



*The AGM in The Hague – September 2014 – A few pictures*



## golfika



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The front cover of Golfika Magazine n°15 is after a painting of one of our EAGHC fellow members, Viktor Cleve, Germany's leading golf painter. It is representing the first Kilmaine Cup played between Pau and Biarritz. Viktor Cleve is a former art director he kindly designed the title page and donated it to us. You can see more of his work on [www.cleve-golfart.com](http://www.cleve-golfart.com)

**Illustration credit:** Authors, EAGHC

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## President's words

**JBK (Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak)**



Dear Fellow EAGHC Members,

I was writing this letter, I got the great news: Lally Segard, who is our Honorary President since the very beginning of our Association, had been nominated among the few first women as member of the R&A. No need to say how happy we are.

As soon as I received this information, I forwarded, from the Board and all members of the EAGHC, our warmest congratulations to Lally.

The 9th EAGHC meeting in The Hague, Netherlands, was an unforgettable event and we must first thank heartily Mr Cocks Bosman, president of the club, who welcomed us so warmly and attended most of our sessions.

With Robin Bargman, who contributed so significantly to the success, we presented to Mr Bosman a painting by Viktor Cleve; painting which was also used to illustrate the cover of the previous Golfika Magazine and reprinted as a postcard offered to all members.

The lectures started with the reading of Jack Newton's letter, published in the last issue of our magazine, immediately followed by the presentation of Ross Baker's gift to the EAGHC. It is a very high quality replica, hand crafted putter, with the head, made of hawthorn, engraved "EAGHC President's Putter"; and a shaft made of eucalyptus regnans (mountain ash). This club will be kept by the president of the EAGHC during his mandate and passed to the next president after his election.

Soon after returning our meeting, we learnt that André-Jean Lafaurie, a member of our Association, sadly passed away.

André-Jean was a journalist, chief editor of *Golf Européen* for many years and also a TV commentator at the Canal+ channel, often paired with the French champion Bernard Pascassio. He was also a magnificent golf book writer and his book on the history of golf "*Le Golf, son histoire de 1304 à nos jours*" is still a reference. He will remain in our hearts.

Next meeting will be held in Saint-Raphael Valescure, on the French Riviera. Please book the dates: October 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> plus the European Hickory Invitational Championship followed on Saturday the 3<sup>rd</sup> (practicing Friday afternoon). An informal dinner will be organised, as usual on the day before the start (Sept. 30). From the feedback we already received, we are sure that it will be a great event and some surprises are already in preparation. We hope to see you joining this meeting.



*Two early postcards of Valescure GC*





## Editor's Corner

**Stéphan Filanovitch**



Dear EAGHC Members,

I am delighted to bring you this spring issue of Golfika-Magazine which looks back at the Pau Golf Club history with two articles celebrating the first continental Golf Club.

With the first one, by Bill Anderson, you will discover the International Medal, and with Yves Caillé and JBK, the “fight” between two famous golf clubs Pau and Biarritz.

Olaf Dudzus is presenting a situation of golf in Germany, just before the Olympic year 2016.

Then, you will rediscover the famous “Babe” Didrikson Zaharias (1911–1956). She was named “Woman Athlete of the Half Century” in 1950 for her skills in basketball, track & field and golf.

Tom Simpson was a great golf course architect; you should appreciate the first part of the Tom MacWood’s article.

Thanks also to John Hanna, Sara and Geert Nijs for their always interesting papers.

In six months, it will be time for our annual meeting, in Valescure. I am already sure it will be a great one, in this beautiful part of France, and with our president JBK as organizer, and the help of Cecilia and Geoffrey Lyon – two local members.

We are always looking for articles. Any paper related to the history of golf and collection and agreed by the Board will be published in the magazine. Nevertheless, depending on the timing and the subject, we cannot guarantee that the publication will be the next one to come.

The deadline to receive a paper for the next issue is August 15<sup>th</sup>.

Any paper which would be submitted after the deadline will be published only in a following edition of the magazine.

Please write to: [editor@golfika.com](mailto:editor@golfika.com)



I can’t conclude this editorial without a thought for André-Jean Lafaurie. He passed away on the 21<sup>th</sup> of October 2014, in Saint-Jean-de-Luz. He was 66.

André-Jean was a most prolific golf reporter and also considered among the golf’s finest writer. Editor for 25 years at “Golf Européen”, commentator for the French TV for 20 years, he was member at the Royal & Ancient, and an EAGHC member.



## FRANCE - THE UNITED STATES AND THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

**Bill Anderson**



The Ryder Cup, Walker Cup, Seve Cup, Solheim Cup, Curtis Cup, Presidents Cup, World Cup of Golf, LPGA International Crown, World Golf Championships, and many other similar events as well as the return of golf to the Olympics all reflect the growing interest in international golf competitions. According to legend international golf began in 1682 when the Duke of York and John Paterson of Scotland defeated two English noblemen on the Leith links. Although the story is well known, it is most assuredly fiction. The true story of the start of international golf has long been forgotten. Many will be surprised to find out that the location for the first international tournament was France- in 1886. The match was held at Pau, and it was the idea of Alfred Torrance. Torrance would seem to be an unlikely founder as he was an American and there were no organized golf clubs in the US in 1886.

In the second half of the nineteenth century the south of France became the winter resort area of choice for British aristocrats. The first such location was Pau in the southwest. In addition to the climate, the mineral waters of the area made it attractive to those seeking a healthy location to settle. The area around Pau was ideal for the sporting activities of the British. In 1856 the Pau Golf Club was established. Soon fox hunting, horse racing, steeplechasing, shooting, and polo were all available. To a large extent the British took over the ancient town. In 1876 it was written, "Pau is not a French town; Pau, obviously and clearly is part of England." Horace Hutchinson (nephew of one of the club's founders) apparently agreed; he included the Pau Golf Club in his 1897 book *British Golf Links*.

It was not only the British upper class who wintered in Pau; distinguished Americans also went- including Abraham Lincoln's widow, Mary Todd Lincoln, and former President Ulysses S. Grant and his wife. Among the wealthy Americans who came to Pau was Alfred Torrance. Alfred was born in New York in 1850. His maternal grandfather was Cornelius Vanderbilt, the richest man in America. Daniel Torrance was Alfred's father. He was from an important Montreal shipping family. Upon marrying Sophia Vanderbilt he went to work for the Commodore. Daniel

became very successful in his own right, first as Vice President of the New York Central RR and later as President of the Ohio & Mississippi RR. Alfred graduated from Columbia in New York in 1875 with an engineering degree. He married and worked as a Wall Street broker. In 1878 his wife divorced him. On the day the divorce was official, she married Alfred's cousin Frederick W. Vanderbilt.

To escape the scandal Alfred travelled to France with his parents. In the following years he would divide his time between New York, Newport (Rhode Island), Paris and Pau. There is no evidence that he continued to work. He became a gentleman sportsman. He was an accomplished equestrian. Fox hunting and polo were among his pursuits; however, he excelled foremost in the steeplechase being regarded as one of the foremost riders in Europe. The equestrian sports brought him to Pau where he was introduced to golf. He took quickly to the sport, and in 1886 he presented the PGC with a unique medal for an international golf tournament which would be contested among the different foreign nationals who wintered at Pau.

The medal Torrance commissioned has survived. It is an intricate gold medal 10 cm long (including the white and red ribbon). The central feature consists of a raised American

eagle with the motto of the United States, *E pluribus unum* (one out of many). The top clasp is engraved "INTERNATIONAL MEDAL". The outer portion of the medal reads "PRESENTED TO THE PAU GOLF CLUB BY A TORRANCE". Although the medal was made in London and the competition was held in France, the design and donor may qualify the medal to be considered the first American golf medal. The Oakhurst Links medal of 1888 has long been regarded as the earliest such medal.



*The International Medal (Courtesy B. Anderson)*

The tournament was a handicap match play individual event held over four days in March 1886. The results were reported in *The Field* magazine of London. There were twelve players. Six nations put forth two men each. A seventh nation supplied the venue. Col. Naylor Leyland and Col. Buscarlet represented Wales. Sir Victor Brooke (President PGC 1880-84, and 1891) and his son Mr Douglas Brooke were from Ireland. Mr L. Horner and Dr J.B. Siddall were England's entry. The Scottish team consisted of Lord D. Kennedy and Mr D.M. Macnab (President of PGC 1889-90). Mr William Boreel and Mr Robert J.R. Boreel were from the Netherlands. The United States was represented by Mr T.A. Havemeyer and Mr J. Morris Post.

Since golf in 1886 was primarily a British game, the Dutch and American teams stand out and made the tournament truly international.

The Netherlands was represented by a prominent Dutch family. William Boreel held the office of Chamberlain to the King of the Netherlands, King Willem III. Robert "Bobby" Boreel was his son. Robert would go on to be a very accomplished player. In the 1890s he won many tournaments at Pau including taking the Hamilton Gold Medal three times and the Jubilee Medal in 1898. He was entered to play in the US Open in 1898 but withdrew before play commenced.

Notably absent from the American team was Alfred Torrance. Perhaps the other two were more accomplished golfers. More likely it was deemed improper to compete for a prize you were donating. Theodore Havemeyer was a Wall Street sugar baron who gave two trophies to the PGC. He was destined to take the game he learned at Pau back to the United States. He was one of the founders of the Newport Country Club (1893), and in 1894 he became the first President of the United States Golf Association. The following year he funded the Havemeyer Trophy which is given annually to the winner of the US Amateur Championship.

John Morris Post was the other American competitor. He and his brother Arthur were important figures in the club. Arthur was born in 1851 and graduated from the United States Naval Academy. John was born in New York in 1857 and was educated at Eton. By the 1870s both brothers were living in Pau where their parents resided. Arthur served as the PGC Secretary in 1882 and 1883. John became the American Consul at Pau. He also served as the Secretary of the club in 1891 and 1892. Arthur died young in 1884, but not before both he and his brother became accomplished golfers. In 1880 John won the Duke of Hamilton's Gold Medal, the club's premier scratch event, as well as the St Andrews Cross (handicap). Arthur won the Town Gold Medal (scratch) in 1880, the Anstruther Shield (handicap) in 1882, and the Hamilton Gold Medal in 1884. Both presented prizes to the club. In the United States the Post brothers have never received the recognition they are due. They were the first American golfers to achieve significant tournament victories, anywhere in the world.

