

*Brochure edited both with "les Chemins de Fer Pyrénées-Occidentales-Midi" and the seaside resorts  
(EAGHC's member collection)*

# golfika



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The front cover of Golfika Magazine n°21 is after a painting by Viktor Cleve. It represents the Pau Golf Club inspired by a postcard of the period and worked in the Sealy style painting.

Viktor, an EAGHC honorary member, is a German leading golf painter. As a former art director, he kindly designed the cover page for Golfika-Magazine.

Pictures illustrating the various articles are provided by authors or from personal collections.

## Imprint and disclaimer

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## President's words

David Hamilton



Dear Fellow EAGHC Members,



This is a picture of me with the Association's elegant "president's putter" passed on to me by Poul-Erik Jensen after his distinguished Presidency for the last two years. I have kept in touch with the growth of our Association over the years from the first meeting onwards, and the pioneers have been rewarded by a stable, well-supported society with an excellent magazine which is growing in confidence. The highlight of my visits to our meetings was meeting Lally Segard at the inaugural meeting at Chantilly in 2006.

Last summer, I was glad to help the office bearers with the visit to St Andrews. It made us locals realise anew the charm of the city, particularly as all the heritage can be reached on foot.

In St Andrews, we are out of winter now. Though quite far north, we don't get much snow. The red gutta balls of old, thought to be for use in snow, where instead to enable them to be found when the white daisies came out in the springtime in

the pre-weedkiller era. Golf does stop here when there is a hard frost. For a quick round here in the winter there is the nine-hole Balgove course (known locally as Royal Balgove), children-only when it is busy in summer but on a cold stormy winter day, it is just fine for a quick sprint round. Because the children don't take divots, the fairways are the best on the links.

Looking ahead to the gathering in Pau, Jean and I will visit the town and golf club soon on one of our regular journeys south to visit our son in Gibraltar. Thinking ahead about our meetings, one result of Brexit is that in Britain the non-metric culture may return - some old weights and measures never died, and all the tee boxes at St Andrews are still in yards. We monolingual Brits in the Association are nervous that your tolerance has been sorely strained, but hope you continue the kindly policy of having the proceedings in English.



*Lally is a charming dinner companion and here I am explaining to her that you can mend broken spectacles with the versatile gutta-percha gum. (Picture taken during the first EAGHC meeting in Chantilly, 2006).*

## Editor's Corner

**Stéphan Filanovitch**



Dear EAGHC members,

Welcome to this spring issue.

As we were ready to send this issue to the printer, we learnt the sad news: our Honorary President and dear friend Lally Segard sadly passed away.

In our next Golfika-Magazine issue, we shall offer a tribute to Lally with a significant paper on her life and feats.

Our sad regreates are rejoining those we have for the memory of Pierre Massy who also passed away, it was on Christmas day.

But spring is not there. At this time, we are waiting for the “Moscow-Paris” cold front, as the meteorologists like to call it! Freezing weather with subzero temperature will sweep across France. So, it is better to read the Golfika #21 near a fireplace!

From Albert Bloemendaal, you will discover what was an early designer golf course, with Tom Morris. I think that you have already seen it in St-Andrews last summer.

JBK is introducing our next meeting at Pau, with his fabulous collection of postcards both from Pau and Biarritz. Once again Viktor Cleve realize a beautiful cover, inspired from Pau GC. Many thanks !

As I am living in Maisons-Laffitte, I appreciate a lot the Georges Jeanneau's article. Unfortunately, there no more trace of the Mesnil golf course, but if you have the chance to play La Boulie, it's always a pleasure.

Sorry, I never heard of “the boy in blue”, and Robin Bargmann give me the opportunity to learn the story of this beautiful painting and the Dutch artist Bartholomeus van der Helst.

We added a book reading section about our next meeting in Pau (and Biarritz), so you will be ready for our trip!

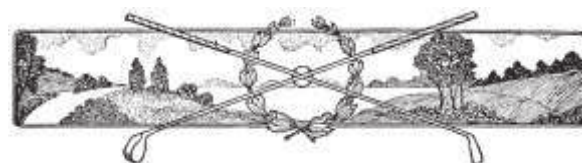
Discover or rediscover Deauville, with Bernard Darwin, this is always a great pleasure to play this Normandy golf course.

Next to our meeting, the 42nd Ryder Cup will be held in France from 28 to 30 September 2018 at the Albatros Course, Golf National, very close to Versailles.

I hope you will be here, to support your favourite team!

Finally, always my kind reminder: we are still looking for new articles, even short. It is very important that we get papers from different sources, to increase the scope we are covering.

And, when writing about the magazine, please, avoid to use any specific name (Stéphan or JBK) but always use this email: [editor@golfika.com](mailto:editor@golfika.com)





## **In memoriam Pierre Massie**

### **Another great friend of the EAGHC who sadly passed away**



In the previous Golfika-Magazine, we were sadly announcing that Philippe Martin passed away, and publishing a picture of him close to Pierre Massie. Today, we have to report another sad news, Pierre Massie – who was suffering from a long illness – passed away on December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017. He was 84.

I met Pierre Massie for the first time with Huguette when we joined Le Vaudreuil Golf Club, in Normandy. Pierre was the president at that time and he kindly offered to be our proposer

for membership. Pierre was also, for several years, Secrétaire Général to the French Golf Federation during the years when Georges Barbaret was the president.

Since the very first day of the creation of our Association, Pierre was a strong supporter. The picture below is a moving testimony of this event.

We often saw Pierre during many informal meetings in a café or a restaurant, chatting about various projects related to golf. Pierre was extremely keen on the history of golf and on its evolution and expansion. He was deeply involved in ecological problems.

We are losing a friend and our thoughts at this moment go to his family. We will never forget Pierre's kindness, generosity and friendship. He will be very sadly missed.

JBK



*Pierre Massie, third from the left, close to Lally Segard, during our inaugural EAGHC meeting in 2006 at Chantilly. From left to right: Christophe Muniesa, Lally Segard, Pierre Massie, Mme Mao, Jean-Pierre Picquot, Yves Mao, Yves Mazo, Georges Jeanneau, Stéphan Filanovitch, Xavier de Taffin and JBK.*

## **Designing golf courses** **An historic view at early designs.**

By Albert Bloemendaal



It was when reading Tom Morris' life story, that I realised how little there is on the history of golf course design. We may have a library of books on golf, golfers and golf tournaments, but on the history of how they first designed golf courses came into being there's very little.

Many of us may have up to hundreds of books on every aspect of our beloved pastime, but on the history of golf course design and development there's surprisingly little.

Particularly as in the latter twenty years or so, new golf courses were designed in a fashion which must allow for the modern golfer and his also modern equipment. Fairways are growing in lengths that raise questions whether this development must go on. Under these circumstances many a true golfer is looking back to the time when it was the artistry of a golf course design which made club selection at each stroke a major consideration.

But these are of course reminiscences of an older generation. Which to a great extent we, members of the golf historians' society, belong to. So, let us dwell some moments on a period when golf courses as we know them now, did not yet exist. When a course had no well-defined area yet, closed off from the surrounding land only to be entered by the true golfer; free to just anybody who happened to be there. The time when just two criteria were to be considered: there must be a tee and a hole with some distance in between. No definite distances or measures not even for the hole itself yet.

The end of that period can clearly be established: the appearance of the manufactured golf ball. Cheap, durable and spectacularly longer off the tee. It brought golf within the reach of the common man which made golf growing fast now.

New courses were necessary that were fit to accept more players as well as being capable for the properties of that new ball.

Many characters are being suggested to have seen what the new ball was bringing forward but it was Tom Morris who saw the consequences in golf course design. He was the man who realised that the new – cheap – ball would start a new era. This happened when he was “keeper of the green” in Prestwick for which he had been selected by Lord Eglinton who had known him at St. Andrews. His Lordship had plans for a course on his own land near Prestwick.

It seems therefore fitting and also practical, to begin a review of Tom's early attempts that may will serve to picture what was happening in those early years when a golf course was to be implemented.



### **Prestwick, the first attempt.**

Other than the majority of other sports fields, a golf course does not know definite requirements in shape or design. Which makes prescribing requirements so complicated. Of course, as any other sport, it must be a test of capability. And in golf this again is a complicated affair. A golf course is never the same as it will hardly ever present itself in the same conditions. Nature claims a demanding influence in the kind of test a course demands. The area where golf is played will hardly ever be the same.

So whenever a plan for a golf course is being considered, the first dilemma is finding the land offering enough space but above all, the kind of land that will allow to play under a majority of conditions.

I think therefore it may be most illuminating describing how Tom Morris more than a hundred and fifty years ago truly designed a course. Not just shaping a bit of available land, but a true vision on what a course should offer to demand real capability in playing golf.

In 1851 Morris was offered the position of golf professional on a course near Prestwick. The owner of the land, the Earl of Eglinton, had known Tom from the time when Tom was assistant pro on St Andrews. Eglinton was a member there when the clash happened between Robertson the head professional and Tom Morris over the use of the new ball. Morris was fired because he privately was manufacturing the new rubber ball Robertson refused to along with the introduction of the manufactured golf ball. It would rob his ball makers from their profession and besides, he did not believe in the quality of the “guttery” as the new ball was nicknamed. Given the poor flying qualities of the new ball he seemed to have a point there.

