiat were paired against the Dutch duo Gerry del Court, the multiple amateur champion of the Netherlands and winner of the first officially NGC organised Dutch Open in 1915, and his partner Jos van Dijk, the venerable club professional of the Doornsche GC (now UGC De Pan), who actually started his golfing career as assistant professional at the Haagsche. The exiting match ended in a victory by the Dutch team, narrowly beating the famous French by a single stroke after a magnificent birdie 3 at the final hole by Van Dijk.



First drive by Freule Daisy van Brienens at the official opening of the new 18-hole course and clubhouse of Haagsche GC, at left Arnaud Massy watching (1924)

Popularity of golf in the Netherlands continued to increase and in 1931, the membership of the Haagsche reached a record of 762 players. The Second World War brought the activities of the Haagsche almost to a standstill when the German occupiers expropriated the terrain for military purposes. The original old 9-hole course of Van Brienens at Clingendael was restored and used again for a short while until this also became too dangerous for members.

The German military blew up the characteristic Duinzicht clubhouse as it interfered with their military defence systems. In 1944, a provisional shortened 9-hole course measuring only 2193 yards was built at the Roggewoning and club life gradually recovered until the whole area was finally evacuated because of the increasing military activity in the area.

After the war, the golf course area was totally devastated by allied bombings of the nearby German V-I rocket launching installations.

Plans to rebuild the course were abandoned as being too costly. The club did not have sufficient means to repair the damage, nor did members voluntarily step up to provide the necessary funds. Again, a shortened 9-hole course was provisionally set up although some members felt rather insecure because of the lurking danger of abandoned German landmines and of allied bombs gone astray.

Clearly, the Haagsche desperately needed to look out for suitable alternatives to safeguard its future. It was therefore quite fortunate to have been offered the rare opportunity to buy of the wonderful property of Wassenaersche Golf Club 'De Wildhoeve' from the family descendants of Daniel de Wolff, who in 1943 had died in America of an ailing heart disease. Daniël de Wolf, born in 1898, was an extremely wealthy Jewish merchant. Through an extensive network of international companies he was involved in industry, shipping, trading, insurance and banking. He was renowned for his many high level contacts and visionary qualities. He had made his initial fortune in the trading of wooden railroad sleepers through his company NV Spoorhout. He successfully executed complicated barter trades in economically difficult times between various nations. Well known is the bartering of coffee for sleepers between Brazil and Poland. It is said that he also became involved in more shady transactions and arms trading during the Spanish civil war. On the other hand he apparently did actively support anti-fascist movements in Europe and sought overseas refuge for threatened European Jews.



Clubhouse Hague Golf Club official opening in 1894

In 1938 De Wolf, only forty years of age, had purchased the grand estate Groot Haesebroek in Wassenaar through his property company Vijverberg. With this transaction he had acquired an extensive area of coastal dunes. Being an avid golfer himself he ambitiously decided to develop a preeminent 18-hole links-type golf course to be designed by the most famous golf architects Colt, Alison & Morrison Ltd. The experienced firm, H.Copijn and Zn. of Groenekan, would handle the construction.

There has always been the lingering question whether De Wolf had ever been officially turned down as a member of Haagsche GC because of his Jewish connection or involvement in controversial commercial transactions, or a combination of both. Or did De Wolf deliberately avoid the issue and decide to go his own way and follow his ambition to build one of the best golf courses. Most probably the latter. The result is in any case that we are left with one of the finest jewels of golf architecture and a Colt masterpiece.



Harry Shapland Colt

Harry Shapland Colt had previously worked together with Copijn on the construction of eight other pre-war golf courses in the Netherlands. The first being Kennemer GC in 1928, closely followed by Hilversumsche GC (an addition to the 9-hole course originally designed by Henry Burrows) and Doornsche GC (renamed UGC De Pan); Noordwijksche GC also requested Colt to expand the 9-hole course to eighteen holes; other 18-hole courses that followed were Eindhovensche GC, GC Toxandria (near Breda) and Amsterdamsche GC as well as a 9-hole course of GC De Dommel (near Den Bosch).

Finally the Wassenaarsche GC 'De Wildhoeve' opened in 1939. All in all a remarkable number of nine Colt designed golf courses of which seven still remain (only Noordwijk and Amsterdam are defunct).

The length of the course was 6710 yards and it was considered by Colt to be one of the best links courses he ever built, albeit that the execution was entrusted to his partner Alison. The villa Huize Duinhoeve that had been built on the estate as a residence for the banker Jerome Heldring was converted to be the clubhouse and renamed 'De Wildhoeve'.

A.M. Snoeck Hurgronje as President of the Nederlandsche Golf Comité officially opened the course in September 1939 on the same day as the German invasion of Poland and only a few months before the German occupation of the Netherlands in May 1940. During the occupation the German military command confiscated De Wildhoeve and the golf course was used by German officers to play known under the name "Golfkameradschaft der Niederlande" presided by general Fr. Christiansen and supervised by the Hamburger Golf-Club. Although the course had lacked sufficiently proper maintenance, it was still in reasonable condition after the war, certainly when compared with the deplorable state of the Haagsche at Duinzicht.

Daniel de Wolf was out of the country when the German forces invaded the Netherlands. Via France he fled to America. His wife and two daughters were fortunate to survive the German concentration camp in Bergen Belsen and safely returned home after the war. Precarious negotiations with the family De Wolf for the purchase of the grounds of De Wildhoeve, including golf course and clubhouse, were successfully concluded in 1947. The club was able to source sufficient funds by way of an issue of equity and debentures to a limited circle of financial participants in a special purpose investment vehicle. Funds to both finance the purchase and carry out the repairs the course needed. In 1956 the golf club acquired full ownership of all properties at a generous discount from this investor group. In 1947 the club had moved to its new premises and was renamed Haagsche Golf & Country Club. In 1993 the club was given the 'Royal' predicate on the occasion of its centenary.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GOLF ON THE CONTINENT

By John Scarth



Scot officers convalescing near the Pyrenees introduced the game of golf to France and constructed the Continent's first golf course at Pau in 1856, to a design by 'Old Willie' Dunn.

Some thirty years later the residents of Dinard – a colony founded by ex-Servicemen of British descent who had campaigned in India and Egypt – sought out the professional golfer at the North Berwick Golf Club in Scotland to design a golf course on 125 acres of Dunesland near Sain-Briac-Sur-Mer, Brittany. As the design of the course would take time to be laid out an eight hole course was established in 1887 for the club at Saint-Lunaire as well as the creation of the first tennis club in France and a sailing club.

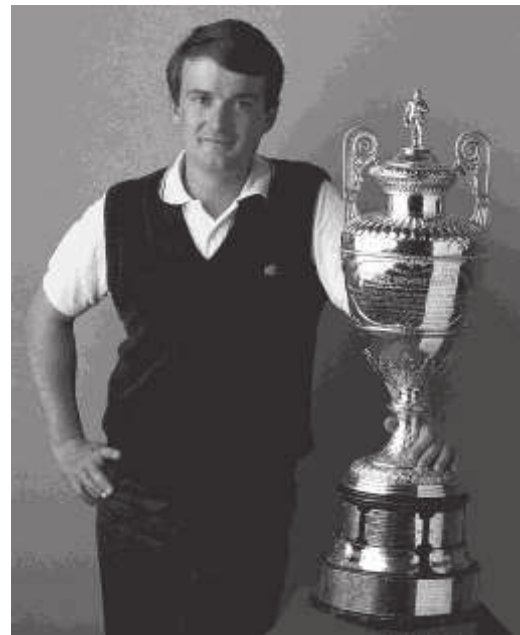
That man was Tom Dunn (1849-1902), the son of 'Old Willie' Dunn (1821-1878) who was attached to the Royal Blackheath Golf Club, England from 1850 and who was joined by his brother James at the club in 1852. In 1865 'Old Willie' Dunn designed the golf course on Wimbledon Common for the London Scottish Golf Club and when he returned to Leith, Scotland in 1870, Tom Dunn secured the professionals position attached to the London Scottish Golf Club.

In 1881 Tom Dunn became professional attached to the North Berwick Golf Club and married Isabel Gourlay, a descendant of the Gourlay's of Musselburgh, Scotland and described as 'The greatest woman golfer of her day'.

Tom Dunn designed the golf course for the Dinard Golf Club, Brittany and the course at Sain-Briac-sur-Mer opened in 1890, the third golf course in France. The club remains the second oldest club in France.

For an account of Tom Dunn's career please see 'The Professional Golfer' of April and May 1969, written by his grandson, Cameron Dunn.

The Dinard Golf Club, also known as Saint Briac, is a classic seaside links of 5256 metres with a par of 68. It has scenic views of rocky headlands, harbours, bays, beaches, light-houses and the English Channel. Rolling fairways, pot bunkers and small circular greens combine to produce authentic links golf. During World War II the course was mined and concrete bunkers were built which today sees the 13th tee sitting atop one of these concrete bunkers.



