

EAGHC - 8th Annual Meeting



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Continental Golf and the Freemantle family

Donald M Cameron



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- Introduction
- I'm interested in the 'social links' between golf and golfers and one significant and recurring social link is that between and within families. Whilst digging around for information about the early years of golf in France I came across the name of Freemantle as the professional at Dinard then at Compiègne, Hyères, Dieppe, St Moritz and Villars Palace.



William Freemantle's early life

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- According to the family history published in ancestry.co.uk 'William Freemantle was born in Hampshire in 1862 - at a time when golf was still a Scottish pastime.' It's not until the Isle of Wight Golf club was founded in 1882 and the Hayling Island club founded in 1883 that golf reached Freemantle's home area. It must have been after that time that he 'learned about golf with Tom Morris at St Andrews' to quote a family document published on ancestry.co.uk.



Family Links

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- The next generation of Freemantle's appear in Jackson's volume on 'Golf professionals' with the mention of two of William's sons - Morris at Lausanne in 1927 and Reginald at Etretat in 1927.
- It is also interesting to note that one of George's daughters - Elaine Eva - married Bernard Samuel Calloway. The Calloway family were raised at Bembridge – next to the Royal Isle of Wight Golf Club – where they worked as caddies.



William Freemantle 1876

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Golfing snippets

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- *The Golfing Annual, 1890-1* shows William Freemantle as a greenkeeper with H Harris at Dinard.
- In *Golf* magazine in November 1897 his name reappears with the description of him as the 'Professional' at Hyeres in November 1897. The committee at Dieppe employed Freemantle in 1899 with a comment that he had been the professional at Dinard for seven years.



Morris and William Zurich 1914 ish

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William Freemantle 1919 ? at Kulm

8



Louisa, William and Lily at Kulm

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Lily Freemantle at Crans sur Sierre 1919

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The start of the Freemantle dynasty

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- According to Alan Jackson's authoritative volume on 'British Professional Golfers', William Freemantle makes his first appearance at Hyeres in 1901-2, at Dieppe in 1901, at Cannes (winter) in 1904-8, at Royal Golf Club Ostend in 1907-19 and Villars Palace, Switzerland in 1927.
- His brother Samuel is mentioned as being at Cannes in the winter of 1903 and again in 1904-8 and at Villars Palace in 1927.



Unknown and William F 1919 at Kulm

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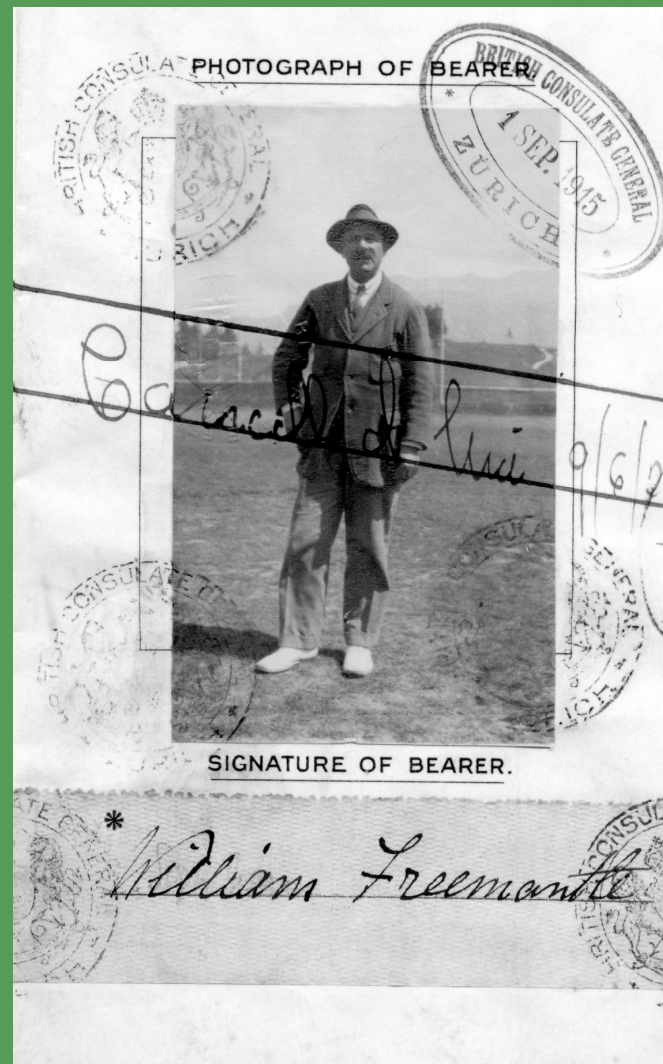
Lily Freemantle Crans sur Sierre 1911 ish