Tom however saw knew it would be just be a question of time. And indeed, a short while later when dimples in the guttery were introduced nobody would think any longer of the expensive handmade ball. All together reason enough for Tom Morris to accept the offer by Lord Eglinton for the position of head greenkeeper. In first instance his duties involved no more than just looking after what was there as a golf course and teach and accompany the members.

His Lordship however had bigger plans. He wanted Tom to design a real up to date course on his land. Until then, golf courses were practically always on public land, so it was pretty hard to really design anything as it would always be subject to use by other activities. Eglinton realised that if he wanted anything resembling a true course, it should be on “protected private land”. So, he made part of his family land available.

It is useful to sketch the situation a bit more in detail. That part of Prestwick then involved a little more than 2000 inhabitants. Situated near the Atlantic Ocean it had similar conditions as known in St Andrews. If only for the dreaded whin or gorse, the prickly hard to remove shrubbery omnipresent in the coast area.

How seriously he took this whole new development may be concluded from the measures he implemented. He played his new course with every member to form his impression of the man’s abilities. He then granted a handicap according to his opinion of the man’s play. That a mere golf pro would do that created no less than a revolution. A working class man giving an opinion of whatever action of one of his peers, was unheard of. But Lord Eglinton agreed completely with Tom as he saw that this was a first step on the way to golf of a better standard.

Morris ran into one more problem as the eighty to a hundred acres – some 30 to 40 hectares – that he needed proved to be far too much for a landowner to make available. Tom would have to make it with less than half. Still his lordship expected a real 18 holes course!



Although shot distances with the equipment of those days were yet rather limited, Morris was presented with a real dilemma. He wanted to present a well-designed course with all included



that real golf required. Which in that limited space was hardly realistic, on the other hand he had to please his Lordship who had given him the opportunity.

Initially he accepted what was there. At the same time, he was aware that if members would go on playing the way they were used to, even a well-designed course would be a bit over the top. So, he first began to establish a new regimen to drill the rather “free-for-all style” of the members into real dedicated golf-play. Not an easy task. Friends of his lordship were without exception upper class and more accustomed to giving orders than to respond to them. Their grumblings reached Lord Eglinton who simply told them to shut up and do what Tom Morris ordered. He also advised them to take lessons so as to make their play at least look like golf.

Tom took the whole winter period when the course was not in use to walk around the available land. Designing in his mind what could be done to make the area at least look like a complete 18 holes course. With spring coming he started his project. Soon however he had to accept that a twelve-hole course would be a maximum and even that would require some very ingenious designing.

One must realise that eighteen holes was not a real requirement yet. Courses could have any number that would fit the available land. Musselburgh for instance had five while Montrose had no less than twenty-five. So a design of 12 holes wasn't all that irregular.

And it was there that Tom Morris' design with its crossing fairways was rather original to say the least. Players had to be very much aware of other players as balls could be expected flying from all directions. Nevertheless, play and players made very satisfying progress and Tom's reputation was established for good.



Although these improvements made it feel more like a test of golf, it still was a long way from what we now regard as a standard. Newer equipment and improved balls players simply felt what they were capable of. But courses as they were, simply did not allow yet for high level golf. They remained rough and primitive. The fact alone that holes still had no hard lining could make putting a gamble. It is therefore that Tom Morris' early work on Prestwick was so much more than just constructing a course. His working out of the principle demands for a ‘real course’ proved to be the basics that would be followed from then on. So, I'll follow Morris' early exploits in order to come close to a view of the early development of a course “design”.

Meanwhile the number of participants was still very limited and golf in that area was a rather unknown quality. Altogether, though Prestwick may serve as one of the first courses that was established after a well-planned design, it was by no means anything that might be compared with what we now know as a “golfcourse”. That phenomenon still had to wait a few years till Tom's next project.

### And then St Andrews.

Though Prestwick's early design was a great step forward, course development really came into a new era after Morris was appointed in St. Andrews in 1856. He got the order to redesign whatever was yet available. So, for an impression of what early golf course design was like we might just as well take St Andrews. Though it was not the only place where new ways of construction were undertaken.

It is maybe useful to sketch in some detail what a course then looked like. That might begin with the simple fact that there was no real teeing ground in the sense that it was exclusive for beginning play. Look at the rule: “A tee shall be no further than three club-lengths from the hole!”. Imagine what the patch of ground around the hole would be like... And how diligent players had to be when on the tee while someone else was approaching.

Another rather puzzling fact for us modern golfers was that the first tee-off was also the place of the last holing out. Just three club-lengths further. In St Andrews this had led to the strange construction of a 22 holes course.



A puzzling matter that I won't go into further here.

Another custom that needed reviewing was that the holes "out" were the same as the holes "in". At the last hole out - which could be the tenth or even eleventh – one turned around and played the very same holes back. Always teeing off three lengths from the (putting) hole. Players had to be very careful with balls flying in both directions. Putting must have been a truly interesting experience! It was clear to Morris that golf needed a completely renewed view if it were to be for a larger company of players. To begin in St Andrews.

Before anything, he insisted he begin with an improved course design. Which meant a complete make-over of the entire course. The main news was that from now on a tee would be just a tee and the hole only a hole. He removed four "holes" to make the total eighteen, nine in and nine out. Each with its own putting green. Teeing off and holing out would be now forever separated. In fact, the eighteen-hole course as we know it now, was developed there and then and we have Tom Morris to thank for that.

Comment: Describing the old and new situation becomes unnecessarily complicated because in English a "hole" may mean the hole in the ground to receive the final stroke, or just as well the whole area from tee-off to the green where the ball would drop into "the hole"! Actually, the size of the (putting) hole was decided as 4 ¼ inches only in 1891. Though already in 1829 it was introduced at Musselburgh. The story goes that a professional found the wearing out of the hole made the size unsure. So, for he cut a slice from a standard rain to give the hole a fixed size. The standard size of a rain pipe was 4 ¼ inches.

### Designing "Fair"ways.

The modern golfer would have been astounded at the stretch of ground marked "fairway" in Morris' early days. Grass was sparsely available and where it was the soil was primitive. On a surface typical for the coastal area, grass fit for true golf was hard to get. Morris realised that if greens were to function well on his newly developed course, he would have to import grass seeds from Holland. Which he did. These early greens of St Andrews were an example for everywhere a new course was projected. Later

"inland" courses, at first denied as unnatural, soon became recognized for their lusty green fairways and greens. But greens were only half the worries. The dreaded "whins" that sided the fairways, formed an impenetrable barrier when a ball got in there. With no heavy equipment yet available it was backbreaking work to get rid of. In fact, a bit of them survived and are still there."

Piece by piece though continuous hard work St Andrews became close to what we now recognize as a standard golf-course. What helped more than anything else was that new equipment came available. In those early days, grass cutting on fairways never had great priority. Until 1870, sheep were used for keeping the fairways trimmed, though lawn mowers had been available since 1832. On the better courses horse drawn lawn mowers were used with horses wearing specially designed "over shoes". Greens were mown by hand. So, when motor driven mowers came available another step forward could be made to what we now consider a well-maintained course. Though it would only be at the turning of the century to see the first impressions of courses that looked like what we are accustomed to now.

A first impression of what early development had brought about could be seen when the St Andrews community decided in 1895 to create a new course at the side of what we now know as "The Old Course". It was appropriately named "The New Course".

A period of around fifty years produced a combination of developments which together advanced from the rough environment of the early courses to a well-organized concept of the course we now know. Development in course design and construction never stopped and year after year we may see new courses which have the latest advances in course construction. A matter that under the ever tighter rules on use of use water on fairways and greens, makes a continuing challenge for course designers.



## Collecting Golf Postcards: Pau and Biarritz

By JBK (Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak)



As our next EAGHC meeting will be held in Pau, with a one day extension to Biarritz – to commemorate the Kilmaine Cup played between Pau and Biarritz, we thought that it would be a good idea to present the early postcards which featured those two first golf clubs in France.

### Pau golf postcards.

The English Club was created in 1824 in Pau, and a few years later Dr Alexander Taylor was writing his book “*The curative influence of the climate of Pau*”. Those two events would significantly contribute to the attractiveness of the city. But concerning golf, we would need to wait until 1856 to see the club opening.

As everybody knows now, the Pau Golf Club is the Oldest in the world, with the exception of United Kingdom and its Colonial Empire. So many books are providing its history, so we prefer here to purely focus on postcards.



The postcard above is the oldest one we know. This specific one was mailed on May 1903. The back is undivided, as it was the rule in France before October 1903. At that time, the back was only dedicated to the address and the message was to be written on the picture side!



The next picture was edited by Eug. Pacault who produced a lot of postcards in Biarritz. This one is dated 1908 and it's moving to see that the clubhouse has not so much changed nowadays.

The next one is another view of the club-house. Numbered 479, it starts a long and great series: “*Les Pyrénées Illustrées*”





It is not easy to make a simple description of the “*Pyrénées Illustrées*” series as some cards do not bear the title name; and to make the story even a bit more complex, there is a dual numbering. It was edited by signed “R.N.” an acronym for “*Royer, Nancy*”. The first card (top left of this page) is #637 and a similar one (but without the title) is numbered #80. Then, we have #890 to #894 ... plus #897 and 898. Notice that all these cards have the same caption “*Une partie au*

*Golf*” except a slight difference for the two last one and the two last ones: “*Un match très intéressant*” and “*Un match au Golf*”.