Philippe Ploujoux holding the Amateur Trophy

In an 1890 edition of 'Saturday Review' the course was described thus 'Its sandy soil makes it the best course in France today'. By 1891 the Dinard Golf Club employed two

greenkeepers – H. Harris and William Freemantle, (see article on the Freemantle family published in the Summer 2014 edition of ‘Golfika’ scribed by Donald Cameron).

Prior to his assassination in February 1905, Grand Duke Sergius of Russia played over the course.

The original wooden clubhouse was replaced in 1927 by a concrete structure designed by Marcel Oudin and today such clubhouse contains two prestigious trophies –

- The 1964 Espirito Santo Trophy won by Claudine Cros, Catherine Lacoste, Brigitte Varangot and captained by Lally Segard, and
- The 1981 British Amateur Championship Trophy won by P. Ploujoux.



Play for the Inaugural Espirito Santo Trophy in 1964 included the English born Australian team member Diana Thomas, nee Cross, who had the distinction of hitting the first ball and posting the first birdie at the St. Germain course. Diana also introduced the mini-skirt to ladies golf.

Members of the Freemantle family carried on what the Dunn family commenced namely establishing golf courses and teaching the game to new players. There are other families who spread the game on the Continent and it would be appreciated if articles on these ‘founders’ be submitted to our editor.

The editor would like to thank André-Jean Laforie, Marie-Christine Paris, President of

the Dinard G.C. and Georges Jeanneau for their kind authorisation to publish the pictures illustrating this article; resp. Philippe Ploujoux (AJL), The Espirito Santo trophy (MCP) and trophy presentation (GJ).

A short addendum by Georges Jeanneau.

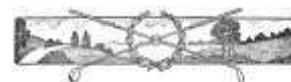
Fournier-Sarloveze (the mayor of Compiègne and founder of the Compiègne Golf Club) was wounded in 1886 and he spent some weeks in Dinard to recover from his injuries. During his stay, he wrote a letter to his family where is said “*I’m resting here and learning golf*”.

From this short sentence, we can definitely say that golf was played as soon as 1886 at Dinard. But what does “learning” mean? Was there a pro to teach or was he introduced by some other players from his friends? Hard to say.

And we have several examples of places where golf was played a few years before a club was established – in France, as well as in other countries. The question of the date “1887” is then still open.



*Lally Segard (captain) presenting the cup to the French Team.
(Courtesy G. Jeanneau)*



THE FIRST GOLF CLUB IN THE NETHERLANDS

By John Scarth

The Kingdom of the Netherlands colonised the East Indies, commonly known as the Dutch East Indies, until 24th March 1947 when the Netherlands Government and the Indonesian Cabinet signed agreements in Batavia, granting the 'United States of Indonesia'.

Some 75 years prior, sixteen gentlemen established the Batavia Golf Club with Mr. Alexander Gray being elected the first President and Mr. John Campbell being elected the first Secretary. Gray along with Mr. T. C. Wilson are credited as the founders of such golfing society with Gray being admitted as a member of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, St. Andrews, Scotland in 1874 and he described the course as a 9 hole par 36 layout in King's Park with holes ranging from 210 yards to 450 yards in 'The Golfing Annual, Volume 13'.

This 1872 course was located in the Gambir area called Kongingsplein (King's Park) which is today occupied by Monas, Jakarta's national monument. Gray relocated to Sydney, Colony of New South Wales - now Australia, in late 1874 and with his departure, matches ceased to be played. (Note: Gray played off scratch). It was revived in 1894 with Mr. S. R. Lancaster as President. In 1911 the club and a new course

were established at Bukit Duri, Manggari and in 1934 it commenced construction of a 18 hole course, designed by Tom Simpson, at Rawamangun.

During the Japanese invasion of Java in 1942, the Japanese authorities required 'renaming' of Dutch names however it was not until independence that the club was officially renamed the Djakarta Golf Club and in 1978, the Jakarta Golf Club.

Alexander Gray was one of the founders of the Australian Golf Club in 1884 and was created a Knight of the Netherlands Order of the Lion in 1889.

Sources to references:

Realms of Silver by Compton Mackenzie.
Routledge and Kegan Paul. London.

Letter written by C. E. Riddell dated 24th
February 1883.

The Sydney Morning Herald 23rd February
1884 and 17th June 1884.

Australian Etiquette, 1885 People's Publishing Company. Melbourne.

The Sydney Morning Herald 22nd May 1889.

The Oldest Golf Course in Southeast Asia. By
Simon Reynolds 'Google'.



Erratum. – In Golfika-Magazine #13, the paper by Geert and Sara Nijs was incomplete. The legend corresponding to the bottom right picture was missing. It should read:

"This rather exceptional find of a small colf slof shows the opposite of what is often said: the game of colf was not played by boys and girls."

The legend corresponding to the left side picture was located at the top of the second column.

Apologies to the authors.

EUROPE AND THE RYDER CUP THE PREQUEL

By Bill Anderson



When did golfers from Continental Europe first compete against the American Ryder Cup team? When did the US team first compete on Continental soil? When did/will the American team first play in France? To most knowledgeable golf enthusiasts the answers would seem obvious- 1979 (Seve and Antonio Garrido), 1997 (Valderrama) and 2018 (Le Golf National). Unfortunately all these answers are false. The correct answer to all three questions is 1953.

In 1953 the Ryder Cup was contested at the Wentworth Club in England on 2-3 October. The ten members of the American team were Sam Snead, Dave Douglas, Ed (Porky) Oliver, Lloyd Mangrum (Playing Captain), Ted Kroll, Jack Burke Jr, Walter Burkemo, Cary Middlecoff, Fred Haas Jr and Jim Turnesa. Missing was Ben Hogan. Despite winning the Masters, US Open and Open Championship in 1953, Hogan limited his play that year to medal play events of 18 holes a day. He did not play in the PGA Championship and the Ryder Cup matches were contested over 36 holes; hence Hogan was not on the team. At Wentworth the US team escaped with a narrow 6 1/2 to 5 1/2 victory due in large part to a late collapse by GB. The last two singles matches on the course were Peter Alliss (GB) vs Jim Turnesa and Bernard Hunt (GB) vs Dave Douglas. With the score tied 5-5, Alliss was one up going to the last hole and Hunt and Douglas were even. Alas Alliss double bogeyed 18 to halve his match while Hunt three putted to lose his match and the Cup.

What has been forgotten is the follow up story to this American victory. Instead of returning home, the US team traveled to France for a two day scheduled competition against the leading professionals from Continental Europe. The event was sponsored by "l'Association Européenne de Golf et la Fédération Française de Golf ».



Official Program of the event.

It was held on 6-7 October at Golf de Saint-Cloud outside Paris. Ten members were named to the Continental team represented six countries: Jean-Baptiste Ado (France), Alphonso Angelini (Italy), Georg Bessner (Germany), Aldo Casera (Italy), Ugo Grappasonni (Italy), Angel Miguel (Spain), Albert Pelissier (France), Francois Saubaber (France), Arthur de Vulder (Belgium) and Gerard de Wit (Holland). Notably missing

from the roster was the Belgian Flory Van Donck. In 1953 only Hogan had a better year than Van Donck. In that year Van Donck won the Belgian Open, Dutch Open, German Open, Italian Open, Swiss Open as well as 2 tournaments in England. His absence from the European team is puzzling. The non playing captain of the European team was Auguste Boyer of France. When play began there was one substitution. Marcelino Morcillo of Spain replaced his countryman Angel Miguel.

The match drew crowds of 2,000 fans on both days. Included were the Duke of Windsor and former King Leopold of Belgium. For some of the press the spectators drew more attention than the golfers. A wirephoto of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor with the head of the Italian golf federation, Mr. Riespoli, appeared in newspapers as far away as Australia. The photo was on the front page of the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 15 October.

Unfortunately the results of the tournament were not mentioned. However the *New York Times* on 7 and 8 October did report on the matches as well as the spectators. It noted Sam Snead was “often scowling his displeasure at the noise of the big crowd.”



Back of the commemorative official postcard
(see also back cover colour page)

On day 1 there were 5 eighteen hole matches involving all players. There was one substitution on the US side. Ed Oliver had unexpectedly returned early to the US after the Ryder Cup. The team had no official alternate, so on day 1 his place was taken by Warren Orlick (who was mistakenly referred to as Warner Orlick in the *Times*). Orlick was a local club pro from Michigan who was traveling with the Ryder Cup team as a PGA rules official. In 1971 he was to become President of the PGA of America. The pairing sheet for day 1 said the

format was “foursomes” which would mean alternate shots; however, the *TIMES* report indicates the matches were best ball of the team. Sam Snead and his partner Walter Burkemo led the way for the US. They trounced Aldo Casera, the Italian match play champion and Albert Pelissier, winner of the Monte Carlo Open by 6 and 4. Snead shot 65, and he and Burkemo had a best ball of 62. The best match of the day pitted Lloyd Mangrum and Cary Middlecoff, two former US Open champions, against Francois Saubaber, who had won the previous month at Deauville and Marcelino Morcillo. Middlecoff made a five foot putt on the final hole to win the match 1 up. The Americans Dave Douglas and Ted Kroll defeated Jean-Baptiste Adu and Georg Bessner 2 and 1. In the most one-sided match Fred Haas and Jack Burke defeated Arthur de Vulder and Gerald de Wit 7 and 6. The only European winners were the Italian duo of Alfonso Angelini and Ugo Grappasoni. They defeated Jim Turnesa and Warren Orlick 2 and 1. The match ended when Grappasoni, the winner of the Moroccan Open, sank a seven foot putt on the seventeenth hole. Day 1 ended with the US leading 4-1.