*On the first day of the tournament:*

Mr J.M. Post (US) giving 1 hole, 1/2, and 1 stroke defeated Col. Naylor (Wales)

Sir V. Brooke (Ireland) giving 1 hole, 1/2, and 1 stroke defeated Col. Buscarlet (Wales)  
 Mr R. Boreel (Netherlands) giving 1 hole and 14 strokes defeated Mr T.A. Havemeyer (US)  
 Mr D.M. Macnab (Scotland) playing even defeated Mr L. Horner (England)  
 Lord D. Kennedy (Scotland) giving 1 hole and 1/2, commencing at 4th hole, defeated Mr W. Boreel (Netherlands)  
 Dr Siddall (England) playing even defeated Mr D. Brooke (Ireland)

*On the second day:*

Dr Siddall (England) receiving 1 hole defeated Sir V. Brooke (Ireland)  
 Lord D. Kennedy (Scotland) receiving 1 hole and 1 stroke at 4, 8, and 14 holes defeated J.M. Post (US)  
 Mr D.M. Macnab (Scotland) receiving 1 hole, and 1/2 and 1 stroke at 8th hole defeated R. Boreel (Netherlands)

*Third day*

Dr Siddall (England) giving 1 hole and 1/2, except at 3rd hole defeated Mr D.M. Macnab (Scotland)  
 Lord D. Kennedy (Scotland) a bye

*Final day*

Dr Siddall (England) giving 1 hole, 1/2, and 1 stroke defeated Lord D. Kennedy (Scotland)

The International Tournament was a one-off event so Dr Siddall was able to keep the Torrance medal. Dr Siddall would go on to become the President of the Royal North Devon Golf Club in 1894. The International Tournament of 1886 was such a success that the next year another American, Frederick de Courcy May of Baltimore, presented the club with a gold medal to be competed for under similar terms as the Torrance medal. It is worth noting that same year saw another American, Francis C. Lawrance, installed as the club's President. The May medal was called America's Jubilee Challenge Medal, in honour of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Anniversary in 1887. The gold challenge medal was the permanent medal for the competition; the annual winner was presented with a silver and enamel medal. The original gold medal has apparently not survived, but one of the silver medals is in the PGC collection. In 1889 the club sent a copy of the Jubilee Medal to Queen

Victoria. The Queen's secretary replied with the Queen's thanks.



*The Jubilee medal, front side (courtesy PGC)*

The Jubilee Medal was contested from 1887 to 1901. In the inaugural event Col. Shepherd triumphed. Interestingly, the runner-up was Alfred Torrance. Tragically a month later Torrance was killed in a steeplechase race at Croix de Berny outside Paris. His death notice in *The Field* stated he was planning on spending a fortnight in St Andrews that summer. Although golfers have long forgotten Alfred Torrance, the steeplechase community has not; they still hold races in his honour. Perhaps it is time for the golfing world to acknowledge him for what he was- the father of international golf.



*The Jubilee medal, back side.*



## A legend of golf: “Babe” Zaharias (1911 – 1956)

Albert Bloemendaal



How interesting it can be to again and again delve into some part of golf's wonderful history. Even more so when it concerns one of the many interesting personalities of the early world of golf. I do admit that I suffer from the illusion – if not conviction – that the world of golf of that time long and not so long ago was so much more fascinating than what we may observe nowadays.

### Foreword

True, what top players presently are capable of remains fascinating, be it that what they may expect in return is no less fascinating. Champions not even twenty one years old may call themselves multimillionaire, even to a degree that they *need* not go on as they can live comfortably for the rest of their life on what they already have amassed in kudos.

Still, stories of players of days gone by whose life in golf still is considered unique seem to fascinate us. Though the majority of them had to fight through the days they were just as well top sportsmen – *and* women – still had to live close to poverty in their early years. No wonder that some of them are still worth a look into their early days. When it was not *how much* they earned, but more about the way *how* they achieved being at the top in their time.

### “Babe” Zaharias (1911 – 1956)

Sports historians agree that there never was a greater sports talent than “the Babe” nor is it likely that there will ever be. If only for her rather unique personality one might say. But that would grossly underestimate the indeed unique position she represents in the world of sport.

Though we will sketch her achievements in golf here in the first place, one cannot write about “the Babe” without telling about her unbelievable collection of other sports achievements. And there were many. Still, even

those must be subjected to a picture of the type of woman she was. Whatever she did, in whatever function, she was unique. This included an unbelievable array of sports including track and field, the high jump, basketball, tennis, baseball, bowling and... golf! She excelled in every one of them.

Maybe best pictured in her usual approach when arriving at any sports event in which she would participate: “... Hello everyone here's Babe, who's gonna be second...!” In that sense she represented the typical American way of life where achievements are judged by how many times you actually *won*. Best expressed maybe in the way sports results are published: whoever is coming in second is referred to as “*the losing finalist*”; whereas the milder Europeans would say “*the runner up*”.

Babe fitted very well in that environment of winners. She did not just enjoy winning, she enjoyed “pulverizing the opposition”, as she called it. It made her the doll of the press, but little in the way of friendships. A price to pay for all the admiration attached to her achievements as a unique sportswoman. Achievements which in total have not been bettered ever.

How multitalented she was showed the Olympics of 1932 where she won *six* gold medals. She started her appearance with the javelin. Already with her first throw she beat the world record with no less than three metres. The 80 metres hurdles was another gold medal.



The high jump turned out a sensation. She would have won a fourth gold medal were it not that she used the “roll-over” technique passing head first over the bar. Which the ladies of the Olympic committee found too sensual and unladylike and insisted she be disqualified for the high jump; a cheap revenge for the somewhat rowdy appearance of Babe.



In actual fact she *was* unladylike. She failed charm and the way she dressed – more like a tomboy than a young woman – provoked resistance. Still there’s no denying that she was a great promotor for women at sports at that time. Not just in the feminine way as was usual at that time, but also as sports professionals. She played baseball and basketball for some years as a professional. With her open and challenging manners she provoked the elite sports authorities of that period. But not the press. Sports journalist loved her and her rowdy way of playing just as the spectators which came in droves to see her perform. With success as the following years would show.

### **Born as Mildred Didriksen.**

Babe was born in Port Arthur, Texas in 1911, as the sixth child of a Norwegian immigrant family. She was a born athlete who would excel in any activity she would embrace. Apart from all the sports here already mentioned, she could dance play the accordeon and in general would engage in anything she took a fancy to. While growing up she would practice with her older brothers always set to beat them in anything that was offered. Once in a baseball game with them she hit five home runs after which the boys

called her “Babe” after the top”slugger” of those days Babe Ruth.

She regarded that an honour and stuck to that nickname for the rest of her life.

### **Then Golf.**

However, her general attitude in any game she took a fancy to begin to work against her in the world of sports. So at some moment she decided to try her chances in the much calmer world than the rowdy environment of baseball and basketball. She figured she deserved a bit more status and chose golf.

The way she entered that new world showed she had not changed at all. Her way was attacking the necessary practice till blisters were showing on her hands. Fifteen hundred balls per day on every day she could make available. Again was she showing how truly multitalented she was. She could hit balls way over two hundred meters, just as she had that rare silky touch for the short game.

Not surprisingly match-play became her favourite way of playing golf. She qualified for the Texas Ladies Open Amateur winning her first match 6&5, the next one 8&6 and the last one 3&2. Actually she won her first tournament there and then. The last match she won from one of the ladies of the elegant Country Club. After the prize giving ceremony was over, the losing lady member was heard to comment: “She plays and looks like a truck drivers daughter...”!

Not surprisingly, anything in every possible way was undertaken to harm her new career. Which was found in the circumstance that she had been engaged as a professional in sports. On the grounds that she had played professional baseball and basketball, she was scratched from the roster and lost her golf amateur status.

### **And then: Babe**

But not everyone in the golf world would agree with that. Babe had the character to be a top sportswoman and golf needed someone, a woman to be sure, to show the world that golf was not just a gentleman’s affair. A statement which was badly needed at that time in the USA as well elsewhere first and foremost in Britain.

To Babe's luck a sympathetic wealthy couple, had seen her perform and above all, her dedication to the game clearly to be one of the best, if not *the* best. They realised that Babe's disdain of anything feminine would keep her out of the circuit which made the roster for golf matches of any importance. So they took Babe under their wing and learned her much that was required in the world of golf, just as much as a powerful swing and a silky hand at putting.

They improved Babe's tom boy appearance and made her dress more like a woman, maybe not quite the lady they had in mind for her, but a worthy attempt nevertheless. Being feminine was something that would always remain far from Babe's character. In fact the friendly couple polished Babe not just in appearance but even more in behaviour. Her benefactors were very influential people and had it arranged that a former Amateur Tournament be changed into an "Open" so Babe could participate. It would develop into her first step into the great world of golf. Professional golf to be sure. Though not so soon.

Around that time she met George Zaharias the ultimate figure in the world of professional wrestling of that period. That again did not help getting her accepted in circles which were still dominating the organisation of golf tournaments. Still through Zaharias name she would become a great name in golf.

She could not forget her own baseball past so she kept on carrying the name of the all-time hero "Babe" Ruth whose name up to this day means something in the world of sport. Nevertheless, she still had to fight a long battle to get accepted in the world of golf.

As she yet was considered a professional through her career in basket- and baseball, she could not participate in the US Ladies Amateur Championship. Still she needed experience in great tournaments to get the feeling of championship golf. Being the character she was, she boldly entered her name for the 1948 US Open, a men's tournament.

As it was an Open, officials could not find anything in the rules to prevent her from participating so she was admitted for the preliminaries where she passed through the qualification. Sadly, her experience in great tournament golf did not meet the requirements yet and she did not pass the cut. Officialdom

succeeded in keeping her out of the exclusive world of the ladies amateur golf for a period of five years.

Then, in 1949 a surprise chance came along in the form of Wilson's sports attire industry. Wilson wanted to begin a ladies professional tour for expansion of their business and they saw in Babe someone who could help getting that off the ground. For Babe this would mean her final sport destination. It would bring her international fame of a magnitude yet unknown for that period.

### **The Ladies Tour**

Typical for the period in which that came into being were the hot discussions which at that time – the period just after WW II - were going on in Britain, especially about the dress ladies should wear in golf. Though it was generally agreed that the dreadful impractical long dresses were in the way of playing competitive golf, it was a bridge too far to accept what the American ladies were bringing into fashion. The worst possibly demonstrated years earlier when Gloria Minoprio appeared wearing trousers.

So when Babe appeared in 1949 in Gullane Scotland in her meanwhile famed no nonsense way of dressing, this time in "Pantalon and Sweater" as the press described her appearance, as pretty and good looking. And though for some time to come opinions stayed diverse, there was no denying the Babe's move was a sign that the drab dresses for ladies were over. Freedom of movement in sports became more a demand than fashion.

Still there was a long way to go to have the ladies dressed in a kind of fashionable sports attire. Some years later the famous sports fashion writer Joan Rothschild gave as her opinion "...that it was time British lady golfers present themselves in a way to look less like being dressed in potato sacks..."!

Babe's reputation as being somewhat out of the ordinary, especially in the Ladies World of Golf in Britain, accompanied her first visit. Her first appearance gave spectators something to talk about. Being through and through American, she had not taken too much attention to what was to be expected outside her country. In that period shortly after the war everything was

scarce and dressing for golf was a problem to be resolved with much imagination.

Arriving in Scotland, Babe was not prepared for the Scottish climate and had no cloths with her for keeping herself warm. Just entering a shop to buy something she found out, was quite impossible as all textile products came under distribution rules. She realised she'd have to make do with the cloths she wore back home in sunny Texas. When a newspaper published the predicament she was in, the main hall of her hotel was stacked with sweaters and the like that very afternoon.

Once participating in the Gullane tournament, one other custom she was not prepared for was the phenomenon of the Scottish caddie. On her first day she looked in utter amazement at an eighty year old figure who would carry her bag, meanwhile giving her advice at any stroke she was preparing for. When she had to disagree too many times, she demanded a younger replacement. She got one. He would become eighty only the following year. ! Still in spite of that, she beat the Scottish champion six and five.

All in all she was doing very well in this for her strange environment. The tournament was played over three days of two times eighteen holes per day as was usual then; match-play of course at which she was not all that familiar in the USA. Still, in the six matches she eventually played, she only lost four holes.