Some writers claimed that the pictures were taken during the great match played in Pau in 1896 for the forty years of the club when Harry Vardon, J.H. Taylor, Alex Herd, Archie Simpson and Willie Auchterlonie played with Joe Lloyd, the US Open Champion and local pro to Pau.



Famous amateur champions were present too: Horace Hutchinson, Charles Hutchings, Claude Ponsonby or T. Mellor. Personally, we are not so sure and would formulate a different guess – but still a guess! After 1893 every year was played a match opposing Pau to Biarritz: the Kilmaine Cup. This competition is continued nowadays and these pictures could have been taken during such matches.

To finish with the long series, let's say a few words about the numbering. First, the twin numbers we have seen are: 637 ↔ 80; 891 ↔ 81; 892 ↔ 83; 898 ↔ 86.

It is also interesting to notice that this series starts with two low numbers (479 and 637) then continues with numbers from 890 to 898. But we have never seen either 875 nor 897, nor any other number (except, of course, the twin cards).

There is another great series well sought after by collectors of the PGC. It is the entitled “*Les sports à Pau*” and was edited by Labouche Frères (cliché Ed. Jacques). Such a title suggests that others sports were featured.



We know five postcards from this series: the four above (numbered 3, 5, 6 and 7 – from top left to bottom right) plus one in the vertical format, presented left side (#4). There might be others, but as these numbers are successive, the others could be related to a different sport. We would appreciate if any reader could help – see indication at the end of this paper.

Please notice also that on the card #6 we can see a larger crowd as on the PCs #897 and 898 from the previous series.



Before switching to other editors, let's continue with a postcard by Labouche but which should not be included in this series.



It is again a view of the club house and bears #92 with the caption "Golf Club. – Plaine de Billère".



Another very nice card is the #242 by the editor printing MPPP in a cross. The man on the right side looks like a caddie or a pro: it is not Joe Lloyd, but it could be Dominique Coussie?



This postcard #370 by M.P. (we don't know if this is related to MPPP – see above) is featuring the bridge over the Jordan or rather the "canal Heid inférieur". This bridge still exists but was moved about 50 meters and is very close to the club-house. It is great to compare this view with the one offered by L.L. (Léon et Levy) #179 and simply captioned "Vue prise à la plaine de Billère".



We'll finish this review of Pau postcards with a series of four, edited by Jové. After WWI, this printer was specialized in heliographic printing and most of his production is based on this technique.



These postcards are numbered 53, 54, 55 and 56.



## Biarritz golf postcards.



Let's start the presentation of Biarritz golf postcards with the oldest one we know. Not surprisingly, it is an undivided back (before Oct. 1903 – we know another one which was mailed on 4<sup>th</sup> Jan. 1902). This card is numbered #77 and the caption reads "*Anglais joueurs de Golf, près du Phare*". It's showing a great view of a player driving off the tee, the other player and two caddies are watching. On the right side, we can guess that other persons are sitting and watching the golfers.

The editor is signing M.D. (acronym for *Marcel Delboy*, a major editor located in Bordeaux) who would, after WWI, sign his postcards by reversing his name into "*Yobled*".

The longest, and may be the most important series on golf postcards was edited by Eug. Pacault, about 1908.



This series was edited in 1906 and starts with six views (possibly seven, but we have never seen #3) all featuring social events rather than golf, properly speaking. From top left to bottom right we have: 1. – *Vue du club*; 2. – *Golf Club. Achetant les joueurs. Prix de la Ville*; 4. –

*L'heure du Thé sur la Pelouse*. 5. – *Five o'Clock Tea*; 6. – *Le Thé sur la Terrasse*; 7. *Sous les arbres*. Then, all others, with the exception of #11 and 15 are providing nice golf views. And the #8 is *A. Massy. Champion Français du Golf*.







Postcard #9 (*Partie Mixte*) and #10 (*Point de Départ du Jeu des Dames*) are followed by another “social” view featuring “*Lord Dudley, Vice Roi d’Irlande, causant avec M. Balfour*”.



Postcard #12 is showing a large group of caddies; more than 40 can be seen here. The two postcards on the right side are #13 (*Descente de la Chambre d'Amour*) and 14 (*Montée de la Falaise*) are relics of the past and can no longer be seen, after transformations of the course. Notice that postcard 14 is here in colour (all cards from this series exist in both B&W and colour version). The picture closing the series is #15 and is simply entitled “*Fin de Partie*”!

There is one more postcard from Eug. Pacault related to our topic. #27, it does not belong to the previous series and the caption says “*Côte de la Chambre d'Amour – Jeu de Golf, côté de la Mer*” (This one was mailed in 1908).



*The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News*, 16 March 1907, is publishing the same picture as the one on PC #14, and the accompanying text provides a great learning: the man driving on this postcard is Captain D. Saul. This can be read in *The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News*, 16 March 1907.



Two other postcards are picturing this part of the course which is now gone. On the left side, card #8 “*Le Golf à la Chambre d'Amour*” and the right #96 “*Le Golf à la Plage de la Chambre d'Amour*”. Both say “*Cliché Jugand. Avenue Edouard VII, Biarritz*” (certainly the photographer L. Jugand) but second one, bears on its back side “*Imp. Phot. Neurdein et Cie – Paris*”.



Around the same period, two postcards were issued, both featuring the king Edward VII at the golf club. They were edited by “*Magasin du Souvenir, 14 rue Mazagran, Biarritz*”. On the second picture, the caption reads “the king is listening military music, despite the wind”. Personally, we would assume that his Majesty is trying to listen to the ladies, while the military music was playing!

This is also the opportunity to say a few words about RPPCs. We have seen many of them showing golf players. Some are from what could be called a “series”! We are giving here a few examples.



Speaking of Royalty, we must show here a RPPC (Real Photographic Post-Card) featuring the King Alfonso XIII of Spain, playing golf at Biarritz. Even if the quality of the picture is pretty poor, the interest is real.





We'll finish with two nice postcards. On the left side we have a card by Jugand, #101 "Le golf". If the picture was certainly taken before WWI, the printing looks like to be after WWI.



We checked as carefully as possible our information, but if our readers could inform us of any mistake or could provide any additional information, we would appreciate to receive an e-mail at: [jbk@orange.fr](mailto:jbk@orange.fr)  
Many thanks in advance.



"Cartes Postales Magazine" #34, will be issued in March, and gives an article dedicated to Bearn and Pays Basque golf postcards, known as "the French home of golf". It is a good complement of JBK's paper above. Even it is in French, the article has many interesting and rare pictures.



The magazine can be ordered to the editor of CP-MAG:

[cartes.postales.magazine@gmail.com](mailto:cartes.postales.magazine@gmail.com)

Price is 8.50 € (worldwide incl. p&s) and payment could be done by Paypal at the address provided above.

Note from the editor of Golfika-Magazine: This article is the first from a long series covering entire France. We suggest a possible subscription (Europe: 45 €; Other countries: 55 €)

The magazine is published every other month (6 issues a year).

## The beginning of the Société du Golf de Paris

By Georges Jeanneau



In this article, I would like to present two papers published at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and giving an excellent view of the starting of the Golf Club of Paris: first at Mesnil-le-Roi and later at La Boulie.

**New York Herald, Saturday , May 1, 1897**

*Paris Golf Club now founded.  
Sixty lovers of the "Royal and Ancient Game"  
already enrolled as members.*

Golf is now properly started in Paris, and bids fair to become a very popular Parisian pastime.

A club has been lately started at Mesnil-le-Roi, a kilometre and a half from Maisons-Laffitte railway station on the road to Saint-Germain, called the "Société de Golf de Paris", the club in question having changed its name from that of the « Société de Golf du Mesnil-le-Roi » to its present title.

The following are the names of the committee: The Marquis de Jaucourt (president), M. L. Diaz Albertini (honorary secretary), the Comte Paul Esterhazy, Colonel Douglas Dawson, M. J. de Lombardiére, Comte de Charnacé, Comte Jacques de Pourtalès and Captain Ed. Essex Digby. The members play more generally on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, but, as a matter of fact, members can play when they like.

Although the game of golf, properly speaking, requires eighteen-hole links, the grounds at Mesnil have only half that number of holes. This was the case with the Pau golf links at first, and it is hoped that before long the Paris club will have an eighteen-hole links, so as to keep company with the Pau, Cannes and Dinard clubs. The dimensions of the Paris club's links are about 600 yards in length and 250 yards in width. It's beautifully turfed and has a fine piece of water in the centre which marks a capital "hazard".

For three years golfers residing in Paris have searched for a suitable ground and nothing was found more convenient than that at Mesnil. A nice little villa has been taken, which commands the grounds. Here lives the club's professional, Alfred Covington, late of the Royal Epping Forest Golf Club, Essex.



WORKSHOP AT THE CLUB HOUSE.

Seeing the name of Colonel Douglas Dawson on the list of the committee, a Herald correspondent applied to that gentleman for further information on the features of the club.

*"The club was started by Captain Essex Digby and M. L. Diaz Albertini" said Colonel Dawson, "who are both enthusiastic golfers. Then, among other members, there is M. Léon Legrand, who takes a great deal of interest in the game and has a good deal of experience, and that well-known sportsman, the Comte Jacques de Pourtalès and – there are a number of others – some sixty in all who are playing golf now with a will. There are a number of English players and some*

Americans, but I inclined to think the French players preponderate in point of numbers”.



