

EAGHC - 11th Annual Meeting



Danish Golf Museum – Sept. 1st & 2nd, 2016

The history of golf in Denmark

Christoph Meister – Deutsches Golf Archiv, Cologne

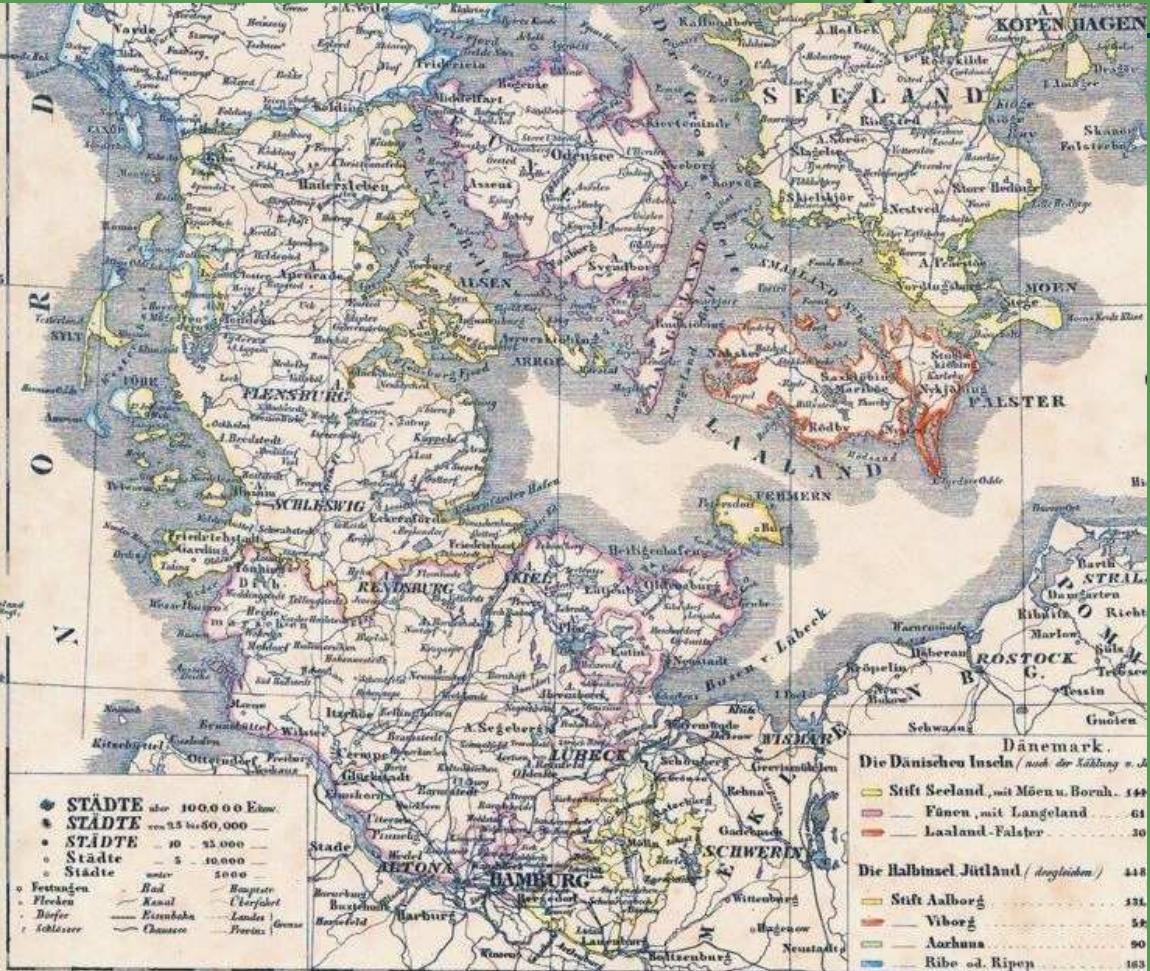


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The history of Golf in Denmark

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The history of golf in Denmark

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○ The first Danish Golfer

James the 4th of Scotland (1473-1513), a keen golfer, the son of Margaret of Denmark (1456-1486), Queen of Scotland from 1469 to 1486.



James the 4th granddaughter, Mary Stuart (1542-1587), was later accused of “playing the Gowff” a few days after the death of her husband, Lord Darnley.



