



Dietrich Quanz, Geert Nijs watching Stéphan Filanovitch, practicing a chole club, Chantilly 2006



Alan, Geert and John here together with David at Bad Ischl, 2008



John during a presentation at Goteborg, 2012



Iain Forrester, John Hanna, Geert Nijs, Brussels 2013



John Hanna, Geert Nijs with Huguette Kazmierczak Brussels 2013



John with his wife Mavis (right) and Virginie Massion (left) at Valescure 2015

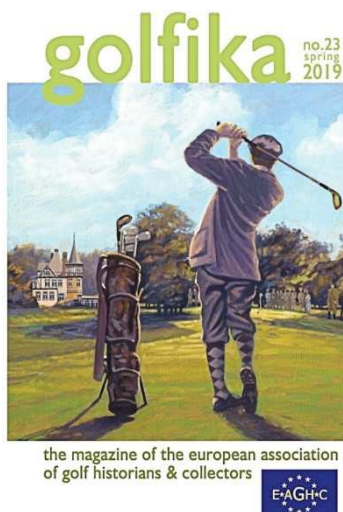


Mavis, John and Poul-Erik Jensen, Valescure 2015



John at the British Golf Museum, St Andrews 2017

golfika



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The front cover of Golfika Magazine n°23 is after a painting by Viktor Cleve of the Bad Ems Golf Club.

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

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

Imprint and disclaimer

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The views and opinions printed within are those of the contributors and cannot intend to represent an official EAGHC viewpoint unless stated.

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We welcome new members – you will find all necessary information on how to join our association on www.golfika.com

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President's words

David Hamilton



Arrangements for our autumn 2019 meeting are looking good and with an attractive hotel, a golf course nearby and a museum visit, all our needs are met. The amount of time given to presentations are a feature of our meetings, and we always come away enriched. The British and American societies have less emphasis on lectures, but in Britain we have added on the 'Literati of the Links' gatherings to the golf meetings. The recent Literati meeting in St Andrews was a success and we hope to repeat it as a larger event here in early 2020. We would be delighted to welcome contributors from Europe. Golf on the Old Course is possible (with mats) and green fees are economical at that time.

John Hanna was a founder member and a good friend of the EAGHC, and his bright mind and enthusiasm kept him going in good spirits in spite of increasing health problems. The story is told that he was travelling so often between Northern Ireland and mainland Britain, that the authorities became suspicious and he was stopped and his car searched. All that the police found were hickory golf clubs, and they concluded that since he could not afford proper clubs, he could not have been a serious smuggler or terrorist.

The American GCS has rebranded itself as the Golf Heritage Society, acknowledging that the traditional collector members have now been joined by many hickory golfers. Their magazine has been relaunched as The Golf and it aims to follow the path of Through the Green and Golfika. I detect the strong leadership of Pete Georgiady in all of this, especially their idea of having a 'National Hickory Golf Day' in May. On the day, the world of golf is encouraged to put away the steel clubs and play in the older

style, sending in celebratory images from all over the world.



This image is one of me involved in the laborious hot metal letterpress printing methods. However, the literary output is rather slow and accordingly I'm accepting modernity and moving on to the new print-on-demand (POD) methods. The cost of colour printing, even good colour printing, has come down remarkably and with self-publishing methods anyone with a good golf history project, but a low budget, can publish it quickly and economically.

Editor's Corner

Stéphan Filanovitch



Dear EAGHC members,

Here is your 2019 Spring Golfika issue.

I want to begin this edito with a return in 2018, which was really a sad year for the EAGHC, with three deaths.

After our honorary president Lally Segard, Geert Nijs and John Hanna passed away.

I met them for the first time at our inaugural meeting at Chantilly, in 2006 and I knew immediately that the EAGHC will be a friendly association with such people.

I will always keep you in my thoughts.



John and Geert – Brussels 2013

This magazine begins of course with a tribute to our friends, RIP.

Then, with a very interesting article about Sospel, JBK and Patrick Didier bring us lots of information on Mentone GC, a defunct golf course.

Again, by JBK and Patrick Didier, the discovery or rediscovery of Alexa Glover, a great Sospel player.

With a new member, Guy Lalanne, you will learn a little-known history of the pre and post WWII period from La Nivelles. Welcome and many thanks Guy! We hope more articles.

Our dear friend Olaf Dudzus tells the fascinating story of Berlin GC ... and secret services! Some unexpected links.

When I started to collect about golf, it was with the stamp thematic; and I thought that it could be the opportunity to share with you the story of the Le Touquet stamp.

To conclude this issue, you will read a nice text on the opening of the Aberdeen Balnagask Golf Club: in 1905 Massy was already a distinguished guest for a match against Simpson.



WARNING: We definitely need more articles for Golfika-Magazine. And new contributors are expected. Please send us even a one short page paper. Please, use this address: editor@golfika.com

In Memoriam
John Hanna and Geert Nijs
A short tribute

JBK, on behalf of the Board



We would like to give here a warm celebration to two of our strong friends and supporters in the EAGHC: John Hanna who passed away on December 2nd, 2018, and Geert Nijs who preceded him on September 1st. Our thoughts are with them and their beloved wives, Mavis and Sara, and relatives. RIP.

John last months.

In May 2017, we spent a few days holidays with John and Mavis at their home at Hillsborough, Northern Ireland and a short time later, we had our EAGHC meeting, at Saint Andrews, where he was so fantastic. We didn't know that this would be the last time we would see him.

Just before the Pau meeting, he proposed a paper on Roger McStravick's action to unveil the headstone of Jamie Anderson, which was published in the previous issue of Golfika Magazine. He also offered to make a lecture in Pau during our AGM. But early in September, just two weeks before the meeting, we got an e-mail from his daughter Debbie informing us that her father was very ill, in an hospital, and couldn't join the meeting. We were having regular news from Debbie and some were encouraging, but more were sad and, on the day just after December the 2nd, we got the information that we shall miss John forever.

Memories of some good times with John.

Our first closer relationships with John started early in 2006 when we were fine-tuning the creation of our Association. At that time, we were hesitating about the name we should take. One idea was to call it CGCS (after, [American]GCS and BGCS, the CGCS seemed natural) but John was the first to tell us that when you say "continental", you have no clue on which continent you are talking about, and he suggested to use the name: **"European**

Association of Golf Historians and Collectors". His suggestion was soon agreed.

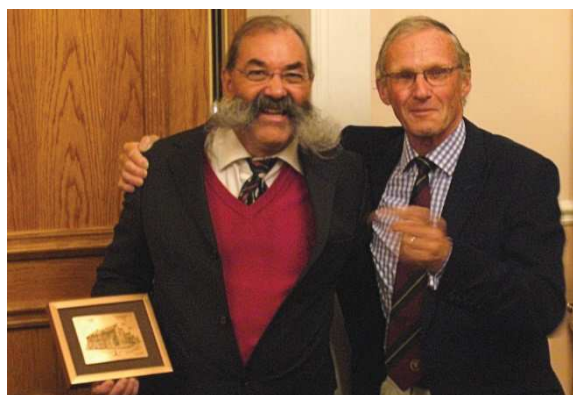
Our first in person get together happened several months later for the inaugural meeting at Chantilly. Alan Jackson was unable to join and suggested that John Hanna, the then Captain of the BGCS, and David Hamilton represent the BGCS to this meeting.



Hard times. After Lally this spring, John passed away in december. They are here at the Chantilly "inaugural" meeting in 2006. Group photo below.



We added a full page of pictures to remind us of these good times, but we cannot omit to say a few words about the meeting he organised at his club: The Malone GC. It was in 2009 and was largely attended.



Here, John presenting a reward to Hans Medvejsek at the Malone GC during our dinner.



John during a short speech, introducing Roger McStravick during the dinner at the British Golf Museum, St Andrews, 2017.

We all know that John was a great contributor to the BGCS, mainly as its Captain but also as a writer in *Through The Green*. For his long series of papers "Irish Musing", he received the President's medal in 1999. Impossible not to say how excellent he also was as an editor of this magazine for several years.

He is also known as a book writer and his "*Malone Golf Club 1895-1995*" was very well received as also was his postcard book entitled "*Golf Greens of Ireland*" published in 2002.

John was also President of our Association in 2010 and 2011 and member of the Board since 2009.

Geert Nijs and the EAGHC.

We get in touch with Geert and Sara in about 2004. At that time golfika.com was one of the very rare web-sites providing a page on the game of choules and they visited us to share more on this topic. Later, when we were trying to create our association we were back in touch with the Nijs and speaking about the name (see CGCS above) Geert suggested that we should add the word "historians". So after "Europe", inspired by John, we had to add "Historians", suggested by Geert. Of course, he was present at the inaugural meeting and offered a demonstration of the game of choules.



After the Kennemer meeting, a visit to the St Eloyen Gasthuis, in Utrecht, 2010.

Geert showing how to use the "maillet", 2006.



We shall never forget those two friends who gave so much to the EAGHC.

A few words from Huguetta Kazmierczak

We have lost two very dear friends: John Hanna and Geert Nijs.

We first met Geert and his wife Sara in our home, close to Paris and it was the beginning of a warm friendship. I still remember that Geert was calling my mother “Mamita”, a contraction between the words “Mamie” and “Rita” – my mother’s first name.

They were already very informed on the choule and other related games and we were so happy to see Geert and Sara becoming the top specialists of the history of those games. It was also important for golf history and they regularly made a presentation of their findings during our EAGHC meetings.



And I’m so proud of the medal Geert and Sara presented me during the Saint-Cloud meeting, in 2011, after what all our members have recognised: the famous “golfer” from a stain glass window in the Gloucester Cathedral.

Two years later, we met John when he came with David to our first EAGHC meeting at Chantilly. It was in 2006. We were so moved that these two key persons of the BGCS, important historians of golf, travelled from Ireland and Scotland to support our modest action.

John, with his lovely wife Mavis, were great friends for us. The links became even stronger when they came to Nice and visit us on the French Riviera. I remember the day, when Mavis was so smartly dressed before going to Monte-Carlo and JBK said “Wow! That’s for Prince

Albert” ... and Mavis answered “oh no! My prince is John”.

We also paid a visit to John and Mavis at their home, in 2017, spending so great time with them and visiting so many very famous golf clubs in Northern Ireland. We also realised how a fantastic father and grand-father was John when we met Debbie and Victoria.

Finally, I shall always remember when John was saying that “EAGHC is a great family, and we have more and more pleasure to see, each and every year, all our members”.

Geert and John: we are thinking of you and we’ll never forget you both.