THE CLUB HOUSE, MESNIL-LE-ROI.

“And how do you manage for caddies?”

“Oh, as to that we have no difficulty at all. The game is becoming popular at Mesnil and the lads about the place are beginning to understand that they can earn a few francs in an afternoon and I think the caddy arrangements will go all right. All members have to do is to telegraph down to Mesnil for caddies. The links is very near Paris. On reaching Maisons-Laffitte station you can always get a fly and drive to the grounds in five minutes.

*Golf as a French sport.*

Very interesting was a conversation with the Comte Jacques de Pourtalès on the game of golf from a Frenchman’s point of view.

M. de Pourtalès is a very ardent golfer and a staunch supporter of the Paris Club.

“My impressions” asked he? “Very well : I must start by saying that from my point of view those who are very fond of sport are usually very fond of good hard work, when they take their exercise.”

“Now, I could not recommend golf to my countrymen who go in for this kind of thing. Golf is, perhaps, too moderate an exercise for young people. But, alas! One is not always at an age when a “rallye paper” when football or polo is agreeable, or when such hard exercise fits in conveniently with the calls of social life or even the ordinary daily demands on one’s time.

”Be this as it may, any one must admit that from one cause or another there comes a time when a man looks about him for some kind of moderate exercise, and it is just here that golf comes in.

“Of course sports, generally speaking, are very largely a question of fashion, but I am sure that golf will take root in France, not through the channels of fashion but simply by slow and progressive growth.

“See how athletic sports languished in France some ten years ago! Look at them now! Has golf, now so popular in England, been *en vogue* in that country for a long time? Did not this fine game flourish in Scotland for centuries before Englishmen and Englishwomen (for that matter) took it up? We golfers in France can take courage from this fact and look forward to a popular future.”

“And from what class of sportsmen do you think golf will draw its recruits in France?”

*A moderate form of exercise.*

“The answer to that question is simply a corollary to what I said before. My theory is that the younger generation of French sportsmen who have taken so vigorously and with so much ardor to outdoor sport will gradually find, as time rolls on, that a more moderate class of pastime than, for instance, court tennis, lawn tennis, football, polo and so on is more agreeable, and that this more moderate class of sport is golf.

“Now, believe me, a very important point in connection with golf is that it is what one can properly term a “cheap game”. True, it takes time to play it, but as far as expenditure of money is concerned it is within the means of all, and, personally, I am a staunch advocate of those sports which are *accessibles aux petites bourses*.”

“And what would you recommend as a means of making golf popular.”

“Simply take a “club” in hand and try to play. There is the secret of the success of golf in those places where it is popular. Don’t take the opinion of people who merely *look* at golf – since that is an insufficient criterion – but ask golfers if they like it.

*Another club at Compiègne.*

”Our club at Mesnil is to some extent the result of the success of the clubs in the South of France, but it is not the only club about Paris. Another one was started at the same time at Compiègne which is very flourishing. The links is on the



racecourse and very good, as I am told, and there is some talk about developing it into a "country club". It was organized by Captain Fournier-Sarlovèze, who, you know, is a son of M. Raymond Fournier-Sarlovèze.

"You may be sure that golf has come to stay, and the formation of a club at Deauville next year, which is considered as a certainty, will give golfers an opportunity to play their favorite game all the year round in France."

*Some further particulars.*

Captain Digby, who has played golf a great deal in England as well as in France, was also kind enough to give me a few more points on the game as played at Mesnil.

"Who is our best player?" asked Captain Digby". "Why, in my opinion, M. L. Legrand is one of the best players in the club. He is also a member of the Dinard Club."

"And is the game expensive?"

"You have to buy your clubs, which come to about 9fr. each, but these and the balls you can get on the grounds. Taking it all round an outfit would cost only about 50fr."

"But I notice you speak of the golf "club". Now this is not at all a "club", it is a société and it is only a "club" in the same sense of the word as one speaks of a cricket "club" or association of players. The villa is only for changing one's clothes and for drinking a cup of tea in – that is all. The membership fee is not large – only 60fr."



"And how about visitors?"

"That is a very simple affair. A visitor can always come and play for a day on being introduced by a member, and can play for a week on payment of 10fr., and a month for 25fr."

"But it is rather far, is it not, from Paris, to go for a game?" I asked.

"Not at all" was the answer. "There is no golf club anywhere nearer London than Mesnil is to Paris. It takes only twenty-five minutes to go to Maisons-Laffitte. Of course, the game of golf takes two hours to play, but surely that is not long. One spends the best part of the afternoon at any outdoor game."



**The Bystander, Wednesday 13 April 1904**  
**The Paris Golf Club [by Ernest Lehmann]**

*Non cuivis homini contingit adire Corinthum:* every golfer cannot go to Paris, but for him who can, the attractions of the Gay City have been immensely increased by the existence of a flourishing golf club, and an excellent course in its suburbs. I refer to the "Société de Golf de Paris," to give the club its full title, whose links



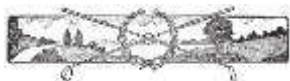
are situated at La Boulie, which is close to Versailles, being no more than a fifteen-minutes drive from the Versailles station. Golf has maintained a vigorous existence in various parts of France, principally at Pau, but, till quite recently, the game in these various places has been carried on almost entirely by our countrymen, the natives merely supplying caddies and looking on the game as only one more eccentricity of a mad race of beings. Gradually, however, one or two Frenchmen were induced to try their hands at this absurd diversion, with the usual result that he who came to scoff remained to play, and so, as a natural result, the inoculated Frenchman cast about for a spot near Paris, where he might carry on this, to him, new sport.

*The difficulty of finding ground for a course near Paris.*

I well remember, some ten years ago, being approached by Mr George Williams, now secretary of the Ranelagh Club, as to the possibility of starting golf near Paris. The difficulties were so great that finally he had to abandon the attempt. Land near Paris is so subdivided, and held by so many different owners, and the price is so exorbitant, that it is an extremely difficult matter to get sufficient ground for a golf course without the assistance of a syndicate of American millionaires.

*The founders of the Paris Golf Club.*

However, in 1896, the Paris Golf Club was started under the auspices of M. Diaz- Albertini, one of the keenest all-round sportsmen alive, Captain Rigby, and Colonel Douglas Dawson, then Military Attaché at our Embassy. These were joined by M. Legrand, a pawky old Cannes golfer, the Duc d'Uzès, M. Paul Hottinguer, and Comte Jacques de Pourtalès. After much searching they found a piece of communal land at Mesnil-le-Roi, where the club started its operations under anything but favourable conditions. It was soon felt, however, that this course was not good enough. At the end of 1900 several valuable new recruits had been enlisted, chief among them being M. Pierre Deschamps, now president of the club ; Mr. Henry Cachard, an American barrister and Mr. G. Hetley, a fine lawn-tennis player and an excellent golfer.



*The discovery of La Boulie.*

Parties were organised to scour the suburbs of Paris in search of a suitable locality for a really good course worthy of the great metropolis. Finally, by a happy chance, two of these searchers came upon an old Government stud farm at La Boulie. The committee soon visited the place and lost no time in entering into negotiations with its owners. The final outcome of the negotiations was that the club took a lease of the farm, with the option of purchasing the freehold at the end of 1902, need only say that a course, 6,200 yards in length, has been laid out without any crossing, to give my readers an idea of the extent of the land now held by the club. While I was in Paris in the last months of 1902 and the early months of 1903, the club finally bought the freehold, and are now the undisputed possessors of as fine and suitable an area of ground as could possibly be found anywhere for the game.

*M. P. Deschamps, the moving spirit of the Club.*

M. Pierre Deschamps, a most admirable sportsman and a keen hand at the game, was the moving spirit of the undertaking, and it is almost entirely due to his generous enthusiasm that lovers of the game can now play, at a short distance from Paris, on a really fine course. When I was there the club were using a temporary club house, of the Humphrey's iron building species. But towards the end of my stay the foundations were being dug of the palatial club house which is now rapidly nearing completion.

*[How to get to La Boulie – skipped]*

*The course laid out by Willie Park.*

The course is a fine, bold, long one, such as one would expect from the master hand of Willie Park, who laid it out, and, with the alterations and improvements begun last year, and recently completed, it can challenge comparison with the best inland links. La Boulie lies high above Versailles, and the player coming from Paris cannot fail to note the change in the air, which is most exhilarating and bracing.

*The club's great meeting in June.*

One of the most generous patrons of the club is Mr. Gordon-Bennett, the proprietor of the New

York Herald, who has presented a most magnificent Cup to the club, which the committee have decided shall form the prize for the Amateur Championship of France.

This championship competition is to be inaugurated next June (the actual date is June 16), and the winner will receive a prize worth 350 francs, the runner-up one worth 250 francs, while the losers in the semi-finals will each receive medals. Besides this Championship Competition, which will be played by match play, the taste of score players will be ministered to in the shape of an international amateur handicap for the Henry Cachard Challenge Cup, handicaps limited to 12 strokes, over one round of the links, the winner receiving a prize of the value of 250 francs and the runner-up one worth 150 francs. Anyone winning either of these Cups three times in succession will become the possessor of it. The club intends holding this Championship meeting every year in June, at La Boulie, during the week following the race of the Grand Prix de Paris. Any golfer who may wish for further particulars need only apply to the Secretary Société de Golf de Paris, La Boulie près Versailles, and he will receive all the information he may want.