Day 2 featured ten individual matches. Once again the US dominated play. The best round of the day was shot by Fred Haas. He toured the course in 66 while defeating 23 year old Francois Saubaber 4 and 3. Sam Snead beat Jean-Baptiste Adu by the same margin. Jack Burke stopped Alphonso Angelini 5 and 3. Cary Middlecoff crushed Aldo Casera 7 and 6. Ted Kroll beat Georg Bessner 4 and 2. Dave Douglas continued the American assault with a 6 and 5 triumph over Arthur de Vulder. Jim Turnesa beat Gerard de Wit 3 and 1, but not before de Wit hit the shot of the competition. The Dutchman made an ace on the 130 yard eighth hole using a 7 iron. Ray Maguire (another club pro from Michigan) replaced Warren Orlick as the substitute for Ed Oliver, and he was the only American to lose in singles. Spain’s Marcelino Morcillo was the lone European victor, defeating Maguire 6 and 4. France’s Albert Pelissier and Italy’s Grappasonni each made a half point for Europe when they halved their matches with Walter Burkemo and Lloyd Mangrum respectively. Pelissier’s half was bitter sweet; he had been 3 up with 3 to go against the American PGA champion.

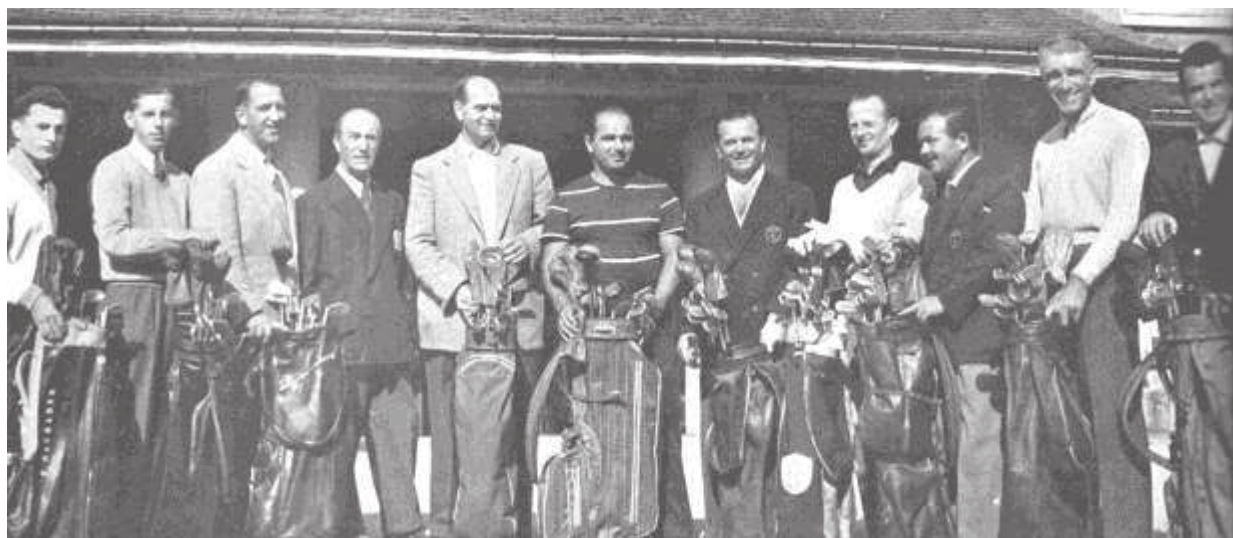
The star for the Continental side was Italy's Ugo Grappasonni who was undefeated in his two matches. The final score for the international match was US 12, Europe 3. Since the only two matches Europe won were against unknown club pros pressed into service

at the last minute, one might imagine the final margin might have been even more lopsided if Porky Oliver had played as planned. We can assume the outcome will be much closer when the US team returns to France in 2018!



Above : The US Ryder-Cup team (courtesy Stéphan Filanovitch)

Below, The European team (courtesy Georges Jeanneau)



GREAT-BRITAIN GOLF BOOKLET, AN OLD STORY

Part II – King Edward VIII and Georges VI

By Stéphan Filanovitch



After the first part dedicate to King Georges V, this is the last part, during the reigns of King Edward VIII and Georges VI.

Once again, this is an advert for the famous Kargo golf game, issued on October 1936



BC2 Edition 355, inside pane



BC3 Edition 321, inside pane

Always on October 1936, a new advert appears, promoting the Dubarry perfume. Several different adverts are available from October 1936 to December 1936. It is a treasure for philatelists to study this advert from this period.

Adverts are still a good way to promote tourism, in april 1938, so Colwyn Bay is in a booklet. This is a seaside resort in Conwy County Borough on the north coast of Wales overlooking the Irish Sea. You can find about 20 courses in the area.



BC2 Edition 359, inside pane



BD11 Edition 412

For example, Old Colwyn is a course designed by the legendary golfer champion, James Braid, and was opened in September 1907.



BD12 Edition 454- April 1939

Few months before, another tourism advert, Brighton and the Ocean Hotel.



BD12 Edition 433 - October 1938



Opened in 1938 the Ocean Hotel occupied a site of around 4 acres. Sold in July 1999 to the Grand Hotel Group, the hotel remained open until January 2005. In June 2005, the site is converted into apartments.



BD12 Edition 503- April 1940

Southsea is both a seaside resort and part of the city of Portsmouth on England's South coast.

Southsea Golf Club was formed just after the first World War. It was just a pitch and putt, and in 1926 a full size golf course was opened.

To conclude this article, your help is needed. In April 1938, there is this advert for Pistany Spa.



As I have no better scan, I have no more information. Is it to promote water treatment in Czechoslovakia ?



The golf-clubs of Argelès-Gazost and Gavarnie Two clubs in the Pyrénées

By Yves Caillé & JBK (Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak)



The first green at Argelès-Gazost, c.1910 – New course

In the 1890s, when a Pau player wanted to play another course, he had to organise a true venture to go and play at Biarritz at about 125 km far from there. Such a journey was not an easy task (as we shall see in a paper to come about the Kilmaine Cup – annual matches between Pau and Biarritz). So, not surprisingly, other attempts to build golf courses have been made in the Pyrénées.

In his seminal work, written in French, in 1911, and simply entitled “Golf”, Arnaud Massy is describing all the golf courses which existed in France at that time. And if Pau and Biarritz got their fair place, two other courses are listed in the Pyrénées: Argelès-Gazost and Gavarnie. The latter receives only a very brief description:

“The Gavarnie links is offering 9-holes course in perfect condition, with many natural hazards. It is located close to the Cirque de Gavarnie”.

Only three lines, while Argelès-Gazost is receiving close to the largest space (after Paris Golf Club). About this club, Massy gives an interesting indication: *“Since 1890, Argelès has one of the most picturesque golf course. Laid out in the delightful valley of Argelès, the links extend on an admirable ground, made of natural grass, making wide lawns on a partly sandy ground, allowing the play at any time”* ...

In the British Newspapers Archives, we were able to find a very short notice in the *Yorkshire Evening Post*, dated Tuesday 13 June 1893:

“The English residents in Argelès-Gazost, the delightful health-resort in the Pyrénées, have a golf club.” If this information is not fully aligned with what we learnt in Massy’s book, it confirms that in the early 90’s there was already a golf course at Argelès. We shall see below that 1893 is the most probable date.

During some of our research at the Library of the Royal Liverpool Golf-Club (Hoylake), we found very valuable information². Their scrap-book collection is especially appealing as it is a unique one. Most of the cuts are from the *Field* magazine – but some others could be found from time to time. In the *Field*, dated 24 April 1894, we read:

Many readers of the Field may possibly not be aware that a new golf club has just been formed, and good nine-hole courses laid out, both at Argelès and Gavarnie. The former links are now in perfect playing order, and a most successful tournament was played there on the 17th, particulars of which are below.

If Argelès was opened pretty much at the same period as Gavarnie, this is not a coincidence:

The links, both at Argelès and Gavarnie, were laid out last year by Col. Talbot-Crosbie at his own expense, but have only recently been formed into a club, under the following management: President and life member, Col. Talbot-Crosbie; captain, Lord Kilmaine; committee, Messrs A. H. Foster-Barham, S. Platt, and H. Ross; secretary and treasurer, Mr B. J. Boreel.

[...] Any golfers meditating a visit to the Pyrénées during the summer can obtain all information respecting the Argelès and Gavarnie Golf Club from the hon. secretary, Mr B. J. Boreel, 19, Rue du Lycée, Pau.