German Open Hickory Championship

Since its inception in 2009 at Bad Wildungen the German Hickory Championship has been played as an 18-hole stroke-play event. For the first time in the history the event will be played over 36 holes in 2019 at Golfclub Gera, Thuringia, Central Germany, and 95 km from Leipzig airport.

Similar to an EAGHC hickory event we have held at Fano and Kolding a couple of years ago the German Open Hickory Championship 2019 will be a combination of two events. The 3rd Reuß Hickory Open organized by our hickory friends from the Fürstlicher Hickory Golf Club Reuß will be played on Saturday, August 10th, 2019. This event will at the same time count as first round of the German Open Hickory Championship. The second round will be played on Sunday, August 11th, 2019 also at Golfclub Gera.

As a practise round the already traditional hickory match play Germany vs. Rest of the World will be played on Friday, 9th of August. This will be followed by an evening at the Castle of Heinrich XIII Prinz Reuß, the patron of the Fürstlicher Hickory Golf Club Reuß. For additional information or in order to register please contact Christoph Meister through info@german-hickory.com For further information on upcoming hickory events in continental Europe please regularly check <http://www.german-hickory.com>

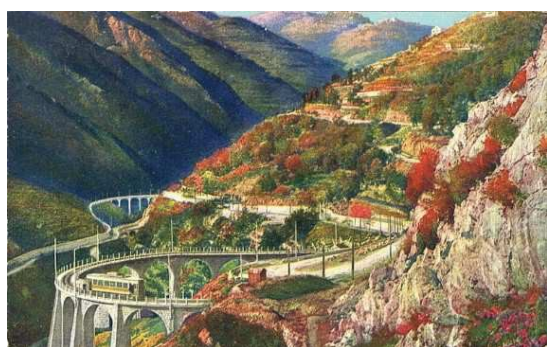
Sospel – The Mentone Golf Club

By JBK (Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak) & Patrick Didier



Located at about 20 km from Mentone and 40 km from Nice, the Mentone Golf Club was located at Sospel, a picturesque village perched at about 350 meters high. Many visitors were spending there their holidays. Among them Messrs Thomas Glover, James Churchman from Great Britain or Hans-Georg Tersling from Denmark – all fond of golf. They were trying to establish a golf club since the turn of the 20th century. But they had to wait until January 1909 to see the project succeeding.

It must be noted that this project was developed at the same time as the Monte-Carlo GC – and that the village of Sospel is just slightly farther from Monte-Carlo than from Mentone. A 21 years lease was agreed for a 115 acres land (about 45 hectares).



As we can see on the picture above, the access was not that easy! And the description Bernard Darwin is providing (see Appendix) confirms this fact, and this is why it was decided to build a hotel but also, to build an electrical tram to join the place. Meantime, an old farm was refurbished and transformed into a temporary club-house.

At the beginning of the year 1909, a professional, F. Philips, was hired and his first task was to design the course. We can just guess that he certainly received some advices from Arnaud Massy who visited the place as early as February! In March of the same year, it was certainly possible to get a first idea of the course lay out: pear-shaped, four kilometres long, the

18th fairway being parallel to the one, arriving to the club-house and to the future tram station.

So, on march 23rd, a first meeting is organised by and for the hotelkeepers and a few guests: the duke of Sutherland and some golfers. F. Philips drove the first ball on a course which was still in the making.

Two weeks later, on April 6th, a much larger party was organised: a lunch for 120 guests was prepared. Among them was present Mr Elie Peyron, who started the very first golf course on the Riviera at Hyères. Accompanying him was the Hyères professional, Macdonald. And we can guess that Philips was certainly listening his remarks.

In November, the course is almost ready to play just waiting the official opening on Tuesday, January 18th, 1910: the morning was booked for play and the lunch served at 1pm. Mr C.P. Levilly, the honorary secretary, was welcoming the first members who were discovering a 5000 yards course (4500 meters), bogey 75, with 18 holes are running both sides of the river Bevera.

In February, the following year, one could see an interesting match between the local pro, F. Philips – holding the course record in 74 – and Ben Sayers, the professional at Monte-Carlo (preparing the construction of the course). Sayers won the match 5 and 4 to play; the approximate scores being 75 and 77.

In March 1912, a first regular competition is organised for the members and visitors “Coupe du Printemps” (Spring Cup)



This rare postcard, mailed in 1912, is featuring a player on the 15th hole (in the initial routing). After the war, it will become the 10th.

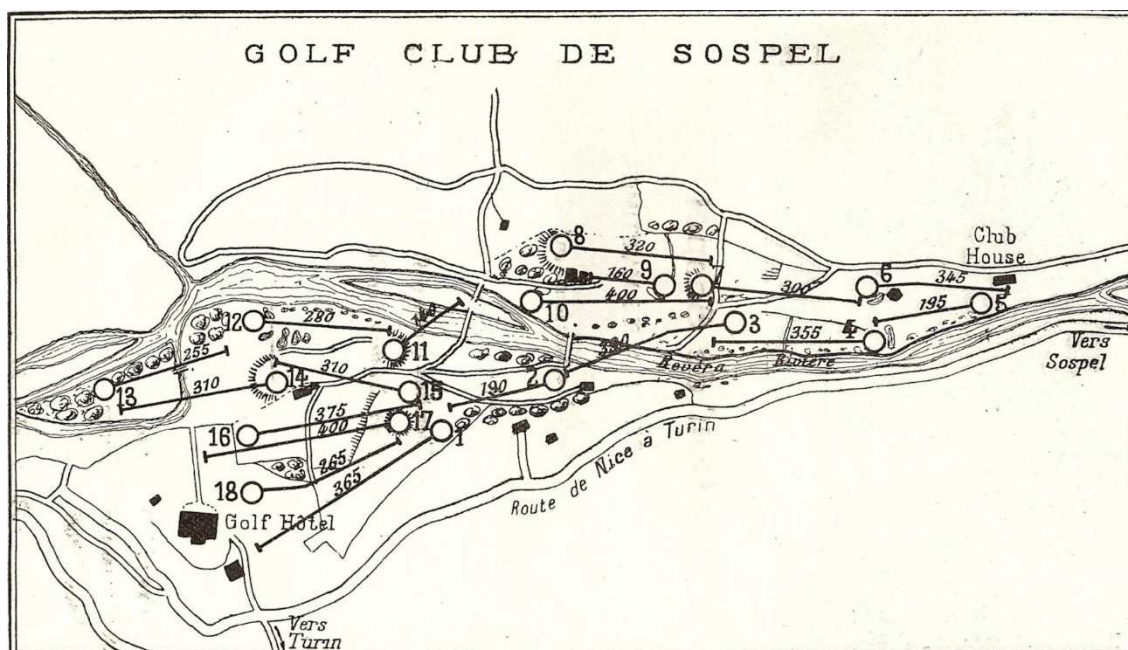
March 1912 is also an important date as an electrical tram will start its service after four years of construction work. It was a key reason of the success of the club. The service was stopped in 1931 after the commissioning of the railway line between Nice and Cuneo.

The following year, the council of the city of Mentone, is offering a challenge cup. A player, winning the competition three times, not necessarily in succession, would keep the trophy,

but a smaller replica is presented to the winner of the year. At the end of 1913, in December, the Golf Hotel was opening.

This same year, 1913, Bernard Darwin was planning to spend a day at Sospel but extended his stay to the next day. In his series of papers on Riviera Golf, he dedicates a long text on the Sospel-Mentone GC. The quality and interest in this paper is so obvious that we added it in appendix. In this text the routing is the pre-war one, different from the map below, dated 1925. The hole 6 below was the 1, the hole 3 was 16.

At beginning of 1914, Alexander (Sandy) Herd was on the Riviera, accompanying a rich amateur H.J. Carver. If the British Newspapers were mainly reporting the matches that Herd played against Georges Duncan, in Cannes and Nice, the local press provides more information. We learn that on February 2nd, a match was played at Sospel where Sandy Herd and H.J. Carver were opposed to J.S. Worthington and D.S. Crowther. The match was a tough one, the team Herd-Carver winning only on the 18th.



The Mentone-Sospel Golf Course in 1925 – with a new routing.

The Sospel GC after World War I.

After the war, players had to wait until January 8th, 1921 to see the Golf Hotel and the course opening again. And of the cold weather that year postponed the works, so only nine holes were open to the play. Golfers had to wait a few weeks more to get the full course open for play.

A new professional was hired: Willie Armour who should stay there for three seasons. He was also supervising the course restauration and re-design, adding a few bunkers a re-numbering the course.

A new Honorary Secretary was nominated: Dr Rowland, but he had to return to Great Britain mid-February and Capt. Leonard Elger will take the interim, until Rowland was back there end 1921.



On this postcard, is not dated, but most probably should have been published in 1922, and shows the pro Willie Armour giving a lesson to Miss Beebe, the daughter of a rich American doctor wintering at Sospel.

In March 1922, Joyce and Roger Wethered – with their parents – were present, for two weeks, at the Golf Hotel of Sospel and we can guess that they were also playing on the course! But we know that they also played golf at Mont-Agel during a full week.

At the end of this same month, on Friday 31st, a match between professionals was organised: the local pro, of course, Willie Armour and the three professionals from Monte-Carlo, Arthur Grant (main or head-pro) and his brother Bob and George Arnold. The latter was paired to Willie Armour, playing against the Grant brothers who won 3&2 in the morning but lost in the afternoon on the last green.

1923 is a key date for golf at Sospel: Mr Kenneth Clark is now the only proprietor of the Hotel and the course – lessee of the ground.

In February, a nice pro-am was organised at Sospel: a Monaco team (Major St John Piggot and Arthur Grant) was opposed to a local team (Capt. A.E. Clerk and Willie Armour). In the morning, a match was won by Sospel on the 18, but in the afternoon, Monte-Carlo won 3&1, Grant's game being exceptional.

On March 11, 1923, again three professionals from Monte-Carlo are coming back to Sospel. Arthur Grant is there again, but the two others are Lurner and Arnold. But the play is different from the previous year. In the morning a four-ball match is opposing Grant-Lurner beating Armour-Arnold on the last green. In the afternoon, a stroke play competition was organised and Armour finished first (79) and Lurner was second (81).

Later in March, a scratch play, P. Mackenzie Ross finished second in the Mentone Challenge Cup. We can guess that he was Philip Mackenzie Ross, from the Burgess Golfing Society. On the next day, he was playing again for the Golf Hotel prize, and again finished second with 77, while a certain Fletcher was establishing a new amateur record for the course, with a 74.

For the following season, a new pro was replacing Armour. On December 15th, 1923, James Sunter was arriving from Elie – where he was pro during the summer.



An interesting PC (about 1925) featuring the Golf-Hotel, but most interesting are the two workers in the foreground, keeping the course.