#### *A delightful trip to a golfer.*

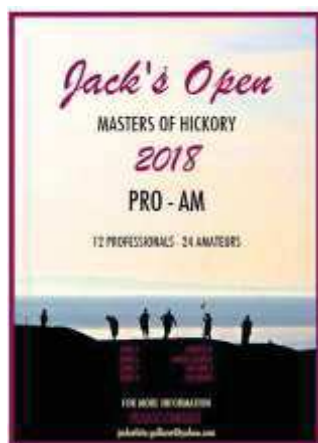
I can imagine no more delightful trip for golfers this year than a visit to Paris, with the view of participating in the first Amateur Championship of France. Our Championships will both have been held by June 9, so that the intending visitor could get to Paris by the 10th and have a few days to spare for practice on the La Boulie links. Most

of my readers, I take it, know how delightful Paris is at that time, and any who do not know cannot do better than remedy their deficiency. The French sportsmen will give them a most warm welcome and will thoroughly appreciate the compliment paid to French golf by their visit. Are not these the days of the revived *entente cordiale*, and can golfers do better than carry on in their domain the spirit of good comradeship which has so happily permeated the political relations of the two countries as a consequence of the King's visit to Paris?

#### *The rules of Golf done into French by M. Deschamps.*

Any golfer who is a little rusty in his French will be able to improve his knowledge of the language by studying the text of the rules of golf as admirably translated into French by M. Deschamps. He will find among other words that the plebeian "caddie" becomes in the French version the aristocratic "cadet" the French word being claimed by M. Deschamps as the source of the Scottish word. This point I must leave to better philologists than myself to decide. In any case M. Deschamps is to be congratulated on the ingenious and efficient way in which he has accomplished a difficult piece of work. In conclusion, I wish him and his fellow-members every possible success in their great endeavour to popularise one of the greatest games in the world among Frenchmen. Given the popularity of lawn tennis and football in Paris I see no reason why golf should not have the same success, and I trust we shall not have long to wait for the appearance of some French golf champions worthy to cross clubs with our own.

Our member Boris Lietzow announces this hickory event. More info at: [jackwhite.gullane@yahoo.com](mailto:jackwhite.gullane@yahoo.com)



## The boy in blue

By Robin K. Bargmann



One of the most iconic and classical golf images is the full length *Portrait of a boy playing golf by the shore*, painted by the famous Dutch artist Bartholomeus van der Helst, who during his lifetime was an acclaimed portraitist and whose work commanded high prices. He was described as the ‘Phoenix of Dutch portrait painters’ and praised for his unique talent as demonstrated in his painting *Civic Guard Banquet*. This work is often compared to the *Night Watch* of Rembrandt, the great hero of Dutch art. It is not a coincidence that both exciting works today hang side by side in the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam.

The portrayed boy in blue dress was formerly known to be William III, Prince of Orange and later King of England and Scotland, as a three year old, although this had not been substantiated by evidence. But who is this boy in blue dress and why is he holding a golf club in his hands ready to hit the ball?

Confusingly young boys in well to do circles in 17th century Europe normally wore a dress up to the age of 5 or 6 years old, as did girls for that matter too. From the type of dress one could determine whether the portrait was of a boy or girl, although the differences were subtle and not always clear. In painted portraits these boys would wear fancy and expensive dresses and be surrounded with all sorts of allegoric emblems and other paraphernalia as metaphors, including golf clubs as in this portrait of the boy in blue dress.

Due to this confusion the painting was for a long time known in England as a portrait of a young girl. In actual fact the painting had been sold to William James esq. in 1892 as a *Girl in blue dress playing golf* by the painter Cuyp as evidenced by the sales invoice. The painting was also titled a *Portrait of a Young Girl* by Albert Cuyp in the catalogue of the Exhibition of the Old Masters of 1912 in the Royal Academy, given on loan by W. James. (Cat. 77.)

This was corrected by the renowned art historian and authority of 17th century Dutch painters

Cornelis Hofstede de Groot in his voluminous *Catalogue Raisonné* published in 1908 and later, an update based on the earlier work of 19th-century British art historian John Smith. This was again reconfirmed by successive art historians Dr. Jan Jacob de Gelder in his biographical study *Bartholomeus van der Helst* (1921) and more recently by Dr. Judith van Gent in her dissertation *A Study of the life and work of Bartholomeus van der Helst* (2011).



*Bartholomeus van der Helst – Self portrait (1667), Florence Galleria degli Uffizi.*

The catalogue of De Gelder remarkably shows two separate entries, which probably relate to one and the same painting:

792. *Jongen, met een hoed met veeren*. Volgens Waagen (zie hieronder) waarschijnlijk niet van B. van der Helst maar eerder van Cuyp. [translation: *Boy, with a hat with feathers*. According to Waagen (see below) probably not by B. van der Helst but rather by Cuyp.] Reference is made to Dr. G.F. Waagen, *Treasures of Art in Great Britain*. London, Murray 1854. Suppl. Page 455. Collection of Earl of Dunmore, Dunmore Park near Falkirk.

805. (HdG) *Jong Meisje*. Toegeschreven aan A. Cuyp, maar in werkelijkheid een schilderij van Van der Helst. [translation: *Young Girl*. Attributed to A. Cuyp, but in actual fact a painting by Van der Helst]. Reference is made to A. Graves, *A Century of Loan Exhibitions 1813 – 1913*, vol. I page 249; and to *Exhibition Royal Academy of Arts, Exhibition of Works by the Old Masters*, 1912, no. 77. Collection W.D. James.

The first entry (1855) states that the painting of the *Boy, with hat with feathers* is to be attributed to A. Cuyp and not by B. van der Helst. Somewhere along the line the subject of the portrait was also changed from boy to young girl. And this is how the painting was acquired by William James in 1892 as stated in the second entry (1912). Obviously the boy's blue dress caused some confusion.

The second entry also states that the painting of a *Young Girl* is actually by B. van der Helst and not A. Cuyp. Waagen's attribution to Cuyp is therefore reversed back to Van der Helst by Hoffstede de Groot (HdG) although he does not correct the gender of the subject. And again, somewhere along the line the young girl was converted back to being a boy. This now is the present status of the subject and the attribution to Van der Helst is confirmed by today's art experts. The painting was recently sold at auction by Christie's in London – *A Surreal Legacy - Selected works of art from The Edward James Foundation* (15 December 2015), Lot 80 – as indeed by Bartholomeus van der Helst (Haarlem c. 1613-1670 Amsterdam), *Portrait of a boy playing golf by the shore*, oil on canvas (114.3 x 86.3 cm., including a later horizontal canvas addition to bottom edge of approx. 7.8 cm.) in a late 17th century Pelletier style frame.

With all the confusion of converting from boy to girl and back again, the identification of the boy became blurred. So was the boy royalty or not?

In this recent Christie's auction a large number of surreal works were offered for sale, including many works by Salvador Dali and René Magritte. Edward James was the son and heir of William James and during his lifetime he was a significant patron of the surrealism movement. The proceeds of the auction sale go to support the Foundation's purpose to enhance Edward James' educational legacy. This specifically includes West Dean College, situated in the former family home West Dean House, established as a centre for the study of conservation, arts, crafts, writing, gardening and music in 1971. West Dean was the grand family estate owned by William James in Sussex and an archetypal Edwardian country house.

William D. James was married to Evelyn Forbes in 1889. William had inherited great wealth from his father, American born Liverpool based merchant Daniel James. Evelyn, a Scots socialite, was the eldest daughter of Charles Forbes, 4th Baronet of Newe, and Helen Moncreiffe. Their Castle Newe estate was adjacent to Balmoral Castle, the Scottish residence of the Royal Family. This is how Evelyn's mother Helen Forbes intimately befriended Queen Victoria's son Albert, Prince of Wales and later King Edward VII, who had reputedly fathered Evelyn.

House parties at West Dean House hosted by Evelyn James were regularly attended by The Prince of Wales. He also acted as godfather to Edward James, Evelyn's son born in 1907 and therefore most probably was his grandson. The group of rich and entertaining friends of the Prince of Wales became known as the Marlborough House set, which included Evelyn James (née Forbes) and her sister-in-law Mary Venetia James (née Cavendish-Bentinck). William James himself had a passion for big game hunting in various continents, with souvenirs displayed throughout West Dean House.

The Christie's sale of surreal works collected by Edward James also included a number of other inherited objects acquired by his father William James, when he purchased West Dean in 1891.



These objects included this Bartholomeus van der Helst *Portrait of a boy playing golf by the shore, with vessels at sea* (lot no. 80). Why William had originally acquired this particular painting in 1892 is not known. The painting had presumably been in the collection of the Earl of Dunmore and was sold on commission to William James by the art dealer George Sinclair in London. Possibly it was a present to his newly wed wife Evelyn Forbes, as the portrait of the boy was then known to be William III, Prince of Orange and later King of England, as and boy. This could hint at the royal connection of his wife with the Royal Family and the future King of England.