The history of golf in Denmark

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During a long period of time the Royal families lost their interest in golf. In Denmark life was quiet and peaceful. The popular King Christian 9th (1818-1906) and his Queen Louise (1817-1898) were the “parents in law” to the Emperor of Russia, the King of the United Kingdom and also related to the royal families of Belgium, Germany, Luxemburg, Norway, Spain and Sweden. Actually they were called “The Parents-in-Law of the whole of Europe”



The history of golf in Denmark

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It was in 1897 on Cannes Golf Course that the Danish Prince Christian (1870-1947), later to become King Christian 10th, and the German Princess Alexandrine became engaged.

It was Grand-Duke Michael of Russia, a very active member at Cannes, who introduced Princess Alexandrine to the game of golf.



Beim königlichen Spiel.
Auf dem Platz zu Berlin-Nedlitz spielten kürzlich (von links):
I. K. H. die Großherzogin von Mecklenburg, Ihre Majestät die
Königin von Dänemark, I. K. H. die Kronprinzessin, S. K. H. der
Großherzog von Mecklenburg

Deutsche Golfzeitung 15.11.1934



The history of golf in Denmark

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Golf itself came to Denmark during the 1890s

On December 8th, 1898 Scandinavia's oldest golf club, Kobenhavns Golf Klub, was established.

In 1901 Denmark's second golf course, a so-called summer golf course, was opened on the North Sea island of Fano

Also in 1901 the Open Golf Championship of Denmark was played, most probably the first such championship played on the continent.



The history of golf in Denmark

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By 1912 there were 120 golf players in Denmark, 20 of them noblemen or men associated to the Royal Danish court including King Christian X and Queen Alexandrine. Her golf equipment is on display at the Danish Golf Museum.

Queen Ingrid, the next Danish queen, continued the royal golfing tradition. Her mother, the Swedish Queen Margretha, was runner-up in the Swedish Ladies Championship 1912. Her grandfather, The Duke of Connaught, a younger son of Queen Victoria, taught little Princess Ingrid golf during her stays on the British Isles.

KØBENHAVNS GOLF KLUB

1912

H. M. Kong Chr. X.

H. M. Dronning Alexandrine.

Aagesen, V., Højesteretssagfører, Toldbodvej 5.

Ahlefeldt-Laurvig, Erik, Greve,

— Fritze, Grevinde, Østerbrogade 4.

Andersen, E., Frøken, St. Annæplads 19.

Aquera, F. G. de, Gesandt, Kristianiagade 6.

KONGEHUSET



The history of golf in Denmark

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Copenhagen Golf Club had a good co-operation with the Swedish clubs at Gothenburg and Falsterbo and in 1911 a Scandinavian Golf Association was established
It was dissolved in 1929.



G. ROBERTS, GGK • R. MURRAY, KGK • W. HESTER, FGK • T. ROBERTS, SGK

Two years later (1931) the Dansk Golf Union was founded by the golf clubs from Copenhagen, Esbjerg, Odense and Helsingør.

DANSK GOLF UNION



DGU



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Denmark's early golf clubs up to 1945