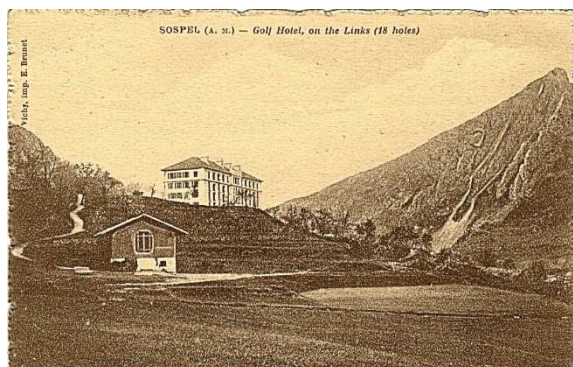
While until then the descriptions of the course were superlative, we start finding some criticism, both on the greens (which, according to the Bystander, have always been, for the course of

Sospel, "a thorn in the foot") but also on the length of the holes that are now considered too short! Standards have changed.



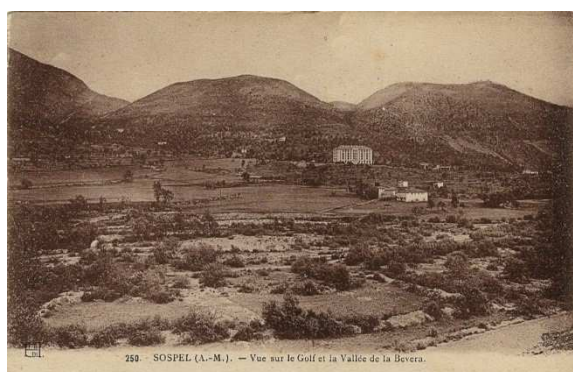
A rare Mentone (Sospel) Golf medal, most probably before WWII.

In the second half of the 20s, concerns on the future of the club will appear. When the course was in preparation a lease for 21 years was signed. It was in 1909 – which means until 1930.



Small golf-house close to the first tee and 18th green. In the background: the golf hotel.

Clearly, the newspapers are providing less and less information on the club. From time to time a match is reported – which may have some local interest (such as the competition between the Anglo-American Club and the Sospel Club), but the mood is no longer the same.



A general view of the golf course and the Bevera valley.

The Plumon Guide, for 1931 is still indicating that James Sunter is the pro, but it's no longer the case. He moved to the *Brunsfeld Links Society* and was replaced by Chambers – coming from another French club, Uriage – a few kilometres from Grenoble.

But the end was not that far. The golf will stop its business in April 1931. There might be three major reasons for this end: (1) the closing of the tram between Mentone and Sospel, (2) the end of the lease of the ground for the course and (3) Mr Kenneth Clark, the owner of the golf and golf-hotel, was also an expert in art got a position at Oxford University and director of the London National Gallery, having less time for Sospel and its golf.

At Mentone, to keep the golfers happy, a bus service was organised between the city of Mentone and the Monte-Carlo GC, located at Mont-Agel.



This map (thanks to Google Maps) shows the location of the key cities: Sospel (top right) and on the coast from left to right: Cagnes-sur-Mer (Nice GC), Nice, Monaco and Mentone.

Patrick Didier is not a member of the EAGHC so we would like to introduce him in a few words. He is a writer and recognized expert on the history of Mentone and its region. He is also a specialist in the history of several sports – not only on the Riviera – mainly cycling and boxing, but also winter Olympic games and tennis. To get in touch with him, please write to:

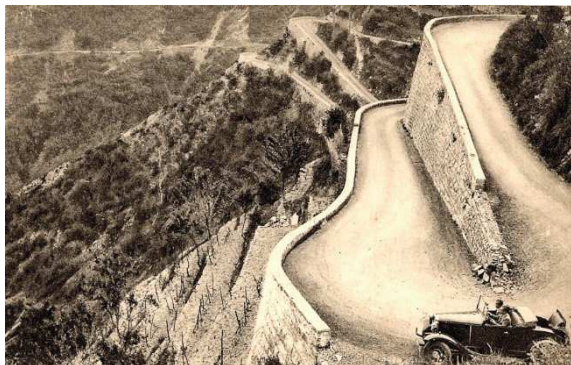
patrick.didier665@orange.fr

APPENDIX

Bernard Darwin, March 1, 1913

In *The Times*, March 5, 1913.

Sospel has beyond question the best course in the Riviera; it is also the most delicious and engaging spot in which I have ever played golf. It is, then, very well worth getting to, but the getting there is not to be undertaken lightly. The course is in a little mountain valley at the back of beyond and in the midst of the Alpes Maritimes. It stands 1,000 ft. above sea level, and in order to get there you must ascend to a height of over 3,000 ft. before dropping down again into the valley. That which may be called the official method of getting there is by a tramway from Mentone, which curdles your blood for something like an hour and a half as it runs by the edge of precipices or along tall, slender viaducts, shooting out into space. If you do not go by tram you go by motor-car, and to those about to motor I would offer this advice. Go on a dry day and go up from Mentone rather than from Nice. To those who propose to go from Nice on a day of greasy roads, the only rational advice is that of Mr. Punch, "Don't."



Probably no nerves would be shattered on a dry day, but we went by way of Nice on a day of roads infinitely greasy and skiddy; we had the best of all drivers, and when at last we sat down to our good lunch at Sospel, a subtle glamour seemed to envelop our adventures. We began to forget the agonies of the "hairpin" turns, the ecstatic relief of the straight runs in between, and came to think that it had been all worry capital," but looking back on it now in cold blood I am sure none of the party want to do it again.

Some little way after Nice was passed – we came from Cannes – the road rose hardly at all; then it began to climb quite gently through a wonderful country of light-coloured, razor-backed rocks which looked as if they had been made by the

heaping-up of white sand in some gigantic hour-glass. Still the turns in the road were of no account, and we began to think that the people who had told us about the perils of Sospel had merely been trying to frighten us; they had affected to regard our setting out as a matter of some interest, much as the Americans were interested in Mark Tapley and Martin Chuzzlewit when they set out for Eden – because no one had ever come back.

Then without our exactly knowing how it happened the fun had begun; the smaller white rocks had given place to big black mountains; the wheels were refusing to grip the greasy mud, and we were holding on for dear life at the corners. The road over the Col Braus is a stupendous feat of engineering, of which the traveller only gets an adequate idea when he stops on the giddy brink to look down. At one corner the big car could not get round at the first attempt, and the passengers were only too pleased to get out while the driver backed gingerly towards the precipice. Then we peeped over the edge and saw where we had come from; we could count 13 turns in the road below us, and they justified their name, for they looked exactly like big yellow hairpins, laid out on the dark background of mountain. In some places the slope is so steep that the intervening ground is practically hidden from sight and you can only see three or four parallel layers of road, as it were, neatly packed one above the other down the hill-side. Along the side of the road runs a little low stone coping or wall, perhaps some 2 ft. in height, but it is the most defamatory wall I ever saw, for it always has a hole in it at just the most agonizing part of the corner, thereby suggesting, no doubt without any justification, that some other unfortunate traveller has just rushed headlong into space at that very corner.

All things, however, come to an end, and at last we reached 'the top of the pass and had leisure to look for a moment at the really splendid mountain view, big, dark, and exciting rather than absolutely beautiful, all around us. The next moment we were shown Sospel, a little cluster of roofs far, far beneath, and another series of "hairpin" turns to take us there. However, the rain had drawn a merciful line at the top of the pass, and on the other side the roads were dry. So we went down with light hearts, rejoicing in the dust; down, down, dropping as it seemed an incredible number of feet with every turn; having Sospel now behind us, now in front of us, now

losing it altogether as we twisted. Finally, we came to it – a little quiet village, with a row of old houses of bright colours and many balconies, set down in the bottom of a narrow Alpine valley, where the terraced hillsides soon turn into tall sheer mountains, between which a brisk, stony stream, the River Bevera, takes its way. A fort looks down on it from the top of a hill, for the Italian border is not far off; the garrison of Chasseurs Alpains, in their jolly blue bérêts, drill on their exercise ground; the ladies wash clothes; a very occasional mule pads up the road to Mentone, and all the rest of the world is a hundred miles away.



MERITS OF THE COURSE.

The valley looks so small, the mountains so close, that at first sight it would appear impossible that there should be 18 holes, but there are; and longer ones than anywhere else in the Riviera. Here there is more than pitching to be done; it is a matter of honest brassey shots and cleek shots; and what heavenly lies to play them from! The foot sinks gratefully into the soft, mossy turf, which is kept fresh and gives a pleasant little feeling of wetness by nightly frosts. Likewise, the ball sits up as if positively begging to be hit, but it must be hit high in the air with plenty of carry, for there is here not a yard of run to flatter the "scuffler." There is, on the other hand, a comfortably easy pace about the putting which is very soothing after greens of cast iron and greased lightning. In what the exact merits of the course consist it is very difficult to say. There are some fine hazards, noticeably a river, some trees, a stone wall or two; and there are a few – very few – artificial sand bunkers. On the whole the ground lies rather open than otherwise, and yet the golf is not in the very least easy, for there are such admirable natural undulations that very often no bunker is needed. The grassy hog's-back will turn away the slightly erring ball from the line and lose the player a stroke as remorselessly as any bunker will do.

The holes that I recollect the most vividly, however, have certainly something more than grassy slopes. The very first tee shot has to be struck with an arrow-like straightness between a stone wall on one side and a tall chalet, having somewhat the appearance of a pagoda, on the other – a beautiful shot, too good for the first hole. Then the sixth – if I am not shaky over my numbers – is a fine one-shot hole where the player tees the midst of a dry watercourse – the old course of the Bevera – and plays over a wilderness of boulders. The eighth, again, has a lovely tee shot over a stony stream, with trees and rough to right and left; and the ninth demands a skillful pitch over a wall on to a pretty terrace. But it is really futile to try to describe this course even though I must put in a good word for the 16th. With as fine a tee shot over the Bevera as you can imagine, you carry as much river as ever you dare in order to hit a full cleek shot home over another stone wall. The fact is Sospel is for some reason or other more baffling to the pen even than to the club. Just because I have never seen another course in the least like it, it ought to be easy to describe, and I find it almost wholly impossible. I only know that I am pining to go back – by the road from Mentone – and stay there and play all day long in that adorable valley.

It is only fair to Sospel to add two things – first, that the "hairpins" on the Mentone side left us quite unruffled, and we got home without so much as a tremor; secondly, that, though the place is something more than inaccessible at present, it will not be so always. A hotel is being built there and already towers high and imposing, and not nearly so ugly as are most hotels. Furthermore, a railway line is being made that will run from Nice to Milan, and will pass quite close to the course. When that is done then the golfers of Nice, if they be persons of any sense at all, will come pouring over to play. Just now Sospel must be said to be "marking time." Golfers are comparatively few there, and the arrival of a car sets all the small brown boyhood of the village buzzing like a swarm of bees.