So, the information we found in the *Yorkshire Evening Post* is now confirmed by the *Field*. Argelès, as well as Gavarnie, were built in 1893 but the club was instituted in 1894.

Interestingly, it seems this is one club with two courses, nine-hole each, and distant of about 40 km one from the other. Also, we notice as

² And we would like to publicly thank Mr David Cromie, the Captain of the club, for the very kind facilities he offered us.

committee members Lord Kilmaine and Mr B. J. Boreel who were well known members of the Pau GC.

Where were they located?

About the Gavarnie links, we were unable to find any precise location except the one which is given by the *Field*:

The Gavarnie links are situated in the beautiful valley leading up to the famous Cirque de Gavarnie, in the very heart of the Pyrénées, and are about twenty minutes’ walk from the comfortable little Hotel des Voyageurs. Play on these links will not be possible before the middle of May, as they are at present still under snow, Gavarnie being over 4000 ft. above sea level.



A postcard about 1910 featuring the Hotel du Vignemale and emphasizing on Tennis and Golf.

For Argelès, the *Field* gives a first indication: *“The Argelès links are situated half-way between Lourdes and Argelès, and about ten minutes’ walk from Lugagnan station.”*

And also that *“there are two first-class hotels at Argelès, Hotel du Parc and Hotel de France, the proprietors of which have arranged with the club to drive players to the links and back for the small sum of 5 fr., the distance being about five miles.”*

This five miles distance is confirmed the following month³, where the writer prefers to call the Argelès links: the “Gerse” links. It is fair to assume that there is here a small mistake and that “Gerse” stand for “Ger”. The latter is just one mile south of the Lugagnan station – which is a ten minute walk – and locates the

³ *The Field*, 26 May 1894

course exactly mid-distance between Lourdes and Argelès-Gazost.

In April 1894, a competition for gentlemen and one for the ladies was organized, which was pretty successful as 15 gents and 5 ladies competed. Most – if not all – were members of the Pau GC. The results are on appendix.

The May issue of the Field also indicates that *through the energy of Lord Kilmaine, the Argelès [... links, have] been connected with the Pau links.*

These links were originally laid out by Col. Talbot Crosbie, and Lord Kilmaine has improved and repaired them.

[...]

Starting from Pau at eight in the morning, taking lunch with one, there is ample time for two rounds, and back to a late dinner, and the train service suits nicely.

In 1896, the Field⁴ is also reporting the annual spring meeting where 17 gentlemen competed – which seems proving a steady interest. Details are provided in appendix.

The Committee is said to be the same as during the previous year (then 1895) but we can note that Mr A. H. Foster-Barham is no longer listed, replaced by Mr C. Ponsonby.

In 1898 and 1899, about the same period of the year (end April), the Field is providing similar information (see appendix).

It is interesting to notice that for these two years, a championship medal, scratch, was held and two professionals participated: a single ranking in 1898 but one for pros and one for amateurs in 1899.

The two professionals where the Pau ones: Joe Lloyd – the first Pau professional who won the US Open in 1897 – and his assistant Dominique Coussies. Both years Dominique won the medal.

The following year, in 1900, it worth to note that the *Pall Mall Gazette* (Wednesday 4 April) states that: *“The course at Argelès, in the Pyrénées, has not been opened for play this year”*.

⁴ Edition dated 25 April 1896

This would certainly mean that after the first few years of operation, the Argelès-Gazost golf club stopped its activities. We are proposing here a hypothesis which could explain the decreasing interest in Argelès.

From the limited but strong information we have, we can assume that the success of the Argelès was mainly due to the strong support of Lord Kilmaine. This appears clearly in the Field magazine. We also know that *“as early as 1896, he was suffering of sleeplessness which worsens to neurasthenia”*. In November 1907 he was in Paris in a hotel located avenue d'Iéna. On Saturday 9th he threw himself from the fourth floor of a hotel, avenue d'Iéna, in Paris and was killed⁵.

After his death, there was a possibility for a new story. And we recently got an article from an historian of the city, Mr André Nogaro. In this paper⁶, the author relates the history of a club at Argelès-Gazost. We prefer to say a “new” club as after 1908, it will have a new location and a new Committee.

This paper is extremely interesting this is why we are providing here its translation.

“Recently, one talk about the possible creation of a golf course, south of Argelès-Gazost, in an area that had been already used for such a usage from 1908 to 1930.

At that time, the city of Lau-Balagnas owned all of the land concerned and so, it is that on the 2nd of October 1907, at 8 pm, that the City Council met under the chairmanship of Mayor Alphonse Habatjou, to discuss a request presented by Mr Peyrafitte, from Argelès-Gazost. The mayor outlined that, for some time, the English travellers staying in the region had expressed the desire to establish a golf course and they appointed Mr Jules Peyrafitte, owner of the Hotel de France, which housed a large number of holiday-makers, to search for the most suitable place. So Mr Peyrafitte asked to lease or rent the communal land called "Sailhet". The mayor added that the interest of the town was to grant the lease as the wood,

⁵ He was then buried in Pau. More about Lord Kilmaine in a next issue of Golfika-Magazine.

⁶ Nogaro (André), « Le golf au Sailhet de Lau-Balagnas », *Lavedan et Pays Toy*, 1987 (n° 18), pp. 173-174.



*An exceptional set of four photographs from the Ger Golf Club (Argelès – Old course)
Origin: Lord Kilmaine Family. Below a postcard illustrating a general view of the place.*



grazing and any movement remained reserved for residents. Mr Peyrafitte had accepted these conditions and he promised to pay for an annual fee of 500 F during the first triennium, the lease price being increased by 50 F per year during the second triennium, as well as during the following year periods. The lease being of 18 years, the last amount would be of 750 F.

Whereas under these conditions, the lease was preserving to the city all the "ground utilities" and was prescribed precautions to prevent accidents, whereas the price accepted by Mr Peyrafitte was very rewarding, whereas the establishment of a golf course was giving a "good image" to the town and would also provide benefits to its residents, the Council, in its deliberations, unanimously approved, on the same day, the lease-treaty between the mayor and Mr Peyrafitte.

A few weeks later, the City Council of Argelès was reading a letter from Mr Sorbé in which he announced the creation of the Golf Club of Argelès, a company to organize the game of golf in the vicinity of the city, who rented for this purpose a plot of 40 hectares in the Sailhet de Lau-Balagnas. Mr Sorbé stressed that such an undertaking could have a huge importance for the future and the prosperity of Argelès station. The organization of the game, he said, had long been claimed by the English colony and was likely to largely increase the visitors, fans of this sport, and to extend their stay. Knowing that the city was always willing to support any action that could contribute to its development, he was suggesting to create an award that will be called "Prize of the town of Argelès". On his side, the golf club secured the means to offer a significant number of prizes which would be played by series, from Feb. 1st until June. "The moral effect of the city support will be one of our most valued elements of success," added Mr Sorbé.

Whereas the course could contribute to the development of the station by the influx of foreigners fans of this sport, and that it was in its to help the success of this action, the City Council of Argelès allocated the amount of 50 F for a prize that to be named "Prize of the town of Argelès."

Clearly, golfers were mostly English, they were rich, we must say, and after many of them spent the winter at Pau, they came to Argelès in the

spring. And they reside in the two largest hotels in Argelès: Hotel de France and the Hotel d'Angleterre.

Referring to the regional newspapers of the period, which we patiently read, golf should not interest many people from our region as those newspapers did not say a word about the contests announced by Mr Sorbé in his letter to the Argelès Council.

More often than nowadays, where the rivers' waters are relatively calmed by EDF catchments, the Sailhet was then often flooding; Hence the need to make, from time to time, some prevention works. In July 1908, the city of Saint-Savin contributed a sum of 300 francs for such works; Mr Peyrafitte, for 200 francs, provided that the city of Lau-Balagnas would contribute to sustain the banks of the river for a total of 600 F.

In June 1910, the City Council of Lau-Balagnas was reviewing the spring floods which caused severe damage: the river had created another bed threatening some parts of the Sailhet a total collapse. However, the Sailhet was a very important source of income, both from the firewood and grazing that from the very significant annual fees coming from the lease of the grounds for the game of golf and contributing to the budget of the city. Therefore, further work should be made.



A postcard edited by "Hotel de France"

In 1912, the City Council Lau-Balagnas gave permission to establish power lines above the Sailhet, provided it does not hinder golf play.

With WWI, Mr Peyrafitte, tenant of the golf ground, was mobilised and had to stop his business, deferring the payment of the fees. In 1920, he sent a letter to the Council regarding the charges he owed to the municipality for the

years 1915 to 1919. Nevertheless, he suggested to fully recovering his late payment, requesting that it be carried over to the next five years – paying one fifth each year. Also he requested a 10-year extension of the lease to enable him to recover part of its losses; the annual fees being, as for the last period, of 750 F.

