

# Chantilly, 2006







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*The cover picture is taken from the magazine LeGolf ( 1930).*



## Imprint

*golfika* is the magazine of the European Association of Golf Historians & Collectors (EAGHC).

The views and opinions printed within are those of the contributors or Editor and are not intended to represent an official EAGHC viewpoint unless specifically stated.

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The aims of the EAGHC are to encourage and promote an interest in the history of golf and the collecting of items connected with that history.

We welcome new members – you will find more information on joining the EAGHC on:  
<http://www.golfika.com>

The European Association of Golf Historians & Collectors (also: Association Européenne des Historiens et Collectionneurs de Golf) is an officially registered association at the Sous-Préfecture de Mantes-La-Jolie according to the French Law from July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1901.

## FOREWORD

Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak, EAGHC President



Dear EAGHC Members,

Thanks to Christoph Meister, who so kindly accepted to manage the editor's functions and duties, we are extremely happy to present you the very first issue of our magazine.

When, with a bunch of friends, we decided one year ago, to move from an unstructured network to the formal European Association of Golf Historians and Collectors, I was far to imagine that we would receive a so strong support. I was hesitating here to refer to any name as all our members brought a stone to the building. But how is it possible to ignore how important it was to receive so warm encouragements and suggestions, so clear advices from the BGCS (John Hanna, Alan Jackson, David Hamilton), the GCS (Karen Bednarski, Bob Labbance), the Deutsches Golf Archiv (Dietrich Quanz)? Last but not least, I must thank so much our Honorary President, Mrs Lally Segard. Lally gave so much to the game of golf that we could not have received a stronger support.

In October we had our Inaugural meeting in the old and famous Chantilly Golf Club. From the 48 members we had then, more than 25 persons joined the event and from the feedback we got, it was a great success as it was an extremely warm, friendly meeting providing very interesting historical communications. I know how sad the other half who could not join the meeting was – I hope and wish they will be present next year in Hamburg.

During this meeting, Sara Nijs kindly pointed out that the name of golfika.com web-site is now very well known – and that we could take advantage of that. The next step was suggested by Christoph Meister: use the same name for our magazine.

This was making sense only if the name golfika was the property of the EAGHC. This is now the case as I decided to retire from the ownership of golfika.com and offer the name to our Association.

Christmas and New Year are now coming soon. Let me take advantage of this foreword to wish you, dear members and your families, all the very best; and a long life to the EAGHC.

JBK

## The press

The following statement was written and released by Dietrich Quanz in Germany shortly after our inaugural meeting took place at Chantilly (please also see inside front cover of this magazine):

### ***The inaugural meeting of the European Association of Golf Historians & Collectors (EAGHC) was held at Paris.***

*The EAGHC has started on October 3<sup>d</sup>, 2006, with an exchange of European Golf historical information at the traditional Chantilly Golf Club, which itself was founded just shortly after the German Golf Federation. Among the 50 members there are historians, journalists and collectors from 16 countries. Apart from the Deutsches Golf Archiv there are approximately six more German members in the association. More than half of the EAGHC members followed the invitation to Chantilly in order to play a round of golf on the historic links as well as in order to follow several lectures covering golfing tradition in various European countries.*

*A special focus was made on French, British and German lines. A statistical lecture gave an idea about the development of the game in Continental Europe ever since the first Golf Club was founded in Pau 1856. From the collectors point of view the postcard turns out to be a historical proof of the early development of the game. Since the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century spa towns such as Bad Homburg are using the game of golf as a main advertising argument. Another glimpse across the fence gave was given by a presentation of Cross or Soule, a stick and ball game which is still practiced until today in the boarder regions between France and Belgium.*

*The French President Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak and the International Vice-President Christoph Meister from Hamburg, Germany, received prominent protection: Lally Segard (née. Vagliano), aged 84, the Grande Dame of French Golf, is accompanying the golf historical activities of the EAGHC. Her career started well before the second World War when she won British Girls Championship. In 1950 she has won the British Ladies Open. Through a long lasting friendship Lally Segard is connected to Marion Thannhäuser, the German Vice-president and future president of the European Golf Association, also because Lally was presiding the World Amateur Council of Golf from 1964 to 1972.*

## Press reports

The French "Le Magazine du Golf" (which is distributed in all the golf clubs in France) published a nice article about our association. In Germany, the web-based Greenside-Golfmag published a long article on golf collecting and golf history. It is possible to read and view the article on: <http://www.greenside-golfmag.de/2006/10/erforschung-der-europischen-und.html>

The December 2006 issue of the German *Golfjournal*, one of the two leading golf magazines in Germany, contained an article about collecting golf memorabilia. At the end of the article the EAGHC was expressively mentioned including all necessary means to get in contact with us.

We must also be grateful to our friends from the GCS and the BGCS, where many of us are also members. Both organisations have tremendously supported our continental European initiative not only by publishing several reports about our activities.

CM

## EAGHC Meeting 2007

The German Golf Union will celebrate its centenary in 2007 and we therefore thought Germany would be an appropriate venue of our 2007 meeting.

We are very glad to announce, that Christoph's home club, the Wentorf-Reinbeker Golf Club (founded as Golf Club Wentorf-Reinbek in 1901, 1902 according to Dietrich Quanz, but that is a different story); some 20 kilometres East of Hamburg has accepted our request to host our annual meeting on Tuesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> 2007.

We will be able to play a round (18holes) of Golf in the morning and have full use of the clubhouse including lunch. After lunch we will have our annual general meeting and our lectures.

Also we are currently trying to book another well-known historic golf course in Hamburg for a round of Golf on Monday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007. In the evening we will have dinner at the Norddeutscher Regatta Verein, founded 1868, Germany's second oldest and largest sailing club, which is just 2 houses away from the former Uhlenhorster Fährhaus, which was destroyed during World War II. This is the place where the German Golf Union was founded on May 26<sup>th</sup>, 1907.



*Clubhouse Wentorf Reinbek in 2004, Silver Cup from 1905 (collection WRGC) and Clubhead, 1912 (collection CM)*





## Classified Ads

Some copies of the hand-crafted limited edition books *Precious Gum* and *The Thorn Tree Clique* still available from David Hamilton's Partick Press, now at St Andrews. Enquiries to [davidh60@hotmail.com](mailto:davidh60@hotmail.com)

I'm permanently buying documents, postcards, prints and medals related to early golf courses in France. Any information is also welcome. Please write to [jbk@wanadoo.fr](mailto:jbk@wanadoo.fr) or call +33 608 72 87 39.

1930 colour illustrated limited edition French golf book for sale:



Author: Étienne Petitjean; Title: *Golf - Quelques Civilités Puériles et Honnêtes recueillies et illustrées*

par Etienne Petitjean; Place:[Paris]; Publisher: [Privately Printed]; Date: 1930 First Edition.

Illustrated with 24 full-colour plates by Petitjean, bound in such a way as to enable the plates to be framed (like Darwin's Golfer's Gallery). 33 x 25 cm, red and white cloth, paper cover label. No. 311 of 500 copies. Not in Donovan & Murdoch. Light soiling and rubbing, small tear on top front joint, slight shelf wear; else very good condition.

price: 790 euros (p & p & ins. at cost).

Contact: [henrijakubowicz@gmail.com](mailto:henrijakubowicz@gmail.com)

Anyone wishing to exchange information on the history of golf in Germany or Central Europe please contact me - I am always buying hickory golf clubs and other items related to the history of golf in Germany, please contact: [info@golfika.de](mailto:info@golfika.de) or call +49 177 240 60 21

Huge Collection of golf ephemera for sale: steins, pottery (Royal Doulton and others), silver, paintings, postcards, hickory shafted golf clubs and classic golf books - sold separately or as an entire collection! For further information please contact: [CNMeister@t-online.de](mailto:CNMeister@t-online.de)

**1. Golf Through The Ages - 600 Years of Golfing Art.** Special Christmas offer for members of EAGHC. Royal Edition €475 (normal price €750/\$995); Imperial Edition €1750 (normal price €2500/\$3045) subject to availability. The offer is valid to 31 January 2007, subject to availability. View Google: Michael's Antiques & Golf

**2. Extremely rare pair of Victorian Golf Teemarkers**, in the form of pots with stylised shell handles, used not only to indicate the teeing area, but also as containers for the sand used to make the tees. EAGHC member discount on these and other antiques and works of art. View Google: Michael's Antiques & Golf

**3. Old Course Hickory Tournament**, Oct. 7-10, 2007. Four nights Old Course Hotel. Play on the Old Course, New, Carnoustie & Dukes. Limited to 48 participants. For details, please contact Michael Flannery, Old Course Experience, Tel. +49 6102 39107, [aaamichaelsgolf@aol.com](mailto:aaamichaelsgolf@aol.com).

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## JEU DE CROSSE – The non-royal but most ancient game of 'crosse'

By Geert & Sara Nijs

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### *Introduction*

Most of the members of our association, being historians or collectors, have probably read books about the history of golf. Practically without exception, we learnt in these books about the ancient continental golf-like games '*mail*', '*colf*' and '*choule*'. Why these three games? Weren't there many more stick and ball games on the continent?

The *game of mail* is probably mentioned because this game was played by kings and nobles; many historians love to research and publish about the lives of kings and nobles.

The *game of colf* is probably mentioned because historians could not ignore the existence of hundreds and hundreds of beautiful paintings from famous Flemish and Dutch painters.

But why is the *game of choule*, as the game is erroneously called (the real name is '*jeu de crosse*'), emphatically mentioned in all these history books? As far as we have been able to discover, it was not or hardly played by kings or nobles. No paintings were made by famous artists. It was not played in the then centres of the world, as mail and colf were.

Could it be because this game was mentioned for the first time in 1890 in a 'golf history' book, namely 'Golf' from the 'Badminton Library'?

Generations of (Anglo-Saxon) golf historians have been (and still are) grateful for the information given in this book, because they concluded that they did not need to learn

French, nor cross the Channel or the Atlantic, to find out for themselves about this peculiar game. Even in one of the latest books on the history of golf, from Marks and Spencer (published in 2003), straight forward use is made of the almost 110 years old information from the Badminton Library. The main reason being, that since then no research whatsoever has been done on this subject.

Also continental historians, for whom the French language is a lesser problem, have never dug into the past and present of this game. In the latest publications on golf's history, continental authors hardly mention or even ignore the existence of this game. Have they concluded that the game is or was a too marginal a note in the history of stick and ball games? And herewith they ignored the fact that, mail and colf being already dead for centuries, thousands and thousands of '*crosses*' (clubs) and millions of '*choulettes*' (balls) were made, while golf in Britain was still a game for the happy few.