Spectators and press were wildly enthusiastic and came by the ten thousands to see this spectacular American phenomenon. That did a lot of good for the much needed acceptance and integration of ladies golf in Britain.

Babe realised that this new experience with links golf did much to further her development of the game. Her final decision to become a professional was made there and then.

This resolved at the same time another upcoming problem as she was invited for having a film made about her. Just to show what her impact on the golf-world was: she was offered \$ 300.000, – for her appearance in that film. More or less equivalent of what Tiger Woods would get fifty years later when he was in his prime, It confirmed her unique status which she made true. Winning no less than

thirty one titles as a professional till 1955, when she had to stop playing.

At both sides of the Atlantic sport journalists as well as golf commentators agree Babe Zaharias was a unique sportswoman with versatility in a surprising number of activities that would never be equalled. She would even win a match in ballroom dancing just as she would in playing the accordion. Still, she admits that being a champion golfer was her greatest experience in life. That tells something about her dedication.

Her character was not a very polished one, being very controversial in almost anything she did. But she was there when golf for ladies needed a personality like hers. Her influence went much further and without calling her a feminist, which would have made her shudder at the very suggestion, she was in the forefront when questions arose of recognizing ladies golf.

Which in that period when ladies golf was still not seriously considered by the old firm, was more than welcome. She won her last tournament in 1955. Then already in the knowledge she was incurably ill. She passed away one year late, not yet 45 years old. Her professional golf career having lasted just six years. But her impact on golf for ladies will stay in golf history forever.





## Tom Simpson – An unconventional life *Part I – Life and early days*

Tom MacWood



This article was first published in *Golf Architecture*, Issue 8, 2005 and we greatly appreciate the granting for it to be reproduced here, and would like to heartily thank its editor, Neil Crafter.

Also, it is moving to posthumously thank the author, Tom MacWood of Ohia, USA. Sadly and suddenly, he passed away in August 2012. He had a great legacy in terms of his passion and research into golf course architecture. This publication is a modest homage to his great work.

The small death notice read: “*SIMPSON—On 10th May, 1964, Tom Simpson, late of South Warnborough. No flowers, no letters, no mourning.*”

There was no insightful tribute from Bernard Darwin, he had gone three years earlier. There was no respectful eulogy by The Times golf correspondent. There was not a single word in *Golf Illustrated*, *Golf Monthly* or any other golf publication. His passing came and went with barely a notice.



Golf architecture has been blessed with a number of colourful characters and Tom Simpson stands with them in terms of eccentricity, as well as architectural skill. In fact if he were to go head-to-head in a match of interesting personalities, he'd have most of them dormie with several holes to play!

The absence of a tribute wouldn't have bothered Tom Simpson - he had addressed that issue a few years earlier. Late in life Simpson complained to a friend that he would never have a chance to read his own obituary. The friend passed this along to a mutual friend, columnist Henry Longhurst, who, with Simpson's blessing, wrote and published his obituary in 1959. Simpson was so pleased he ordered fifty copies to send to all his friends.

Longhurst began his homage explaining that Simpson, above all, was a nonconformist. He was a unique personality, who apparently relished being a little different. He was also a man of many interests. “*He was a collector of wines, walking sticks, Persian rugs, eighteenth-century furniture, and cigars, of which at a conservative estimate he has smoked 45,000.*” He kept a magnificent “wine book,” with notes and observations compiled from his vast experience. He enjoyed needlework, making images of golf holes using a method known as *petit-point*—his portrayal of the 8th at Cruden Bay was said to be magnificent.

Above all Simpson was an artist. He exhibited his paintings in the galleries of London; he was an art authority and avid collector; he published a beautiful book on contemporary etchings; and for a time had been an art critic for *The Saturday Review* (hired not because of his writing skills, but because he wrote with ‘knowledge and conviction’). Simpson may have been best known for his work as a golf

architect, but as Longhurst observed, he was in fact a connoisseur of life in general.

Among his golf related quirks was a handsome leather bound book with gold lettering he called *"The Golf Architect's Bible."* This book was not a dissertation on golf design per say, but more a collection of useful notes and reminders, ranging from *"A for 'Ants & Cockchafers' to W for 'Worms.'"* In the 'Bible' you will find a list of eighty things an architect should take on visits, including passport, protractor, plans, bananas, bible and seasick medicine.

His love for the unconventional found its way into his design work as well. He refused to produce anything boring for his clients, no matter how much they might desire it. He had an on-going love/hate relationship with all the committees he dealt with - mostly hate. Longhurst wrote, *"His life has been one of unwavering hostility towards government by committees in any shape or form and of ceaseless endeavor to get 'one up' on them."* One way he got a leg up, when invited to plan or revise a golf course, would be by showing up in his silver Rolls Royce. The subliminal message being that he really didn't need the work, and they could accept his recommendations or not, if not he'd be on his way.



*Morfontaine #7 (9 hole course)*

More often than not, those committees did accept his plans. Among his lasting monuments are Morfontaine, Chiberta and Hardelot in France; Spa, Royal Antwerp and Ravenstein in Belgium; and Ballybunion, County Louth and Cruden Bay in the British Isles. However not all his designs were well received—his controversial redesigns of Sunningdale-New and Rye were denounced, and ultimately changed. Longhurst said *"I dare say that golf clubs in Britain have spent more money in undoing his work than that of the other architects put together."*

A sampling of Simpson's—conventional and unconventional—design thoughts: The majority of golf courses, were not golf courses at all, *"but rather places where people play at golf."* The Tiger hated anything in the shape of an intelligence test. The Old Course was the epitome of golf architecture, in fact the only true golf course. The 13th at St. Andrews was the ideal strategic hole. That no course can be truly great without out-of-bounds. Asked if that meant Hoylake was the best links in England, he responded, *"Without any doubt whatever."* That Liphook and Woking were the best inland courses in Britain—in that order. And that a good design required no more than 65 bunkers. At one Scottish course he found 1,300 bunkers; he left it with 65. Simpson claimed in his fifty years of design he never placed a bunker to catch a bad shot, but to catch the good shot that wasn't quite good enough.

When asked if he would like to go back to the days of the guttie, Simpson replied, *"Certainly not. I would never have allowed the rubber-cored ball in the first place—but not one person in fifty who plays today would want to play with the guttie."* Asked then what he would propose, *"Adopt the American ball. Ban the wedge. And halve the number of clubs."* Longhurst said Simpson's views may appear reactionary to the younger golfer not familiar with *"the more diversified art of golf in the days when clubs were known by names instead of numbers; but they are those of an artist in life as well as in golf."*

## Early Life

Tom Simpson was born in Prestwich, Lancashire—the only child of William and Mary Simpson. Tom's grandfather Thomas Simpson had migrated to Lancashire from Scotland in the 1830's. The senior Simpson was successfully involved in printing and coal mining concerns, amassing a fortune, which he ultimately left to his only son William.

Prior joining the family business William Simpson travelled extensively. As a young man he was devoted to mountaineering—climbing a number of the highest peaks in Switzerland. He was also well read, with a particular interest in archaeology that would lead him to India, Ceylon, Japan, Australia, America and most of Europe. From his travels Simpson collected

many items of artistic and archaeological interest—from elaborately carved Indian chairs to Japanese lanterns.

The elder Thomas Simpson died in 1875. By that time William had taken over the business, and was expanding their colliery holdings. In 1877 Thomas G. Simpson was born. Two years later the Simpson family moved to the 600 year old Winkley Hall in nearby Clitheroe, which lies in the lovely countryside of Lancashire very near the Forest of Bowland. A weathered manor, a farm, a garden and a beautiful landscape dotted with trees and streams was the ideal setting for young Tom to develop an appreciation of nature. Being surrounded by an extensive collection of art and antiquities undoubtedly had a lasting effect as well.

Simpson was educated at South Lynn College in Eastbourne before moving on to university at Trinity Hall, Cambridge in 1895. At Cambridge he read law, receiving his Bachelor's degree in June of 1898, followed by his M.A. in January 1902. Simpson did not play competitive golf at Cambridge - there are few details of exactly when and where the introduction took place, but whatever the circumstances, it clearly became a lifelong passion, one of many.

From Cambridge, Simpson relocated to London and began his pupillage in the Inner Temple—a three-year process. In 1903 he married Edith Baynes, and two years later he was called to the Bar. His legal career appears to have been uneventful - perhaps his focus was elsewhere. Art and golf appear to have been the primary competitors to law. During this period Simpson played most of his golf at Woking, Worplesdon and Royal Eastbourne and was active in local competitions, competing with the Bar Golfing Society against the other professional Golfing Societies. His Bar Society side included Bernard Darwin.

It was at Woking where Simpson made a dramatic discovery. Woking was one of the landmark designs in the early years of golf architecture. Stuart Paton and John Low, two Scots, had carried out a number of revolutionary changes - changes that were both praised and condemned. Tom Simpson was there to absorb it all.

One fateful morning Simpson arrived at Woking for a game, the skies opened and the

members retreated to the clubhouse, at which point they became engaged in a heated discussion on a recent change to the course—a new bunker planted in the middle of the fourth fairway. Simpson recalled, *“Everyone was agreed that such an innovation was a criminal outrage, and insult as well, to the intelligence of the members.”* That afternoon Simpson went out into the rain to contemplate the purpose of that little bunker – fully prepared to agree with the consensus. However, instead of agreeing, he realized for the first time the true purpose of a hazard, and the absolute importance of *“golf architecture as an art as well as science.”* He decided on the spot to become a golf architect.

### A New Career

Following this defining moment Simpson set out to study the great links of Scotland from an architectural perspective. In Simpson's view, for an architect to succeed: *“he must be intimately acquainted with the famous courses, and outstandingly great holes of the world, and more especially the putting greens and approaches to the greens. These must ever be in the forefront of his mind, not for the purpose of reproducing them, but rather for the purpose of being inspired.”*

By 1910 he had abandoned his law career and entered into a partnership with golf architect Herbert Fowler. Simpson was not the only golfing lawyer to shift careers. Harry Colt had moved from law to club secretary and then to golf architect a few years earlier. And another Woking man, Bernard Darwin had left the Inner Temple for a journalistic career.

It is generally thought the partnership with Fowler was his first foray into design, however it is interesting to note Simpson wrote in 1950 that he had been an active architect for forty-five years—that would place the start nearer his Woking epiphany. There is some evidence of Simpson's architectural interest prior to joining Fowler. In a 1908 letter to the editor in *Golf Illustrated* Simpson defended the emerging amateur architects' right to compete with the professionals, while at the same time criticizing the professionals' penal approach. The following year Simpson wrote an article profiling Cruden Bay. Within this article he details the course's strengths and weaknesses, some recent changes and goes on to suggest additional alterations to improve the links.



Further, in an article on the use of plasticine models published in 1911, Herbert Fowler wrote he had been introduced to the idea by Simpson's models for the greens at Cruden Bay. It appears Cruden Bay was one of Simpson first design projects—likely before joining Fowler.



*Fowler & Simpson*

That same year, 1911, Simpson opened an art exhibition at Victoria Galleries—exhibiting 100 watercolors, mainly of Polperio on the Cornish coast. The critic for *The Times* wrote, “*We can whole-heartedly praise Mr. Simpson’s use of water-colour and the agreeable gentle colour effects he produces with it. These drawings were clearly made on the spot, and they have the freshness of outdoor work. But Mr. Simpson needs to become a more rigid critic of subject and mood. A subject is not necessarily interesting because it is ‘real’, and there is too much on the walls that hardly justifies existence.*” It would appear that Simpson had more than one iron in the fire.