This paper – and similar ones for the Riviera golf clubs – was reprinted in 2015, in a limited-edition booklet (200 copies) entitled: "The Riviera Golf Courses", Neil Crafter, editor and Dick Verinder, publisher.

Alexa Glover – 1884-1933

A few words on a great Champion

By JBK (Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak) & Patrick Didier



When searching on Mentone GC in the local newspapers, we often found references to Alexa Glover. As a naturally consequence, we wanted to learn more on her and we discover a golf champion which is not so well known. Here is a short summary of our findings.

Thomas Glover, a well-known civil engineer in India who supervised the building of Bombay Docks, was a one-digit handicap player which was often competing at St Andrews or West Herts as soon as the middle of the 1880. He had a son, Roger and a daughter Alexa, and both inherited their father's golf skills.

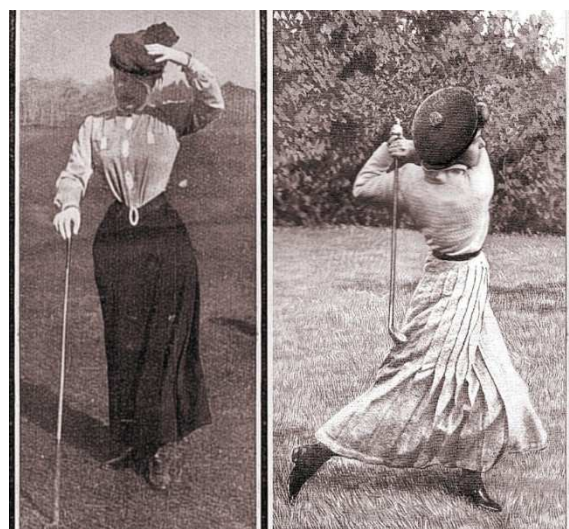
Miss Alexandra Malcolm Glover, usually called Alexa, was born in 1884 and liked playing golf. In order to improve her golf, she took lessons with Andrew H. Scott. She was only 14 years old when she won a scratch competition on the Elie and Earlsferry Ladies' Links, playing the round in 77. And we cannot resist to report here that on September 1900, playing on the same course the usual mixed foursome competition, Miss Alexa Glover playing with one hand – having not yet recover from her cycle accident – was only defeated in the final!

At that period, Alexa was also travelling with her father on the French Riviera. The first trace we could find is 1897. They were staying at the "Hôtel des Anglais", at Monte-Carlo. The following year, they returned back to Monte-Carlo, but they soon moved to Mentone and will stay there at different places: villa *Géna*, villa *Les Lucioles*, or staying at Windsor Palace Hotel.

In 1899 and until 1903, the family will spend the full season at Mentone, actively participating to the local festivities. There, Alexa, with her elder sister Daisy, joined the "*Comité des Fêtes*", and also the "International Club of Mentone". They will even fund a flowered corso in 1901 and, in

April of the same year, Alexa's father was among the first members of the newly instituted Tennis Club of Mentone.

When they first arrived on the French Riviera, the closest golf course was at Cannes. We have a noted presence of Alexa on the Cannes links on April 1903, but we just guess that the family certainly went there much earlier. Her handicap was plus two, which does not prevent her from winning the competition.



Countess Torby (left) and Alexa Glover

On November 15th, 1902, the Nice Golf Club is not open yet but Alexa is already playing on the course! The official opening was on January 26th 1903. The first drive was played by the countess Torby, wife of Grand Duke Michael of Russia, president of the Cannes GC. Less known is that the other lady sharing this opening game was

Alexa Glover ... who won this first official competition at Nice! And she also won the putting competition which was played just after.

At the end of the season 1903, on April the 7th, back on the links of the Nice GC, Alexa to win the first Nice Ladies' Championship.



Alexa Glover putting.

These great successes were announcing an even greater one. Travelling back home, Alexa registered to play the first Scottish Ladies (Close) Championship which was just instituted. She was the youngest player in the field! The play was at St Andrews, and Old Tom Morris, who was celebrating his 82nd birthday on the first day of the championship, was the official starter. There were 46 entrants for this competition and Alexa Glover won in the final against Molly Graham by one hole.

On 7th of July 1904, Thomas, her father, died at Earlsferry Home, Elie. Alexa will no longer return to Mentone ... except between 1921 and 1925, when she will stay at the Hôtel de Venise.

After the 1903 triumph at the Scottish Ladies, Alexa will not renew this feat but she was runner up in 1906 and 1910. She was a member of the Scottish team since 1902, and in 1904, 1905 and 1906, she will be captain of the national ladies' team, and once captain of the British Ladies team in a match against the United States – which was a precursor of the Curtis Cup.

During the British Ladies, as every year, a stroke competition was organised just before the main even. In 1905, at Cromer, Alexa Glover tied for the second place with Florence Hezlet. Alexa lost the play off and was listed third.



A postcard during the British Ladies, Cromer 1905.

She continued to play well and won matches before WWI, but we cannot resist to reprint here a paper from *The Evening Telegraph*: “Miss Alexa Glover, was charged at Cupar Sheriff Court of having on Friday 6th October 1905 driven dangerously within the High Street and St Andrews Road within the burgh of Anstruther at an excessive speed in a manner that was dangerous to James Lawrie builder, William Drysdale police constable and Alexander McHardy police sergeant, and other lieges who were then on the road causing the motor car to swerve from side to side on the roadway, and driving it round a corner at the junction of St Andrews Road and High Street without slackening speed. She pleaded not guilty and was defended by James Grosset solicitor Leven.

Police constable Drysdale, Anstruther, deponed that Miss Glover on the day in question was driving her car through the burgh at a speed of between ten and eleven miles per hour [...] Proceeding, McHardy said that Miss Glover had so often come through Anstruther and driven her car in such a reckless manner that the people came out of their houses to watch her as she passed. The sheriff found the charge established and fined Miss Glover the sum of £3. He said he could never sanction motor cars going through town and particularly at dangerous corners at so dangerous a speed as 10 miles per hour.”

In December 1933, Alexa Glover passed away in an Edinburgh nursing home as the result of pneumonia.

1962, Le Touquet golf stamp, a short story

Stéphan Filanovitch



The French Postal and Telecommunications Administration issued, on September 1st, 1962, a definitive stamp, dedicated to Le Touquet Paris-Plage. In the thematic collection, it is the fifth world stamp issued on golf.

The nineteenth century, with the increasing fashion for sea bathing, all the coasts show a big rise. If Deauville was launched by the Duke of Morny, during the Second Empire, it was thanks to M. de Villemessant and M. Dalloz for Le Touquet.

In early 1882, villas were built on the waterfront. The station grew steadily when in 1903 a new phase in the history of Le Touquet opened with the establishment of the "Touquet Syndicate Limited", founded by Allen Stoneham.

The golf course was opened in 1904, and in 1910 it was extended to 18 holes. Today, there are 45 holes to play on 3 golf courses.

Le Touquet-Paris-Plage is still one of the most popular resorts for English tourists and of course for French people from Paris.



The definitive stamp

Technical information:

Drawing and engraving by Jean PHEULPIN (1907-1991)

Horizontal format 21,45 x 36 mm

Perforation : 13

Colors: brown, green and blue

Panel of 50 stamps

Stamp drawn at 193 700 000 copies

Yvert N°1355



Full pane of 50 stamps

Jean Pheulpin was a famous designer; he realized more than 650 stamps.



FDC signed by the designer



Colour trial, pane of 50 stamps

Since 1923, the postal administration print Deluxe proof sheet, reserved and given to high government officials, and an average of 200 to 300 Deluxe Sheets are printed for each issue



Deluxe proof sheet printed by "Atelier de Fabrication des Timbres-Poste – Paris"

There is also another privilege, reserved from the same persons above, imperforate stamps.

For each new stamp issue were printed 24 sheets of 50 imperforate stamps which were available to the minister responsible and officials. Those who knew the value of these stamps sold them to specialized sellers whom divide the stamps in the 50 sheet pane. This "system" stop between 1997-2002



Imperforate stamp

There was a special printing in 1962, stamps with menthol gum at the back.



Normal gum and menthol gum

With a such production, (almost 194 millions copies), it was certain that there would be printing errors, called "varieties".

The term "error" has a specific definition for stamp collectors: it describes a major deviation from the normal stamp. Other kinds of errors include missing colors, wrong ink color, wrong paper, completely missing perforations, or mistakes in watermarks or overprints.



Green Beach

This variety was on all sheet of 50, in case 27, 28 29 and 30, from the 10th printing (from August 31th to September 14th, 1964).



Sailboat under the plane



Blue beach



No line under "République Française"



Wiping

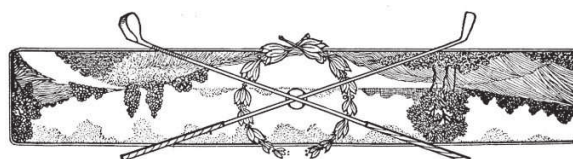


Green golfbag



On June 15 th, 1998 a postal stationary was issued.

To conclude this story, this stamp has been taken off the market on December 31 th, 1967.



La Nivelle Golf Club From dark years to renewal (1936 – 1948)

By Guy Lalanne



The British holidaymakers introduced golf in Béarn region and the Basque Country as soon as the 19th century. If in the past they were rather used to spend their holidays in the Poitou region and they got soon attracted by the sunny autumns and less harsh winters. The British colony, including numerous military persons, became very important on the Basque coast, especially from November to May. For their pleasure, it soon appears essential to open golf clubs in tourist resorts.

In 1868, 800 British lived during winter in Saint-Jean-de-Luz and Ciboure. Thus, in 1856, the Pau Golf Club was created, then Biarritz (1888), Sainte-Barbe at Saint-Jean-de-Luz (1893), La Nivelle at Ciboure (1907) and Abbadia in Hendaye (1910).



A postcard from the turn of the century featuring the Itchoubaita farm and the future golf holes 1, 2, 17 and 18 before the creation of the course.

A company named “*Jeux et Sports*” was born on October 29, 1907 of which the constitutive general assembly was held on November 10th, 1907; Mr Mussat becoming the first president. In 1908, the company bought a domain of 60 ha (148 acres) to the heirs Leremboure constituted by a quarry still in activity which was in its middle; the limestone that was extracted and used for the consolidation of protective dykes in the bay that had been completed twenty years ago.