What then is this game, called '*jeu de crosse*' or '*crossage*' by the few hundred remaining *crosseurs* in northern France and southern Belgium. We would like to explain to you how this game is played today. Perhaps we will have the opportunity in the near future, to tell you more about the history of this almost thousand years old game. A game that was embedded in the daily life of many thousands of commoners. A game so closely linked to religion. A game immortalised in art, literature, music, poetry and language as no other stick and ball game.

## *Just a Sunday club match*

When a club match is organised, the members of the '*société de crosse*' gather in the clubhouse. The organising committee starts to divide the *crosseurs* into '*équipes*' (teams). The club players are classified into two groups: A-players (low handicaps in golf) and B-players (high handicaps in golf). The committee makes sure that every B-player is assigned to an A-player.

This combination is not only made to have a fairer competition; the A-B combination is also made for A-players to share their experience in swinging, choice of *crosses* and the strategy of the game with the B-players. *Jeu de crosse* does not know professionals or books about 'How to swing'.



*The 'tirage' (draw) in the clubhouse of the society 'La Revanche - La Soulette Finésienne', at Feignies, France. The draw decides which teams will play against each other.*

To decide who will be playing against whom, a '*tirage*' (draw) is held. Numbers, representing the teams, are put in a hat or a sack. Drawing the numbers decides the attachment of the teams. Having loudly commented on the results of the draw, the *crosseurs* finish their drinks and move to the point of departure on the *crosse* field.



*The start of the 'contrat' (agreement). Heads or tails decide which team may determine the routing of the partie. In crosse there is no fixed routing as in golf.*

Before the first '*partie*' (the first hole in golf) commences, the two teams have to make up a '*contrat*' (agreement).

First, the routing of each *partie* (hole) has to be decided upon. '*Pile ou face*' (heads or tails) decides which team describes the course of the *partie*. In *jeu de crosse* there is no fixed routing as in golf. For example, the team that won the toss (team Y), decides that the *partie* will be played from the tee, via target number 4 (a metal board called '*planchette*') to *planchette* number 2. In the second part of the *contrat*, it is decided which team will play as '*chouleurs*', playing in series of three strokes in order to reach the target, and which team will be the '*déchouleurs*', playing only one stroke (*déchoule*) per series, in order to prevent the *chouleurs* to reach the target.

The other team (Z), the team that did not prescribe the routing, will be first to propose the number of *déchoules* with a maximum of nine.





*The second part of the contrat causes a lot of discussions between the team members: "Within how many déchoules can we expect to reach the planchette?"*

Team Y can underbid this proposition. However, in case it did not propose a lower number, team Z plays against its own proposition. In case team Z refuses to make a proposition, team Y automatically will play against the maximum number of *déchoules*.

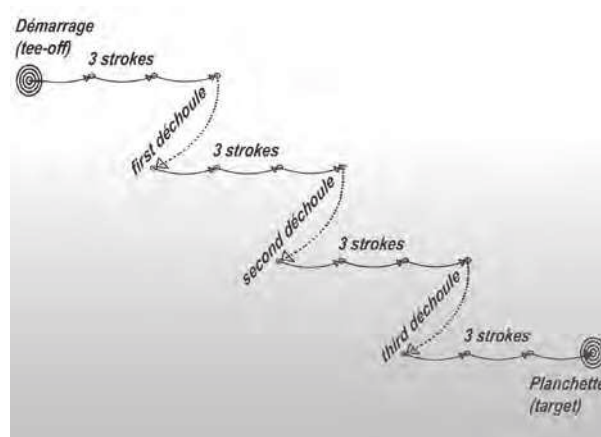


*There are no specially prepared teeing off places. As in ancient golf, the 'démarrage' is made just near the target of the previous partie. The younger players make a full golf-like swing, contrary to many elderly players who strike at the ball rather than through the ball.*

The number of proposed *déchoules* and the possible underbidding depends on various

factors: the condition of the field, the routing of the *partie*, the distance of the *partie*, the presence of nearby *déchoule* areas. Also the quality of the team, concerning *chouler*, *déchouler*, long hitting, precision hitting, etc., is of utmost importance in deciding on the contents of the *contrat*. When all this tossing and bargaining has been done, the match can begin. The team that proposes the lowest number of *déchoules* begins the match as *chouleurs*.

After every *partie*, a new *contrat* has to be made for the next one.



*Scheme of a partie, based on three déchoules*

The *chouleurs* start with the 'démarrage' (tee off). With some societies, it is allowed to make the very first *démarrage* with the *choulette* (a wooden or nylon elliptical ball) placed on a small elevation, for example a small heap of sand.

When a player makes his stroke, it is expected that the other players keep quiet and do not move.

One opponent stays with the *chouleur*. The other two *crosseurs*, one of each *équipe*, walk into the field in the direction where the *choulette* will be hit, to locate the *choulette* and to control that the *choulette* is placed upright on the exact place where it has landed.



*Hitting the choulette into the hazardous hedges is very rewarding. The choulette has to be hit carefully to make sure that it is very difficult to retrieve by the opponents.*

In most societies, the *chouleurs* have three successive strokes, followed by one *déchoule* by the *déchouleurs*. In other societies, the first stroke is immediately followed by the *déchoule* from the opposing team. The three successive strokes can be made in turn by the two *chouleurs*, or one player makes all three strokes, the other team member then will hit the next three strokes. Generally the first two strokes are made in the direction of the *planchette*, taking however into account the condition of the landing area for making a decent second stroke. Especially the third stroke is of strategic importance.

Almost 75% of the strokes are made with the extreme concave '*pic*' face of the *crosse* (pitching wedge in golf), mostly because the lie of the *choulette* is so bad that the '*plat*' face (3-iron in golf) cannot be used.



*The elliptical choulette may always be put upright on the exact spot where it landed. An opposing player is always nearby to check if the replacement has been made correctly.*



*The 'crosse' club has two faces in one: one straight (3 iron) for easy lies and distance; the extreme concave face is for approach and difficult lies.*

*The 'crosse' ball (choulette) is elliptical and made of hornbeam. The size is 4.4 x 3.6 cm. The surface has 5 shallow grooves to improve flight characteristics.*

The hornbeam elliptical *choulette* can be hit with a *pic* face about 50-75 meters. Often, after two strokes, the *planchette* is still far out of reach. Therefore, the result of the third stroke (distance and direction) must have as a consequence that it prevents the opposing team to *déchoule* the *choulette* into very difficult hazards like ditches, hedges, muddy pools, etc.

Suppose for example: the *planchette* stands in a straight line with the *chouleur*. On the near left of the *planchette* is a hedge, on the right the field is open. The *chouleur* with his third stroke (with limited chance hitting the target) will strike the *choulette* so far to the right, that the *déchouleur* cannot reach the hazardous area from where it would be very difficult to retrieve the *choulette*.





The *déchouleurs* are always looking for possibilities to strike the *choulette* into the most difficult positions, to limit the progress of the *chouleurs*. During the *partie*, the team members are constantly deliberating about the strategy and the tactics to follow. Sometimes avoiding hazards is more important than nearing the target.

The *choulette* must always be played exactly from the spot where it landed. *Jeu de crosse* hardly knows the term 'unplayable'. Therefore more often than not, players are crawling on hands and knees under hedges or wading ankle deep through mud dogged fields, to try to retrieve the *choulette* into a playable area. Belgian *crosseurs* are allowed to swap the *choulette* for another more appropriate ball for the specific situation.

Only 'sorted tree trimmings' give a player a free drop within one 'crosse length' of the piled wood. Dropping a *choulette* is not always done by the *crosseur* involved (like in golf), but often by his adversary.



*The game of crosse does not know the term 'unplayable', even when you have to crawl on your knees to reach for the choulette. It is not allowed to push or shove the choulette. It is obligatory to make in every situation a swing movement. Hedges are the most terrifying hazards on most crosse fields. Often you need three strokes to retrieve the choulette, with the risk that the opponent quite easily can déchouler into the same hazard again.*

When the elliptical *choulette* has been hit into the 'nul' (out of bounds), the player must strike a new *choulette* from the original place, adding a penalty stroke.

Embedded *choulettes* in mud, molehills, etc., may not be put upright.

When the *choulette* disappears in a hole deeper than 10 centimetres, the *crosseur* should have a free drop.

The *chouleurs* team has won when it has reached the *planchette* within the contracted number of *déchoules*. When after playing the fixed number of *déchoules* the *planchette* is still not reached, the *partie* is finished and the *déchouleurs* team has won the *partie*. The team, which has won five *parties*, is the winning team of the match.

A match lasts four-five hours. When the match has finished, the players return to the clubhouse to celebrate victory or defeat with a round of drinks.

© Geert & Sara Nijs



*We thank Yvon Desse, the most experienced player, Michel Fillner, the best player, Arnoud Jinot, the youngest player, and Laurent Boeckmans, the most promising player, of the society 'La Revanche - La Soulette Finisienne' from Feignies, France. They showed and told us with infinite patience how the game of crosse is played today.*



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## GOLF et PHILATELIE

Par Xavier de Taffin

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Si le golf existe depuis des temps immémoriaux sous des formes variées, selon les époques et les régions, ce n'est pas le cas de la philatélie ! En effet, l'étude et la collection des timbres-poste ne remonte qu'au milieu du 19<sup>ème</sup> siècle au mieux.

Selon le dictionnaire, le timbre est une vignette adhésive de valeur conventionnelle émise par l'Administration Postale destinée à affranchir, c'est-à-dire rémunérer, les envois confiés à la Poste.

La Poste en tant qu'Administration publique chargée d'assurer le ramassage et la distribution d'objets de correspondance prendra sa forme actuelle à la fin du 19<sup>ème</sup> siècle.

La distribution postale est née en Grande Bretagne de la réforme de Rowland HILL, qui prévoyait l'utilisation d'enveloppes et de feuilles de papier frappées d'un timbre d'affranchissement, vendu au public par l'Administration. Le Parlement Britannique votera ce dispositif le 26 Décembre 1839.

Le premier timbre poste sera émis le 6 Mai 1840. Il suscita un vif intérêt dans les différents pays. Le premier timbre français sera émis en 1849.

Jusqu'en 1900, seule la préoccupation d'émettre un petit nombre de vignettes destinés à l'affranchissement dominait. L'intérêt historique ou esthétique du timbre-poste n'apparaissait qu'à quelques collectionneurs avertis.

Ce n'est donc qu'après la 1<sup>ère</sup> guerre mondiale que la philatélie devait se développer, avec l'essor et la multiplication des émissions, du fait de l'explosion des modes de transport modernes.

Nous ne parlerons pas ici des cachets et des flammes, susceptibles d'avoir des liens avec le golf, ou plus précisément des lieux ou événements golfs, qui peuvent faire l'objet de collections spécifiques.