In those early years it is difficult to say exactly how Fowler & Simpson delegated responsibility. Delamere Forest, Walton Heath-New and Beau Desert appear to be Fowler’s alone; Woodcote Park, Deauville and Dieppe are attributed to both men; Valliere, Chantilly and Fontainebleau to Simpson. On the surface it would seem that Fowler handled the partnership’s work in Britain, while Simpson was responsible for the Continent. At the time (prior to World War I) Simpson was living in Eastbourne on the English Channel, providing ready access to France.

In addition to the continental projects, Simpson was responsible for creating private golf courses for many of Europe’s most powerful men: Lord Louis Mountbatten, Sir Mortimer Singer, Sir Phillip Sassoon, Baron Edward de Rothschild, Baron Henri de Rothschild and the King Leopold II of Belgium. Without question the team was flying high leading up to the Great War—at which point it all came to a grinding halt.

During the war Simpson held a senior post with the Ministry of Munitions in Eastbourne. When the war ended Fowler & Simpson re-formed, unfortunately golf course work was slow to pick up. In addition there was stiff competition. Harry Colt, the premier architect at that time, had recently added two respected associates - Alister Mackenzie and CH Alison. With little work in Britain, Fowler & Simpson looked abroad and in late 1919 announced they would be travelling to America.

Following the war Simpson also published his first book, entitled *Modern Etchings and Their Collectors*. As the title suggests, the book covered all aspects of modern etchings as well as collecting them. It was beautifully illustrated, with a number of etchings from Simpson’s personal collection. The lure of art often appeared during transitional periods in Simpson’s life.

In the early 20’s Fowler made several visits to the United States. He is credited with Los Angeles CC (North and South), Del Paso, Rancho and Eastward Ho!, as well as the redesign of Pebble Beach and Old Del Monte. Simpson did not make that first trip in 1919—he cancelled due to some new commissions in France and Britain—however he did join Fowler on at least one of his subsequent visits. A side trip to Pine Valley would have a major impact upon Simpson, “*For sheer beauty and all round excellence it has, in my judgment, no rival among inland courses.*”

During this period Simpson moved to Bramshott, near Liphook. He had fallen in love with the golf course designed by Arthur Croome and purchased a home nearby. ‘Quinces’ was an eight bedroom Tudor which stood on 11 acres of grounds and gardens—Simpson converted two oast houses into garages.

In 1923 Fowler & Simpson became Fowler, Abercromby, Simpson & Croome – with the addition of JF Abercromby and Croome. This expansion may have been in response to that of Colt or perhaps the need to cover more ground. Whatever the reason, there is no record of how Simpson took the apparent demotion from second man to number three. Ironically, no representative of the expanded firm returned to America, and neither Abercromby nor the elderly Fowler were engaged in many projects. Croome, a journalist, was more or less the publicist/business manager (although his one design effort, Liphook, was an unquestioned success).



Simpson was by far the most active of the group, designing a number of important courses during this time, including Ravenstein, Chiberta, Chantilly, Morfontaine, and Spa. He also assisted Fowler at Berkshire, the old man's last design.

It is interesting to note that Simpson held an exhibition of his watercolours at Walker's Gallery on Bond Street in 1926. The subject of his paintings included Rome, Kensington Gardens and Kew. One review suggested "*Mr. Simpson is a pleasantly cool colourist, and his enjoyment of his work is evident.*" This artistic foray may have been a sign of Simpson's discontent with the current state of affairs in the partnership.

### Independence

With Fowler and Abercromby getting on in years (73 and 68, respectively), Tom Simpson broke away in 1928—forming Simpson & Co. In that same year he published *The Architectural Side of Golf* in collaboration with H. N. Wethered, a leading authority on art history and literature and the father of the leading amateur golfers Joyce and Roger

Wethered. The book's timing was undoubtedly planned to generate publicity for Simpson and his new firm.

Now his own master, there was no let up in Simpson's activities. In 1929 his projects included the New course at Deauville, International du Lys, Royal Antwerp and North Hants, with Hardelot and the American Club in France, followed by Bad Ems in Germany the next year. Over the next few years he would design or redesign New Zealand, Zurich, Hayling Island, Rye, Muirfield, Porthcawl, Ashridge, Sunningdale-New, Liphook, Ballybunion, Felixstowe Ferry, Schlossmittersill, Carlow, Woking, St. Enodoc, Baltray and Sart-Tilman. Not to mention a few exotic opportunities - Brioni (Croatia), Royal Ducal (Luxemburg), Sigoni (Kenya) and Batavia (Indonesia). At the opening day of Batavia hundreds of natives galloped over the course chasing away evil spirits—it's not known if Simpson joined them!

During this period Simpson was also an active writer. He contributed four chapters on golf design to Joyce and Roger Wethered's *The Game of Golf* (1931) and a chapter in Martin Sutton's *Golf Course Design, Construction and Upkeep* (1933). He was a favorite subject for articles written by Darwin for *Country Life* and *The Times*. In addition Simpson authored many articles of his own on design for magazines in both Britain and America. In 1936 he hosted a national radio broadcast discussing golf architecture. He was a very busy man.

In order to service this number of projects, Simpson was assisted by a number of associates, with one of the most prominent being Phillip Mackenzie Ross. Legend has it MacKenzie Ross was hired based on his suggestion of how best to attractively mount the license plate on Simpson's Rolls. Perhaps this incident did reveal his good eye, but being the father of the great amateur golfer Alexander Mackenzie Ross didn't hurt either. Simpson was an admirer of the elder Mackenzie Ross and his ability to "*beat better players than himself by the use of his intellect.*"

Other associates during this period included his son John W. Simpson and Henri Balezeux, the Treasurer of the French Golf Union. And although there was no formal association, Simpson collaborated with Bernard Darwin at Rye and Stuart Paton at both Woking and

Sunningdale. But his boldest move was to hire the fine amateur Molly Gourlay as his assistant, at the time believed to be the first woman golf architect in history. Molly won two English Championships and was a member of the first British Curtis Cup team in 1932 that played the Americans at Wentworth. She assisted Simpson in the late 1930's on projects that included Ballybunion, Baltray (County Louth), County Carlow in Ireland and Schlossmittersill in Austria.

But again World War intervened, and all design activities came to an end. Simpson was 61 years old when the war began and 68 at its end. After the war Tom accepted projects in Spain and Switzerland, the most prominent being the reconstruction of Royal Madrid (completely destroyed during the Spanish Civil War). He continued to write, contributing another chapter on golf architecture in Sutton's newest version of *Golf Course Design, Construction and Upkeep* in 1950, but soon after, his design activities ceased and Tom Simpson retired to his estate in the Hampshire countryside. He passed away in Basingstoke, Hampshire in 1964, aged 87.

### Attack and Defence

According to Tom Simpson these words summarize the dual role played respectively by the golfer and golf course. The golf course being the antagonist – *“the very interesting combatant with whom the architect is primarily concerned.”*

While the golfer is focused upon attacking the course, and covering it in the fewest number of strokes, the architect's intent is the opposite. *“He means to frustrate this insatiable ambition of diminishing records by every means in his power.”* To complicate this relationship, the powerful player was now aided by equipment advancements, and the combination was wreaking havoc on the golf course.

In Simpson's view it was the golf architect's duty to counteract these developments, and there were two schools of thought on how best to solve the problem—the penal and the strategic. The penal method relied upon the increased use of hazards, dictating a single safe path and punishing shots that wandered from the path. Simpson claimed this was the preferred method of the professionals. On the other hand the strategic school presented options—a hazardous more direct route and a

less hazardous but longer road. This was the method adopted by the emerging amateur architects who were revolutionising golf design. Simpson's chief objection with the penal system was that it gave away too much information—in other words, it didn't require the player think. Golf is at its best *“when there is at least as much necessity for brain work as physical aptitude.”* Simpson preferred the opposite approach, whereby he would disguise his purpose by limiting the number of hazards. Simpson said, *“the object of design is to create difficulties (and in a modified sense, illusions), not to explain them; to outwit the expert or at least to set his brain to work to find the best solutions.”* A design with fewer man-made hazards, along with an increased use of natural intricacies, created doubt and confusion as to the correct position to play. In Simpson's opinion this was the best way to defeat the Tiger. Darwin said of Simpson's tactic: *“When there are no bunkers he has to start thinking, and that he simply hates.”* An equally important consequence of this method, fewer penal hazards provided a more pleasurable test for the Rabbit.

His design philosophy was strongly influenced by his experience at St. Andrews. In Simpson's opinion, a golf architect must understand the message of the Old Course, and that was no easy task. *“I am satisfied beyond all doubt that whatever success I have had has not been due to any cleverness on my part, but simply and solely because on the one hand, from the earliest days, I was intimately acquainted with the Old Course, all its mischievous, subtle and provocative features”.*

As Bobby Jones said, *“The more I studied the Old Course, the more I loved it, and the more I loved it, the more I studied it.”* It is the need to be studied that was common to all great courses. Simpson expressed it even more simply, *“No course can be a really great course unless it requires knowing.”*

### Acknowledgements

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## **... 80, 90, 100 - Golf anniversaries in the Olympic year 2016**

**Olaf Dudzus**



Today we are wondering about the situation of golf in Germany, some 125 years after British officers and diplomats did not want to renounce their daily round of golf during continental vacations and thus gave the initial impetus for the dissemination of our beloved sport in Germany.

Since then all has changed and today there are some 600,000 registered golfers playing over more than 700 golf courses in Germany – the German Golf Union is the eighth largest sports association within the German Olympic Sports Confederation (DOSB, “Deutscher Olympischer Sportbund”). These are quite impressive numbers considering the initial difficulties in establishing the sport in our country during the first half of the 20th century. However even today the “Kolbenschwinger” (Cleekswinger), as they used to call us once, only represent about 0.6% of Germany’s total population, which in turn and compared to other European countries is a quite low percentage.

This is the reason why some years ago the German Ryder Cup bid for 2018 was unsuccessful when German Home Secretary Thomas de Maizière called golf a fringe sport which does not even have world championships. This is certainly not a good environment for future Ryder Cup bids, but at least one has the impression that slowly but steadily things are improving within German top golf.

The highly doped Omega Dubai Desert Classic, a tournament of the European Tour in late January 2015, saw five German players participating, even though Bernhard Langer has for a long time been fighting for prize money and trophies on the Champions Tour and Alex Cejka has been working on his comeback on the US-PGA Tour. Four German players actually

managed to make the cut including the two tour rookies Moritz Lampert and Dominic Foos. Martin Kaymer finished fourth in Dubai and Maximilian Kieffer tied for thirty-second place. Then there is also Marcel Siem, who won the BMW Masters in China in November 2014 beating Ross Fisher and Alexander Lévy in the playoff. This shows that these days you always have to watch out for German Players.

In 2014 the Pro Golf Tour, the European Golf league for professional golf rookies, saw a hitherto unseen dominance of German players taking first to fifth rank and with 12 German players finishing among the top twenty. At the second tournament of the 2015 season the Germans managed a triple victory with Philipp Mejo from Berlin-Wannsee celebrating his second tournament victory after an exciting playoff. Unfortunately and apart from pay TV Sky, a few relevant websites and some online golf magazines no one takes notice of all this. In German newspapers there was only talk about golf when Tiger Woods found himself in a difficult phase of his life and when Martin Kaymer won his second major championship, the 2014 US Open. Launched in 2013, the German golf league (“Bundesliga”) is generally not worth a line for the German print media.