As the lease was originally set for 18 years, with an extension of 10 years, it was extended until 1935. But he could not get that far. In 1931, the Gave flooded again, damaging almost the whole golf course. Also, considering that in order to restore the play on the course, the expenses would be too expensive, resulting in a loss, Mr Peyrafitte asked the city of Lau-Balagnas to be exempted from the rental price for the years 1932 and 1933 and also for the following ones until the end of the lease. Due to the poor conditions of the golf course, which could no longer be used, the Council consented to Mr Peyrafitte the exemption he was requesting and the termination of the lease.

So, the year 1931 marked the extinction of the Sailhet golf course and the termination of playing golf in our valley.”

To complete this document, we can add a notice published in 1930 by the magazine “Le Golf”⁷ which gives the date 1908 for the creation of the golf – which confirms the indication from André Nogaro. In this article, we read that at that time, despite of several projects, the extension to 18 holes was still not achieved. And the writer was not complaining as he says that this might be a chance because “these 9 first holes are rudimentary [...] and should be brought up-to-date”.



A postcard mailed in March 1912. A player and his caddy are practicing on a snowy ground.

We can now come back to Massy’s book to find some additional interesting information about the Argelès GC.

“It is in collaboration with several professionals and amateurs from Argelès, Biarritz and Pau, that the links were designed.

The total length of the course is of 5650 yards, extending over an area of 99 acres (English acre is about 0.40 hectare). It is an 18 holes course, varying from 140 and 400 meters, and is protected by “accidents” and “bunkers”, ruthlessly punishing any bad ball. Water hazards, thickets and undulating ground enhance game’s interest. It should be added that “putting greens” and “teeing grounds” are absolutely faultless.”

A map of the course is even provided in Massy’s book – which we reproduce at the end of this text.”



A postcard from the same series as above (so about 1911/1912) with the caption: 18th Hole – confirming Massy’s description.

A very interesting point which is brought by Massy is the fact that “Sir Everard Hambro is the dedicated chairman of the Argelès Golf Club. He is also one of the most prominent golf clubs personalities in England, and his influence, his leadership, as well as his technical advices have strongly contributed to the development and prosperity of the golf club Argelès.”

All our readers certainly remember that Sir Hambro was the man who sponsored Massy, and offered him to rebuild his golf with Ben Sayers in North Berwick.

Even more interestingly are the records listed by Massy. The best results obtained during the last championships, are as follows:

⁷ Le Golf, n°114, 15 Février 1930, p.19.

In 1908, by Captain Maul, Biarritz GC, first round, 72.

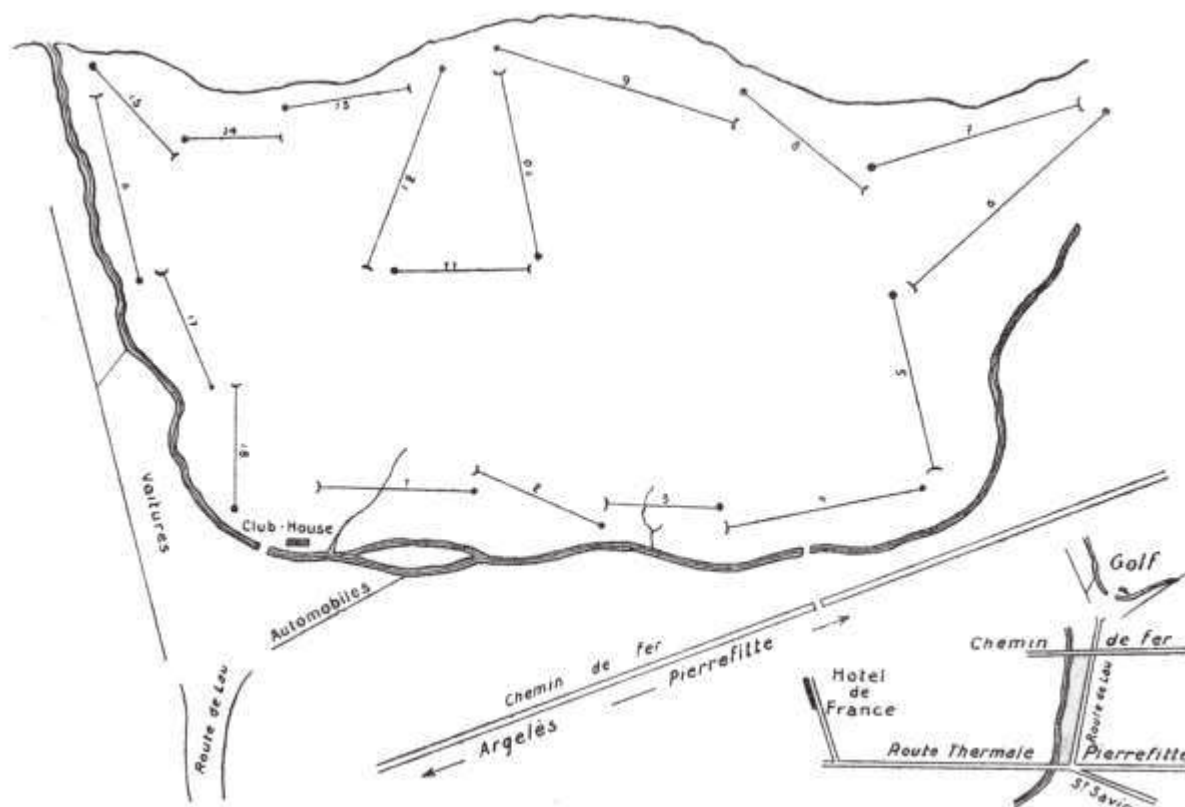
In 1908, Jean Gassiat, Baden-Baden GC, first round, 70.

In 1909, by Mr W. Chapman, Pau GC, first round, 76.

In 1909, Mr Cunningham, professor at the Golf Club, first round, 72.

In 1910, the FF. Jameson of Pau GC, first round, 67.

Also, finally, we also learn incidentally that, around 1909, Cunningham was the pro at Argelès-Gazost.



Argelès-Gazost golf course circa 1910 (in *Le Golf* by Arnaud Massy)

Appendix.

Argelès Golf Links. – Single handicap, on Tuesday, 17 April, 1894, for prize presented by Lord Kilmaine:

The Draw. – Hon. A. Y. Bingham v. Mr J. Mellor., Col. Anderson v. Mr H. B. M. C. Foster Barham, Mr G. Harrison v. Mr B. J. Boreel, Mr H. Ross v. Lord Kilmaine, Mr C. Ponsonby v. Mr K. McFarlane, Mr S. Platt v. Mr R. Brooke, Capt. Tattersall v. Capt. Banbury, Prince de Rohan (a bye).

First Ties. – Mr Mellor beat Mr Bingham, receiving 2 strokes, one hole; Col. Anderson beat Mr Foster Barham, 9 strokes, two holes; Mr Boreel beat Mr G. Harrison. 8 strokes, two holes; Lord Kilmaine, 3 strokes, beat Mr H. Ross, one hole; Mr B. Brooke, even, beat Mr S. Platt, one hole; Mr K. McFarlane,

even, beat Mr C. Ponsonby, one hole; Capt. Tattersall beat Capt. Banbury, 2 strokes, one hole; Prince de Rohan (a bye).

Second Ties. – Mr Mellor beat Col. Anderson, 2 strokes, one hole; Lord Kilmaine, 9 strokes, beat Mr Boreel, scratch, two holes; Mr McFarlane, even, beat Mr B. Brooke, one hole; Capt. Tattersall beat Prince de Rohan, 9 strokes, five up and four to play.

Third Ties. – Lord Kilmaine, 6 strokes, beat Mr Mellor, two holes; Mr McFarlane, 4 strokes, beat Capt. Tattersall, one hole.

Final. – Lord Kilmaine, 3 strokes, beat Mr McFarlane, one hole.

Ladies' singles handicap, Tuesday, April 17, at 10:30, for prize presented by Lord Kilmaine:

The Draw. – Hon. Mrs A. Y. Bingham v. Miss Marshall, Miss Ross v. Mrs Platt, Mrs Jones v. Miss Williamson.

First Ties. – Mrs Bingham beat Miss Marshall; Miss Ross beat Mrs Platt; Miss Williamson beat Mrs Jones.

Second Ties. – Miss Ross beat Mrs Bingham; Miss Williamson (a bye).

Final. – Miss Ross beat Miss Williamson.

Argelès Annual Spring Meeting (25 April 1896)

The Argelès Golf Club held their annual spring meeting during the past week over their beautiful nine-hole course, situated between Lourdes and Argelès. The following members competed for the various prizes: Mr R. J. Boreal, Mr F. W. Maude, Mr C. C. Church, Mr A. S. Tabor, Mr G. H. Goldney, Mr C. Ponsonby, Col. Maclaren, Hon. A. Y. Bingham, Mr H. Boss, Mr Athol Hay, Mr S. Platt, Lord Kilmaine, Prince de Rohan, Mr K. Macfarlane, Mr M. Cloete, Col. Anderson, and Hon. J. Browne.