Très vite et dans le monde entier, le timbre poste deviendra un objet de collection très populaire, du fait de la facilité à rassembler et de la diversité, sans cesse renouvelée des timbres. Les Postes vont en faire une véritable exploitation commerciale, sous la pression des collectionneurs. Ainsi, les collections se feront principalement par pays et par thème d'émission. Mais, il faudra attendre les années 1950 pour voir apparaître les premiers timbres sur le thème golf !

Paradoxalement, le premier timbre de golf n'est pas Britannique. En effet, le 1<sup>er</sup> timbre de golf émis en 1953 sera japonais. Il représente un parcours de golf situé dans le parc national Unzen. De couleur rouge délavé, il fait partie d'une série de 2 valeurs sur le Parc Unzen. Il existe également sous forme d'un bloc non dentelé. Il s'agit d'un paysage où le golf n'est pas évident à identifier.



*timbre japonais de 1953*

Les timbres de golf les plus anciens sont les suivants :

- 1958: Centenaire de Dakar (AOF) une série de 6 valeurs, dont une de 100 Fr. comprenant un club de golf
- 1962: Le Touquet Paris Plage à 1.00 F avec un sac de golf
- 1962: Cap Vert 12.50 e joueur et cadet (losange carré)
- 1963: Nicaragua 5.°c Games of the XVIII Olympiad. Tokyo 1964
- 1967: Monserrat Année Internationale du Tourisme 24c joueur et cadet

- 1968: Bahamas L'année Internationale du Tourisme 5c joueur de golf
- 1969: Iles Cook 15c série joueur (triangle)
- 1971: Polynésie Française 4th South Pacific Games 18f
- 1971: Sharjah 2d et 35d golfeur
- 1972: Ras El Khaima 1.50r Sheppard jouant au golf sur la lune
- 1974: Maroc 1<sup>er</sup> Grand Prix International de golf 0.70 d
- 1976: Afrique du Sud 15c Gary Player
- etc



*Je ne refuserai pas un tour de golf avec elle (CM ☺).*

Néanmoins, on peut considérer que le 1<sup>er</sup> timbre sur le thème du golf est celui du Cap Vert émis en 1962. C'est le 1<sup>er</sup> qui représente un golfeur.

Le fait que le golf ait perdu son statut de sport olympique a nui à l'importance de l'émission des timbres sur le thème du golf.

Malgré ce handicap, on peut estimer à plus de 900 timbres dentelés ou non dentelés et blocs émis sur le thème du golf. Environ un quart a été émis par des postes privées.

Il est amusant de constater que ce ne sont pas les pays les plus concernés par le développement du golf qui sont à l'origine des premières émissions.

Ces dernières années, les émissions privées sont venues accroître considérablement le nombre des timbres consacrés au golf, en particulier à l'effigie de Tiger Woods.



Le thème golf est récupéré par un certain nombre de séries sur le tourisme ou le sport.

Les événements golifiques tels que les championnats du monde ou la Ryder Cup ont souvent justifié des émissions.

Les documents édités à l'occasion des 1ers jours sont souvent très intéressants et permettent de compléter agréablement une collection thématique sur le golf.

Si réunir tous ces timbres peut prendre un peu de temps, il faut savoir que la plupart des timbres consacrés au golf sont encore accessibles. Il faut surtout une bonne méthode et se constituer un réseau, en particulier pour les 1ers jours et les oblitérations. Les oblitérations et flammes constituent encore une autre variante, souvent associée à la collection de timbres, tout comme les pictogrammes ou les simples vignettes, d'ailleurs souvent antérieures aux timbres officiels.

Pour les collectionneurs ou futurs collectionneurs de timbres de golf nous pouvons leur conseiller de se référer à un petit fascicule de synthèse publié en Espagne par [www.domfil.com](http://www.domfil.com) intitulé : « Catalogo de sellos tematicos Golf ».

De même, est il recommandé d'adhérer à diverses Associations spécialisées, telles que : l'Association Française des Collectionneurs Olympiques et Sportifs et l'Association International Philatelic Golf Society qui permet de recevoir son journal « Tee Time ».

Naturellement, je suis bien conscient qu'il ne s'agit là que d'un trop rapide survol au travers d'une spécialité importante : la philatélie, des collections relatives à la thématique golf. Mais, il ne s'agissait là que d'une courte présentation destinée à donner l'envie d'en savoir plus, à travers l'une des collections la plus répandue et la plus populaire dans le monde. C'est donc très naturellement que le golf s'en est emparé surtout depuis les années 1980, pour notre plus grande joie.



Italian stamp issued for the centenary of Roma Golf Club in 2003

## Golf and stamps

Golf on stamps are a relatively new subject. The first golf stamp was published in 1953, even though it was not intended as a golf stamp. It is only a coincidence that a Japanese stamp of the Unzen national park shows a golf fairway right in the best corner of the picture. It is only with strong magnifying glasses that one can see the two golfers on this stamp.

A similar stamp was issued by Alderney Post Office, where the word golf course can only be found with magnifying glasses on a map of the island.

Tanzania is the only country which has issued two stamps showing the great Japanese champions Tommy Nakajima and Isao Aoki - a nice try - but unfortunately the pictures of post professionals got mixed up.

Another stamp shows Alan Shephard hitting the first golf ball on the moon. Children will like the stamps issued by Bhutan, the Maldives and Grenada showing Donald Duck as a golfer.



Small islands such as Montserrat, the Caymans or Nauru have issued golf stamps, even though these islands are so small that they barely have enough space for a golf course.

Obviously as golf stamps are quite modern they do not yet represent extraordinary values.

Anyone more interested in this subject might obtain additional information on Steven Filanovitch web page <http://www.igsonline.org>

More information on collecting golf stamps can also be obtained through the International Philatelic Golf Society and their Journal Tee Time - please check on <http://www.ipgsonline.org>

Interestingly Golf can be found on stamped envelopes much earlier than 1953:



Golf cancellation from Bad Saarow south-east of Berlin, 1930

You can find more information about golf on stamps on the web-site of our fellow-member Stéphan Filanovitch: <http://go.to/golfonstamp>

Translation and English Text by CM





*A postcard c.1908 showing a play at Argelès.*



*Postcard (1905). Correspondance written by a certain Madeleine: "Did you recognise this place? [...] This is where we found the ball a Sir was looking for. The boy in front is a neighbour and the Lady who keeps her stick [maillet] up, a client ..."*

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## DEFUNCT GOLF COURSES IN FRANCE Part I – South of France

By Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak

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As usual, looking at historical facts, it is sometimes difficult to draw a strong line separating courses which has disappeared and those still existing. In some cases, the course moved a few kilometres – the associated club being either the same, or totally new. As an example, Hardelot in the North of France was severely struck during the First World War and never recovered from it. In 1930, a different course has been designed by Tom Simpson in a different place – leaving the initial Castle place and its fantastic first tee over one of towers. When a significant history is connecting the two courses, we shall consider them as a continuation and a move, not a collapsing of the original one. Other examples could be listed: Arcachon, Wimereux (Boulogne), La Baule (Pornic) ...

In this short study, we also disregarded personal private golf courses such as “golf du Chateau de Mémillon” which has been designed by Tom Simpson (again!) in 1910 for the Comte de Rougemont. This 9 holes course only existed during a few years. In most cases not much of the history of these courses is known, as these courses were totally private. This might be a place for another research.

If we keep in mind that most of the earliest courses – not to say all – were built in places where Brits and Americans were spending their holidays, it is not surprising that the defunct ones will also be found in those regions. Finally, it is interesting to notice that almost all of those courses are those which were built as an addition to a hotel, in order to attract more clients. There are extremely few courses related to a “pure golf club” which died!

The Pyrénées and the Basque region hosted the two first golf courses in France: Pau (1856) and Biarritz (1888). Not surprisingly, this is also the place where we find several of the defunct courses.

**Gavarnie:** almost nothing is known about this course except it was a 9 holes course with many natural hazards. Most probably, the course was an addition to the Grand Hotel for its visiting hosts.

**Argelès-Gazost:** Founded in 1890 it had 60 members in 1910. Pierre Deschamps, usually considered as a sound source is describing it as a 9 holes courses. Nevertheless, Massy is referring to an 18 holes and providing more detailed information making his description possibly more accurate<sup>1</sup>. The total length of the course was of 5650 yards. It has been created by amateurs and pros coming from Argelès, Biarritz and Pau. Sir Everad Hambro – who discovered in Massy a future champion and helped him significantly – was President of the club. It was a “natural lawn”

course, often considered as a practice ground. Even if some documents are listing this club as late as 1937, it is almost sure that it disappeared about 1925.

**Saint-Jean-de-Luz (Sainte Barbe):** Created in 1892 by Colonel J. Lilburn, and called “le golf des Anglais”, the first 9 holes were designed by Willie Dunn and opened to the play in the following year. It was built on a land over the cliff, overlooking the ocean, which belonged to M. Bernoville. The lease was supposed to end in 1908 but was finally extended until 1918 after harsh negotiations. In 1910, it was extended to 12 holes.

After Cannes-Mandelieu, **Hyères** was the second golf club on the French Riviera. In 1894, a group of British tourists started with a 9 holes course laid out on a land rented to Mr. David Beauregard. Five years later, it was extended to 12 holes, but some holes were dangerous because of crossing fairways. With the growth of the attractiveness of the region, more accommodation was needed and new hotels were

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<sup>1</sup> Also consistent with the information provided by the German “DGV Jahrbuch”, 1914.





*This postcard (probably 1907) shows A. Massy suggesting a putting line to Gassiat in Hyères*



*Harry Vardon driving at the 10<sup>th</sup> tee during a match in Costebelle (probably March 1908)*



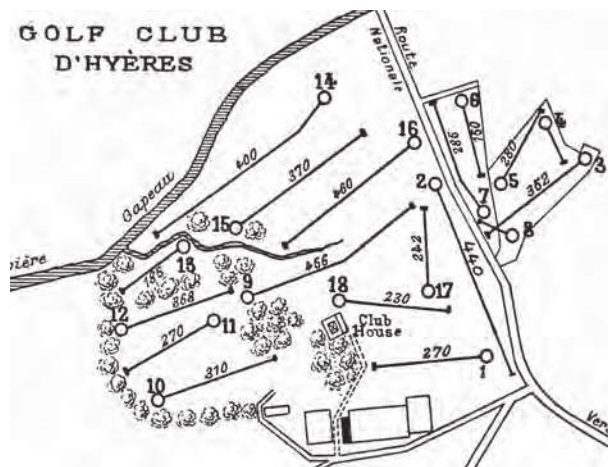
built. The Grand Hotel (Mr. Zick) bought the course in order to attract new clients.



*A medal from the Hyères Golf Club*

After the nomination of Geo H. Logan as the Honorary Secretary, the course was extended and re-designed to a short 18 holes of about 4700 yards. W. Freemantle was hired as the professional and in 1910 the club had 200 members. At that time, the course was considered as "not a particularly difficult". It had no bunker and fences were the only hazards.