13



William Freemantle passport photo 1915

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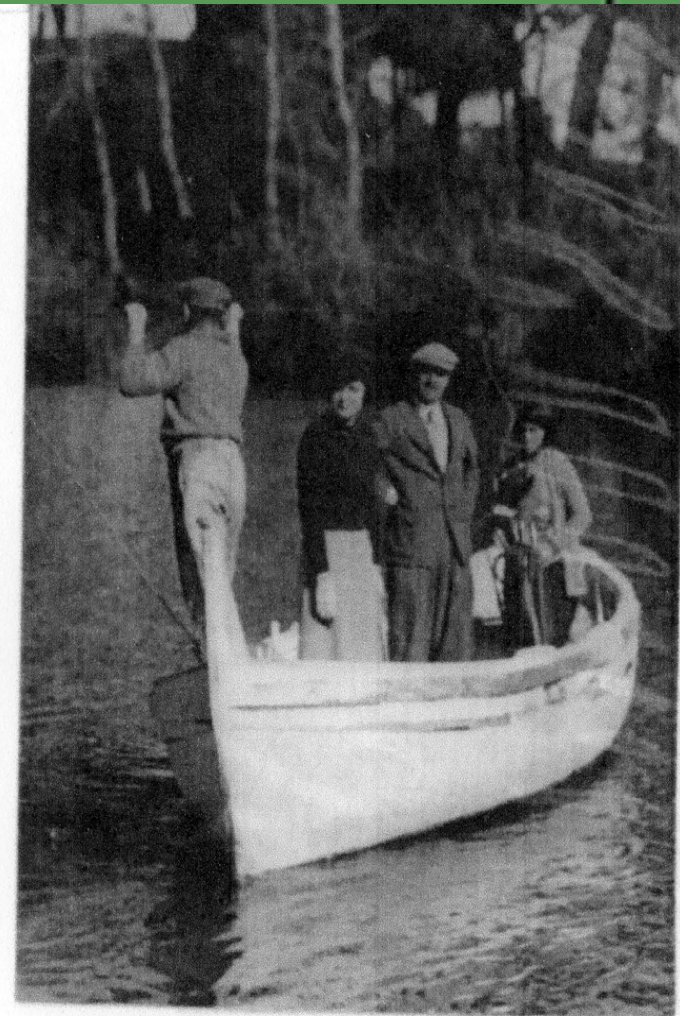
'Rene' Freemantle at Mandelieu 1920-39

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From the time, René
Freemantle was 17
he gave golf lessons
in the Wintertime
at the Golf of
Mandelieu -
La Napoule.

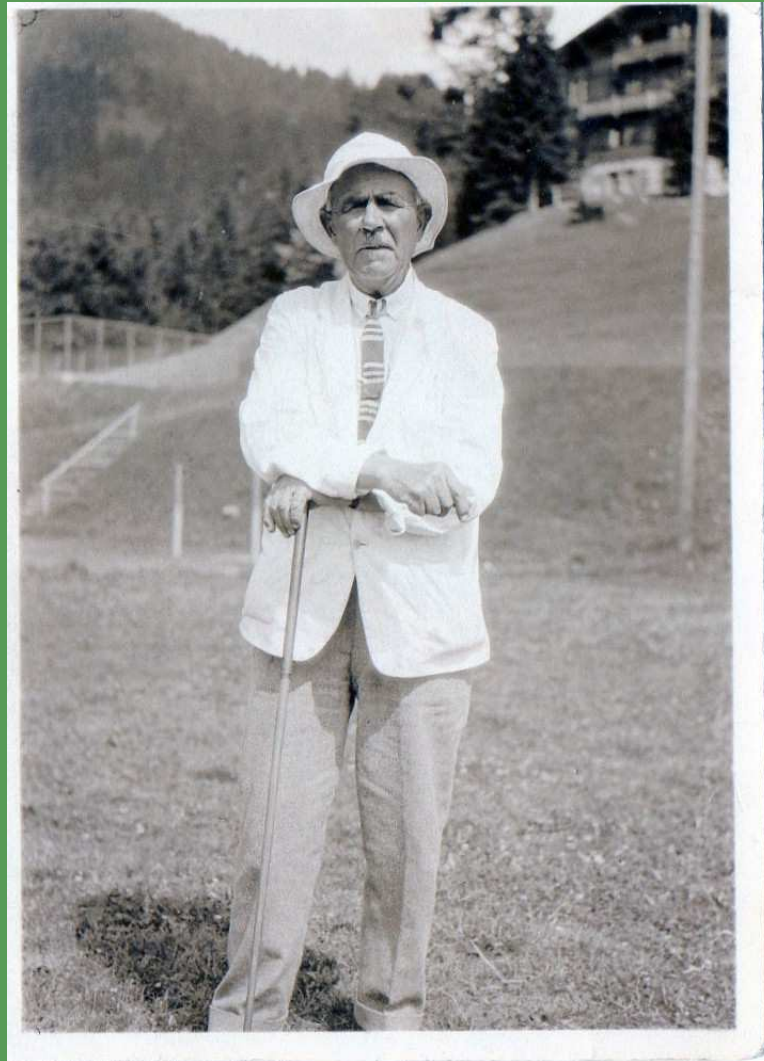
till 1942 ~
The golf course is
divided by a river
and this small
boat was used
to cross it.



René Freemantle
with the Begum Aga
1911 Prince André!

William Freemantle Villars 1930

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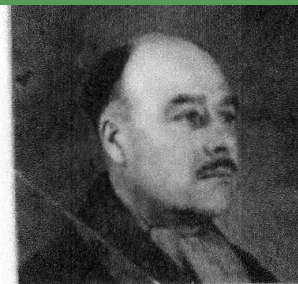


Rene F and wife of Aga Khan Cannes 1935

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The wife of the Agha Khan - with my Dad - in Cannes - 1935



Aga Khan + Rene Freemantle 1937

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Deauville - August 1937

In the center, the Aga Khan
and his wife, Princess Andree
and René Freemantle



Rene Freemantle and Rita Hayworth 1950

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Rita's swing is good

Rita Hayworth is taking golf lessons in Deauville.

The other day she left her husband, Aly Khan, and her seven-months-old baby.

Thank you for your attention