Many traders and local celebrities entered this company in order to create the “*Golf de La Nivelle*”. The quarry closed down in 1911 and was bought by the company, increasing the size of the land up to 154 acres.

In 1913, the central part of the golf course on the hill (4 ha 33 ca) was sold to Mr de la Ville le Roux, who transferred it the following year to Mr Cartier. The *Lohobia* chalet, built in 1875, was transformed into a golf house which was remodelled, between 1921 and 1924, by the architect Saint-Germier.



The Lohobia chalet, around 1910, before it was transformed.

The golf course was designed by the English professional player J. H. Taylor and was inaugurated in November 1909 and the years 1910 to 1930 were prosperous for La Nivelle where Arnaud Massy was the local pro.

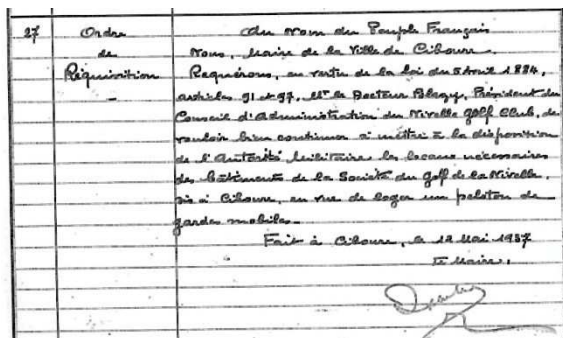


Hand-painted postcard, by Bagnolo. In the background a small caption reads "Massy en reste comme 2 ronds de flan" which could be translated as "Massy was flabbergasted".

But new golf courses were opening in Saint-Jean-de-Luz (Links of Sainte-Barbe) in 1927 and even more significantly, at Chantaco in 1928. This large number of golf courses in a small area and the decreasing number of British golfers after the 1929 crisis, made the management of La Nivelles golf club more difficult and the club was in deficit after 1932.

In 1936, the managers accepted a proposal from Chantaco: for an amount of 200 000 FF plus an annual fee of 30 000 FF, the practice of golf at Ciboure – La Nivelles, was forbidden for a period of twelve years.

After 1937 and the Spanish Civil War, the arrival of massive emigration of thousands of refugees, especially in the harbour of Saint-Jean-de-Luz and Ciboure, plus the French soldiers along the border, the days will become even darker. In May, State services were requisitioning the buildings of La Nivelles golf club to house the first squad of mobile guards who were in charge of strengthening the police services to control the border with Spain. A second squad joined it in June.



Order of requisitioning, signed by the Major of Ciboure.

The Spanish Civil War ended in April 1939, but soon after, France went to war against Germany. The fighting stopped on June 22, 1940, but the armistice was followed by the arrival of German troops on June 27. Ciboure was in the occupied zone and many places were prohibited, with requisitions of houses, hotels, casinos ... for German troops. La Nivelles golf club was not going to escape, and not only the buildings! The club house and the golf course as well as the Regina hotel (facing the golf course) were occupied throughout the war. The terrace of the hotel was even equipped with a machine-gun in front of the club house.



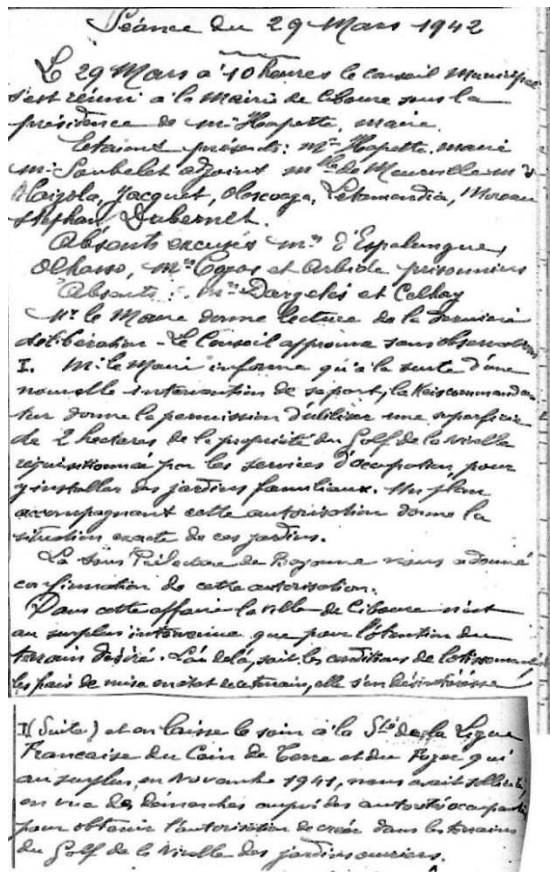
Arrival of German troops in Ciboure, June 1940.

These troops were horse-drawn, so it was necessary to find space with grass for the horses ... which were positioned on what was left of the golf course. The course became a training field for the troops; a shooting stand was set up in the quarry, at the centre of the golf course; trenches and tanks built all over the course which was no longer maintained since its closure in 1936.

In those dark years, the few sheep grazing the grass were abandoned to a sad fate.

On March 29, 1942, the Ciboure City Council announced that, after its request, "the Kreiscommandantur had granted permission to use 5 acres of the golf ground requisitioned by the occupation services to install allotment gardens."

The cost of setting up the ground was the responsibility of the "Société de la Ligue française du Coin de terre et du Foyer" which in November 1941 had asked the city council to approach the German authorities in order to create allotments.



Council deliberation, March 29th, 1942, in order to creating allotments on the golf course

In 1944, Dr Blazy was president of the “*Société des Jeux et Sport*”, which was owning the golf course. He was a member of the Resistance network *Nivelle-Bidassoa*, as was another director of the club, Jean-Baptiste Laffargue, a well-known saddler in Saint-Jean-de-Luz.

This network was collecting information which was forwarded to the British consulate, in San Sebastián, also organizing crossings of the border. This network was harshly hit during the Allied landing. Messrs Blazy and Laffargue were part of the roundup on June 8th, 1944 at Saint-Jean-de-Luz, Ciboure and Hendaye. Philippe Blazy died in deportation to Dachau and Jean-Baptiste Laffargue to Hersbruck. At the time of their arrest, all the archives they had brought home at the closing of the golf course were seized by the Gestapo and never seen again. The Germans left Ciboure at the end of August 1944 which was then controlled by the FFI until the end of the war.

Concerning the golf course which had not been maintained for 12 years, it was impossible to

recognize anything. The aerial pictures of the IGN¹ from 1946 show natural areas with trenches often in ziz-zag, craters and areas where natural vegetation quickly took over. No more trace of a green or a sand-bunker (hazard).

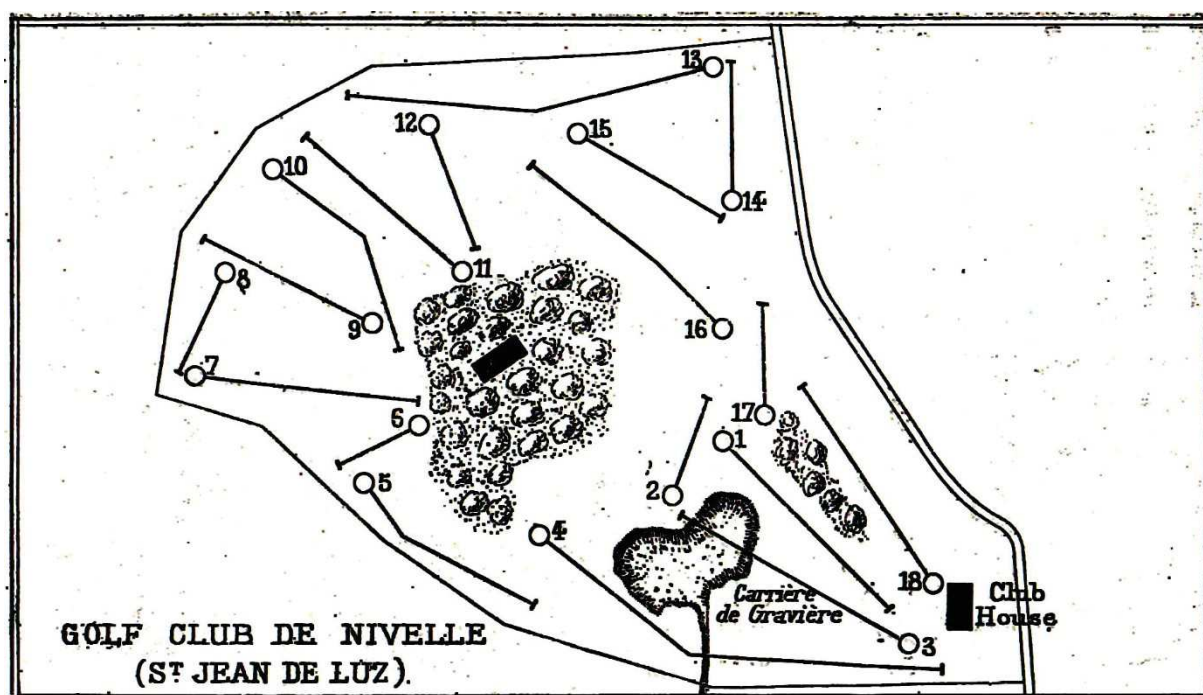
Bernard de Coral, Léon Fourneau, the generals Vincendon and Laporte, François de Bagneux, Gaston Pommereau and Simone Blazy (the sister of the past president who died in deportation), so committed to their golf-club of La Nivelle, negotiated the breach of the agreement with Chantaco in order to relaunch the complete reconstruction of the course. In accordance with the rules of the brand-new French Golf Federation, the “*Société des Jeux et Sport*” accepted, in 1947, the creation of a (non-profit) Sports Association, according to the 1901 law. The purpose of this Association, named *Golf de La Nivelle*, being to play golf, tennis and other sports on the land made available by the *Society of Games and Sports*, whose first president was Dr Dotezac.

François de Bagneux was the true architect of the reconstruction of the golf first and a technical advisor and then its director. The original design, by J.H. Taylor was fully modified. The initial length, 4780 m in 1909, was increased to 4860 m in 1925, then 4975 m in 1948 (nowadays it is 5578 m).