After WWI, bunkers were implemented and the course re-designed. Bernard Darwin, who played the course in the 20s, was considering the 9<sup>th</sup> as one of the most difficult two shots hole in the world. It is important to notice that the course was then the only one on the Riviera to be opened all the year long. All other courses were closed during the summer season.



*from : L'Annuaire des Golfs du Continent 1930*

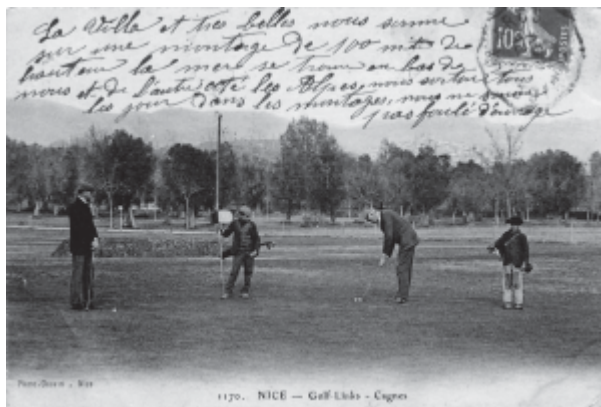
A second course opened in Hyères, the **Costebelle GC** - the old course being sometimes referred as Hyères-les-Palmiers. Mr E.H. Peyron, the proprietor of the Costebelle Hotels, commissioned Covington to lay out a new course (18 holes, 6100 yards) during the summer of 1907. It was inaugurated in November the same year. The course was significantly improved the next year by Willie Park. It must be noticed that if the course belonged to the hotel, there was also a Club which was happy to welcome visitors staying at Hyères hotels. In March 1908 a great tournament called "Coupe de la Riviera" was organised and Massy was playing against the great triumvirate: Harry Vardon, J.H. Taylor and James Braid. Although the course had 52 bunkers, it had had a major weakness: it was dramatically flat. Nevertheless, in 1910 the club had 200 members ... but possibly the same as the Hyères GC as both courses belonged to the same resort.

After WWI Hyères-les-Palmiers had a stronger success with more than 200 regular players, but both courses closed definitely with the second world war.



**Nice:** Created in 1902 the Nice GC was situated in the "Parc Saint Véran", Cagnes-sur-Mer (not to be mistaken with Cannes). The initial move was given by its first president Nicolas Xantho, with the help of Henry Thornton and J.R. Hay Gordon. The later "discovered a grass which can be kept alive during the summer months, whereas formerly it was necessary to re-make and re-saw all the green every autumn, as it [was] customary on most Riviera links."

In 1910, considered as one of the most important in France, the club had 300 members and was extremely active. Covington was the professional before WWI. A friendly competition between the Nice GC and the Cannes GC took place annually.



*A postcard from Nice GC (1909)*

After the war, B. Callaway was the head pro. Auguste Boyer – who started there as a caddy – was nominated caddy-master and finally was the professional of the club. He won many international tournaments in the 30s.

This is one of the very few example of a golf-club, in a very big and tourist place, which did not recover after WWII.



*A drawing presenting the future clubhouse of the Grasse GC ... which was never built.*

**Grasse:** This is a mystery. References to this course can be found here and there – only a few lines each time, even in local news papers. It seems more than this was a just project which started about 1910 with a few “rustic holes”, stopped by the Great War (with an 18 holes course, according to Massy!).

A second trial was made in the 20s, certainly with a very limited success. The local newspaper "La Revue de Grasse", dated Sunday August 6th, 1922, is referring to the game of golf played at “Pré du Lac”, a place close to Chateaufneuf, a neighbouring city of Grasse. Also the famous annual “Guide Plumon”, 1930 is referring to

“Chateaufneuf de Grasse Golf” as being in formation and providing a drawing of the clubhouse (see picture). This information is no longer present in the 1931 edition!

**Menton:** In 1909, thanks to Dr Campbell and Mr J.L. Churchman, an 18 holes course was laid out at Sospel at an altitude of 1000 feet. The club house, designed in a farm house, had several bedrooms reserved for golfers. The club died before WW2, in 1937.

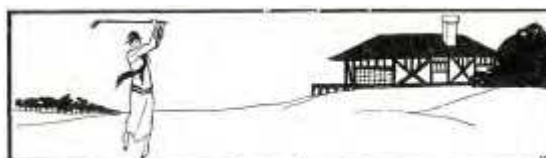


*Golf in Mentone (Sospel). In the background: La Beverina*

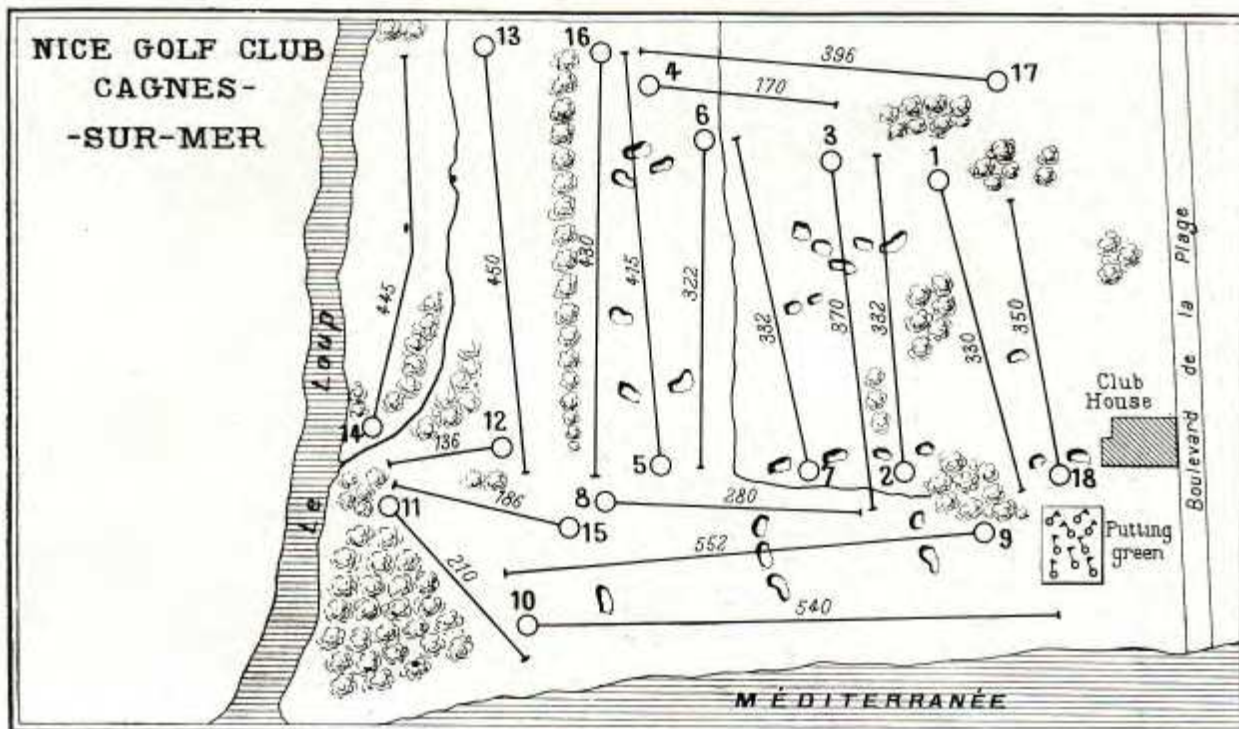
To finish in the region, we should add **Ile-Rousse** (in Corsica) an 18 holes Golf course, built in 1929 by the Hotel Napoleon Bonaparte. Prince Aga Khan was one of the Honorary Vice-President of the Committee.



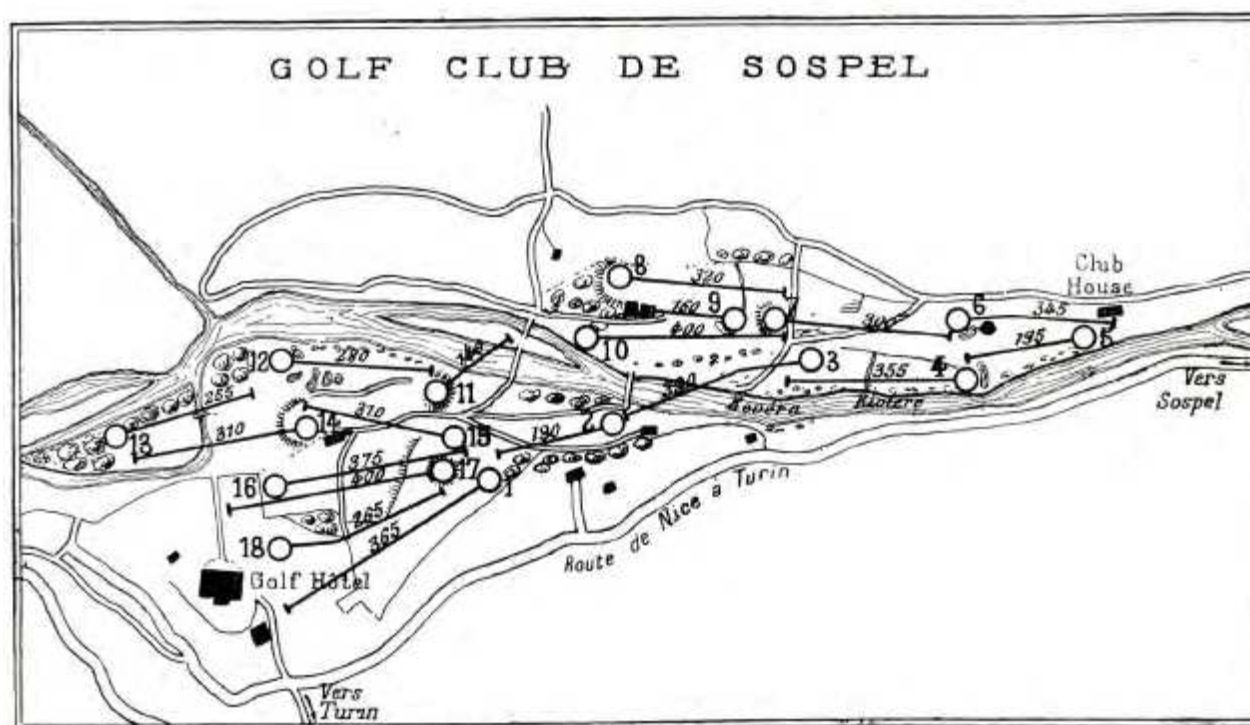
*A brochure advertising for the Hotel hosting the golf course in Corsica.*