At the same time the sport had taken a hopeful beginning 120 years ago with the establishment of the Berlin Golf Club (founded 1894 as Charlottenburger Golf-Club), which led to bold

visions of Olympic golf tournaments and brought competitions between the US and Great Britain thirty years before Samuel Ryder had the idea of the tournament named after him, probably the greatest spectacle in the golf world anyway.

Since 1896 amateur golfers in Berlin-Westend played for the somewhat pompously named "Championship of Germany and Austria". From the Austrian point of view it was certainly more considered as a Prussian championship, the reason for this might have been the fact that golf in Austria only gained ground a few years later.

After the foundation of the German Golf Union ("Deutscher Golf Verband") in 1907, the still young tradition of the aforementioned championship was terminated in favour of the newly created Association Championships of Germany ("Verbandsmeisterschaften von Deutschland").

Germany entered the international golf stage in 1911, when about thirty predominantly British Professionals followed the reputation of Baden-Baden to play in the first German Open, staged by Baden-Baden Golf Club, a club founded in 1901. The club put up the proud prize money of 5,000 gold marks. Golf legend Harry Vardon played a new world record for 4 rounds on a full-sized course with a score of 279. A century later however the officials overslept the jubilee, which would have been the opportunity to revive the third oldest open championship on the European continent, the German Open.

After a forced wartime break it took ten years for a German to play in a major golf championship, although Major Cyril Tolley left his opponent Hans Samek no chance at the British Amateur Championship 1925 in Westward Ho!. However, only one year later, Germany reported back with the reestablishment of the German Open and the Berlin Golf Club, now located at Wannsee in Berlin, became the stage of international golf. Percy Alliss, the doyen of German golf during the 1920s, put all his skills and work together to win no less than five German Open Championships hence giving German golf a new drive. The "Wannseer" Percy Alliss, now domiciled at Golf und Land-Club Berlin-Wannsee, not only played in the British Ryder Cup team, but also succeeded in 1929 to beat American golf star Horton Smith, who later became a two-time Masters winner, as well as

the then most famous golfer of his time, the German-American Walter Hagen, who brought it to a total of 11 major victories during his golfing career.



*Percy Alliss*

During these years most German players though did not make the cut at the German Open, this only changed in 1931 when several German professional golfers as well as the amateur player Stefan Samek made the cut at the German Open.

Interestingly enough the new golf course at Wannsee was originally intended for an entirely different important golf tournament. When the International Olympic Committee IOC awarded the 1916 Olympic Games to Berlin it started a downright euphoria among the officials of Berlin Golf Club and the German Golf Union. After the last Olympic Golf Tournament 1904 in St. Louis, the efforts of the British (1908) and the Swedes (1912) to continue this tradition failed. However it was hardly the organizers who were responsible for this, but the golfers and last but not least, the R & A, as for them Olympic golf appeared to be completely unnecessary. What could there be more important and bigger than "The Open". One has to bear in mind that when in 1907 Frenchman Arnaud Massy won the event he was considered by many to be the "World Champion of Golf".

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In order to set up a competitive German team and to build an 18-hole golf course according to international standards no less than the later Open champion George Duncan and Cuthbert Strachan Butchart from Carnoustie, golf professional at Berlin Golf Club, were employed as trainer respectively golf course architect. Butchart made the first plans for a championship course measuring 5,400 meters and the construction of the course at Wannsee already started in late 1913.

Then August 1914 nullified all plans and dreams. No more Olympic golf and it would take 95 years for the IOC to again include golf into the Olympic family. A long cherished dream will come true in 2016 in Rio de Janeiro at the Games of the XXXI. Olympics, even though it is already clear that the organizers of the Olympic golf tournament still have to come up with something exciting in order to make sure the best golfers in the world actually play this tournament every four years though ensuring the Olympic golf tournament is not simply one among many others. The decided mode, individual stroke play for men and women on four days, does not seem to be particularly original, so it remains to be seen whether the Olympic tournament can contribute to the further spread of golf.

If it were possible for Germany to create a sustained favorable climate for golf, 2022 could be the first time to host the Ryder Cup. However, a prerequisite for a successful bid is that the German Open is reestablished and taken up again into the international golf calendar. Also support from politicians and the media will be much needed. The Solheim Cup at Golf Club St. Leon-Rot in September 2015 will be a good way to prove German organization talent hosting the top level ladies professionals from the US and Europe as they play their continental match play contest.

2016 will also provide a good opportunity to remember the canceled Olympic golf tournament that was due to start on May 28th, 1916 at 9:00 clock at Berlin-Wannsee.

We should also see the revival of the German Open played in Berlin-Wannsee in May 1926 as well as a potential revival of the "Grosser Golfpreis der Nationen" played in Baden-Baden in 1936 directly following the Berlin Olympic Games.

Under the motto "80, 90, 100 - Golf" all of us, the European Association of Golf Historians & Collectors (EAGHC), hickory golf societies and hickory golfers as well as the golf clubs in Berlin and Baden-Baden should work together in order to create a favorable media environment as these anniversaries are offering a brilliant opportunity to bring together history and modern times. At the end not only Germany will benefit, but the sport of golf as a whole.

*Translated by C.N.Meister, February 2015*



*Baden Baden, 1911*



## Early Golf Courses of Ireland in Postcards

**John Hanna**



Just as in France where many of the early topographical postcards, including those of golf courses, were taken by the firm of Leon and Levy so it was in Ireland where there were three main publishers of postcards. There was another similarity as Leon and Levy were printers and photographic editors and they were based in Paris. They produced postcards from many locations including locations in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas. The 'trade mark' of the enterprise was 'L.L' and it was one of the most important postcard editors in France.

Its equivalent in Ireland was William Meervyn Lawrence who on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March 1865, at the age of 24, opened up a photographic studio opposite the General Post Office at Sackville Street in Dublin. Over the next decades he successfully photographed throughout the length and breadth of Ireland from Howth Head in the East of Ireland and from Malin Head in the North to Skibbereen in the South. His collection consists of 40,000 glass plates, mainly from the period 1880-1914, but some plates go back to 1870.

Strangely, like Leon and Levy, Lawrence himself was not a photographer but what he was an early entrepreneur. He opened his studio in his mother's toy and fancy-goods shop. (see photograph right) At that time there was great interest in studio portraits and he employed a portrait photographer. At that time his brother, John Fortune Lawrence, took stereo photographs and William took a keen interest in them and he took over the sales. He employed a team of printers and artists (colourists and

retouches). In 1880 when the 'dry plate' process came in William Lawrence employed Robert French as his chief photographer. Robert French had been born in Dublin and he spent some time working in the Royal Irish Constabulary before joining the Lawrence Studio. He worked his way up as printer, artist and then assistant photographer. He took over 30,000 photographs of the *'Lawrence Collection.'*



W. LAWRENCE, PHOTOGRAPHER.

William Lawrence produced a series of Travel Albums called *'The Emerald Isle'* which included a grand collection of over 500 magnificent beauties of the *'Green Isle'*. These

were also produced in Chicago in 1897 in a number of weekly parts '*Ireland in Pictures*'. They included:- Dublin City and County, Counties of Wicklow and Wexford, The Lakes of Killarney & Glengarriff, Cork, Blarney, & Queenstown (Cobh), Belfast & the County Down, Glens and the Coast of Antrim, Giant's Causeway, Portrush, and Antrim County, Lough Erne, Bundoran and the Donegal Highlands, West of Ireland, Galway, Connemara, and Achill Island, Armagh and its Environs and Irish Life and Character.

In the 1890s the studio was in the right place to take advantage of a new line of business when the Post Office allowed postcards to be sent without envelopes. Then after 1902 when one side could be devoted to a picture, leaving some space where you could send a message, with the other side being reserved for the address. The Lawrence postcard business took off. This business prospered for nearly 50 years but in the latter years it had to face stiff opposition. Good photographs became more common and good reproductions appeared in newspapers and magazines. Then the cinema shortly followed by the invention of the *Box Brownie* camera the business was by now beginning to face a period of decline. By this time both Lawrence and French were in their early seventies. Robert French retired in 1914 and William Lawrence in 1916.

### **William Alfred Green 1870-1958**

Another well-known photographer of this time was William Green. He was born into a Quaker family in Newry, County Down where his father had a tea and grocery business. His great uncle, Forster Green, was a successful Belfast tea merchant whose family's fatal experience with tuberculosis prompted him to endow the Hospital that bears his name on the outskirts of Belfast.

As a child Green was a boarder at Friend's School in Lisburn which as its name implies was based upon Quaker principles. When his parents died he moved to Belfast and was employed for a while by his great uncle. It is thought that ill health caused him to leave the business. He was a keen member of the Belfast Naturalist Field Club and was later a Fellow of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland. Later Green was apprenticed to Robert John

Welsh (1859 - 1936), a professional photographer, before starting his own photographic business. He began in Belfast in 1910 and later he moved to Antrim in 1924. He published two series of postcards of 'Irish Views' called the 'Wagtail' series, a pun on his initials. His work ranged from lantern slides for educational purposes to photographs for postcards, advertisements and book illustrations



*William Green*

Although his formal work is still much admired, Green is perhaps better known today for the photographs he took in pursuit of his personal interest in old rural crafts and customs; scenes of country life, of flax and corn processing, carpet, wool and linen weaving, clay pipe and china production, fishing around Lough Neagh. He carried out much work of this type in the area around Toomebridge, County Antrim. The high quality of his work is demonstrated by its continued publication. Green and his wife suffered a personal tragedy with the accidental death of their only child, Edmund, in 1921. He retired in the mid-1930s, remaining in Antrim until his death in 1958. His collection is now in the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum, Cultra, County Down.

### **Robert John Welch**

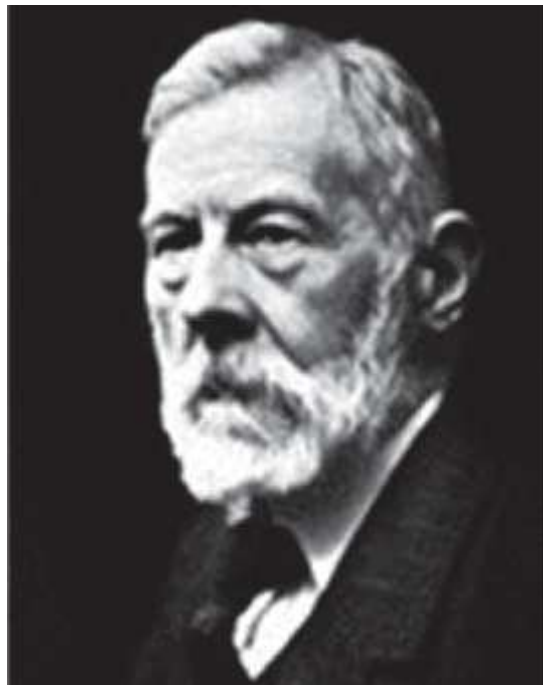
The third photographer of note of this period was Robert Welch who was born in Strabane on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July 1859 and lived for a time in Enniskillen. He developed an early interest in photography from his father who operated as a

professional photographer from 1862 until his untimely death in 1875. In that year Robert went to Belfast to train as a professional photographer under E T Church. He established his own business in 1883 in Lonsdale Street. Much of his time was spent taking pictures that reflected the life of the people and the contemporary landscape. The Ulster Museum, Belfast, houses the majority of these. Many of his 'Irish views' were used in railway carriages, hotels, transatlantic liners and as illustrations in tourist guides and travel books. Over the period from the 1880s to the 1930s Welch built up a fine collection of negatives of Belfast street scenes, which today provides a valuable record of the changes over the period of 50 years.