The captain's prize, played by holes, three-quarters of handicap allowed, was won by Mr G. H. Goldney, who, giving four strokes, beat. Col. Anderson in the final tie two holes up. Mr S. Platt's Bogey prize (handicap) was tied, three holes down, by the Hon. A. Y. Bingham and Mr Mondiose Cloete, and won by the former, Mr Cloete not being able to play off the tie. The championship medal, scratch, was won by Mr R. J. Boreel, with a score of 96 for the eighteen holes, and the open handicap by Lord Kilmaine with 103-18=85.

The captain's prize for ladies was won by Mrs Church, scratch, who beat Miss Anderson in the final tie by one hole. Mr S. Platt's prize for ladies against Bogey was won by Miss Anderson, who tied with Mrs Church, when the latter early retired in her favour.

Golf in the Pyrenees – 30 April 1998

The Ger Golf Club held their annual tournament on their beautiful links near Argeles in Easter week. The captain's (Lord Kilmaine) prize for ladies had eighteen entries, viz.: Mrs H. Hewart, Miss C. Halkett, Miss Hay, Miss Magniac, Miss Marshall, Miss B. Magniac, Miss Miles, Miss R. Trapmann, Miss F. Hay, Hon. Mrs North, Mrs Pemberton, Mrs N. Macfarlane, Mrs A. S. Tabor, Miss L. Trapmann, Miss Berners, Miss Anderson, Miss Tyser and Miss K. Anderson. The prize was won by Miss Miles, who beat Miss Tyser in the final tie.

The captain's prize for men, match play, was competed for by the Earl of Dudley, E. Balfour, Earl of Chesterfield, Col. Davison, I. Kinloch, Marquis of Ailsa, Mr S. Platt, Mr A. S. Tabor, Hon. J. Browne, Mr J. R. Hutchison, Mr R. J. Boreel, Mr S. Shafto, Mr H. Ross, Mr Graeme Harrison, Mr P. Sorcham, Mr M. Wright, Mr W. Chapman, Mr Dubs, and Mr J. C. Pemberton. It was won by Mr F. Kinloch, Mr J. R. Hutchison, who was playing in great form, being obliged to scratch for final tie.

Mr F. Lawson's Bogey prize was won by Mr S. Platt, two holes down; The Hon. J. Browne being second, three down.

The championship medal (scratch), which brought the week's proceedings to a close, was won by Mr Slingsby Shafto with a score of 88. F. Kinloch, 89; D. Coussies, 91; Dubs, 91; J. Loyd, 93.

Golf in the Pyrenees – 29 April 1999

The Ger Golf Club held its annual tournament after Easter over its beautiful links in the Lourdes Valley, near Argeles. On Monday, April 10, and Wednesday, 12th, two prizes, presented by Mr F. C. Lawrence, were played for under match play rules, open handicap, nine holes. The first prize was won by Mrs Platt (5), who played in fine form throughout, and beat Miss K. Anderson in the final tie, after halving, by one hole.

On the 11th and 12th two prizes presented by the captain were competed for by match play under handicap, and the first prize was won by Mr C. J. Morse, who beat Mr G. Greig in the final tie, after a very exciting match, by one hole. The winner was in great form, having in the two previous ties vanquished such golfers as Mr J. F. Pullar and Major O'Grady.

On Friday, the 14th, there was a handicap competition for two prizes (presented by Lord Kilmaine, captain of the club), under handicap against Bogey. The first prize was won by Miss Maxwell, of North Berwick; with a handicap plus 2, she was 4 down; Miss Jameson (6) was second, 6 down. A strong wind was blowing all day, which was against low scoring, but both ladies played very good golf.

Also on the 14th, members played, for a prize presented by Mr S. Platt, against Bogey. This was won by Mr J. F. Pullar (handicap 11), who was 2 up. The day was wild and stormy.

*On Saturday, April 15, the tournament concluded with the championship (eighteen holes), for which the captain presented two medals – one for amateurs and one for professionals. The results were as follow: – **Amateurs** : Mr F. Dubs, 90, winner; Mr H. Jameson, 96; Major O'Grady, 103; Mr G. Greig, 103. **Professionals**: Dominic Coussies, 88; Joseph Lloyd, 89. The links were in excellent condition.*

GOLF FOR LADIES

A hard fought battle for recognition in a muscular society

By Albert Bloemendaal



“...The game is ancient, manly, and employs
In its departments women, men and boys.
Men play the game, the boys the clubs convey,
And lovely woman gives the prize away...”.



Mary Queen of Scotts playing golf. An early image of a woman playing golf

A small verse from around 1850 which about sums up the general view of the golfing world of that period. But years later in 1890 Lord Montcrief would write:

“...We have always advocated a liberal extension of the right of golfing to women...”

Although a little further he would suggest to limit the length of the holes at 40 – 60 yards. He was assuming that the ladies, given the garments they had to wear to be respectable, were subject to too many restrictions in movement to get any longer shots. The good lord did not know that at that time there were already many Scottish ladies who shot three times – and more! - that distance. Neither could he anticipate on the establishment of the Ladies Golf Union some years later in 1893. And what's more, in the USA soon after in, 1895.

Nevertheless, up to this day there's still a kind of resistance against accepting women as club members. They may meanwhile be allowed on the course, clubs may have a – separate - “Lady Captain” but in some traditional clubs in GB&I, full membership stays out of their reach. In the USA some clubs accept women only as partner of a member. In case of a divorce, the lady vanishes... Following the American custom in cases of differing viewpoints, it's not surprising that more than one case ended up in court for a long legal battle.

One particularity may be observed in this for Continentals amazing development, was that early golf in Scotland but certainly also in England and the USA had the full attention of the Free Masons. In the initiative that took place in 1744 out of which golf arose as a sport with documented rules, the main figure was Lord St Clair of Roslyn. Grand Master of the Masonic Chapter of Scotland. And these gentlemen we all know, insist on keeping women out. Later this would apply similarly to the USA.

The following article attempts to sketch a picture of the developments, sometimes the battle, of the earliest period in establishing organized ladies golf; which means mainly the period until the Great War when through their participation in the war industry, women succeeded in claiming their independence.

Still at the bottom of this small study remains: “*Why only in the Anglo world and not in the Continental environment?* “. There, ladies were at the basis of establishing golf. Some were actually initiators, up to providing the necessary land needed for golf in their area.

As said above, I aim to just register – and show – this phenomenon. Not to delve into the sociological backgrounds of the reasoning.

In the following article I'll try to sketch a picture of the tough way progress of ladies golf had to go. Some circumstances in the USA may differ from those in Europe. How the early developments in the USA fared, will be subject of a future separate article.

Acceptance of ladies golf... a battle that surprisingly is not quite finished yet.

The early years

Finding sources for a bit of golf history is a job in itself. Thousands of books are available, but when it comes to a specific subject, like Ladies Golf, it's pretty hard to find something that fits that subject.

One of the reasons, I dare say, is that Ladies Golf still is not at all an accepted subject for golf history writing. Even in well documented books on the history of golf, of the ladies' participation may be found somewhere as a side issue. As if the author all of a sudden realised there was still *something* even if he would not know exactly what and how.

In a sense under the actual habits of the society of those days, this may be just as well understandable as it is amazing.

Understandable, since publishing in the golfing world remains dominated by stories of male celebrities. Small wonder as golf writers need a sympathetic public to buy their books. Additionally, the general public watching golf on TV is an Anglo dominated male public. And TV companies do not exist for your entertainment, but for the benefit of the shareholders. Understandable as they know there is little money in ladies golf.

So starting with the objective of writing a view on the *history* of ladies golf and its

development, you soon find yourself involved in a fascinating picture of the development of two very different societies, which I will refer to as “the Anglo World” and the EU. For simplicity's sake the Anglo World will envelop the UK and the USA.

One would expect that now in the twenty first century a subject like gender equality on the golf course would hardly be a subject to dwell on. As we shall see, it's in many places still surprisingly actual.



Lady Margaret Scott (Illust. Sport; 1893 Jul. 1)

Different views

Up to this day, the golfing world is still very much dominated by Britain and the USA and to put it bluntly, they simply do not like ladies golf on their turf. That's a historic fact. As we all know, in Britain as well as in the USA, there are still golf clubs in existence which do not accept lady members; albeit a law forbidding these moguls that kind of discrimination. For their insistence, to stay all male clubs are even prepared to pay hefty fines.

Having said all this, it is surprising maybe astonishing even, that this kind of male- only viewpoint hardly existed in continental Europe. From the very beginning of golf on the continent, ladies formed part of the golf society.

They were the board of newly founded clubs as early as 1900 and even earlier. Some even took the initiative to start a new club or made land available for a new golf course.

To go into any speculation why in the Anglo world women were not considered in golf, whereas on the continent they were welcomed, seems a job for sociologists. Here, in this article I just want to sketch to what kind of consequences this could lead.

There cannot be any doubt what ladies are capable of in competition golf, still the fact remains that top lady professionals earn less than a quarter of what male golf champions take home or wherever else the champs take their millions.

It is not the object of this article to judge either viewpoint, just to register what has happened since ladies wished to play golf in private or in a competition environment. In a sense it is the story of the LGU and later when women were playing as professionals the LPGA.