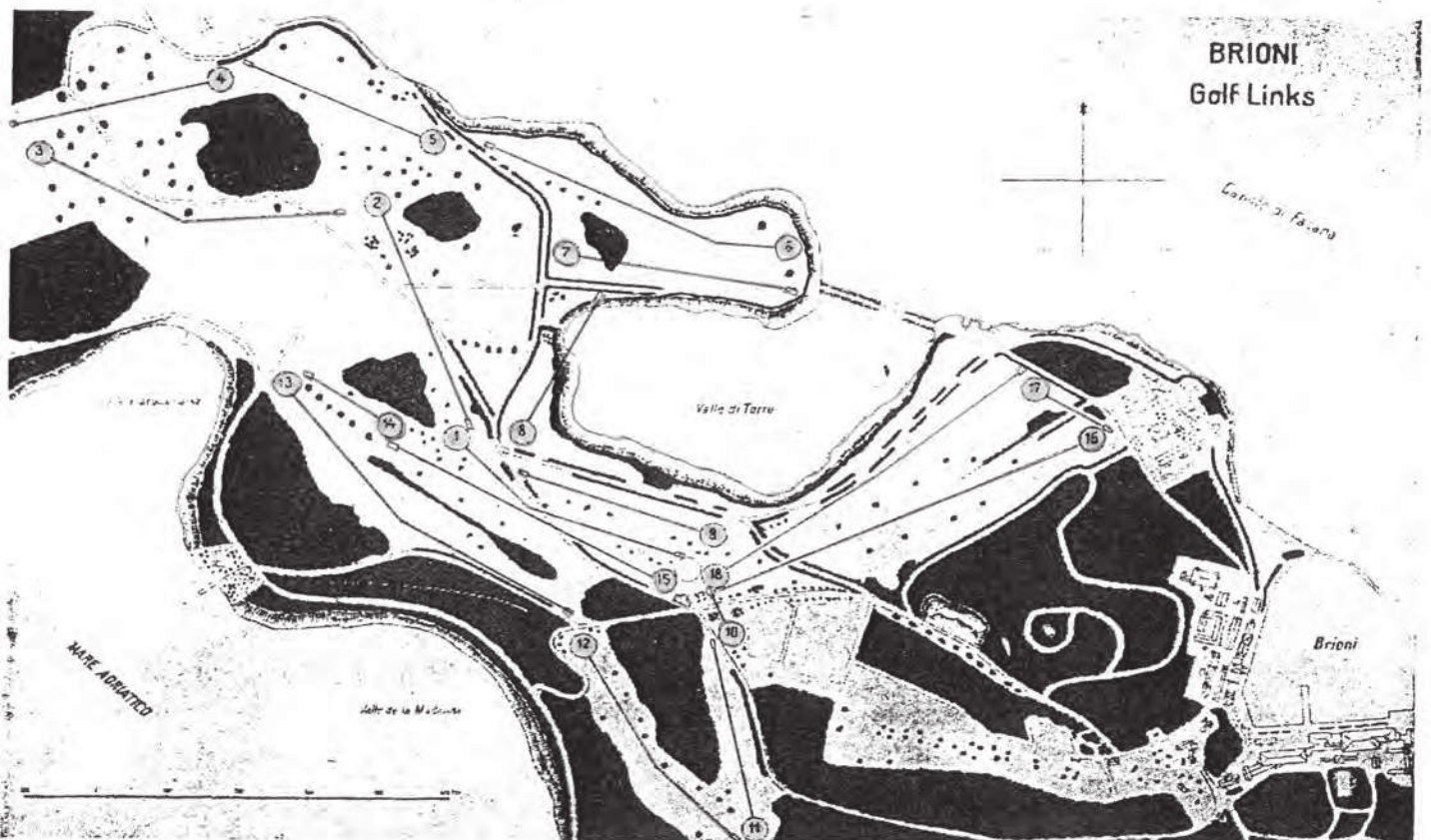
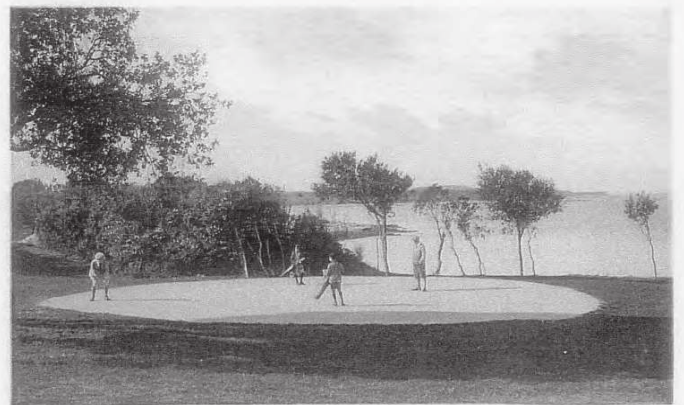
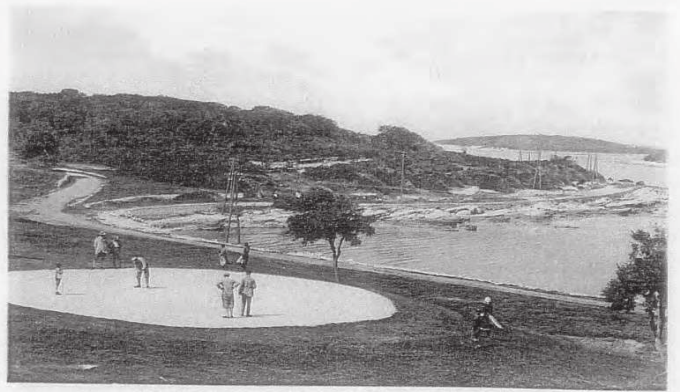


*Layout of Nice Golf Club at Cagnes-sur-Mer (Guide Plumon 1930)*



*Layout Menton-Sospel (Guide Plumon 1930)*







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# The History of Golf in Brijuni (Brioni)

By Damir Ritosa

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*Brioni 1925*

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## Short historical introduction

Brijuni (ital. Brioni) is a small north Adriatic archipelago located in the western Croatian region Istra (Istria), populated for the last 5.000 years, has been the scene of world's history on several occasions. Brioni flashed with glamour during the Roman Empire.

Before the times of the Romans Brioni was populated in Neolithic and just before the Roman Empire - as part of the Illyrian kingdom of Histars. Hedonistically disposed Romans quickly found themselves in such a place building villas and temples, producing vine, olives and other agricultural products. The Romans were followed by Goths, Franks, Croats and later Venetians but in the "dark" middle Ages there was no more bacchanalianism.

A small number of islanders drag inside so-called *Byzantine castrum*, congregations in the Benedictine abbey and St.Mary basilica (which is assumed to be a Templar order church)<sup>1</sup>. It was only in the mid 19th century that a favourable geostrategical and economic environment arose.

At that time the powerful Austro-Hungarian monarchy started to act as a strong continental power developing the nearby town of Pula as her main military port and Trieste as her main commercial port. Brioni then became an

important part of defending the entrance of Pula's harbour. Later the *Tegetthoff* fortress (1864.) was built on Veli Brijun (Great Brioni) and than (1895.-1900.) *Brioni Minor*<sup>2</sup> on Mali Brijun (Little Brioni) island.

The Turning-point was 1893 when the Austrian industrial, great entrepreneur and innovator Paul Kupelwieser bought Brijuni archipelago. He transferred his family to this new home and during the next ten to twenty years he transformed this malarial and forgotten part of Istrian soil into a fashionable resort. He started developing modern horticulture, building and arranging hotels, villas, roads, tracks, a harbour, infrastructure and sports commodities...Brioni's glamour rose once again...

## Building the golf course

Like at other places in Europe this remarkable development was interrupted by World War I and the man who re-established Brioni's fame died in 1919. Probably by then suspicion arose on how Brijuni would navigate in future as a successful venture, a tourist attraction or as a family project?

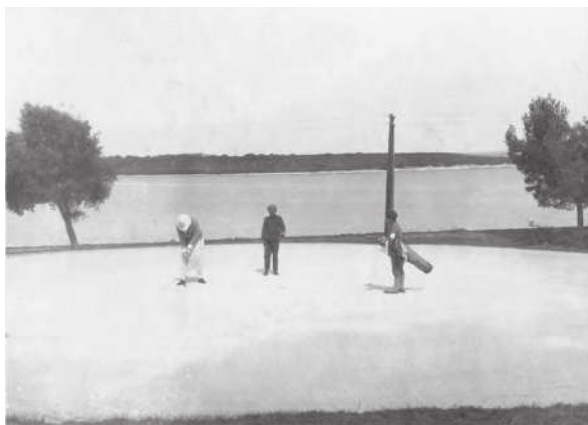
Responding to that suspicion was Paul Kupelwiesers younger son Karl who immediately after the war hurried in restoring and developing tourist attractions and economic activities. It was also Karl who decided to build a golf course and a polo ground. It is still not known who originally designed the golf course and when exactly the decision was taken, obviously the costs of construction are also unknown at this time. Existing sources are however indicating that the golf course was finished until the end of 1922 and the first pre-tournament took place on March 21<sup>st</sup> 1923 followed by the first tournament on March 31<sup>st</sup> 1923. There is sufficient golf-related documentation for the time beginning 1923, but still some rumours are indicating that some visitors played Golf on Brioni Island even in the beginning of the 20th century.

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<sup>1</sup> Officially abandoned in 1312.!

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<sup>2</sup> Which is today's main scene of the unique *Ulysses theatre* ([www.ulysses.hr](http://www.ulysses.hr))



Sand greens (1925) and .....