Danish Golf Union 1931

Aalborg
Golf Club
1908

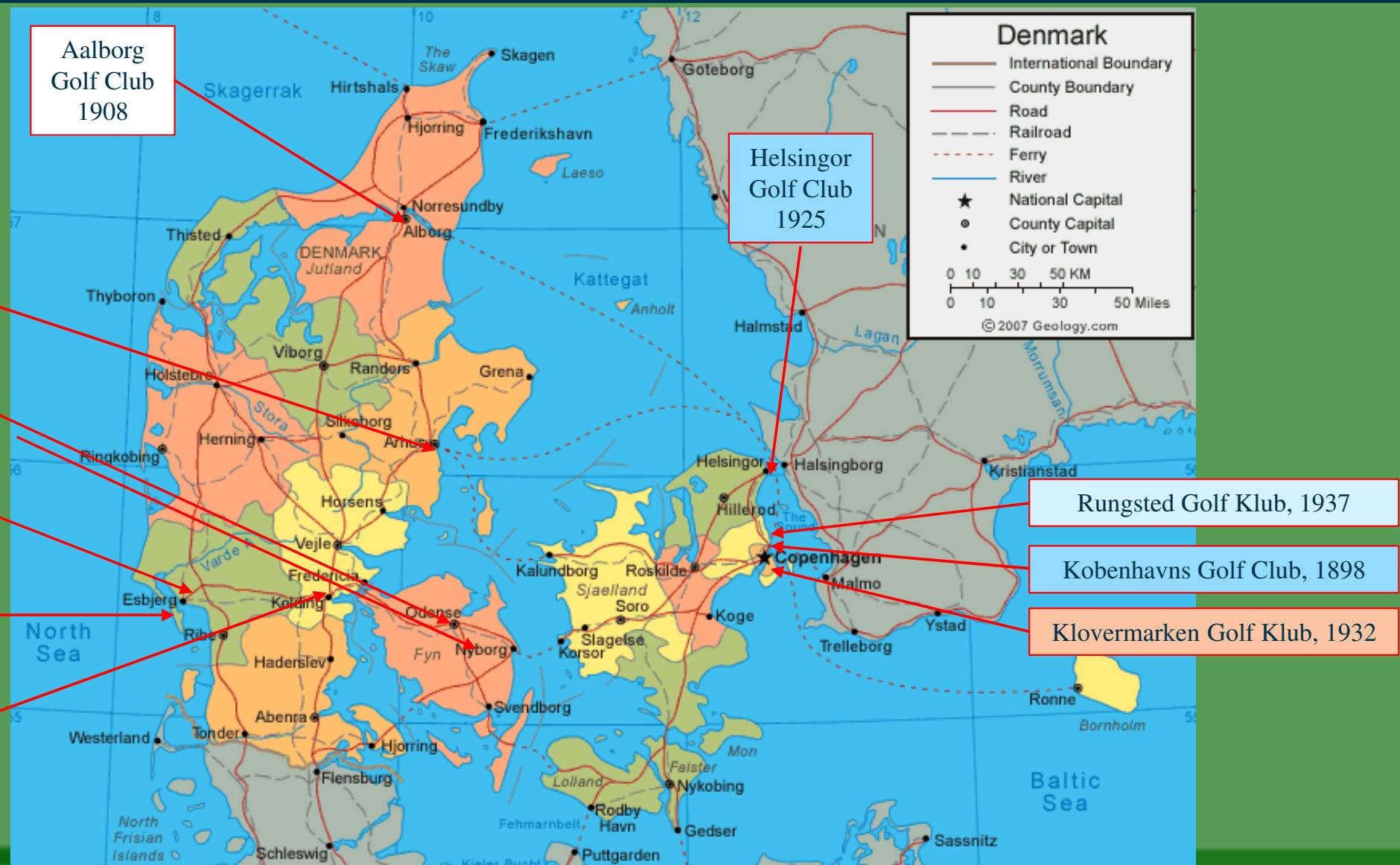
Aarhus Golf Club
1900 & 1931

Odense Golf Club
1927

Esbjerg Golf Club
1921

Fano Golf Links
1901

Kolding Golf Club 1932



The history of golf in Denmark

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- In 1949 DGU became member of European Golf Association
- In 1956 there were still only 11 golf courses and 2.367 golfers in Denmark.
- After mid-1960s number of golf courses started increasing.
- From 1985 to 1987 Jens Wester -Andersen was the first Dane to become president of the European Golf Association.
- In 1985 there were 51 golf courses and 25,000 golfers.
- By 1991 this had risen to 101 courses and 55,150 golfers.
- Today the number of courses has almost doubled (190) and the number of golfers (147.930) tripled. Golf in Denmark is therefore no longer a game reserved for royals and noblemen.



The history of golf in Denmark

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Bjørn



Kjeldsen



Hansen

- In pro golf, Thomas Bjørn has dominated the Danish scene for many years with 15 wins on the European Tour between 1996 and 2013 and as a three time Ryder Cup player (1997, 2002 and 2014 – each time Europe won!). Søren Hansen became 2nd Dane to play in Ryder Cup (2008). Søren Kjeldsen (finished 21st), a 4 time European Tour winner, and Thorbjørn Olesen (finished 30th) became the 1st Danes to play in Olympic Golf Tournament in Rio 2016.



The history of golf in Denmark



- On the Ladies European Tour Nanna Koerstz Madsen, Nicole Broch Larsen and Emily Kristine Pedersen are currently the most successful players with one win each on the LET Tour. Iben Tinning is the most successful Danish player with 6 wins on the LET tour between 2002 and 2010. In Rio Denmark was represented by Nanna Koerstz Madsen (finished 13th) and Nicole Broch Larsen (finished 36th)



The pioneers of golf in Denmark

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Golf on
Lambs
Common,
1898



The pioneers of golf in Denmark

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During the 1890s it was fashionable in Copenhagen to be sporty.

Tennis, badminton, bandy and riding were mainly practised by the rich and wealthy - Jumping and football were sports for everybody.