Preliminaries and early appearances. England in the fore.

It is generally considered that the first public appearance of ladies playing true golf, a match – a championship no less – is considered in which Lady Margaret Scott, daughter of the Earl of Endon, first showed what women were capable of when they set themselves to it.

In earlier years women had played – a kind of – golf as mentioned in the introduction of this article. There was a St Andrews ladies club with a five hole “course”, but that, and some others, was little more than a kind of glorified putting green. It was still very much the Victorian age and dresses only prevented free movement of any kind. Movements for hitting a golfball would be considered very unladylike. Still, some ladies must have been persistent as a medal exists on which is engraved “Ladies Golf Club” 1868 Westward Ho - Devon. One year earlier in St Andrews a Ladies Club had been established which prided itself on an eighteen holes “course”. Although with holes measuring forty yards, it represented in reality little more than a row of extended putting greens. In terms of what we now consider golf, we may leave that all as preliminaries.

And then there was Lady Margaret Scott just eighteen years old, she would be the first woman in public view who showed what ladies were capable of given the opportunity. She would hit a ball – the gutty still – well over two hundred yards and hold her own against her champion brothers. Her father was a keen golfer and so was the entire family of seven. They practised golf on their own “home” course on the family grounds.

Then some years later in 1893, there was that other lady – Isette Pearson – who found golf a healthy diversion of Victorian duties. She knew that competition golf for more enterprising ladies, given the opportunity, would fit them very well. She wrote to golf clubs with lady members and challenged them to participate in a competition. It would be the first known initiative for a true championship. One more proof that women were already establishing themselves in the sport.



Isette was the daughter of the owner of a famous London publishing house. That made her being allowed as the only female member of the Wimbledon Golf Club. One member of that club was Dr Laidlaw Purves, an eye surgeon. A man who would, also make a name in other

fields of golf. Dr Purves became a close friend of Isette's and would be instrumental in establishing women golf in England.

Purves saw the possibilities offered by the railway expansion to the North. For safety reasons much free space was required alongside the tracks on which sparks spewing locomotives hurdled along. Purves had the excellent idea to buy that land for the creation of new golf courses; meanwhile inviting the much needed passengers which made the railway companies happy.

A man of action he supported Isette in creating a new organisation for women golf: The Ladies Golf Union LGU. It was June 13, 1893! Both persons of initiative they started to organize a championship forthwith. Isette wrote dozens of clubs with lady members resulting in sixty three attending a meeting during which the LGU was established formally. Just to give an impression how far forward they were as opposed to the men, it took almost fifty years before they had a ruling body. There's a quote by Lord Moncrieff, a man sympathetic to the ladies' initiative.

"They may be shorter on the links, they are far ahead in organisation..." To give an impression how forward they were, in the USA where meanwhile golf was expanding far and wide, there was only *one* club in Yonkers which had *one* lady member. For a match she had to dress behind a tree hanging her formal dress on a branch! Clubhouse entry still was decades away.



Isette Pearson, Lady Margaret Scott

The 1893 Championship.

The new course at St Anne's – now Lytham and St Annes – suggested the now organized Ladies to have their first championship on its links. Thirty eight ladies, some even from France and Ireland, were going to participate. However, organising a competition did require a system of ruling. Handicaps did not yet exist, neither did a formal schedule for a competition. For a great deal participants had never played beyond their home course so comparing capabilities to establish a handicap was tough. Isette however attached handicaps according to her own views which seemed to function.

The competition itself showed the immense difference between the participants. In the final match, lady Margaret sent her opponent Isette off with a 7&5! She would win the competition easily never having to play beyond the 15th hole! On a 4000 yards course, it was by no mean challenge with the equipment of those days; adding the limitation in movement by the strict Victorian dress-code as an additional handicap. The trophy was a wonderful silver cup offered by St Anne's.

There were two more championships that year – all won by lady Margaret! – so, the LGU ladies were well on their way. Or, as David Stirk the golf author expressed it, *"By now the ladies had the bit between the teeth and were determined that golf was not a genteel pastime, but a vigorous and skill full game...."*

Then, when some years later the Haskell ball was introduced, they showed that even more, hitting balls well over two hundred yards. Still, in that cumbersome dress. One lady, a certain Miss Higgins, found a way of controlling the flapping long skirts which limited a free swing. She made a long elastic band around the skirt at knee length to stop the skirt billowing in the wind. It would be known as a "Miss Higgins"! Lady golf in England was on its way. Where the original number of LGU clubs in 1893 was nineteen, twenty years later there were four hundred! In England only

English Ladies golf across the border.

In the same period the LGU was established in England, Scottish ladies were already quite familiar with the world of golf. Golf in Scotland was already established as a very popular game

which would attract thousands to watch a competition with Tom Morris and Willy Park. That was back 1860.

Though not often on the same grounds, women were playing competitive golf whenever and wherever possible. And as some early pictures show, they could hit a ball smartly, regardless of the cumbersome garments they had to wear. Another difference with England was that golf was not just limited to the upper classes. As we'll see Scottish girls from modest families could develop into champions.

When Dr Laidlaw Purves mentioned to his meanwhile lady golf companion Isette, that there were many very talented lady golfers in Scotland, she was quite surprised (which does not surprise us Continentals at all as we know that in that era, anything *not* happening in England, simply did not happen at all!) Scottish ladies had not shown any interest in English golf nor in their championships. It may be they did not know about them yet which, given the existing feelings across the border would not be surprising. There is also the possibility that golf in Scotland then was a more local game, limited to one's direct environment. Whatever the differences, golf in Scotland was no secret to many women.

So, Isette learning of this Scottish "ignorance" – no covering organisation – took a train northward to the historic links of Gullane in East Lothian to discuss the matter of a golf competition. It took many more visits of Isette trying to persuade the Scottish women to compete with their English sisters. Then some years later in 1897, this resulted in a serious competition to be played on the man's course of Gullane, North Berwick. More than a hundred participants subscribed to contend. Forty of which from Scotland, the others from England and Wales.

On the last days of the match play event, sixteen participants survived to contend for the winner's medal. Thirteen of them were unknown Scots! The so far unknown Scottish ladies virtually crushed their English opponents. No wonder that on that last day, the final matches attracted more than two thousand spectators!

One detail of that match remains a distinct part of Scottish golf history.

Three Scottish participants were the sisters Edith, Emily and Aimee Orr. The very talented Orr sisters ended on top of the competition. When however their very Presbyterian father learned of the match, where of course after the fashion of those days betting was lively, he immediately forbade his daughters participation in any competitive golf. The very talented Orr sisters, had to go back to their public duties like Sunday school teaching. They did however awake their English sisters to the reality that women golf on high level was already in existence ... in Scotland!

The meeting with the Scottish ladies crumbling any thoughts of English superiority in golf, made something else also clear to Isette. Since the game was played over a wide variety of places in the country and even more variations in course design, comparing capabilities was impossible. Isette realised championships should have a way of judging playing strength.

After a meeting with Dr Purves she decided to copy his way of judging playing strength: the handicapping system. For competitions she would divide participants in three categories Bronze, Silver and Gold, representing the playing ability. She went even further and accompanied by top class players, she travelled the country to form a picture of the general ability of women players, setting that off against the value of their home course. Out of that overall picture she devised the *Standard Scratch Score* the SSS we all are now familiar with, to be applied to all courses participating. She now had a system for attaching a fair playing handicap to all women players.

Not surprisingly, this system was received with great amusement by the men's golfing authorities who thought the whole idea hilarious,. Which they came to regret as not long after, the USGA adopted the system in their own version for men *and* women in 1920 !. Isette called her system "the handicapping system"⁸. An expression already in use horse racing where for fair and equal chances, horses

⁸ The actual term "handicap" came from an ancient custom at market places. Bidding there took place by having the offered bid in a closed hand stuck into a cap, hence: hand-in-cap. An arbiter would then establish which bid was the best.

with so many wins, had to carry additional weight.

Meanwhile women golf spread out over the country when a new development came into view which was not handled so well by Isette. Originally golf was a matter for ladies of well-to-do families, but the new handicapping system did much for the attraction of women of relative modest financial means. But when they suggested that in order to be able to participate in competitions, it would be fair to have a compensation for travelling cost and hotel expenses, Isette vehemently refused to consider any financial involvement. Anything financial was never even considered by the other ladies, for whom the expression “well heeled” seems to spring to the mind, Isette came into a lot of trouble with the popular press which insisted that ladies with lesser means should not be prevented from participating in championships by refusing them a compensation for travel cost. Isette’s hard viewpoints of refusing to allow such compensation and the way she handled it, got her the nickname: “The Czar of Golf!”

Then, in 1905, women golf made a new step forward when the British championship at Cromer attracted the attention of American lady golfers who wished to participate. They formed a group of seven to challenge the British. That first match of the British against the USA showed America still had a long way to go. The end result being six won by the British and one halved. It would however be a start of continued meetings, which not too many

years later would show that American ladies learned fast and thorough!