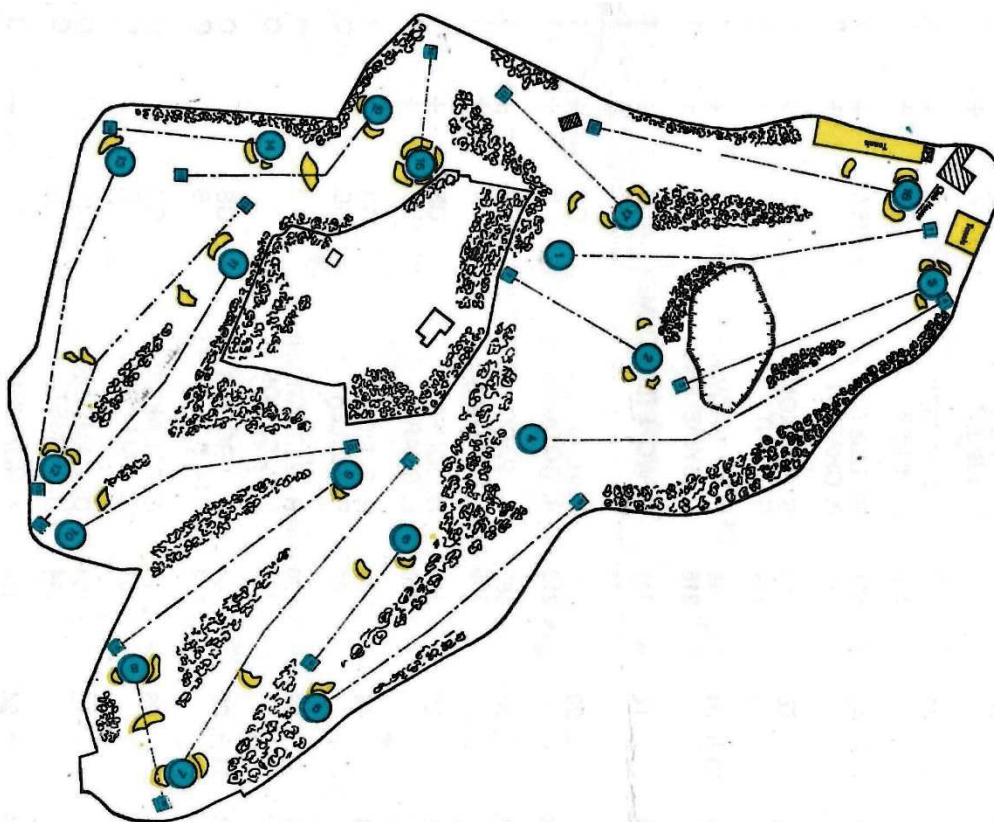
In 1948, the tees and the new greens were remade and several were moved, but the biggest change was the removal of the hole 15 (par 3 downhill) and its replacement by another par 3, 110 m long, near the property Olhaberrieta on the highest point of golf, number 16 while the old 16 became the 15, lying on part of the old 15.

The new golf course finally resumed its activities in 1948 under the leadership of Count François de Bagneux (vice-champion of France in 1934). A sale of land to Mr Clausse in 1953, the construction of the road of Ascaïn in 1960, that of the Basque Coast highway (deviation of Saint-Jean-de-Luz) in 1968 and some exchanges with the town council decreased the area of golf, which was 48 hectares in 2018 including 4 ha located outside the course. But they were cut by the highway which amputated the golf course of one hectare and a half and has required a major additional modification of the course which impacted, among others, hole 16 created in 1948, removed in 1974 and replaced by the new hole 5.

¹ IGN is the Geographic National Institute.



Above, map of the course in 1927 (Plumon Guide – Golfs of Continental Europe).
Below, map of the course in 1954.

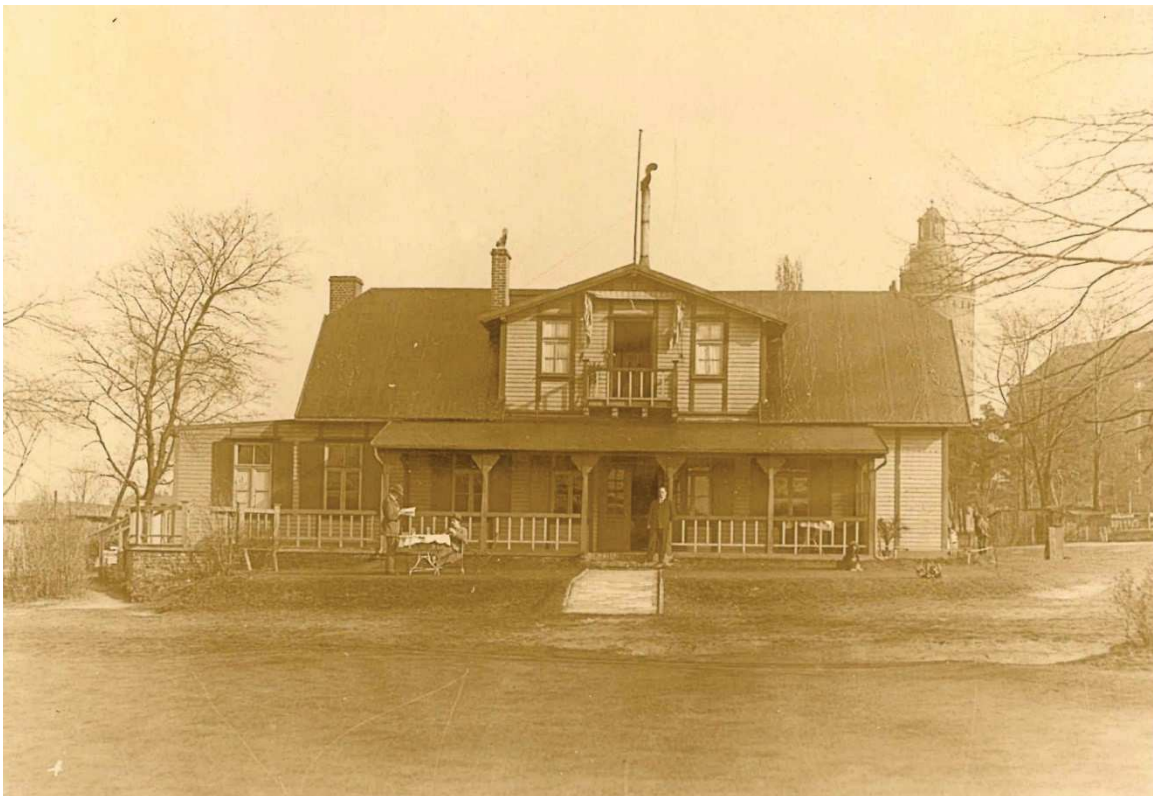


Spy Games in Berlin

By Olaf Dudzus



125 years ago, in May 1894, the Charlottenburger Golf-Club was founded by 7 gentlemen in Berlin. The club was renamed Berlin Golf Club the following year. Since 1924 and until today the club is called Golf- und Land-Club Berlin Wannsee. The club was originally located south of the Spandauer Damm in Berlin-Westend, where its members played over a 9-hole course. In 1907, the year the German Golf Federation was founded, a new course with a clubhouse was opened north of Spandauer Damm.



The original clubhouse from 1907 at Berlin-Westend

Those of you who like spy stories will certainly know the novels of John Le Carré or Iain Fleming. While Le Carré's protagonist George Smiley is described as "small, fat and of quiet temperament" quasi anti-hero, James Bond acts as a smart, vain, well-trained macho with the license to possibly kill his opponents, though acting as a complete alternative.

However, the reality of a secret agent's life, is in any case much more prosaic.

What both novel heroes though have in common is that they work for the British intelligence service MI6, which, like its sister organization, the domestic secret service MI5, was officially founded in October 1909 (as the Secret Service Bureau) during the reign of Herbert Asquith.

The foundation of both institutions appears to be a logical consequence of the Morocco crisis (1908) which led to a rampant hysterical fear of agents spying the military secrets of the British Empire on orders of the German Emperor.

Little is known about the early activities of both intelligence services. This is most probably not due to a lack of meaning or lack of success, but above all due to strict secrecy. Still half a century later, the biographers of Asquith and other senior government officials were unsure of since when the services existed. At the same time Winston Churchill², one of the initiators and most intense supporters of intelligence services, does not mention the secret service with a single word in his eight-volume autobiography. In fact, it was not until the late 1980s that the British public learned of the existence of the secret services.

Berlin Golf Club

Foreign diplomats were involved with the Berlin Golf Club since its foundation. Until 1917 the respective ambassadors of Great Britain and the USA were honorary club presidents. The British attachés, in particular those attached to the Royal Navy, also regularly happened to be serving the Naval Intelligence Service.

Very often Berlin proved to be an important step for the career ladder. Philip Wylie Dumas³, naval attaché in Berlin from 1906 to 1908, made a steep career step from 1914 on, which was crowned with the appointment as Admiral in 1928.

His successor, Herbert Heath⁴, who had the task of monitoring the rearmament of the German deep-sea fleet, soon fell out of favour with the German Emperor, when he was accused of spreading lies and agitating against Germany. He already took part in the Skagerrak 1916 naval battle in the rank of a Royal Navy Rear Admiral. After being promoted to Admiral, he became Commander-in-Chief of the Naval Forces off the Scottish coast.

Heath's successor, Captain Hugh Watson⁵, did not become a board member of Berlin Golf Club, nevertheless he was one of the more regularly playing members. He also finished his career in the rank of a Royal Navy Admiral.

The Berlin Golf Club had big plans. In 1912 the International Olympic Committee decided that Berlin should become the venue of the 1916 Olympic Games, as a consequence the club name was Germanized into "Golf Club Berlin". Also the project of a new 18-hole course in Wannsee evolved on land, which The Emperor had promised to the club as early as 1906⁶.

It therefore only seems too logical that the club thought to install a professional club management given its significantly increased membership. So far, only honorary secretaries had done the administrative work and in the fall of 1913 Mr. R. Fletcher became the first full-time golf club secretary in Germany.

Together with his compatriot C.S. Butchart, who was installed as golf professional in Berlin-Westend since 1911 Fletcher was then responsible for the new course at Wannsee⁷. Barely three months after Mr. Fletcher had been introduced to the readers of the sports magazine "Lawn Tennis and Golf", Germany declared war on its European neighbours.

While the British golf professional working in Germany were soon able to enjoy the somewhat dubious hospitality of the English camp "Engländerlager" in Ruhleben, Mr Fletcher was spared this fate. On the contrary, the outbreak of the war marks the beginning of an amazing career for Mr Fletcher that would not easily be trusted by a golf club secretary.

On September 19, 1914, the Lieutenant of Reserve Fletcher reports to the service in the Royal Navy. In 1915, he took part in the battle of Gallipoli as Lieutenant-Commander. The result of this battle was, that responsible naval minister Winston Churchill lost his job, which until the end of his life, he perceived as the greatest dishonour.