Hermes Eugen Stahl Schmidt (1862-1931), a young chemical engineer, was a multi-sport athlete. He practised rowing, fencing and tennis. He won a gold medal in Paris 1900 (Tag of war) and headed the Danish rowing team 1912 in Stockholm.



The pioneers of golf in Denmark

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Jensen
teaching golf
to Eugen
Stahl
Schmidt on
Lambs
Common,
1898



The pioneers of golf in Denmark

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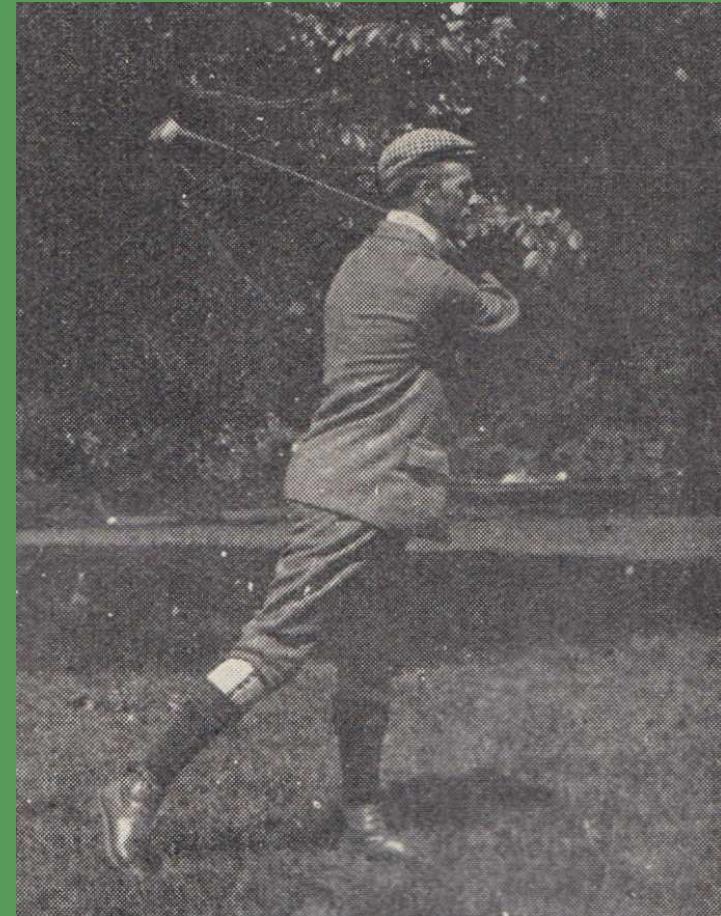


The pioneers of golf in Denmark

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While in Scotland Eugen had learned some golf.

When Danish-American **Charles R. Jensen** came to Denmark in 1898 they met each other and talked about "this new game". Charles R. Jensen worked for Spalding in the U.S. and gave golf lessons on Copenhagen's "Lambs Common" (Lammefaelleden) and in Dyrehavn.



Eugen became co-founder of Copenhagen Golf Club. When he moved to Aarhus in 1900 he founded a golf club there (and was president until 1905) and later in Aalborg in 1907/08.



The pioneers of golf in Denmark

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Other pioneers of golf in Denmark and co-founders of Copenhagen Golf Club were:

- Vagn Angesen (1866-1939), a supreme court attorney general,



The pioneers of golf in Denmark

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- Ludvig Friis (1859-1932), a keen tennis player and president of Kobenhavns Boldklub ("ball club"), one of the oldest football clubs on the continent, founded 1876, from 1890-1901.
- Gustav Hage (1852-1935), also a keen sports man and board member of Kobenhavns Skytteforening ("shooting club") from 1890 to 1896, and
- Folmer Hansen (1872-1958) a medical doctor. Hansen, who was a very talented tennis champion from 1887 to 1893 spent many years abroad before becoming Danish Consul in Riga (1921) and then Danish consul and commercial secretary Stockholm (1924 to 1955).



Early golf professionals in Denmark

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- Charles R. Jensen, the first golf professional at KGK from 1899 to 1901 was followed by Scotsman **Robert Turnbull** from 1902 to 1918.