Women golf was well on its way to become a national sport drawing thousands of spectators awarded further by a lively interest of the newspapers. The war of 1914 – 1918 had some decided influence there as women then had to take the place of men in administration and industry offering them a new place in society. In golf many of them raised even to a level of stardom. That however must be a separate chapter in the progress of ladies golf.

Similarly, the story of progress of golf for women in the USA is just as interesting as at occasions it is amazing.. It’s development had some side issues worth reviewing. As the following captions may show:

One remark, by an American female scratch player commenting on a club rule that non-attached women were not considered “...We call ourselves WORM’S : Wives Of a Regular Member...”

When Karsten Solheim – founder of the PING imperium was playing a round of golf with his wife Louise on a course in Phoenix Az., they were sent off the course at the second hole. They had started before three o’clock whereas women were only allowed *after* three o’clock. Not so clever of the management. Some years later Karsten bought the club lock stock and barrel and sent the management packing!

Progress of women golf in the USA: one more subject for a next issue.



Ladies Championship at Gullane, 1897 (Life Association of Scotland)



“Golf’s Royal Clubs Honoured by the British Royal Family”, by Scott MacPherson

Reviewed by John Hanna; first published in *Through The Green*.

It is now 35 years since Sir Peter Allen wrote the Sunley Book of Royal Clubs. Now the R and A have commissioned a new book on the subject. This magnificent book by Scott Macpherson, perhaps better known as a leading golf course architect, shows just how great the advances which have taken place in both design and printing. However it is not only in these matters which have led to the production of a much better book. It is the rapid changes which have taken place in communications, research methods and travel which have enabled these improvements to be made. For example the Freedom of Information Act has allowed archived letters and previously sealed papers to be examined.

For golf historians the first chapter examines the interaction between the ‘People’s Game’ and the ‘Royal Game’ and in particular the early links with the Scottish Royal Family as early as the 15th century. This is a most comprehensive look at all the various royal families from James I right up to the present day. Given that it occupies 29 pages this is an important section of the book and will be appreciated by those

whose interest is in the history of the realm as well as in the game of golf.

The second chapter is most enlightening looking as it does at the ‘Road to the Royal Title’ and how the process has changed over the 180 years since the Perth Golfing Society became the first Royal Club, granted the royal prefix by King William IV in 1833. Following the similar granting to the Society of St Andrew’s Golfers the third club to be so named was the Montrose Royal Albert Golf Club, the title being the first bestowed by Queen Victoria. When King Edward VII became captain of the R and A there followed a rush of requests for further patronages. Then followed a strange period where a number of clubs who had been granted patronage but incorrectly assumed that this meant they could use the prefix ‘Royal’. This was incorrect and the clubs were required to refrain using the title for a while. In all cases when application was made shortly afterwards this the clubs were granted the ‘Royal’ title. It was probably this experience which led to more formal rules being laid down for future applications. The number of clubs being so favoured has greatly reduced in recent decades, the Royal Troon Golf Club being the last GB and I club to receive the privilege in the club’s centenary year of 1978. Since then all the new royal clubs have been outside these islands and even then these only add up to seven clubs. Looking at the royal clubs throughout the rest of the world the role of the British Empire is seen as very much part of the spread of the game of golf to distant lands. In particular it was the playing of golf by Scottish Regiments which usually brought the game to these countries.

As one would expect the bulk of the publication deals with the royal clubs themselves and the author has been particularly clever in how he has dealt with all sixty-six remaining Royal clubs. While they are so diverse in many

aspects he has been able to devote the same number of pages to each club. Six pages in which he first gives a brief historical overview, then a detailed colourful course map with an up-to-date scorecard indicating the lengths of the holes, before four pages filled with interesting text and intermingled with superb photographs of the course, the clubhouse and even in a number of occasions some of the club's memorabilia and other interesting features of the club.

While this section takes up the majority of the 486 pages it is the earlier chapters of the book which make this book so interesting and informative. Clearly there had to be an early relationship between Royalty and golf and the first chapter takes a detailed look at this history. Another novel feature of the books is the three-dimensional time lines showing the relationship between British Royalty and Golf which looks at members of the Royal Families from James I right up to the birth of Prince George highlighting those members who have been known to play golf. There is also an Honours Chart which takes the form of a foldout at the end of the book. This is a mine of information relating to the royal clubs giving many details of the clubs and their relationship to royalty, including the patronage and which member of the Royal Family had been President of the

club. I wonder how many readers know of the Royal Household Golf Club in the grounds of Windsor Castle or that the present monarch has granted the Royal Charter to two clubs in recent years. As recently as 2012 Queen Elizabeth honoured Port Moresby Golf Club with the Royal title. Even more recently the other addition to this special list was the Bad Homburg Golf Club in Germany. Its early connection with the Prince of Wales, later to become King Edward VII, was recognised after many years when it became 'Royal' in 2013.

The book has a very comprehensive bibliography and index to help readers. The quality of the publication throughout is first class and must surely be a 'must-have' book for all the members of the BGCS and all others who appreciate a quality publication relating to the game of golf.

To obtain the book an order form is available from Catherine McGirk at the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, Fife KY16 9JD – catherinemcgirk@randa.org

The cost is £60 and postage charges are UK (RM signed for) £16.50, Europe (Int Signed for) £21.45, ROW Zone 1 (Int Signed for) £31.10, ROW Zone 2 (Int Signed for) £32.95.



17th Swedish Hickory Championship - Bro-Bålsta GC - August 1 – 3, 2014
The last putt

The Swedish Hickory Championship

By Dr. Patric Andersson

A total of 104 players competed in the 17th Swedish Hickory Championship held at Bro-Bålsta GC on August 1 – 3, 2014. They all experienced unusually hot weather with temperatures above 32°C. Situated about 40 kilometers northwest of Stockholm, Bro-Bålsta GC is the home club of the golfing legend Annika Sörenstam. At the official opening ceremony on August 1, her father Tom Sörenstam opened the championship by entering the swing-improving machine from the Swedish movie “The Accidental Golfer” and then hitting a ball. Designed by the club’s founder, Course Architect Peter Nordwall, the course has been greatly inspired by British classic links and heathland courses like Prestwick, Royal Cinque Ports GC, and Woking, so the players adept at reading undulating greens had practical advantages.

The Swedish Hickory Championship is played as a stroke-play scratch competition in three categories: men, ladies and seniors. While the seniors play only 18 holes, the men’s and, for the first time ever, the ladies’ championships involve 36 holes over two days. The first day was also part of the widely popular Swedish Hickory Tour called Golfinks Tour, which in 2014 consist of 23 tournaments.

The Men’s Championship 2014 had 77 players of whom 69 were Swedes. There were also eight entries outside Sweden: an Australian, a German, three Finns, and three Britons. About 75 percent had single digit handicaps and 52 percent had handicaps of less than 6. Notably, this field included six PGA professionals, a 25-year old former Swedish international amateur, and three teenagers with very low handicaps. Obviously, the field also involved the skillful Swedish golfers, who often win the hickory championships in the UK and regularly compete in the Hickory Grail. On average, the age of the Swedish participants was about 50 years. The men’s Swedish Hickory Championship was

won by the PGA professional Johan Moberg with the score of 149 strokes over 36 holes (par = 74). On the final day, he aced the 13th hole and then eagled the 14th hole, giving him a lead that the competitors could not catch. The runner-up was Jörgen Isberg (152 strokes), who became the best amateur. On the third place came Claes Armå and Perry Somers (153 strokes).

The Ladies Championship, involving 11 Swedish players with the average handicap of 12.2, turned out to be a thrilling duel of the sun between the 2013 champion Eva Adermark and the home favorite Frida Rydberg, who both scored 169 strokes over 36 holes (par = 76). By winning fifth play-off hole, Eva Adermark successfully defended her championship title. On the third spot was Britta Nord (177 strokes). In the Seniors Championship, there were 11 Swedes, a Finn and four Britons, summing up to 16 competitors with the average handicap of 11.9. With a single stroke and the score of 85 strokes (par = 74), Tomas Tedvik managed to win the title before the two runner-ups Ove Stenbeck and Hans Andersson (86 strokes).

The 17th Swedish Hickory Championship at Bro-Bålsta GC turned out to be a memorable and successful event in keeping with the motto: *“Golf as it used to be played – and as it was meant to be played.”* The event was praised by all participants and some of them even claimed it to be the benchmark for future hickory championships. The organizing committee was delighted to see that the 17th Swedish Hickory Championship had attracted so many participants of five different countries, including prominent guests like the present and past captains of British Golf Collectors’ Society, Alan Henderson and David Kirkwood, the captain of the European Hickory Grail Team, Nigel Notley, and the chairman of the World Hickory Open Championship, Lionel Freedman.



Hague Golf Club, fenced green 9th hole (1898)



Hague Golf Club, prizegiving Godfrey Bland Cup. Van Brienon top 2nd left, Daisy bottom right. (1895)



*Jack Newton at the British Open 1975
(courtesy Stephan Filanovitch)*



*Postcard from the 1953's match
(courtesy JBK)*



Charles Alison, Harry Colt and John Morrison