In 1900 he was awarded a Royal Warrant for his work from Queen Victoria, one of only ten photographers to receive this honour. He was commissioned by the Royal Commission of Enquiry in 1886 to record the damage caused in Belfast after the anti-Home Rule riots of that year. He was appointed official photographer to the firm of Harland & Wolff, and the Belfast Ropeworks Co. He lectured and contributed many papers and illustrations to a variety of natural history publications throughout his life. He was a member of the Royal Irish Academy, President of the Belfast Naturalists' Field Club, and President of the Conchological Society of Great Britain and Ireland. (This Society is a British-based society concerned with the study of molluscs and their shells. It was founded in 1876, and is one of the oldest such societies in the world.) In 1923 he had an honorary doctorate conferred upon him by Queen's University Belfast. In 1927 the Northern Ireland Parliament granted him a civil pension of £100 a year. He died on 28 September 1936.

In conclusion what a difference these men made in preserving our view of the past, not just of golf in Ireland but of life in Ireland as a whole. Little did they think that around one hundred years later many golf memorabilia collectors

would be seeking out their postcards throughout the world, and paying out, in some cases, quite large sums of money for them. It is through their work that many golf historians have been able to capture how their golf club house looked many years ago and a view into the social history at that time.



*Robert Welch*



*Most of the LL postcards are from France (here Hardelet) GC)*

*(See also illustrations on 3<sup>rd</sup> page of cover)*

*The editor is always looking for articles related to the history of golf and its collection. Any report (even a small text), any fact, any question is often – not to say always – an interesting aspect and worth to be published. Please send write us at [editor@golfika.com](mailto:editor@golfika.com)*



## Lord Kilmaine and the Kilmaine Cup Some accounts

Yves Caillé & JBK (Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak)



The Kilmaine Cup is an important golf competition between Pau and Biarritz which is lasting until nowadays – after a renewal. But the origins are not perfectly established and are sometimes a bit fuzzy. Also, when writing this paper, we discover some forgotten events related to Lord Kilmaine.

### Lord Kilmaine<sup>1</sup>.



Born on March 24<sup>th</sup> 1843, Sir Francis William Browne, Baron of The Neale, succeeded to his father as 4<sup>th</sup> Baron Kilmaine in 1873. In 1877, he married Alice Emily, the daughter of Colonel

Deane-Shute and the niece of General Sir Charles Shute; in 1890 he was nominated as a Representative Peer for Ireland.

He was living at Gaulstown, Westmeath, in Ireland, but travelled regularly to Pau where he and Lady Kilmaine had a villa of their own: the *Villa Désirée*.

In 1894 Lord Kilmaine was an active member of the Pau Golf Club. We also found a reference in the Glasgow Journal dated 22 Feb. 1894, which is indicating that he was spending the whole winter season in Pau, together with Lady Kilmaine and their son; which means that he was certainly in the place late 1893 – or earlier.

We also know that, at the same period, he was captain of the Argelès Golf Club<sup>2</sup> which he contributed to promote and improve.

Even if after 1897, he was Churchwarden of the Anglican Church at Pau, named Saint-Andrews (sic!) where he helped funding the restoration of the altarpiece, we know that as soon as 1896<sup>3</sup>, Lord Kilmaine was suffering of sleeplessness which worsens to neurasthenia.

At the end of 1907, a tragedy would occur. Lord Kilmaine was in Paris and had occupied since the 22nd of October<sup>4</sup> a suite of apartments, at

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<sup>1</sup> Many thanks for the Pau Golf Club for the pictures related to Lord Kilmaine and the cups.

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<sup>2</sup> See *Golfika Magazine* #13

<sup>3</sup> *Glasgow Herald* - Tuesday 03 March 1896

<sup>4</sup> *Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser* - Monday 11 November 1907

the fourth floor, in a hotel located avenue d'Iena. The suite comprised a sitting-room and three bedrooms, all of which opened on to the balcony running along the whole of the front of the buildings. It was from this balcony, that, on Saturday November 9th, at about three o'clock in the afternoon, Lord Kilmaine threw himself out, in a sudden excess of acute neurasthenia, and was killed on the spot. He was aged 64.

Several newspapers<sup>5</sup> from the period were emphasizing that Lord Kilmaine had for some time past been in a state of great mental and physical depression, and it was unsafe to leave him alone; an attendant was always present in his room at night.

The Evening Telegraph<sup>6</sup> is providing more details: *"While the attendant was absent, having gone for a walk or to lie down to rest, Lord Kilmaine was left alone for a little while with his wife. Hearing a motor car stop outside the hotel, Lord Kilmaine said quietly to his wife, 'There is a motor car. Let me see it is the doctor come to take me for a drive.' As he said this he walked out on the balcony, and before Lady Kilmaine could think of restraining him he threw himself over the balustrade, falling to the ground before the eyes of horror-stricken hotel porter."*

The Gloucester Citizen<sup>7</sup> and the Aberdeen Journal<sup>8</sup> were announcing that, on Sunday 10th evening, the body of Lord Kilmaine was laid out, and taken to the English Church in the Rue d'Aguesseau. The burial was supposed to take place in England, but we know that he rests in the Pau cemetery.

So, if many documents are stating that Lord Kilmaine died in Pau, this is clearly an error. He died in Paris and then was buried in Pau.

But a few years earlier, he gave a challenge cup to be competed for between the two oldest clubs in France: Pau and Biarritz. The official date, on the records, is 1894. But, in this paper, we would like to bring some light and try to clarify some aspects which are not perfectly clear.

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<sup>5</sup> E.g. *Western Times* - Monday 11 November 1907

<sup>6</sup> *Evening Telegraph* - Monday 11 November 1907

<sup>7</sup> *Gloucester Citizen* - Monday 11 November 1907

<sup>8</sup> *Aberdeen Journal* - Tuesday 12 November 1907

## **Pau vs. Biarritz before the Kilmaine Cup.**

The earliest reference to a competition between Pau and Biarritz we were able to find dated from 4<sup>th</sup> March 1893. The Glasgow Herald writes:

*"The presence of Mr Horace Hutchinson at Biarritz this winter has ensured some very good play, the match between Pau and Biarritz being especially interesting and there is now some talk of a match between the ladies of the two places. This would, I think, result in favour of Pau, for the ladies there have had more practice than those of Biarritz, though the ladies' golf club here is becoming very popular."*

So, in 1893, at least one year before the official Kilmaine Cup matches start, a gentlemen competition between the two great golfing cities of the Pyrénées was organised.

Interestingly, a similar match between ladies was in discussion and we got the confirmation<sup>9</sup> that one was already played one year before, then in 1892:

*Last year the match between ladies of the Pau Club against ladies of the Biarritz Club, which had begun to look like a hardy annual fixture, did not occur, by reason of the modesty, which some call lack of courage, of the ladies of Biarritz.*

In December 1893, the same newspaper comes back to the "last years's matches" – but most probably the "last season's matches". Pau was represented by Messrs. Boreel and Low, while Messrs. Horace Hutchinson and Eric Hambro played for Biarritz. We also learn that the match went in favour of Pau, after a first home-and-home match of seventy-four holes had been halved.

It is also relevant that in this article, there is no reference to Lord Kilmaine – nor his Cup.

It is also very interesting to read in "Fifty Years of Golf", what Horace Hutchinson was writing:

*"Lord Kilmaine gave that Cup for foursome match competition between Biarritz and Pau, which has been the occasion of grand fun every year since. We had a terrific match on the first*

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<sup>9</sup> *Pall Mall Gazette*, Tuesday 19 December 1893.

occasion of its playing. Eric Hambro and I – he was only a boy then, though a big one – played Johnny Low and poor Bobby Boreel, for Pau. We were any number of holes up – I forget how many, but the result looked a dead certainty – and then at one hole we put three shots running out of bounds. That was the beginning of our undoing. Hole after hole slipped away, and I know that it was only by a kindly dispensation of Providence that we even halved that match, which we had reckoned as safely in our pockets. And in playing off the tie, I think (I am not sure) that we were beaten.”

Hutchinson then added a footnote: “I have been since assured, by Eric (now Sir Eric) Hambro, that we won on the last green.”

From the documentation we found and which we are reporting here, it seems that Hutchinson is making an approximation not to say a mistake. Which is easy to understand as the book was first published in 1919 – 26 years after the event. Hutchinson is referring to a match between Pau and Biarritz but it was not yet an official Kilmaine Cup match.

This is also confirmed by the inscriptions on a board hanging<sup>10</sup> at Pau and indicating that Pau won the first match. Pau was represented by Boreel and Ponsonby, and Biarritz by Hutchings and Eric Hambro.

The name of Horace Hutchinson would only appear for the third edition of the Cup, in 1896.

### The Kilmaine Cup

In 1894, Lord Kilmaine presented a cup to be competed for in foursome matches between Pau and Biarritz. It was a Challenge Cup which would become the property of the club winning it the first three times.

If we didn’t found any reporting of the very first official matches of the Kilmaine Cup, we could get, from the Pall Mall Gazette, Friday 22 February 1895 that “Pau holds the cup, and there appears all likelihood that it will continue to hold it. There is no golfer of the first class at Biarritz, though there is news that Mr. Eric Hambro, who represented Biarritz both last year and the year before, is on his way out.”

<sup>10</sup> See appendix.



*The original Kilmaine Cup as it was offered in 1894.*

This text is interesting as it is writing that Eric Hambro represented Biarritz *both* last year (1894) *and* the year before (1893). But, on the records (the wood plate and the Cup itself) it is referred to 1894 as the starting point, Hambro was playing with Charles Hutchings.

Nevertheless, we have seen that there was a pre-Kilmaine match, Hambro playing with Horace Hutchinson.

To add to the confusion, the Pall Mall Gazette, dated Thursday 14 March 1895 writes:

*[...] Biarritz will find itself hardly put to, with Mr Eric Hambro and Mr W. E. Roller, to take away from Pau the challenge cup which Lord Kilmaine gave three years ago<sup>11</sup> for competition by foursomes between Pau and Biarritz. The former has always hitherto won it, and it seems likely that it will remain in the Bearnais country.*

So, it seems now that the first event of the Kilmaine Cup occurred three years before this paper was written; then in 1892. Except if we assume that the author is just counting the events (1893, 1894 and 1895). The starting point would be 1893, with a non-official Kilmaine Cup match.

<sup>11</sup> We are highlighting this wording.