*Bartholomeus van der Helst – Portrait of Mary Stuart, Princess of Orange, as Widow of William II (1652), Rijksmuseum Amsterdam*

The boy in the painting is dressed in a richly decorated wonderful light blue satin dress, a fashionable ribbioned black hat with matching light blue ostrich feathers. On both sleeves the boy has small red-white-and blue and orange ribbons. He is holding a traditional Dutch colf club in his hands and is ready to hit a leather stitched ball before his feet on the ground. In the background two sailing ships are visible on an open sea. Also a surfacing whale can be noted. Clearly the coloured ribbons symbolically represent the House of Orange and the Dutch Republic, now a recognised sovereign state following the Treaty of Munster in 1648, ending the preceding Eighty Years War of independence that also gave rise to the Dutch Golden Age

period. The ships in the background represent the Dutch dominance at sea.

The young William III was the son of Stadholder William II, Prince of Orange, and Princess Royal Mary Stuart, eldest daughter of King Charles I of England and Scotland. He was born in 1650, just three weeks after his father's premature death. Mary's aunt was Princess Elisabeth Stuart, nicknamed the Winter Queen, the daughter of King James I and wife of Frederik V, Elector Palatine and King of Bohemia. She lived in exile in The Hague at the House of Orange Court. She kept a close eye on delicate political matters. These two Royal Stuart women were later to be joined by the young Princess Mary Stuart, daughter of James II, Duke of York and later King of England and Scotland. She was wed to William III at a very young age. Following the Glorious Revolution in 1688 they would famously become joint King William III and Queen Mary of England and Scotland.

In 1653 William III was three years old he was bestowed with the Most Noble Order of the Garter, the most prestigious and oldest English order of chivalry, by his uncle King Charles II. The order was then represented by a light blue coloured sash worn over the shoulder. The young boy in the painting wears a light blue dress identical to the colour of the order and is about three years old. Van der Helst supposedly made this painting in around 1653 at the time William was awarded the prestigious order. It is notable that at that time William, as the son of Princess Royal Mary Stuart, was the first in line to become King of England and Scotland after his uncles Charles II and James II. He did become king after toppling his uncle and father-in-law James II.

The artist Bartholomeus van der Helst had a special relationship with Princess Royal Mary Stuart and painted a full size seated portrait of her, which is now on view in the Rijksmuseum too. This is the only official portrait he painted of a member of the Orange Court. Proof of this special relationship is demonstrated in a self-portrait of the artist holding a miniature of his portrait of Mary Stuart in his hand. It is not very surprising that he also would have painted this full size portrait of her son William dressed in the symbolic light blue colour of the garter.

The question now is why is the boy, presumably representing the young William of Orange,

holding a colf club in his hand. Clearly a fancy dressed three year old boy with stylish headgear is not in the habit of playing adult games, and certainly not on a rocky coastal shore. Young boys and girls were often portrayed with surrounding allegoric implements. The colf club stood symbol for tenacity and studiousness, all in all for a proper education, necessary for the young prince and his future political life.

Perhaps the portrayed boy is actually not the young prince himself but rather an allegory of Prince William III and the importance of the House of Orange for the Dutch Republic. It is possible that the painter Bartholomeus van der Helst portrayed his young son Lodewijk as model for the subject of an allegoric painting. He had done this on other occasions and there is a certain similarity to other assumed portraits of his son. However, his son Lodewijk was born much earlier in 1642 and this date would not match with the supposed allegory.

Indeed, the game of colf was the most popular game played on icy canals and rivers during wintertime. Colf, imported to the northern provinces of the Low Countries by emigrating Flemings from the south during the revolt against the oppressive Habsburg rulers, had become the signature pastime game of the new class of wealthy burgers of the Dutch Republic in the 17th century. However, the nobility in Holland as elsewhere in Europe would remain loyal to the royal games tennis and pall mall. In that sense it is not logical to see the Prince of Orange pictured playing the game of colf. In popular period paintings of winter scenes, especially by Hendrik Avercamp, court members of the Houses of Orange and Stuart are regularly pictured, however, as interested onlookers of parties of colf players.

In Scotland, although not in England, the game had already made it to the ranks of nobility and became known as the royal and ancient game. Following the recent research project 'Scotland and the Flemish People' undertaken by the University of St Andrews in Scotland we now have a better understanding of the substantial influence of the Flemings on social and cultural development in Scotland, especially during the Normanisation period during the reign of King David I, known as the Davidian Revolution. Scores of Flemings had been attracted to Scotland by David to aid the founding of the many new burghs and utilise their merchanting

and artisan capabilities. This is demonstrated by the many Dutch words in the Lallans language, later known as Old Scots. Lallans is derived from the Dutch word 'laaglands' meaning lowlands. The burgh of St Andrews was established by a Fleming and the first appointed Bishop of St Andrews was also known to be a Fleming. The influence of the Flemings during the Norman Conquest of England before was considerable as evidenced by the many Flemish names in the Domesday book. William the Conqueror's military commander of the invasion and battles thereafter was Eustache II, Count of Boulogne, who was under the influence sphere of Baldwin IV, Count of Flanders, the most powerful ruler of Europe at the time and also the father-in law of William, Duke of Normandy.

The influence of the Flemings in the development of early games in Scotland is undeniably evidenced by linguistic comparison. These games include bonspiel (curling), caitchpul (tennis), and of course golf. In Scotland the game of golf going forward developed further and the material became more sophisticated using various clubs. The stuffed leather ball used in caitchpul here made the cross-over to golf and became known as the featherie. A substantial amount of balls used for tennis and golf continued to be imported from the Low Countries until the resulting outflow of capital was finally stemmed by James VI.

During the 16-17th centuries Scotland and the Low Countries, especially the newly established Dutch Republic, maintained intensive commercial, geopolitical, military and religious contacts and many Scots established a new home in Holland. Especially the newly founded University in Leiden became the bulwark of freedom and popular amongst young Scottish scholars. In this way the Scots game of golf and the Dutch game of colf, both of ancient Flemish descent, were reunited but maintained their own identity. This is evidenced by images of both the Scottish two piece wooden 'klik' and the Dutch one piece ashwood 'colf' in the many winter landscape paintings in Holland. The Dutch colf with typical leaden cover of the clubhead is actually the club in hands of the boy in blue dress in this remarkable Van der Helst painting. Also note the wonderfully decorated grip on the shaft, usually made of satin, with golden threaded tassel.

The painting has now undergone a full restoration and is in prime condition again.

During the restauration process fragments of a signature reappeared on the righthand bottom section, above the attached later horizontal canvas addition to bottom edge and confirms the painting is indeed by the hand of Bartholomeus van der Helst. This piece of canvas had been attached during an earlier restauration, most probably to make the painting fit an existing gold

coloured frame as replacement at the time. The gold coloured Peletier style frame has now been replaced by a dark coloured period style frame. This famous work of art will probably soon be presented on loan to one of the renowned Dutch museums to be publicly exhibited.

#### Literature:

- Gustav Fiedrich Waagen – Treasures of Art in Great Britain (1854)  
 Cornelis Hofstede de Groot – Catalogue Raisonné published (1908)  
 Jan Jacob de Gelder – Bartholomeus van der Helst (1921)  
 Judith van Gent – A Study of the life and work of Bartholomeus van der Helst (2011)  
 Christie's – Cat. A Surreal Legacy - Selected works of art from The Edward James Foundation (2015)  
 Robin K. Bargmann – Serendipity of Early Golf (2010)  
 John Arnold Fleming – Flemish Influence in Britain (1930)  
 Robert Lindsay Graeme Ritchie – The Normans in Scotland (1954)  
 Jonathan I. Israel – The Dutch Republic, its Rise, Greatness and Fall, 1477-1806, (1995)

## 2018 Hickory Events on the European Continent



### The Netherlands

Dutch Golf Museum  
 Open Hickory Tournament  
 Sat. 21 April



### Denmark

Royal Copenhagen GC  
 Danish Hickory Championship  
 Sat. 26 May  
[danishhickory.com](http://danishhickory.com)



### Poland

Krakow Valley GC  
 Polish Hickory Championship  
 Sat. 9 June



### Czech Republic

Lisnice GC, near Prague  
 Czech Hickory Championship  
 Sat. 23 June



### Austria

Reiters G & CC  
 Austrian Hickory Championship  
 Sat.-Sun. 14 & 15 July



### Germany

Oldenburgischer GC  
 German Hickory Championship  
 Sat. 8 September



### EAGHC

Pau GC + Biarritz GC  
 EAGHC Hickory Invitational  
 Pau, Wed. 19 Sept.  
 Biarritz, Thu. 20 Sept.



### The Netherlands

International Dutch Hickory  
 Ullerberg, Niederlande  
 Fri.-Sat. 21 and 22 Sept.



## Reading books Bearn and Basque golf and Roger Golias

The very first book dedicated to Pau and Biarritz (and also including Cannes) was written by Horace Hutchinson in *British Golf Links*. After him, several writers added great pages on the South West region of France, among them Bernard Darwin is the most well-known. But we thought that it is a good idea to present a few modern books written in French on this region in order to prepare our next EAGHC meeting which will be held, mainly in Pau – with an extension to Biarritz and the Basque region. In addition, we couldn't resist present a reprint in a "collector edition" of "La Méthode Concrète" by Roger Golias. A great book.