.....primitive but spectacular teeing areas

### Development of the golf course and Bella vita

Members of the European nobility, industrials as well as artists and generally famous people of those times were attracted by "magnet Brioni". They were eagerly visiting the Golf course while holidaying on the island. The German professional Emil Dürk was soon followed by the Swiss professional Olgiatti from Lugano teaching the game and improving the golfing skills. Besides that visitors were pouring in from other parts of the world – Australia, North and South America. Americans had their special gathering place in New York's hotel *St.Moritz on the Park*, and British tourist could find all information contacting their representative, A. Dietrich, 16, Waterloo Place, Regent Street SW1 or 121, Kingsway (room 31), WC2. Tel. Holborn 3207<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> We have collected about 350 names of golf players from the 1920's and 1930's, here just a few: Mrs.B.A.Avery, Mr.Bacon, Lady Baird, colonel Bird, major Bishop, senator Borletti, Mr. P.Brick, Mr.Charles Campbell, Miss Champion, Prince Christopher of Greece, colonel Dalgety, Prince and Princess De Rohan, Mrs.A.Ellissen, Admiral Sir Frederic Field, Mr.R.Gautier, Mrs.Elly Glogowski,



Driving Range (above,1927) and Olgiatti (below)



The Brijuni golf course received its reputation immediately after it was built (beholden to Brijuni image itself<sup>4</sup>) but golfer requirements were somehow technically higher. We presume that this was the reason why the golf course was

Mr.Harpeabes, Mr.Hawkins, Admiral Kelly, Lady Nancy Langhorn Astor, colonel P.R.B.Lawrence, Mr.Lebanc, commander Mac Call, Mr.Mac M.E.Meekin, Mr.E.Plumon, Mrs.Vera Ross, count Otto Salm, Princess and Prince Elena and Adolf Schaumburg-Lippe, Mrs.Ruth Mattinson, captain Shaw, commander Thursfield, Mrs.Von Neumann, count Westphalen, Mrs.Brita Zahle. Mostly from *Rivista illustrata di sport e mondanità del Polo e Golf -club di Brioni* or *Brioni-Weekly Sporting Society news*

<sup>4</sup> So Carl Mensendieck in 1926. builds on Föhr island (German North Sea) an golf course on model of Brijuni! He wanted *Brijuni of North*. From HELLMERS,C.A.:*50 Jahre golf auf Föhr*, "Golf Club Föhr", 1976., page 7. and *75 Jahre golf auf Föhr*, "Golf Club Föhr", 2001., page 9.



redesigned at least four times during his "first life" (1923-1945) though undergoing constant upgrades. The most important reconstruction took place in 1932/33 when the course was redesigned by Thomas G. Simpson who was well known at that time on the continent mainly for his designs in France (Chantilly, Hossegor, Morfontaine i.e) and Belgium (Royal Antwerpen, Royal GC de Fagnes, Spa i.e.).

Prior reconstructions took place in 1926 and 1931. Some new findings are now indicating that there was one earlier reconstruction between 1923 and 1926. Sadly, most of the original documents indicating the length of the Brioni links and its par/bogey standard are missing and existing information is still somehow contradictory. Generally, the length of the links was varying between 4.500 yards in early times up to 6.260 yards in the late 1930s with a scratch score of 75 in 1931.



### Clubhouse and golfers during the 1920s

By nature islands as such tend to offer a sense of isolation<sup>5</sup> and holidays on them represent some kind of escape. "Brijuni's escape" is original because it is happening right in central Mediterranean Europe, starting off a mile from mainland soil and ending in "another world"...this feeling can be experienced by anybody who sets sail across the Fažana channel! For the mostly famous visitors of those times such an "escape" was surely very important. The local mentality receives every newcomer and guest friendly and with esteem but though conceding that every

<sup>5</sup> A.D.: *A terrestrial paradise*: "We also think of solitudes shared by kindred souls, of ease and peace yet not free from emotions which a southern climate engenders.", "Rivista...", year 2., number 13., 01. February 1930., page 10.

individual has its proper personality.<sup>6</sup> Basically, *Brioni's life* consisted of the following triangle: the beauties of nature, the diversions of sports and the social life including its all time internationality in its make-up, the Brioni colony assured a social<sup>7</sup> gaiety of unrivalled spice.<sup>8</sup>



### Bank directors and European nobility in 1927..

So relaxed, hotel guests were surrendering themselves to active rest on their Brioni refuge. One guest stated that the "outer life" (active, sport's life) on Brioni is something most up to date and most organized of all he has ever seen with a level of organization still unreachable for American colleagues!<sup>9</sup>

<sup>6</sup> DESCEY, Ernest: "On Brijuni I lived thought day as gipsy, and on evenings as social men. No one bothered me, and everyone (postupao) with me as friend. When I wanted to be alone, I was alone, and whenever I wanted company, I had company, I enjoyed the beauty of women and sea: main beauties on the world, as everyone will admit." in ČERNJUL, Armando: *Brionsko-pulski spomenar*, "Istarska naklada Pula", Pula, 1987., page 13.

<sup>7</sup> On Brioni were practised: golf, tennis, waterpolo, swimming, sailing, diving, athletics, football, horse-riding, polo, archery, hunting, cricket, table tennis, cycling, billiard, bridge, boccie etc.

<sup>8</sup> "Rivista...", year 5., number 49., June 1933., page 5. and it goes further: "The pleasant weariness of a day healthfully spent in the open miraculously disappears when the soft moan of the saxophone and the throb of muffled drums float insinuatingly through the evening breeze to herald the approach of night. In the open-air dancing pavillion, or in the hotel's brilliantly lighted lounges, smartly dressed women and distinguished men dance far into the night...only to disperse for intriguing rendezvous in one of the several cozy bars or even for surreptitious strolls under moonlit skies in the isolation of forest byways..."

<sup>9</sup> xxx: *Bushmen in Brioni*, "Rivista...", year 6., number 55., June 1934., page 8.

Competitions in dance (Fox Trot, Tango and English waltz) are noted, otherwise 1932's hit was Rumba. Journalists from that time do emphasize "magic" evening dances accompanied by the *Brioni Gold Star* orchestra and maestro Willy Marks "for a cosmopolitan audience, under coloured reflectors!"<sup>10</sup> Beside dance – carnival festivities were much popular.<sup>11</sup>



.. well-known German golfers dressed in pyjama

Members of the British Royal Navy stationed on Malta (Mediterranean Division) were regular (even annual) Brioni visitors. One meeting remained noticed on October 6<sup>th</sup> 1930 when Golf Club Brioni played a match vs. H.M.S. *Royal Oak* officers. In honour of that event, carried with positive emotions and experience of British officers, a cocktail was created by the name of *Jaded Acorn*. Master of that creation was barman Johnnie Ceciliato.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>10</sup> "Rivista...", year 2., number 21., 30. September 1930.

<sup>11</sup> It is noted down one from 1930. with transvestite *The Hawajan Girls* and Miss Town Sand as *Vagabondo*, duke of Spoleto as *Cavaliere delle Pampas*, count Cavalli as *Enfant terrible* etc. from xxx: *Una ridda di originali costumi alla grande festa danzante*, "Rivista...", year 2., number 19., 31st June 1930., page 3.

<sup>12</sup> Research for the original cocktail recipe unfortunately still haven't fruited. According to accessible information H.M.S. *Royal Oak* was one of the *Royal Sovereign Class* battleships and sunked October 14th, 1939. (as first Royal Navy battleship lost in second World War).

<sup>13</sup> Golfers Handbooks from the 1950s and 1960s are still indicating that there was a Golf Course on Brioni. In effect these are repetitions of the pre-war entry from the 1939 Golfers Handbook as the editor was not receiving any responses from the Island. Claims that the golf course was used by Tito during this period have never been proved by any serious source nor by any local inhabitant.

As war was approaching in the second half of 1930's golf meetings took place on a less regular basis. One last tournament was due to take place on August 25<sup>th</sup> 1939. It is interesting to note that only two weeks before Third Reich's troops marched into Poland the minister of propaganda of the Italian Kingdom Edoardo Alfieri (future ambassador in Berlin!) received Hitler's close companion Joseph Goebbels on Brioni! Maybe it was then that hardliner Alfieri succeeded to cast a shadow minister of foreign affairs Ciano and give a final approval to the Nazi war machine? Brioni once again was a scene of world history.



*Der Golf-Platz der Brioni-Inseln, Treffpunkt des Hochadels aus aller Welt, gehört zu den schönsten ganz Italiens.*

#### ENIT(Italian Tourist office)-brochure 1941

### **War and post-war period**

During Yugoslavian times (period between 1945 and 1991) the golf course had not been in function<sup>13</sup>. There was no golfer to play and consequently no golf club to be organized in. From the early 1950's on Brijuni islands became residence of the president Josip Broz (better known as Tito) and through this the islands kept their and developed further their exclusivity. As presidential residence Brijuni hosted almost all worlds' important heads of state from the heavy cold war's 1950's, 1960's and 1970's. The movement of non-alignment was founded on Brijuni in 1956 and Brijuni Island became national park in 1983 following the death of Tito (1980). From then on the island could be visited although on a restricted basis.

### **Golf again!**

Nine holes of the old golf course were restored by the end of 1992. In 1993 the first golf tournament (22.-24. January) and the first Croatian golf championship (October 9<sup>th</sup>) took



place. A number of tournaments were held in the following years but serious competition only started after Golf club Pula was founded in 1997 and now even traditional tournaments (*Brijuni spring open*-before spring, *Istra open*-Istrian amateurs championship-after autumn season, *New Years family tournament*) are taking place on a regular basis. Since the beginning of the new millennium the club organizes the Alpe-Adria winter league which is played in the macro region originating at Brijuni golf course.



Hole No 6 of the 1992-layout

### Today's condition

Today's golf course on Brijuni could be defined as "ecological-exotic". The partial restoration in 1992 consisted simply of refilling old greens and tees with sand without almost any intervention on other parts of the course. So the epithet "exotic" refers to the general condition of the course which basically remained "untouched" for half a century though giving additional reminiscences

to how the golf course used to look in the 1920s and 1930s.

"Ecological" simply refers to the fact that there is absolutely no treatment of the golf course with any kind of chemicals or even fertilizers! The tee's are still covered with sand (what could be considered as a back-step compared to the time from 1932/33-1945 when tees were covered with *Bermuda grass*) as the greens are (something that still usual today in regions with dry weather such as Arabia, India or Australia).

The work started in winter 2005 to construct another 9 holes was finished by spring 2006. Brijuni golf links, once again, after half a century, has 18 holes! Some of the holes follow the layout from the 1<sup>st</sup> period (1923-47), other holes are new, so in the end we can say we have a new, 5<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> holes layout on Brijuni. Sand green quality improved and a new clubhouse is built (nearby 1<sup>st</sup> tee) so now there is a quality "e-e" (ecological-exotic) course on Brijuni. This "ecological-exotic" course offers the possibility to play during the whole year in Mediterranean climate and offers tremendous views onto the Adriatic Sea from almost every single hole. During summer it is especially exciting to play the last holes at sunset as the sun sinks into the sea while the last ball is sunk in the hole.

Regional and national authorities are hoping to bring back some of the old glory with the recently started "Brijuni rivijera" project<sup>13</sup>. A quality championship 18-hole golf course is planned maybe featuring a few "museum holes" with original sand greens. Hopes are arising that Europe's first resort golf course<sup>14</sup> story will rise again...