The next week, on Wednesday 20 March 1895, the same newspaper report on the Kilmaine Cup

*Yet another instance of the beautiful uncertainty of golf occurred in the result of the annual foursome match between Biarritz and Pau for Lord Kilmaine's challenge cup. Last year Pau won this match, Mr Boreel and Mr. C. Ponsonby representing the Béarnais country against Mr Charles Hutchings and Mr Eric Hambro for Biarritz. This year Pau had the same pair of representatives had also in reserve, if needed, other strong players, such as Mr J. R. Hutchison and Mr Everard Martin Smith – whereas Biarritz had Mr Eric Hambro, as before, but in place of Mr Charles Hutchings Mr W.E. Roller was Mr E. Hambro partner. Now Mr Roller is a sound golfer and has been playing a good steady game of late at Biarritz, but he would be the first to admit that he does not stand on quite so high a perch of the golfing tree as Mr. Hutchings. Nevertheless, though Mr Boreel and Mr Ponsonby beat Mr Hutchings and Mr Hambro last year, this year they suffered defeat by Mr Hambro and Mr Roller. It is true that nothing could have been closer than the tight, Mr Roller having to hole a putt, which it was most creditable to hole under the circumstances, to win the match. These matches indeed have always been marked by the very closest finishes. It is also true that Mr Charles Hutchings was not quite himself in last year's match by reason of a ricked back; but, taking all circumstances into consideration, the result remains as yet another illustration of golf's glorious uncertainty. This is the third year of the foursome match between these two English resorts of the Basses Pyrénées, and it is the first year that Biarritz has won the cup.*

*A team match was introduced this year as a new feature in conjunction with the match for the foursome cup between Pau and Biarritz; and though the latter were rather unexpectedly victorious in the foursome, the former had a substantial advantage in the aggregate of holes in the team match, Biarritz winning but sixteen to Pau's, thirty-one. Mr J Mellor led the way for Pau with a gallant win of eight holes. The competitors in the foursome did not engage in the team match.*

1896 was an anniversary year for Pau, celebrating its 40 years of existence. Some great British pros were visiting the club late February. J.H. Taylor, Alexander Herd, Harry Vardon,

Auchterlonie, and Simpson were competing with the local pro, Joe Lloyd as well as the best amateurs such as Horace Hutchinson, Charles Hutchings, Claude Ponsonby, T. Mellor or Kenneth Macfarlane.

It's not the place to report of these exhibition matches here. More detail could be find in the *Glasgow Herald* dated Tuesday 03 March 1896 which writes:

*[...] next week, after which several of the Pau players will make a move to Biarritz, – where one or two inter- club trophies are to be played for. These include the Kilmaine Cup, given by Lord Kilmaine, whose health, I regret to say, is very indifferent, as he suffers much from sleeplessness.*



*The second Kilmaine Cup, presented in 1899 after Pau won the three first competitions and became the owner of the original cup.*

In 1896, Biarritz renewed its success of 1895, but the two next year the victory went again for Pau. Winning for the third time the Cup in 1898, The Pau GC retained the Cup and in 1899 a new Cup was presented.

## Travelling between Pau and Biarritz.

We cannot finish the story of the first years of the Kilmaine Cup without saying a few words about the trip between the two golfing cities.

If nowadays the 120 kilometers can be driven in less than one hour and half, at that time it was a true expedition. “The Rocket”, a coach driven by five horses was commuting three times a week between the two cities and the trip lasted seven hours.



*The Rocket*

In the middle of the journey, a gourmet stop off, at Orthez, at the hotel “la Belle Hôtesse”, was welcomed. Let’s Hutchinson continuing:

*“But the result of these matches mattered little. What did matter was the admirable fun we had out of them, the going and coming, to and from Pau and Biarritz, the entertaining, the mutual compliments, the eating and drinking. All the amenities of the match were so pleasant; for, with the foursome for the cup, was played, at the same time, a team match, of sides representing the two places.”*



*The “Grand Hotel La Belle Hôtesse” – here on the left side of the street – where the players were making a deserved stop.*

## Appendix – Prize list (until 1907).

| PAU GOLF CLUB                                     |                                       |          |  |          |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------|--|----------|
| CUPS PRESENTED BY FRANCIS, FOURTH LORD KILMAINE : |                                       |          |  |          |
| 1894  | R. J. R. BOREEL<br>C. A. C. PONSONBY  | PAU      | CHARLES HUTCHINGS<br>ERIC HAM BRO      | BIARRITZ |
| 1895  | W. E. ROLLER<br>ERIC HAM BRO          | BIARRITZ | R. J. R. BOREEL<br>C. A. C. PONSONBY   | PAU      |
| 1896  | H. G. HUTCHINSON<br>W. E. ROLLER      | BIARRITZ | CHARLES HUTCHINGS<br>C. A. C. PONSONBY | PAU      |
| 1897  | CHARLES HUTCHINGS<br>R. J. R. BOREEL  | PAU      | W. E. ROLLER<br>W. BOUCH               | BIARRITZ |
| 1898  | CHARLES HUTCHINGS<br>EDWARD BLACKWELL | PAU      | W. de ZOETE<br>ERIC HAM BRO            | BIARRITZ |
| AND WON FIRST CUP                                 |                                       |          |  |          |
| 1899  | ERIC HAM BRO<br>HAROLD HAM BRO        | BIARRITZ | CHARLES HUTCHINGS<br>R. J. R. BOREEL   | PAU      |
| 1900  | W. CLEGG<br>HOULDSWORTH               | BIARRITZ | J. R. HUTCHISON<br>G. P. ELWES         | PAU      |
| 1901  | E. MARTIN SMITH<br>E. D. EVANS        | BIARRITZ | CHARLES HUTCHINGS<br>J. R. HUTCHISON   | PAU      |
| 1902  | R. MAXWELL<br>W. MURE                 | PAU      | E. MARTIN SMITH<br>J. HORNBY           | BIARRITZ |
| 1903  | HON. O. SCOTT<br>H. FERRIER KERR      | PAU      | H. G. HUTCHINSON<br>DOUGLAS CURRIE     | BIARRITZ |
| 1904  | H. G. HUTCHINSON<br>HON. O. SCOTT     | BIARRITZ | L. BALFOURMELVILLE<br>NORMAN HUNTER    | PAU      |
| 1905  | HON. O. SCOTT<br>ANGUS V. HAM BRO     | BIARRITZ | NORMAN F. HUNTER<br>H. FERRIER KERR    | PAU      |
| 1906  | HON. O. SCOTT<br>ANGUS V. HAM BRO     | BIARRITZ | CHARLES HUTCHINGS<br>F. W. MAUDE       | PAU      |
| 1907  | HON. O. SCOTT<br>ANGUS V. HAM BRO     | BIARRITZ | CHARLES HUTCHINGS<br>H. FERRIER KERR   | PAU      |

- 1894 – Pau beat Biarritz  
R.J.R. Boreel & C.A.C. Ponsonby  
Charles Hutchings & Eric Hambro
- 1895 – Biarritz beat Pau  
W.E. Roller & Eric Hambro  
R.J.R. Boreel & C.A.C. Ponsonby
- 1896 – Biarritz beat Pau  
H.G. Hutchinson & W.E. Roller  
Charles Hutchings & C.A.C. Ponsonby
- 1897 – Pau beat Biarritz  
Charles Hutchings & R.J.R. Boreel  
W.E. Roller & W. Bouch
- 1898 – Pau beat Biarritz, and retains the Cup  
Charles Hutchings & Edward Blackwell  
W. de Zoete & Eric Hambro
- 1899 – Biarritz beat Pau  
Eric Hambro & Harold Hambro  
Charles Hutchings & R.J.R. Boreel
- 1900 – Biarritz beat Pau  
W. Clegg & Houldsworth  
J.R. Hutchison & G.P. Elwes
- 1901 – Biarritz beat Pau  
E. Martin Smith & E.D. Evans  
Charles Hutchings & J.R. Hutchison

1902 – Pau beat Biarritz  
 R. Maxwell W. Mure  
 E. Martin Smith J. Hornby

1903 – Pau beat Biarritz  
 Hon. O. Scott & H. Ferrier Kerr  
 H.G. Hutchinson & Douglas Currie

1904 – Biarritz beat Pau  
 H.G. Hutchinson & Hon. O. Scott  
 L. Balfour Melville & Norman Hunter

1905 – Biarritz beat Pau  
 Hon. O. Scott & Angus V. Hambro  
 Norman F. Hunter & H. Ferrier Kerr

1906 – Biarritz beat Pau  
 Hon. O. Scott & Angus V. Hambro  
 Charles Hutchings & F.W. Maude

1907 – Biarritz beat Pau  
 Hon. O. Scott & Angus V. Hambro  
 Charles Hutchings & H. Ferrier Kerr

## Upcoming hickory events

**Christoph N. Meister**



Dear fellow EAGHC members, Dear fellow Hickory Golfers!, I would like to draw your attention on those hickory tournaments planned for 2015 on the European continent.

The 2015 season will start with the Polish Hickory Championship at First Warsaw Golf & Country Club on Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> 2015. For further information please contact Sofia Lelakowska directly on [sofia.lelakowska@hickoryworld.co.uk](mailto:sofia.lelakowska@hickoryworld.co.uk)

Flommens GK in the very south-western corner of Sweden will host the 2015 Swedish Hickory Championship on August 1./2.2015. For further information please contact our member Georg Kittel [georg.kittel@home.se](mailto:georg.kittel@home.se)

The Danish Hickory Open 2015 will be played on Saturday, August 15, 2015, just on the opposite side of the Öresund at Rungsted GK, north of Copenhagen, on a course designed in the mid-1930s by Charles Atkinson MacKenzie, who is the brother to Dr. Alister MacKenzie, who among other courses designed August National and Cypress Point in California. For further details please contact Christian Juel on [cj@metalmaskiner.dk](mailto:cj@metalmaskiner.dk).

Marianske Lazne Golf Club in the Czech Republic will celebrate its 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015. For this occasion the Czech Hickory

Championship will be played at Mariánské Lázně (Marienbad) on Saturday August 22, 2015. For further information pls. contact Jiri Martinka on [prezident@golfhostivar.cz](mailto:prezident@golfhostivar.cz).

On Saturday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015, the seventh edition of the German Hickory Championship will be played at Golf Club Baden-Baden founded in 1901. We will be playing the historic 18-hole course at Selighof designed in 1927 by James Peter Gannon, a former reverend of Irish-Argentine origin. For additional information please contact Christoph Meister on [ghc2015@t-online.de](mailto:ghc2015@t-online.de)

The International Dutch Hickory Open 2015 will again be played on the links at Ullerberg. Where the Waller family will host the hickory golfers from September 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>. Please check for further details.

Finally the invitational EAGHC European Hickory Championship will be played at Saint-Raphael Valescure on October 3, 2015 also celebrating 120 years of golf at Valescure and following our annual meeting. Practice day on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup>, afternoon.



## I'd like to teach the world to s(w)ing

Geert and Sara Nijs



### Golf

Most of us know by experience how difficult it is to hit a ball 'far and sure' on the fairway. Of course there are always people who have got talent, who feel intuitively, when holding a club for the first time, how to swing that club. Unfortunately the majority of golfers do not have that talent.



*Today most people, who want to play golf, first have to take lessons from a professional and to frequent the driving range to put what was learnt into practice. But what did one do 500 years ago to learn how to swing? – [www.universitygolf.com](http://www.universitygolf.com)*

Consequently there are teachers to teach us and driving ranges, chipping & putting greens and bunkers where one can practice what the professional has told. There are magazines and instruction books in which all kinds of professionals show how to improve one's game and there are club- and ball-making companies who promise 'a rose garden' on the course when buying their newest invention.

We all know that playing regularly is of importance to reach an acceptable level without air shots and unintentional hooks, pulls and slices.