**Béarn – Pays Basque. Terre de Golf.**  
By Roland Machenaud. Ed. Atlantica, 2013.



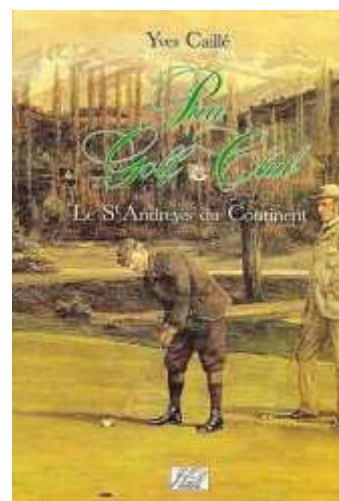
This coffee-table style book is a very great one, written by Roland Machenaud with an introduction by Jose Maria Olazabal and presenting eleven courses in the *Pays Basque*, four in *Béarn and Landes* plus twelve in the neighbourhood, including a few courses in Spain. No need to say that for the golfers visiting the South-West of France, this book is a "must have". The descriptions are made by a connoisseur: a journalist who is living in this region for now more than 20 years and the pictures are extremely attractive. Many historical references could be found in this book, edited by *Atlantica* in the series *Terra Golfica*, a name which we cannot forget.

It's nice and moving to notice that Machenaud is paying a tribute to Horace Hutchinson with an

epigraph describing the Biarritz caddie with his *béret* ...

But as our 13<sup>th</sup> meeting will be in Pau, impossible to miss the three great books presenting the history of the club.

**Pau Golf Club. Le St Andrews du Continent.**  
By Yves Caillé. Ed. J&D, 1990.

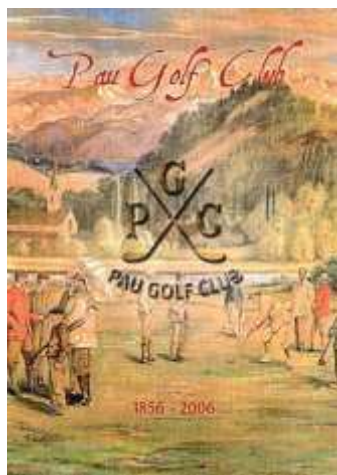


When Yves Caillé, a PGC member (as well as an early EAGHC member) decided to write this history, he was the first to initiate the writing of a golf-club history in France. Many others will walk in his steps. But in 1990 it was still a novelty. As it was a starting point, Caillé had, of course, to offer a few chapters on the general history of golf, but the most significant references are to the PGC.

The reader will find here the key historical facts related to the club and some pictures are rarely seen and, in his introduction, Dr Caillé is definitely killing some legend pretending that the club could have been created in 1814.

#### **Pau Golf Club. 1856 – 2006.**

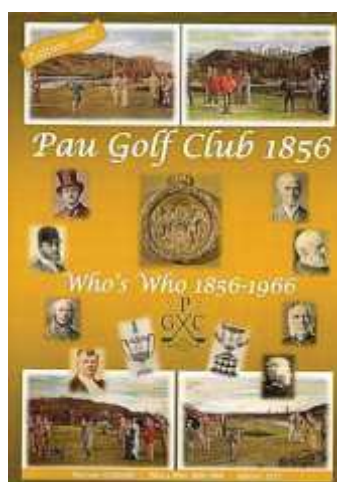
By a group of PGC researchers, 2006.



For the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the club, the PGC edited this very nicely illustrated book.

#### **Pau Golf Club 1856. Who's Who 1856-1966.**

By Raphaël Rossoni, 2017.



R. Rossoni, wrote this encyclopaedic work on all and every person who had a pretty significant contribution to the history of the PGC. And as the classical “Who’s who” if you are not present in the list of persons, you certainly did not bring enough memorable fact ... at least in the 110 first years. This work is well documented and must be in the library of any researcher interested in the history of the PGC.

#### **Biarritz Golf Club and 1998 Centenaire de la Biarritz Cup**

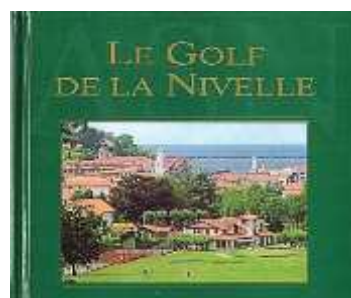
By the Biarritz Golf Club.



These two books are nowadays out of print but could be found on the second-hand market, but not that easily, so the club had the excellent idea of editing a CD which is much easy to get. These books are nicely illustrated with pictures from the early times.

#### **Le Golf de la Nivelle.**

G. Dunoyer, G. Lalanne and F. Paillard, 1997.

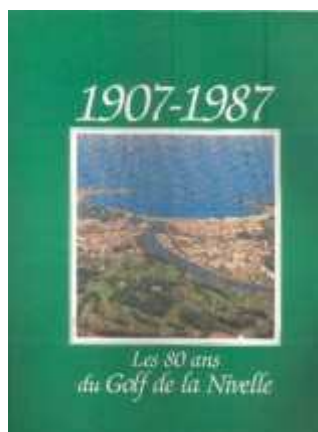


A nice small booklet to commemorate the 90 years of the club. As expected, a few pages are dedicated to the general history of golf, including the region, but most of the book is dedicated to La Nivelle – the club where Massy was the pro for so many years. Most of the great pictures, including a few rarities are there.



There are also these two books to illustrate the history of La Nivelle. The first one above

contains a lot of nice pictures from the course, and the second one below is a brochure to celebrate the 80 years of the golf club.



**Chiberta. La Romance. 1927-2002.**  
By the Chiberta Club, 2002.



To commemorate the 75 years of the club, the Committee decide to edit this booklet. The club was designed by Tom Simpson – a reference – and many national and international competitions were played there. This booklet is extremely nicely printed and illustrated. An excellent introduction to the history of the club.

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**La Méthode Concrète.**  
By Roger Golias, 2017.

Roger Golias was born in 1922 and his father, Gustave, was, as well as his uncle René, assistant of Arnaud Massy at La Boulie. Later, he worked at Sunningdale with Percy Boomer.



To this immense golfing family, I must add his daughter Nathalie who is doing so much for golf. She was managing this reprint in a collector edition. A great job. And the illustrations by Molloch are just great! I must confess that I read the book in one shot – I'm not sure that this is the best way if you want to improve your technique – but I can tell you that once you start, you need to continue.



When reading this booklet, one would think of Jack Nicklaus books, illustrated by Jim McQueen. I'm guessing that Roger would have not denied this connexion.

As our members are mainly golf collectors and historians, I couldn't resist to present also an early writing of Roger Golias. In April 1959, he published in the magazine *Aesculape*, which is a monthly magazine dedicated to the connection of Art and Medecine. His paper entitled "Un sport se penche sur son passé: le Golf" is about 60 pages and nicely illustrated. A must have in one's collection.





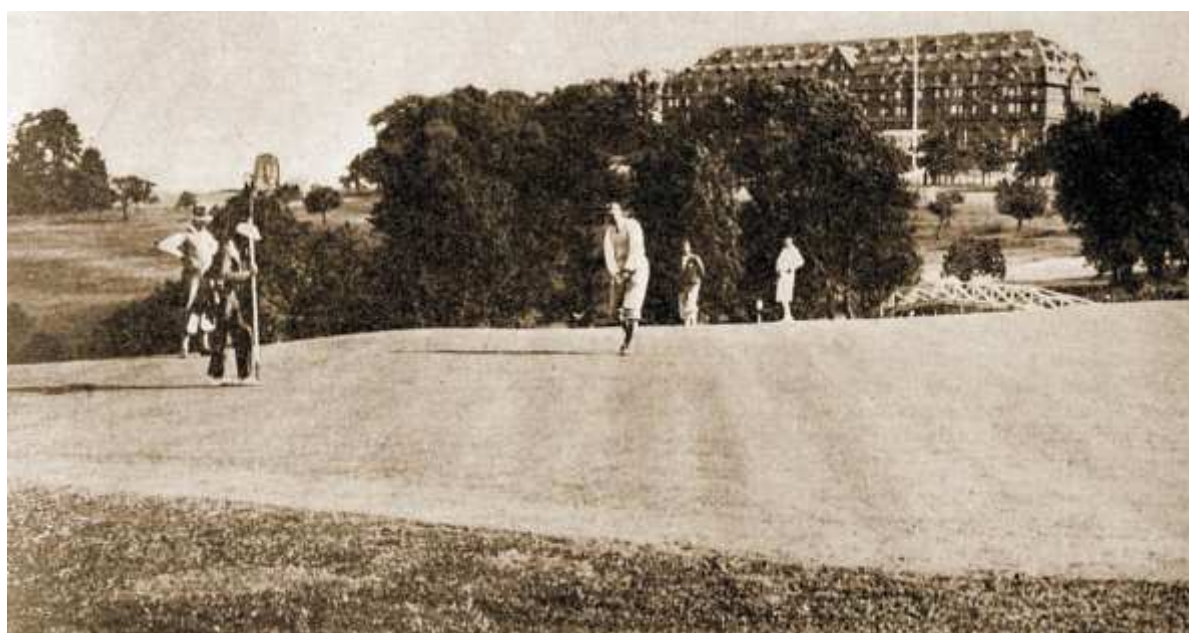
## Bernard Darwin at Deauville (France)

From *The Times*, 3 August 1929

Comments by JBK



Bernard Darwin published many papers on golf in France. The most well-known are those related to the golf courses on the French Riviera, recently reprinted in a limited edition by Neil Crafter (editor) and Dick Verinder (publisher). Nevertheless, the French magazine “*Le Golf et les golfeurs*” in its edition of September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1929, published, in French, an interesting text, for the inaugural match, written by Darwin, and initially published by *The Times*. We were able to find the original text which we are presenting here. The picture below is from the French magazine. An opportunity to present golf in Deauville.