² Minister of Trade (1908-1910), Minister of the Interior (1910-1911), from 1911 Minister of the Royal Navy in the first cabinet of Herbert H. Asquith

³ Board member of Berlin Golf Club 1908

⁴ Vice-President Berlin Golf Club from 1910 to 1911

⁵ Naval Attaché in Berlin until 1913

⁶ "Kaiser's Gift to Golfers", Aberdeen Press and Journal dating 16.11.1906, p.3

⁷ Daily Mail, Continental Edition, 27.10.1913, p.6

Reginald Thomas Herbert Fletcher (1885-1961) career however develops fine as he climbs up step by step to the highest state offices during the next three decades.

After the Great War, he joined the Naval Intelligence Service. As head of the "Near East Section" he serves Admiral Hugh Sinclair, who takes over the leadership of the Secret Service in 1923.

Fletcher, a so-called "G Officer", belongs to a small group of executives for overseas activities. His political commitment to the Liberals and later for the Labor Party will make him become a member of the parliament at the House of Commons.

After a recommendation of Winston Churchill, he becomes Private Secretary to the First Seaford of the Admiralty during Britain's darkest hours. Gentle as Lord Winster of Witherslack he rises to the post of Minister of Civil Aviation in the Cabinet of Clement Attlee rises in 1942. The final highlight of his career is the appointment as Governor of Cyprus from 1946 to 1949.



Mr. R. Fletcher,

"If he was a bit stronger with the woods, he would be in the plus class with his handicap."

⁸ In Montana he won the Sir Henry Lunn Scratch-Trophy against a plus one handicapper playing over 36 holes.

⁹ Uxbridge & W. Drayton Gazette, 30.10.1909, p. 10

The photo in the German magazine "Lawn Tennis and Golf" shows a smart, well-dressed young man of twenty-seven, who had just started his second job as a golf club secretary, after having worked for the Crans Montana Golf Club in Switzerland.

The article also confirms his extreme nerve strength, which helped him win the Sir Henry Lunn Scratch Cup⁸ among other trophies.

Is it likely that Mr Fletcher is a civilian given that his military career began in 1899 as a midshipman? Doesn't his appearance as a golf club secretary seem to be the camouflage for completely different tasks?

Little is known about the personal environment of Lord Winster today, as so far, no historian has dealt with him.

Reginald Fletcher was born as the son of mathematician Nicholas Richard Fletcher (1848-1905) and his wife Dinah Wright (born 1849). In addition to a brother who died as an infant he has two sisters as well as four half-siblings from a previous marriage of his mother.

His half-sister Annie, twenty-one years older than him, is married to the officer Percy W. Pontifex (1873-1908), who as a 24-year-old already commands Royal Navy destroyer.

On October 13, 1909, Reginald entered an arranged marriage with Elspeth Lomax, daughter of an Anglican clergyman, seven years his senior.

The wedding without groomsmen takes place in the closest family circle. Nevertheless, a newspaper report⁹ gives the names of the participants of the subsequent wedding celebration and also lists all wedding presents received.

The honeymoon trip is a gift by Lady Adeline Duchess of Bedford. This is all the more remarkable as four years later her nephew Alick Russell¹⁰, coinciding with the involvement of Reginald Fletcher, is not only a member of the diplomatic corps at Berlin, but also board

¹⁰ Alexander Victor Frederick Villiers Russell (1874-1965), great-grandson of John Russell, see also footnote 10

member of the Berlin Golf Club though co-determining the club's destiny.

The Russell family and especially the Dukes of Bedford and their descendants had significant political influence¹¹. To move in these circles was certainly not a detriment to a military and / or political career.

However, the wedding guests included Sir Francis Bridgeman, Vice-Admiral of the Royal Navy and since March 1909 Second Sea Lord¹² of the Admiralty. This contact cannot be overestimated, as Sir Francis was promoted to First Sea Lord barely two years later and was then directly subordinated to Marine Minister Winston Churchill.

As Mr. Fletcher's family was neither rich nor noble, he needed to have exceptional skills that must have caught the attention of his superiors in the highest circles of politics.

It seems utterly absurd that such a hopeful talent of the Royal Navy should be forced to feed his wife on the salary of a golf club secretary.



Reginald Fletcher at Berlin-Westend, c.1914

His later acquaintance with the humanist, doctor, athlete and tour operator Sir Henry Lunn¹³, rounds off the evidence of links to highest government circles, which gave the impetus for the establishment of British intelligence services in 1909.



A group of golfers with Reginald Fletcher

Sir Henry Lunn is not only like Fletcher (later) a member of the Liberal Party, but also a close friend of Herbert Asquith, Prime Minister for the Liberal Party from 1908 to 1916. After his spectacular change from the Conservatives Winston Churchill also belonged to the Liberal Party from 1904 onwards.

In October 1909 the Secret Service Bureau went into lead by Mansfield Smith-Cumming, the legendary "C".

What a coincidence it is that on October 13, 1909, Fletcher entered an inconspicuous marriage with a lay sister of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem only to appeal to the good wishes and gifts of the admiralty, aristocrats, and high clergy to continue his life as a golf club secretary?

Probably not.

Much more likely it is, that Fletcher's golfing skills inspired Iain Fleming when he created the legendary golf match between the villain Goldfinger and 007 aka James Bond.

Translated by Christoph Meister, March 2019

¹¹ With John Russell, 1st Earl of Russell, the family even has a Prime Minister (1846-1852 and 1865-1866) among its ranges.

¹² Incidentally, Francis Bridgeman (1848-1929) succeeds Sir George Egerton, father-in-law of the aforementioned Philip Wylie Dumas (1868-1948).

¹³ Today Henry Lunn's company is part of Lunn Poly, a subsidiary of TUI UK & Ireland, a company of the German TUI Group AG.

An object, a champion: Dave Thomas, 1959

Stéphane Filanovitch



In July 1959, Dave Thomas won the French Open at La Boulie. As a tradition, he received the Cup, and also a replica he could keep. Two years ago, in an auction, I had the chance to get this replica.

David Charles Thomas (16 August 1934 / 27 August 2013) was a Welsh professional golfer and renowned golf course architect. He also represented Great Britain in the Ryder Cup on four occasions, in 1959, 1963, 1965 and 1967.

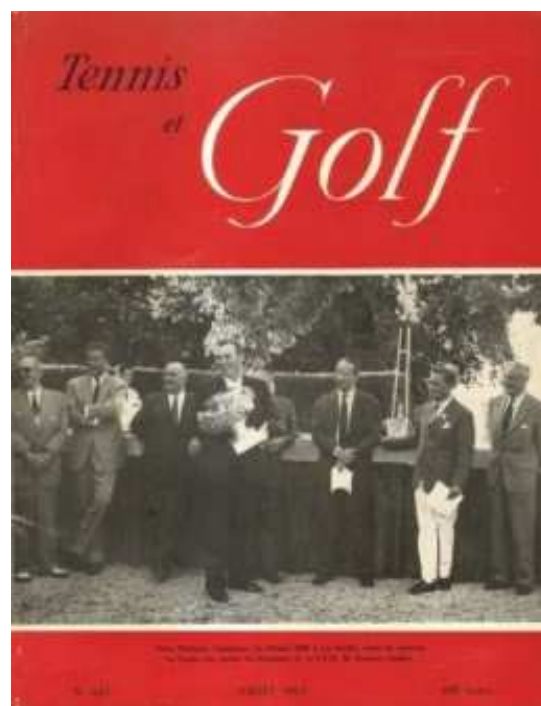
Dave Thomas final score:
71 + 70 + 67 + 68 = 276.



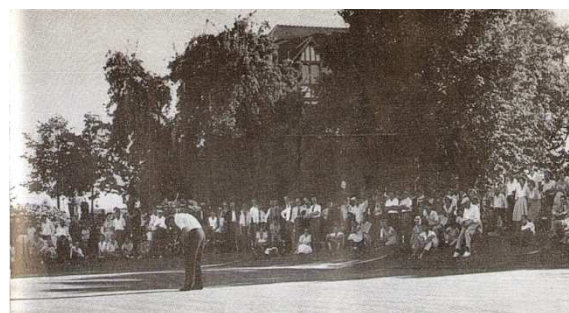
The replica given to the winner

When he came to play the French Open, they were a lot of great players such as H. Weetman, P. Thomson, H. Henning, P. Alliss, F. Van Donck, H. Cotton, J. Garaialde. Only Gary Player who just won the British Open and had to go back to States, was absent.

After two rounds Dave was in third position, with a score of 141. The third day, with a 67, he took the lead of the tournament. The last day, with a 68, Dave secured his victory with 3 points advance, and won, with a total of 276.



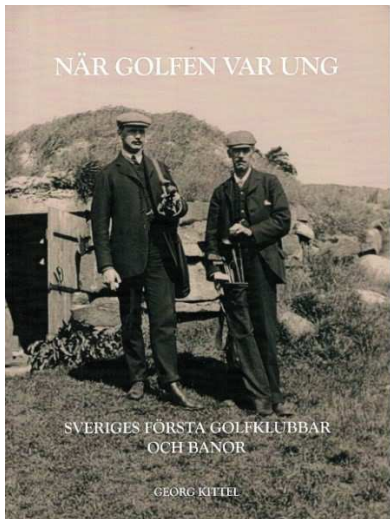
Dave Thomas received the Cup, from the FFG President, Jacques Légise (Tennis et Golf N°463)



The last putt at La Boulie (Tennis et Golf N°463)

Reading books

När golfen var ung - Sveriges Första Golfklubbar och banor. By Georg Kittel (in Swedish)



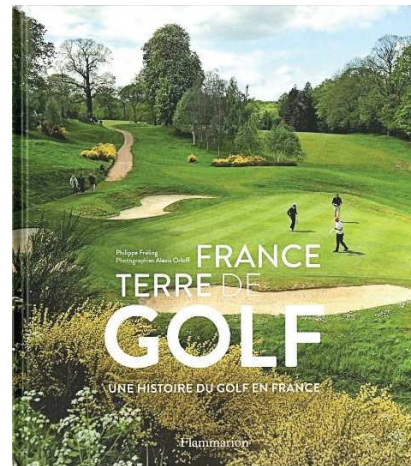
The title “När golfen var ung - Sveriges Första Golfklubbar och banor” can be translated into “When golf was young – Sweden's First Golf Clubs and Courses”. The book was written by our dear member Georg Kittel and published by the Swedish Society of Golf Historians.

Yes, the book is written in Swedish, but I’m sure that you’ll really enjoyed to browse the pages, as I did – and I’m not speaking any Swedish! In the first section, you’ll find a describe of the 60 first golf clubs in Sweden, in chronological order – 10 of them are no longer existing. In the next section, Georg is presenting the 50 first golf courses, also in chronological order. As, for example, Stockholms Golfklubb has had five different locations for its courses since it was established in 1904.