When King James IV bought his first golf clubs from a bow maker in Perth in 1502 and when he challenged the Earl of Bothwell for a 'round' of golf on the North Inch park land fields near Perth, both needed to know how the game had

to be played. Both must have known how to swing the club to achieve a good result. Who gave them some lessons? Did they practice? After being banned for almost half a century, were there still experienced players to instruct the new ignorants?

When the king was on his way through his kingdom, he had to show his 'royal presence', he had to look after governmental business, he had to put away some quite copious dinners, he had to play hand-tennis, to go on shooting parties and had to look after his mistresses, so not much time was left for a time-consuming round of golf, let alone for regular practice.

When the king bought some clubs he must have known what kind of clubs he needed. The bow maker without any experience on club making must have been told by somebody what the requirements were.

Thomas Kincaid was a medical student at Edinburgh University in the 1680s. He was an ardent 'golfe' player. He analysed the golf swing very seriously and wrote down his ideas of how the golf swing should be for optimum results in his diary of 1687 and 1688. We only quote his 'summary' written down in a poem:

*"I digested the rules of playing golf into verse thus:*

*Gripe fast stand with your left leg first not fare  
Incline your back and shoulders but beware  
You raise them not when back the club you bring*

*make all the motion with your bodies swing  
And shoulders, holding still the muscles bent  
play slowly first till you the way have learnt  
At such length hold the club as fits your strength*

*The lighter head requires the longer length.  
That circle wherein moves your club and hands  
At forty-five degrees from the [e] horizon  
stands.*

*What at on[e] stroke to effectuate you despair  
Seek only 'gains the nist it to prepare."*

(For extracts from T. Kincaid's diary about the golf swing see <http://digital.nls.uk/golf-in-scotland/serious/kincaids-diary/index.html>)



*The home course of Thomas Kincaid was Bruntfield Links near Edinburgh. His analysis of the golf swing was not meant as an instruction but just his own idea of 'how to swing', which he wrote down in his private diary. As far as we know this analysis was never printed or used in one way or another by contemporaries and should not be seen as a kind of 'official' golf instructions. – Drawing by P. Sandby, c.1746 – © The Trustees of the British Museum*

Not much is known either of the 'coaching' of colf, crosse and mail players in the early days of these games.

### Crosse



*In the game of crosse new and young players were instructed by their (grand) fathers or by the more experienced players in the fields how to play the game. In crosse, the strategy of the game was very important. On this photograph one of the leading crosse players in Belgium is explaining how to proceed from the planchette to the next one to the newcomers Christoph Meister, the then president of the European*

*Association of Golf Historians & Collectors (on the left), and the co-author of this book (with hat). – Baudour, Belgium, 2009*

The elderly crosse players of today were initiated in the secrets of the ancient game by their fathers, grandfathers or uncles.

Nowadays most often the experienced players instruct newcomers how to play the game.

### Colf

In colf, there are no references to people instructing new players how to swing. We expect that learning how to play was done in the same way as in the crosse game. The fathers, grandfathers and uncles taught the young boys how to play the game.



*Four figures wearing ice skates; one of the lookers-on has a club over his shoulder while the oldest man is watching how the young boy is striking at the ball with a colf club. A father, grandfather or uncle who is teaching the young boy how to play the game? –*

*Engraving by Bartholomeus van Lochem, 1620-1630 - © The Trustees of the British Museum*

Until now we came across only one painting showing a young man who is teaching a young woman. The picture does not show if the teacher was a kind of 'professional' or that there was a more personal relationship.



*Painting from the 17<sup>th</sup> century showing a professional or a personal friend who is teaching a young lady how to handle the colf club. – From ‘Golf Through the Ages’, Flannery & Leech*

## Mail

Jeu de mail is the only sport of which we dispose of a detailed description of how the mail player should hold his club, how he should stand behind the ball and how to make the right swing. Already in 1717, Joseph Lauthier published the rules of the game and how to swing the mail club in his book ‘Nouvelles règles pour le jeu de mail. Tant sur la manière d’y bien joüer, que pour décider les divers événemens qui peuvent arriver à ce jeu’:

“The position of the body

The position of the body should not be too upright not too bent, so that the hips can support the strength of the swing when turning the mail (club) slowly upwards from the waist while keeping the eyes on the ball.

The half turn of the body, called ‘jouer des reines’ (playing from the hips) should allow the mail to make a large circle so that the strength is coming of a distance.

One should not make the back swing too fast but rather constant to be followed by a short stop at the top, followed by a forceful down swing, adding a movement of the wrist to add extra strength. This should be done without changing the position of the body.”

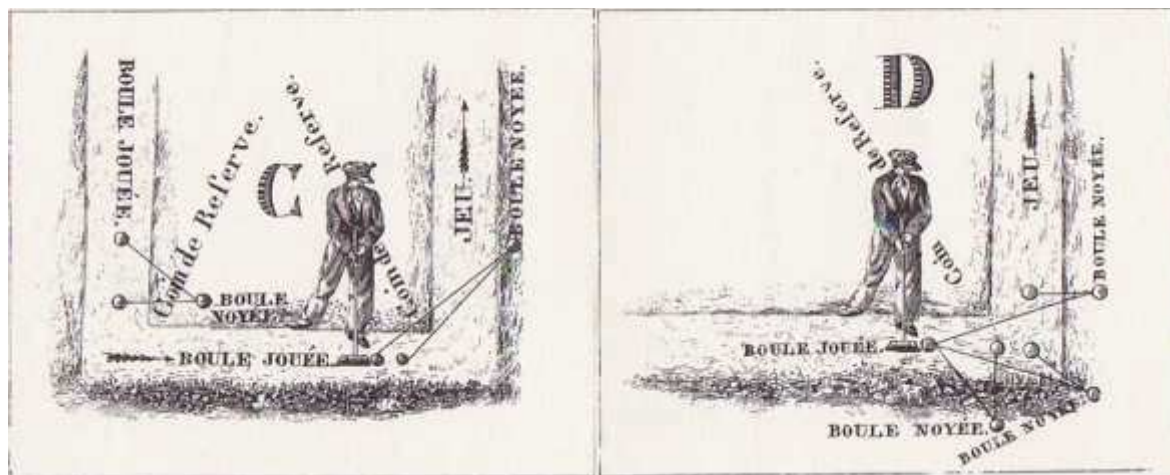
In the world of jeu de mail there were so-called ‘palemardiers’, professionals who, as the Robinson’s and Morris’s in Scottish golf, gave lessons to people who wanted to play the mail game. Most of them were concentrated in the French Languedoc region but they were invited to teach the game all over France and even outside France. The son of palemardier Coste at Montpellier went to Madrid to teach the princes the secrets of ‘juego di mail’ (J. Sudre, ‘Le Noble Jeu de Mail de la Ville de Montpellier, Avec ses Règlements Montpellier’, 1772).

ATTITUDE DU CORPS.  
Le Corps ne doit estre ni trop droit, ni trop courbé, mais médiocrement panché, afin qu’en frappant il se soutienne par la force des Reins, en le tournant doucement en arrière de la ceinture en haut avec la Tête sans toutefois perdre la Boule de vûë.  
C’est ce demi tour du Corps qu’on appelle *jouer des Reins*, qui faisant faire un grand cercle au Mail, fait l’effet de la force mouvante qui vient de loin.  
On ne doit pas lever le Mail trop vite, mais uniment, sans se laisser emporter, le tenir un instant dans sa plus haute portée, pour fraper sur le champ le coup avec vigueur, en y joignant la force du Poignet, sans changer néanmoins la situation du Corps, des Bras, ni des Jambes, afin de conserver toujours la même union sur l’ajustement que l’on a dû prendre du premier coup d’œil avec sa Boule. !!

*The ‘swing instructions’ of Lauthier are part of 59 pages of rules and instructions; the booklet was written because several ‘estimable persons’ asked for it.*

In ‘Principes pour apprendre à bien jouer au Mail’ (Principles of to learn to play mail) Sudre copied the part about the swing from Lauthier, just adding some clauses to make the descriptions clearer.





*In the book 'Le Noble Jeu de Mail de la ville de Montpellier.' (1772), J. Sudre not only described the rules of the game but he gave also some instructions about how to play the mail game, clarified by means of several drawings. The content of the book was agreed upon by the organisation of 'palemardiers', a kind of union of mail professionals.*

(Chapter from 'Games for Kings & Commoners Part Two', published in 2014)

### Research on 'jeu de mail'

Geert & Sara Nijs : [ancientgolf@wanadoo.fr](mailto:ancientgolf@wanadoo.fr)  
[www.ancientgolf.dse.nl](http://www.ancientgolf.dse.nl)

Since the beginning of this century we have studied the history of the continental golf-like games colf (kolf), crosse (choule) and mail (pall mall) and their relationship to ancient Scottish golf. We made an in-depth study of the game of crosse, a game played in the ancient county of Hainaut (Franco-Belgian border region) since the 14<sup>th</sup> century, and published the results in our book 'CHOULE – The Non-Royal but most Ancient Game of Crosse'.

It is our intention to start such an in-depth study about the game of mail. This golf-like game finds its origin in Italy under the name of 'pallio maglio', probably in the Naples region.

In the 16<sup>th</sup> century it spread into France and in the 17<sup>th</sup> century into the rest of western Europe under names as pall mall (England), maliën (Low Countries), baille-maille (Germany) and mailleschlagen (Switzerland).

To get more to know more about the history of the game which ended in the first half of the last century, we wonder if there are Golfika-readers who have some knowledge of this ancient game of mail and who would not mind to share their knowledge with us.



*Starting our research on the origin of jeu de mail or better pallio maglio, the first visible reference to the game we found in Naples in the garden of the convent of Santa Chiari. On one of the many beautifully decorated majolica benches a display was made of pallio maglio players.*

About the original Italian game several books and papers have been written but alas, our knowledge of the Italian language is far too restricted to understand the contents.

Therefore we would like to get in contact with historians in sports or amateurs of sports history who are bilingual in Italian & English (or French or German). Are you? Or do you know such a sports history bilingual? In both cases: please help us out!



*Three early Irish postcards (see John Hannah's paper)*





# GOLF

WIE VOR 80 JAHREN

— mit Original Hickoryschlägern aus den 20er Jahren —



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Offenes Turnier für Pros und Amateure  
Golf-Club Baden-Baden  
Fremersbergstr. 127, 76530 Baden-Baden  
**Samstag, den 5. September 2015**  
18-Loch Einzelzählspiel (Brutto)  
Meldungen unter Angabe von Heimatclub und Hcp. (max 36,0) bis  
3. September 2015  
12 Uhr an [ghc2015@t-online.de](mailto:ghc2015@t-online.de)

## 🇵🇱 Hickory Golf 2015 🇵🇱

Polish Hickory Championship in Warschau (First Warsaw Golf & Country Club) am Samstag, den 6. Juni 2015

—  
Danish Open Hickory Championship in Rungsted bei Kopenhagen am Samstag, den 15. August 2015

—  
Czech Hickory Championship in Mariánské Lázně (Marienbad) am Samstag, den 22. August 2015

—  
EAGHC European Hickory Championship 2015 in Valescure (Frankreich) am Samstag, den 3. Oktober 2015

Konzept & Gestaltung: [www.fischgräetdesign.de](http://www.fischgräetdesign.de), Fernruf Hamburg (040) – 58 00 40 10

*A poster by Dirk Rehder for some of the European Hickory Championships*