Brijuni golf course layout during 1990s

<sup>13</sup> [www.brijunirivijera.com](http://www.brijunirivijera.com)

<sup>14</sup> Most probably

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# THE HISTORY OF GOLF IN SILESIA

By Christoph Meister

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Silesia in the south-western part of today's Poland was originally populated during the 1<sup>st</sup> century by the Germanic tribe "Silingen", who were a sub race of the Vandals (the inventors of vandalism.). During the centuries Silesia found itself under bohemian and Austrian rule, before large parts Silesia became part of Prussia in 1742. Parts of Upper Silesia stayed under Austrian rule as "Kronland Österreichisch-Schlesien". In 1920 the Versailles treaty gave parts of the lower-Silesian administrative area of Breslau to Poland. 59,6% of the population of Upper-Silesia voted in a plebiscite under French supervision in March 1921 that Upper-Silesia should stay with Germany. Fighting emerged in May 1921 between Polish and German volunteers. It was in October 1921 that the Allied nations decided that the Eastern parts of Upper Silesia become part of Poland whereas the western parts of Upper-Silesia stay with Germany. In 1945 soviet troops occupied Silesia and with the Potsdam treaty in October 1945 Silesia was put under Polish administration. 3,2 million German Silesians had to leave their homeland. Empty houses were filled up with Polish people from central and eastern Poland, a territory Poland lost to the Soviet Union after 1945. The insertion of Silesia into the Polish state territory was finally accepted according to international law with the German-Polish border-treaty signed on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 1990.

In-between all these historic and political entangles the game of golf managed to arrive in Silesia. Even though some people are claiming that golf in Bad Salzbrunn (or Szczawno Zdrój as it is called today) started as early as in 1905, it was so far impossible for the author to find any historic evidence for this theory. There are obviously other parts of today's Poland where the game was played before World War I. A nice little picture shows the German Crown Prince playing golf at Danzig-Langfuhr (Gdansk) near the Baltic Sea, Berlin-based professional Cuthbert Butchart announces in the 1912 yearbook of the German Golf Union (Deutscher Golf Verband) that he constructed a private golf course at Oberglogau (Głogów) in Lower Silesia. Other Golf Clubs on Polish territory existed at Warszawa (founded 1923) and Katowice (Pulaski G.C., founded 1931). There are also reports in the German magazine *Golf* about Golf being played on the horse racing track at Sopot near Gdansk during the late 1920s, but it is not known for how many years this course existed. All this might be the subject for further research. This text however looks at how serious golf came to Silesia in 1924:

## Bad Salzbrunn

Today it is not very difficult to identify the former golf course at Bad Salzbrunn. But how did it all start?

The initiator of the Royal and Ancient game at Bad Salzbrunn was Hans Heinrich Prince von Pless zu Fürstenstein with his beautiful English wife Daisy Cornwallis-West. William J. Rusack from the famous Rusack Hotel overlooking the Old Course at St. Andrews was commissioned to design Germany's first new 18-hole golf course after World War I. The Rusack family originally came from the Harz Mountains to Scotland during the 1850s. Rusack often played golf at Oberhof in the Thuringian mountains and this is probably how the contact started. In 1925 Rusack

was also the architect of the new and second 9-hole course at Reinbek near Hamburg.

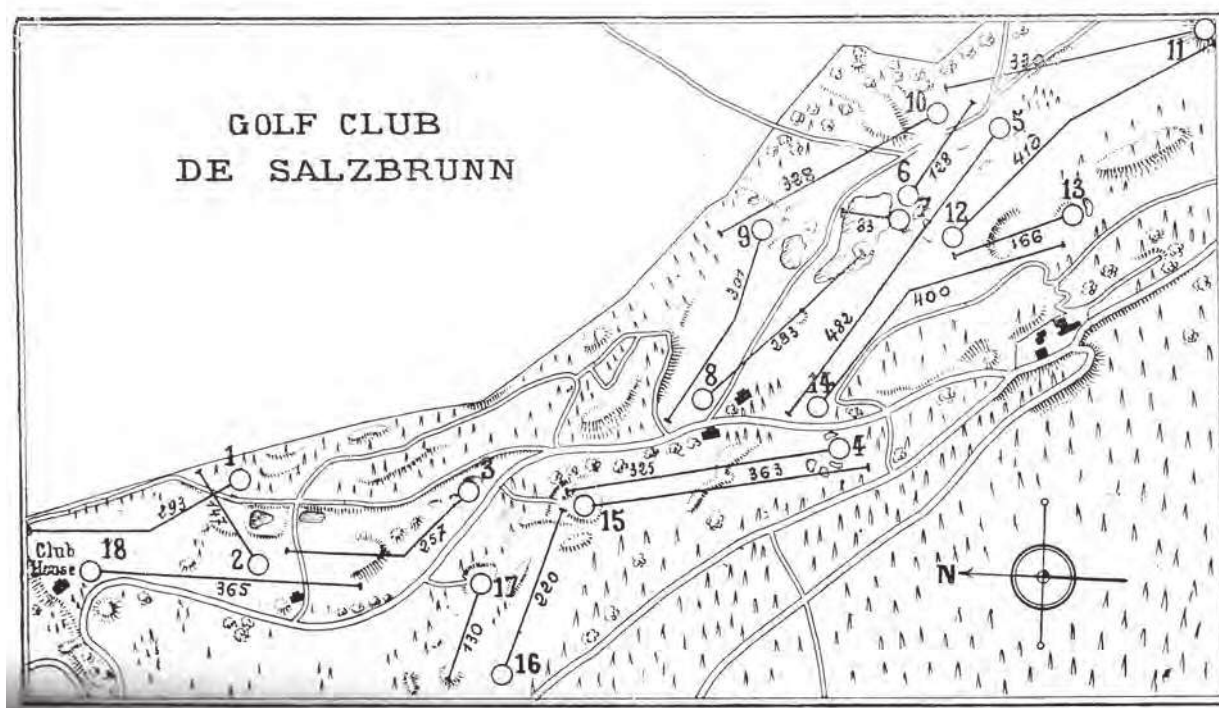
The Golf Course at Salzbrunn was officially opened in 1924 as property and under management of the Prince von Pless Spa Bad Salzbrunn. After the first season some weaknesses of the new course became too obvious. Some holes underwent renovation work, while other holes were lengthened using additional land from local peasants.

22 professional players, many of them British, competed for the first Silesian Open Prize in 1925; the German Closed Championship was also played in Bad Salzbrunn that year. It was Bernhard von Limburger who won his third Germany Close Championship title.





*Green no 1 during construction (from: Golf, Deutscher Golf Verlag, Leipzig, June 1925)*



*Layout of Salzbrunn Golf Course (from: Guide Plumon, 1930)*

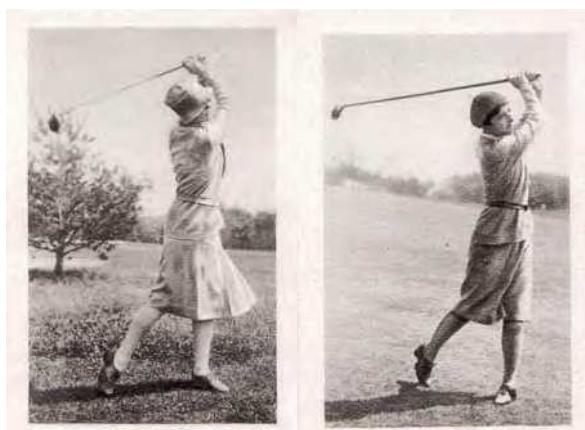
Von Limburger later became famous not only as editor of the first magazine devoted entirely to golf, but also as a golf course architect designing almost 75 courses mainly in continental Europe.

Towards the end of the 1925 championship his highness the prince of Pless was nominated honorary president of the German Golf Union (Deutscher Golf Verband). Also the following two German Closed Championships were played at Bad Salzbrunn in 1926 and 1927.

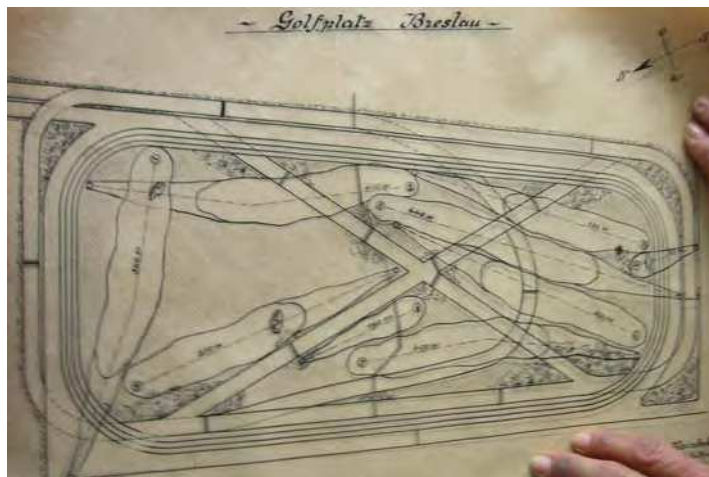


*Daisy and Hans Heinrich von Pless*

During this time Bad Salzbrunn also saw two of the greatest continental women players competing for the German Closed Championship title, which was played in match play. In 1925 scratch player Erika Sellschopp from Reinbek won 5 up with 4 holes to play against the great Hungarian amateur scratch player Erszebet von Szlávy, who took revenge in the 1926 championship by winning 3/2 against Erika.



*Erika Sellschopp and Erszebet von Szlávy*



*The original layout of Breslau Golf Course*

### **Golf at Breslau**

In 1927 a new golf club was founded in the lower-Silesian capital of Breslau (today: Wrocław, 630.000 inhabitants (1939)) A 9-hole course was laid out by the then 26-year old three-time German Closed Championship winner Bernhard von Limburger, who later in life designed famous German Championship courses such as Club zur Vahr at Garlstedt or Düsseldorf-Hubbeltath. Interestingly von Limburger later in his life referred to Breslau Golf course as being one of his juvenile sins which fortunately disappeared behind the iron curtain.

One of the most interesting holes in Breslau was the 90m Par 3 4th hole, where the player had to cross not only one, but three different race tracks in order to reach the well-bunkered hole. The complete layout of the course was quite difficult as space was restricted due to the surroundings of the race course (see *Golf*, Nr. 3, 15.5.1929)

There is a first entry for a golf course in Breslau in the *Golfer's Handbook 1929*, which mentions a Breslau Golf club on the racecourse at Breslau-Hartlieb: The Club has 98 members and Prof. W. Bruck, Reichspräsidentenplatz 17, is club secretary. Professional player is A.E. Gregory, who is at the same time professional at Bad Salzbrunn. The Breslau course consists of nine holes and the Green-fees are 3 marks per day and 10 marks per week.

In 1930 the membership goes down to 91 and the professional player was Paul Bessner, a native from the Bavarian Spa town of Bad Kissingen in Germany where Golf is played since 1911.