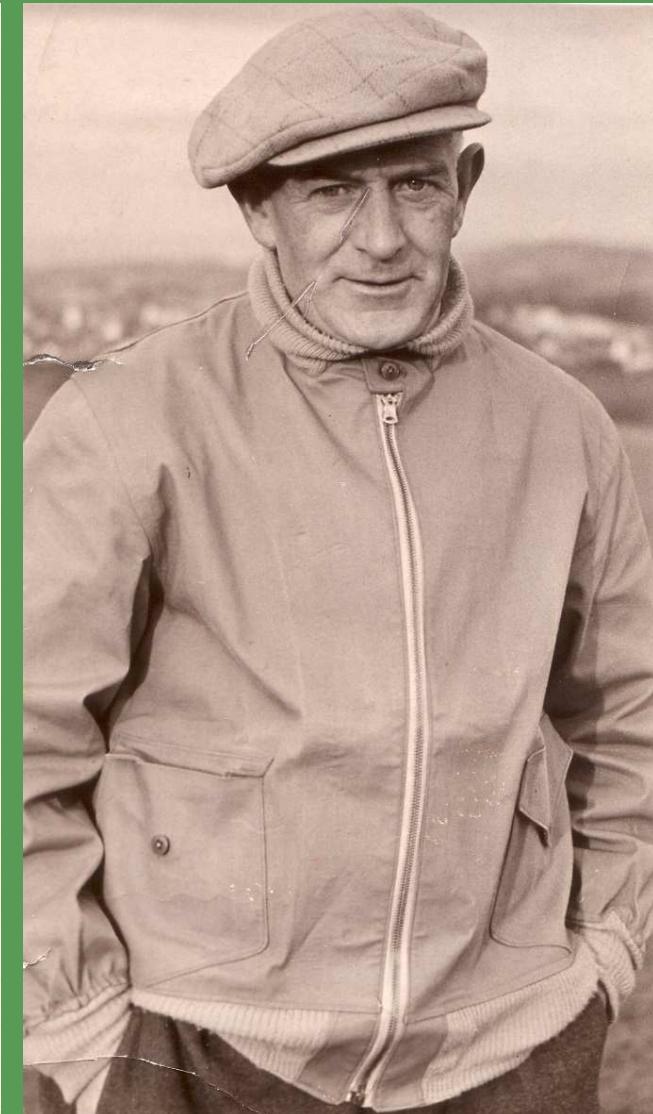


Fru Ella Turnbull.



Early golf professionals in Denmark

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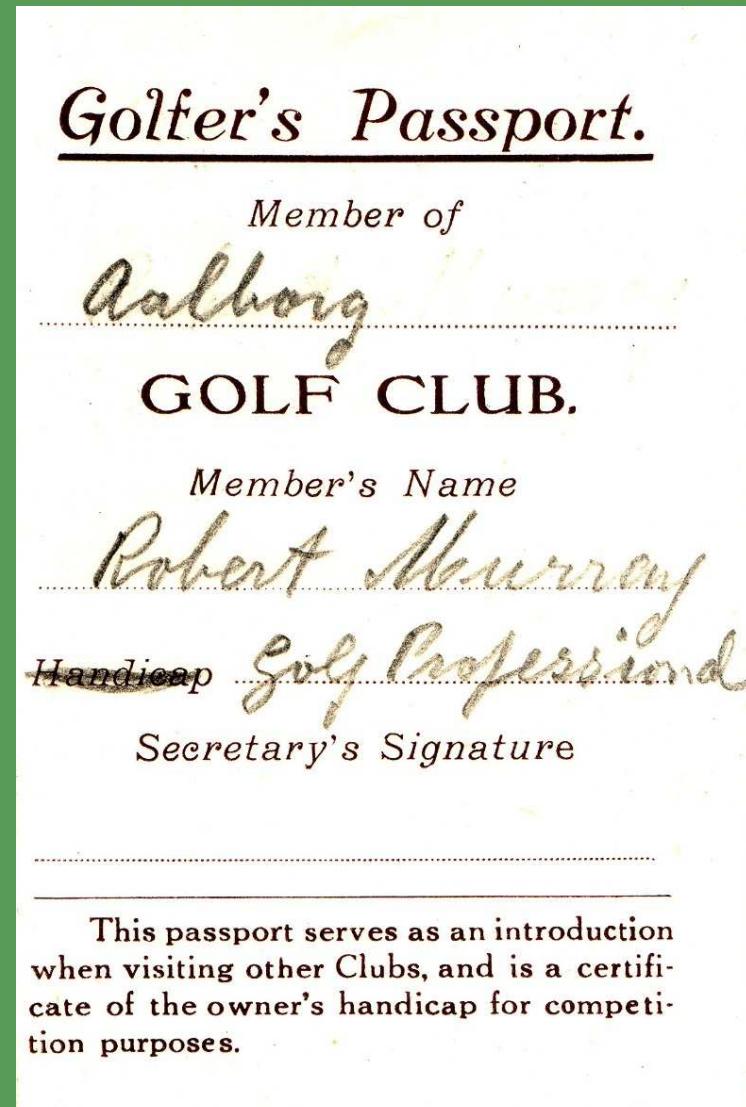