*Bernard Darwin putting at Deauville, Monday July 29<sup>th</sup>, 1929 – The inaugural match.*

### The Old course at Deauville – a few words.

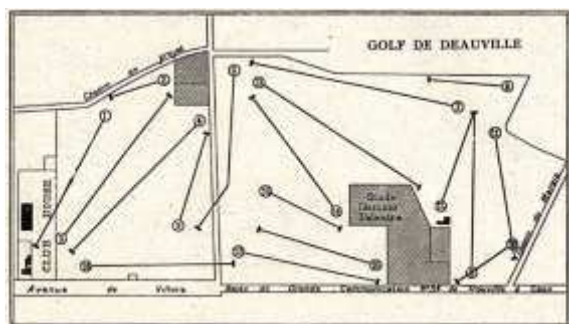
Before reprinting the announced paper, it worth to say a few words about early golf in Deauville. The first course was located close to the city of Bénerville and was considered as the golf club for Trouville and Deauville. The links were formally opened<sup>1</sup> on August Saturday 26, 1899. The Prince de Poix and M. J. de La Lombardière played against Colonel Douglas Dawson and Captain Digby and the match resulted in a tie.

The Committee was composed of the following members:

The Prince de Poix (Captain – President in the French wording), M. Batbedat, Mr. A. G. Bax, British Vice-Consul; M. L. Diaz Albertini, Captain Digby, the Rev. Montague Fowler, Comte Antoine de Gontaut-Biron, Mr. Robert Hennessy, Comte Florian de Kergorlay, Mr. Henry Ridgway, and M. J. de La Lombardière, Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.

<sup>1</sup> According to the *Morning Post*, 29 August 1899.

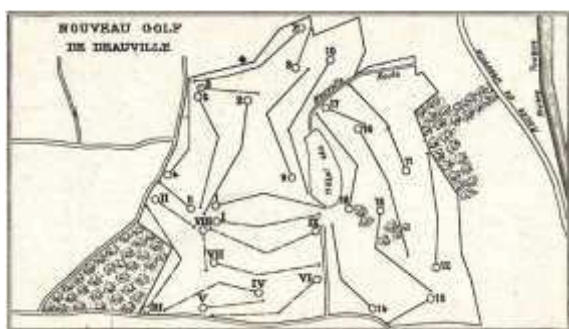
When opened, the links were only six holes, but were extended to an 18-hole course shortly after. If a professional was appointed, it seems that the club-house was in reality added one year later. Massy was the pro for a several summer seasons (between 1910<sup>2</sup> and 1923<sup>3</sup>) and in his book (published in 1911) he is indicating that there are two courses: one 18-hole and a 9-hole course for the ladies.



*Routing of the old course at Deauville, 1928*

But with only 5200 yards in the 1920's, this "old" course was considered too short and in 1929 a "new" course was designed by Tom Simpson in a different place to offer 27 holes since the very beginning.

At the end of July 1929, an official opening was celebrated for the *New Golf de Deauville* at it was called (Elisabeth de Gramont, in her book "*Le Golf*", 1930, amuses herself by writing "*Niou*" instead of "*New*"). An inaugural match was organised opposing a French team to a British one. Darwin in providing us a nice report of this event.



*The New Club and its course, Deauville, 1931*

<sup>2</sup> In the *Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer*, dated Monday 6th June 1910, we read that Arnaud Massy, the ex-British and French Open Champion, is leaving La Boulie at the end of the present month. He goes to Deauville, near Boulogne, for couple of months, after which he will settle down at St Jean de Luz for the winter. Massy is leaving La Boulie, his own desire.

### ***Innocents at Deauville.***

*There are several places of which I have often read, but in which, owing to a natural and proper diffidence, I never expected to find myself. One of these has always been Deauville. That wonderful gilded world of casinos and beauty contests, of lovely, slim ladies sunning themselves in bathing costumes, and rather unlovely fat gentlemen nonchalantly losing thousands at baccarat, was not, I believed, for me. Yet only some nine days ago I found myself on the way to Deauville, a member of a team of eight that was to play a match on the new course there against All France.*

*Let me hasten to add, lest Unions and Championship Committees be up in arms, that we professed to represent nothing and nobody but ourselves. We chose ourselves, or rather one kind friend chose us. There were some who were eminent and some rather less so. R. H. W., R. H., M. S. – here were at any rate distinguished sets of initials for our first three. We won the match with some comfort, and so upheld, strictly unofficially, the honour of our country against a French side headed by M. Pierre Maneuvier, the champion, and lacking only two players to make it entirely representative; one was M. Bourin, from Tours, said to be a very good young player, and the other an old friend and a fine golfer, M. André Vagliano, who was, alas! curing himself of neuritis and drinking waters in virtuous melancholy elsewhere.*

*You go to Deauville by Southampton and Havre. Having got to Havre, you embark in another and much smaller boat, which whisks you across the mouth of the Seine in about three-quarters of an hour, and there you are. The advance guard of the side of which I was one took a little longer. The hospitality and forethought of our hosts, to which no epithets can do the faintest justice, had provided against the possibility of our fearing that second and shorter crossing. So we went a drive inland in a vast, yellow omnibus, manned by delightful people in brown uniforms with red facings, and bearing the insignia of the New-Golf. It was a wonderfully pretty drive, if rather a long one, the longer because we missed the*

<sup>3</sup> The *Golfer Handbook* 1923 indicate Massy as the local pro, but the 1925 *Guide Plumon* don't give his name. Nevertheless, we have some doubts that Massy was still the pro at Deauville after the war.

ferry boat across the river at Quillebeuf. We regaled ourselves while we waited on coffee and gooseberry jam (scrumptious); we were also regaled with stories of how, not so long ago, a car – as it might be ours – had made a “glissade” down the slope (it did look slippery), and subsequently a “culbute” into the water. We therefore thought it wiser to walk on to the ferry boat. However, all went well, we crossed the river, we drove on, and arrived at Deauville. Soon we were lunching in a courtyard under striped umbrellas and bowered in roses. And what a lunch! The strawberries of the woods, about which there hangs a fragrant memory of maraschino – but I grow at once too greedy and too affecting. We lunched, and then went out to try the golf course.

### ***Some memorable holes.***

*Deauville has always had a golf course, but the old one, though on sandy seaside turf, was altogether too small.*

*Therefore, a new one has been made on some high ground above the town possessing the most charming views, whether out to sea or over a rolling and wooded Normandy landscape. This course is brand new, and the big hotel that looms up close to it is still resounding with a thousand hammers. Next year it will be open from Easter till the middle of October, but now we were the first golfers ever to strike a ball upon it. Yet it was in very good order, and if the greens were naturally slow and a little rough in places, the fairways, a miracle of greenness in this summer of drought, were good, judged by any standards.*

*Mr. Simpson has laid this course out, and he has done it astonishingly well. He had, to begin with, nothing very much to encourage him except the great prettiness of the spot and some pleasant natural slopes; he had a good deal to discourage him in the then too solid remains of a big British camp which had been made there in the War time. Yet he succeeded in laying out a sufficiently long, difficult, varied, and amusing golf course, possessing some really memorable holes. The best compliment I can pay it is this, that I can remember clearly almost every one of the rather numerous strokes I played on it.*

*Let nobody be alarmed: I am not going through those strokes, not even those holes one by one. Yet I must pay a passing tribute to the second, with its lovely view out to sea from the high*

*teeing ground, and that devilishly ingenious bunker to the left, placed just to catch the drive of the ordinary, struggling person, and those other bunkers on the right, of the green, so admirably reinforcing one another. This was as well-designed a two-shot hole as anyone could ever hope to see, and the sixth was just about us good. And so was the seventh in its wooden corner; and so was the 12th, insisting so cleverly on the drive being placed to the left and yet not too much to the left, lest the ball make a Gadarene plunge down into the rough grass. Close to this green stand the ruins of a stone pleasure house, once built there as I fancy by some gay old nobleman. One of our caddies seemed to think it was William the Conqueror. There I think he was wrong; but it is at any rate a very engaging ruin. The course, despite its five one-shot holes, demands very sound golf for a score that is to be many strokes under 80.*

*The Comte de Montgomery “went mad” in our match and went round in 71; and I will not disclose which of our champions he beat by seven and six because this was a cruelly and indecently good score and gives no clue to the qualities of the course. Seventy-four would have been an unfriendly act, and when on the following day we played in a scoring competition most people were in the eighties, and there were those who tore up.*

*This was so entirely informal and friendly an “international” that I have entered into no details as to victors and vanquished. Those who covered themselves with glory are going to remain unsung, and if they think I have personal and envious motives for not naming them, I must bear the imputation. We hope that our opponents will perhaps come next year to play us a return match on a seaside course here. In that fortunate event, we are going to have no nonsense about selection committees; they might not choose us to play and that would never do. We all want to play again and again. Meanwhile, we take away from Deauville a hotch-potch of jovial and amusing memories, especially of the kindest hosts and enemies we ever met; who all talked our language so beautifully that we did not even try to say, “Thank you” in our very inadequate French. I have written these lines to try to say it in my equally inadequate English.*







*Cover from a brochure, issued in 1929.*

*Next page: Bartholomeus van der Helst –  
Portrait of a boy playing golf by the shore (c. 1653), private collection.*