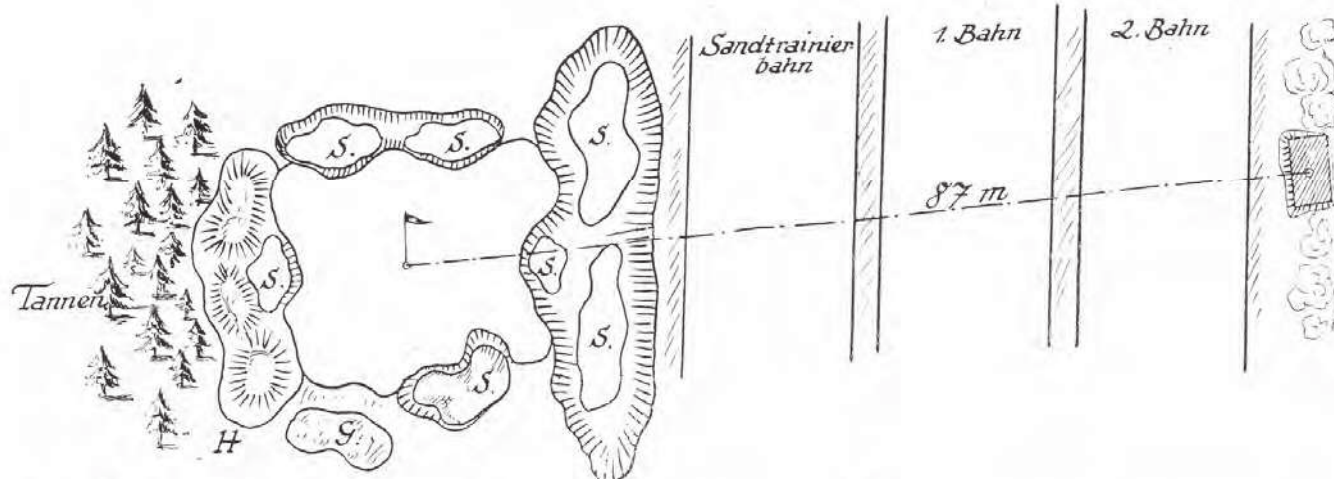
# Löcher, die wir bauten

Wir fahren heute fort in der Veröffentlichung von  
Lochskizzen unserer Plätze und bringen

## BRESLAU Nr. 4

90 m

par 3



Der Golfplatz Breslau liegt bekanntlich auf der Rennbahn, eine Tatsache, die für den Architekten erfahrungsgemäß viele Schwierigkeiten bereitet, da das an sich schon kleine Areal durch die vielen Geläufe außerordentlich eingeengt wird. Daß es trotzdem möglich ist, ein interessantes Loch, wenn auch nur von 90 m Länge zu schaffen, zeigt die obige Skizze. Der Abschlag liegt etwas erhöht inmitten eines Gebüsches. Der Schlag muß mit dem mashie-niblick ganz präzise gespielt werden, denn das an sich schon kleine und nach hinten etwas ansteigende Grün ist nach allen Seiten scharf gebunkert, wozu u. a. eine vorgelagerte vorhandene Grube Verwendung finden konnte. Ein Ball mit zu wenig Rückdrall endet in schwierigster Lage in den Tannen, die dem Loch einen malerischen Abschluß geben.

An der Anlage folgender Plätze waren bzw. sind wir beteiligt:

18 Löcher: Berlin-Nedlitz, Chemnitz-Flöha

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TELEGR.-ADRESSE: GOLFVERLAG

Club secretary now is Landrat Bachmann at Weidenstrasse 15. A.E. Gregory holds the course record with 72 strokes on 18 holes. The 1931 yearbook of the German Golf Union (DGU) indicates a membership of 84 for 1931, whereas the 1932 Plümon Guide indicates the course distance from the town centre is 5 miles.

In 1933 the membership decreased to 66 and von Limburger Magazine "Golf" (Nr. 6, 1933) states, that the Golf-Club Breslau has ceased to exist, because the golf course has been closed down by the official authorities. The reason remains unknown.

According to the 1935, 1936 and 1937 German Golf Union yearbooks the course remained closed, even though a certain lawyer Dr. N. Fischer at Gartenstrasse 47, II in Breslau 5 was still president or *Clubführer*.

German golf magazines from 1936 and 1937 are indicating that due to the lack of a golf course in Breslau members of the Breslau Golf club are playing in Bad Salzbrunn. The 1939 yearbook of the German Golf union states that a new golf course is being planned and the current membership is 15.

### **Golf Club founded at Bad Salzbrunn**

Between 1924 and 1929 there was only a golf course without golf club in existence at Bad Salzbrunn. The Golf Club was founded in 1929 five years after the official opening of Salzbrunn golf course. In 1931 the golf club had 61 members, a figure that remained almost unchanged during the 1930s.

This rather low membership proves that in the beginning the course was mainly used by spa guests and tourists. It took some time until locals found it necessary to set up a golf club, which was not the owner of the golf course. An officially recognized club was necessary in order official handicaps issued by the national golf union and accepted by their other member clubs.

Most of the local members were bankers, doctors or business men who were also attracted by the special atmosphere on the golf course. For many years, even during the economic recession of the early 1930s, rich, famous and beautiful people continued to visit Bad Salzbrunn; in 1932 for example it was Prince Sigvard from Sweden who

found himself among other illustrious visitors from Prague, Vienna, Warschau and London.

The guests stayed at the Grand Hotel Schlesischer Hof, from where the golfers just had to walk up 200 meters through the beautiful Silesian forest to reach the first tee. Milly Reuter, a German discus and golf champion describes the Hotel as a place similar to paradise. Also she wrote in 1930 that if seven million golfers in the U.S. would know about this golf course they would immediately build an airport at Bad Salzbrunn.



*Golfhotel Schlesischer Hof at Bad Salzbrunn*

But also serious tournament golf was played at Bad Salzbrunn - when the German Sports Meeting (Deutsche Kampfspiele), a sort of national Olympic Games, was held at Breslau in 1930 it was Bad Salzbrunn which hosted the golf competition. Annual amateur competitions were also played at Bad Salzbrunn - the Fürstenstein-Cup and the Prince of Pless-Cup being most extraordinary silver prizes. In 1938 the German Professional Golfers Championship was played at Salzbrunn.



*Golfhaus at Bad Salzbrunn*



## Carry your bag?

Fritz Kangowski, born 1926, started carrying golf bags at Salzbrunn in 1936. Before doing so he was examined by the local official physician who found that little Fritz was fit to carry. During the 1938 professional golfers championship he was caddying for the championship winner Müller from Berlin-Nedlitz. Fritz mother was rather astonished when she saw his share of the winner's prize being 100 Reichsmark. The same year Fritz had started playing golf, his best round was a 75 at Bad Salzbrunn (standard scratch score: 72). 80 years old now he still plays off a -17 handicap as he just happily told the author. Fritz left Silesia like so many others and never went back in order not to destroy his memory of what he claims was one of the nicest golf courses and places on earth. Today his last dream is to beat his age over 18 holes playing his home course at Schaumburg some 50km west of Hanover, so far his record is 82.

Ernst Scholz, who was caddie at Bad Salzbrunn in 1941/1942, remembers that one day the great German racing driver Hans Stuck sen., European Hill Climbing Champion on Auto-Union (Audi) arrived in front of the Golfhaus driving his open top sports car there backwards. All the caddie boys got extremely excited when they recognized the driver and they all joined Hans Stuck on the first tee. He took an iron out of his bag and when he hit the ball it immediately broke into two pieces. Stuck then said that balls were very expensive these times and so he finished his round driving back in his sports car to the hotel. Ernst also remembers that in the same year Mr. Henkell from Wiesbaden, the president of the German golf union, won the driving competition at the annual golf tournament.

Another caddie was Walter Mattern, who started carrying bags in May 1941. All Caddies came from nearby Weißstein, whereas the boys from Bad Salzbrunn worked on the Tennis courts as ball boys, a work that was not as well paid. Not only a caddie had to carry a bag with 11 to 13 clubs for over three hours, as Walter recalls today, but importantly the caddy had to be very good at spotting golf balls often hit over a distance more than two hundred meters. Especially in summer it was rather difficult to spot a golf ball lying in between a thousand or more daisies. Walter remembers one caddie who said "the ball went up in the air and did not come

back" – needless to say this young man only had a short caddie career.



*The first Golfhaus, later used as caddie-house*

What Walter remembers most is the caddie baptism, which took place in the caddie house, the first former *Golfhaus*. The house was generally in a very bad state and it contained the original wooden lockers. Some of these lockers still had wooden doors, but no floor. The top part of the wooden door had an opening the size of a postcard. The candidate for baptism was put in the locker and a little fire was made with paper and leaves just between the candidate's feet. It was only when the person inside the locker showed first suffocation attacks that water was poured through the little hole in the locker door. Afterwards the person was accepted as a full caddie. Only tough boys became caddie in Silesia, a fact also Fritz Kangowski was still proud to confirm.



*Caddies, golfers and sheep during the mid-1930s*

Ruth Schmidt, whose father Gustav Liebenthal was the greenkeeper at Bad Salzbrunn, lived on the upper floor of the *Golfhaus* together with her family. The golf professional also lived on the first floor; a large clubroom with fireplace

covered the ground floor, whereas men and women changing rooms with separated showers were to be found in the basement. Ruth Schmidt still remembers the first golf professional Alfred Stiefel from Berlin as well as his successor Paul Henkel from Oberhof, who always brought sweets for Ruth.

But more than all Ruth remembers the Täussner couple, golf players from Breslau and private bank owners. She was Polish and he was German. When the war was over it became impossible for the Liebenthal family to stay in the *Golfhaus* and Frau Täussner helped the Liebenthal family to survive and find a flat in lower Bad Salzbrunn. Like so many Germans Liebenthal's had to flee from Salzbrunn when the town was put under Polish administration.

Ruth came back to Bad Salzbrunn in 1978. Unlike in Czechoslovakia no golf has been played in Poland between 1945 and 1990 as there were no open golf courses left. In 1978 there was a restaurant and hotel in the *Golfhaus*.



*Salzbrunn Golfhaus in 2005*

Efforts have been made since the end of the Warsaw Pact to reopen the Golf Course at Bad Salzbrunn. Due to its rural situation the area remains almost unchanged after 50 years of communism. When the golf architects from *Deutsche Golf Consult* in Essen came to visit the region it did not take them long to spot out all former teeing areas and greens. Even though golf had arrived at some metropolitan regions of Poland local officials still thought it was too early to reopen the Salzbrunn Golf Course. In the meantime some parts of the former golf course have become part of a mountain bike track, a sport surely more popular in these parts of Poland

at the moment. Nevertheless we should not give up the hope that one day golf will be played again at Szczawno Zdrój.



*Fairway No 18 in 1934(above) and 2005(below)*

In Western Germany Salzbrunn is still remembered at Bad Salzuflen near Bielefeld, where Golfers are competing annually for the Fürstenstein-Cup, a cup that left Silesia together with its last winner. Not long ago I held the original cup in my hands.....



*The original "Fürstenstein-Cup" (l.) and a new "Fürstenstein-Preis" (r.) given by Wilhelm Terberger 1961 in remembrance of Bad Salzbrunn*



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