Early golf professionals in Denmark

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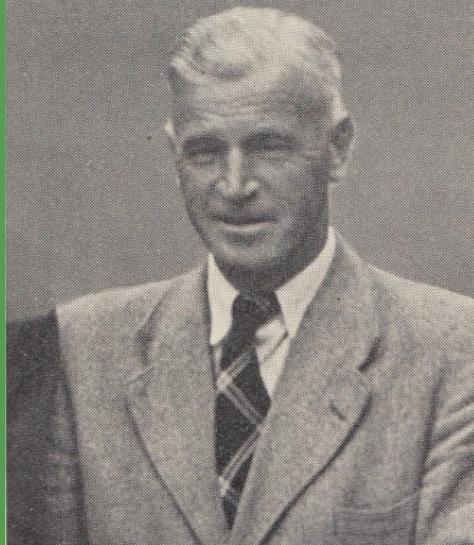


- Turnbull was replaced by **Robert Murray**, another Scotsman, who stayed at KGK from 1919 to 1929. Murray left Copenhagen in 1929 to come back to Aalborg in 1940, where he soon was captured by the Germans.



Early golf professionals in Denmark

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- In 1929 **James A. Ross** arrived from Oslo Golf where he was assistant to Gilbert Heron. James Ross was good golfer who had won the North of Ireland Championship in 1925 and had previously been professional at Royal Duff House and Bangor in Northern Ireland (1914-1924). He stayed at KGK until 1939 as golf professional and greenkeeper. In 1945 he designed the new golf course at Asserbo.



Early golf professionals in Denmark

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- **William 'Billy' Tait Keppie** (1905-1978) was a caddie on the West Links at North Berwick before moving to Denmark in 1924, aged 19 years. He worked as a golf instructor on the newly established golf courses at Aarhus, Esbjerg, Odense and Kolding though becoming an important man for the early golf development in Denmark.



Early golf professionals in Denmark

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- In the summer months Keppie worked at the nine-hole course on Fano Island which he extended to eighteen holes in 1930. It was at Odense on the Island of Funen where Billy met his wife Edel Esbensen. In the late 1930s Keppie was appointed as pro at Rungsted, where also Queen Alexandrine. hiding.



Early golf professionals in Denmark

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- During winter he worked in a large department store in Copenhagen demonstrating the latest golf equipment and giving lessons. During WW2, as resistance to the German occupation intensified Billy went into hiding. The local resistance movement sent him to a hospital in Copenhagen where one of the consultant doctors was hiding a number people among his patients.



Early golf professionals in Denmark

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- Keppie was also given a false identity card with the name Børge Knudsen. Billy became a Danish citizen in 1944 and learned to speak the language fluently. He remained at Rungsted Golfklub until 1948 and then managed the sports department in “Magasin du Nord”, Copenhagen. He retired to Horsholm near Rungsted where he died in 1978



Early golf professionals in Denmark

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- The first Danish Golf pro was **Carl “Calle” or “Bunker-Carl” Poulsen**.
- Walt Arneson, an American who started Denmark's first semi-municipial golf course on the half-abandoned Klovermarken airfield, was at the same time enrolled at Copenhagen University and first golf professional at Klovermarken Golf Klub, a semi-public facility opened 1932



Early golf professionals in Denmark

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- Walt remembers that in 1933 or 1934 the 8 year old Poulsen used to sit by the practise tee and kibitz while Arneson was giving golf lessons. “It wasn’t long before he asked me if he could caddy at the club and before too many years he became my assistant (at Helsingør) – at about 14 years” as Walt recalls (“The Spokesman review”, 27.1.1965).



Early golf professionals in Denmark

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- Poulsen not only became a fine player but also pro in Rungsted. In 1965 he was featured in the then famous televised “Shell’s Wonderful World of Golf” matches playing 18holes vs. Tony Lema at Rungsted. Arneson summarizes, that Poulsen is unlikely to win against Lema, but the handsome, 39 years old Poulsen hast eyes that twinkle and “.if you see the feminine branch in the gallery majority in the match at Rungsted, don’t bet they all came to watch Tony Lema”.



Early golf professionals in Denmark

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- And to cut a long story short – it all ended here:



Thank You, Erik Halling!

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Thank you for your attention