Of course, this book is in Swedish, but even if you are not reading the language, you would love to get this book of 132 pages (large format) as the illustrations are just fantastic and very rarely seen! It deserves a hurrah!

2 000 copies were printed but many are already sold (750 of them have just been distributed to all the members of the Swedish Society of Golf Historians and 950 copies have been purchased by about 30 golf clubs. Should any reader be interested in purchasing a copy please write to info@golfhistoriska.se. The price is SEK 149 + SEK 130 in postage, which is about € 27.

France Terre de Golf. Une histoire du golf en France. By Philippe Fréling. Phot. Alexis Orloff. Flammarion Ed.



In contrary to Sweden, there are already several books on the history of the game in France, so I was really wondering if it was worth reading it. After a few pages, there is no doubt: this is a book you must have in your library. It’s not just a classical history. It is adding a part on club-houses, life-style and competitions. It is ending with some testimonials from key persons in golf in France.

Last but not least, most of the pictures are from Alexis Orloff. He is spending his life on golf courses taking pictures for books, magazines and newspapers. His sensitivity can be easily recognized through the pictures.

The book is published by Flammarion; price is 29.90 €.

Preparing Next EAGHC Meeting Rosendaelsche GC & Bleijenbeek (The Netherlands)

All members should have received the information. This is just a reminder. Our next EAGH meeting will be held on 16, 17 and 18 September in the Netherlands.

We urge our members to book as soon as possible at the “Postillion Hotel Arnhem” as there might be some limitation in the number of available rooms.

Monday 16 & Tuesday 17. Rosendaelsche GC



- 09:00 Welcome
- 09:30 Trading Session
- 11:45 Group Picture
- 12:00 Lunch (club house)
- 13:30 Lectures
- 16:00 Annual General Meeting
- 17:30 Drinks
- 19:00 Annual Dinner



Second day

- 09:00 Coffee
- 10:00 Lectures
- 11:45 Second Group Picture
- 12:00 Lunch (sandwiches)
- 13:00 Hickory Invitational
- 17:00 Price giving & drinks



Wednesday 18. Bleijenbeek – Golf Museum And Hickory Open



- 09:00 Welcome
- 09:45 Lecture by Robin Bargmann
- 10:15 Visiting the Dutch Golf Museum
- 11:15 Group Photo & Sandwiches buffet
- 12:00 Hickory open competition
- 17:00 Refreshments
- 18:30 Prize giving – Award ceremony
- 19:00 BBQ
- 22:00 Departure by bus



The International Hickory Open in 2018

Massy at the opening of the Aberdeen Balnagask Golf Club



This text was initially published in the Aberdeen Journal, dated August 10th, 1905. Not only this text is plenty of humour – which would have been sufficient to share these pages with our readers – but it shows that in summer 1905 Arnaud Massy was already a well-known golfer who was invited for an opening ceremony. The Balnagask GC is located one mile and half from the city centre of Aberdeen. The initial laid out was made by Archie Simpson. Later modifications were designed by James Braid (in the 1920s) and then Hawtree in 1976.



Aberdeen seen from Balnagask (Postcard, Valentine ed.)

Speech by Sir J. W. Crombie.

The new course of the Balnagask Golf Club, Aberdeen, was declared open yesterday afternoon by Sir J. W. Crombie, M.P., in presence of officials and members the club and a large and representative company of city golfers. Additional interest was lent to the proceedings by a game – three rounds the course – between the well-known French golfer, Arnaud Massy,

the North Berwick professional, and Archie Simpson, the Royal Aberdeen professional. The course, which extends to 12 holes, is splendidly situated, being bounded on the north and east by the navigation channel and Greyhope Bay.

The greens have been formed with excellent turf from the grounds of House; the whole course has been top dressed and sown, and any objectionable stones removed. The grounds are

close to the Balnagask terminus of the city tramway, the first tee and the last green being within sight of the car. The opening took place at the first tee, where very large number of ladies and gentlemen had assembled.

The president's remarks.

Mr G. F. Duthie, president the club, presided. At the outset intimated that he had received letters apology for attendance from Mr F. T. Garden, advocate, and Principal Iverach, both of whom took an active interest in the welfare and success the club. He was sorry that Mr Clow, the secretary, was absent, on account having met with a rather severe accident. Clow was one the most enthusiastic officials they had, and they regretted very much his absence that day. On behalf of the council of the club, he desired to offer a hearty welcome to the large company present.

The course, four months ago, was an ordinary farm. They would now find a wonderful change brought about by the energy of the Course Committee, the convener which was Mr Dunn, who was well supported Mr Ross in bringing about this desirable result. The course was not perfect; any person who knew anything about a golf course was aware that it could not be perfected in four months. But he was perfectly satisfied that in a very short time the course would be one of the most attractive – should he say in the kingdom? – (laughter) – well, if not, he was prepared to say in Scotland. (Applause.)

The scenery was magnificent, and was practically unknown to the majority of the people in Aberdeen. Many those present would have come to see the game between Massy and Simpson. Massy, as most of them were aware, held a distinguished place among golfers, and what Simpson did not know about golf must something, very wonderful indeed. (Laughter and applause.) Whether it was a coincidence, or whether arranged, there were Scots and French hobnobbing there that afternoon, while in the south the English Fleet were hobnobbing with the French Fleet.

He was delighted to see members other clubs the city present; their presence confirmed what was really their intention – that the Balnagask Club was not intended in any way to be opposition to any other (Applause.).

The formation of the club was the result of the circumstances which many knew. They had a number of clubs in Aberdeen, but they had only three courses – the Balgownie, the Links, and the attractive one at The Bieldside.

The number of players of golf was steadily increasing, and it was felt absolutely necessary that another should be provided. That was why they procured and lead out the Balnagask course.

Another reason was that they should have an unregistered golf in the city. Some of their friends who seemed particularly anxious for their welfare, described the club as a teetotal one. (Laughter.) The same conditions which admitted members to other clubs in the city would also permit of players being admitted members the Balnagask Club. (Applause.)

Continuing, the chairman referred to golf as being a most invigorating pastime, and of much benefit, mentally and physically, to individuals. It was also a game that called for the exercise of much restraint in the matter of language. (Laughter and applause.) They were all delighted see Mr Crombie present, and he had pleasure in calling upon Mr Crombie to declare the course open.

Humorous speech by Crombie.

Mr Crombie, who was received with applause, said he did not know which he should congratulate most – the Balnagask Golf Club on its enterprise in obtaining that magnificent course, or the people of Torry in having a golf course in their midst. As the representative of Torry, he was always exceedingly anxious that it should have every claim on advancing civilisation. (Laughter.) He knew that Torry was admirably advanced in its civilisation already. They had some excellent churches, some excellent schools, a public library, and a very conspicuous prison. (Laughter.)

Speaking entirely from an external knowledge of the latter, he believed it was one of the best conducted in Scotland. (Renewed laughter.) Notwithstanding all these things, they could not claim to be civilised until they had a golf course, and he was very glad that the Torry folks could hold up their heads among the nations, and claim all the essentials of civilisation. (Applause.)

He did not say that golf was invented in this century, because they all knew that in Scotland it was played for hundreds of years, and they were that moment looking across at a club which was at least 100 years old – Royal Aberdeen. (Applause.)

They taught their English neighbours to play the game, and also sent missionaries from Scotland to educate the heretics and heathen in France. (Laughter.) That day they had with them a brilliant exponent of Continental golf in Arnaud Massy, who came from Biarritz —(applause)— and he could assure them from observation that there was hardly an important place amusement in France now that did not claim golf course of its own.

Mr Duthie had spoken of the "Entente Cordiale," and seemed to claim that had been to some extent fostered by golf. He (Mr Crombie) had no doubt of it. (Applause.) He had no doubt the Frenchman was taught by John Bull how to get out of a bunker" – (laughter) – and he was taught a great many of his good qualities, as he certainly had learned a great deal of his bad language. (Great laughter.)

The whole population from the Prime Minister downwards was divided into two classes – those who could play golf and those who not – (laughter) – but there was also the small class who could not play golf, and knew that they could not – those he might call the conscious duffers. (Laughter.) Those constituted a most useful class, because when there was a golf course to be opened and the first ball to be driven off, they must employ some of those duffers to do it. (Great laughter.) In the first place, these created no jealousy, and in the second place they even evoked pity. (Laughter.)

He did not want to throw away any modesty that the House of Commons had left him – (laughter) – but they were greatly to be congratulated having obtained two very eminent duffers for that occasion. (Laughter.) Although he could not play golf like his friend Mr Duthie, had studied the philosophy of the game, and found that the golfer was exactly like a lady.

Every lady once a time had a love affair, and every golfer once in the course of his life played one specially good game. (Laughter.) It came like a love affair – quite suddenly. (Laughter.) He went down to the links, and instead foozling or

topping his drive, the ball went from the tee like a bullet from rifle. (Laughter.) His approach shots all lay on the green, and when he took his putter the ball ran into the hole – (laughter) – the consequence being that he made a "bogey" score. (Renewed laughter.)

He went home the proudest man in England – (laughter)— he did not sleep, but passed a feverish, wakeful night, and came out next morning to renew his triumph; but the spell was broken – (laughter) – and for the rest of his life went on foozling, topping, and slicing, and pathetically told them that he was off his game. (Laughter.) He was exactly like the lady who had a love affair, and looked back upon it, hoping, notwithstanding old age and decrepitude, that someday she might have another. (Laughter.)

There was only one consolation for the bad golfer, and that was the fine scenery. (Laughter.) He had always noticed that fishermen, when they caught no fish, said it was not the fish they came for, but to listen to the murmuring the stream – (laughter) – and enjoy the perfume the trees – (renewed laughter) – and those of them who came there, and did not play well, which he hardly believed they would – (laughter) – would have the pleasure of enjoying the beautiful scenery, and would thus be able to console themselves for their bad play – (Laughter and applause.) He had great pleasure in deflating the golf course open.

First drive by Mrs Crombie.

The Chairman said that the council thought it was desirable they should get a lady to drive off the first ball; they were fortunate in having Mrs Crombie, who would perform the duty. (Applause.) They had pleasure in presenting Mrs with a for the purpose of carrying out her little duty. The club bore the following inscription: – "Presented to Mrs Crombie on the occasion of the opening at Balnagask golf course. – Aberdeen, 9th August".

Mrs Crombie returned thanks for the gift. After the company had been photographed by Mr W. Dunn, Mrs Crombie, amidst much enthusiasm, drove off the first ball.

Mr Adam Maitland expressed the indebtedness of the club to Colonel Davidson for his assistance in acquiring the ground for the course, and to Mrs Davidson for the beautiful cup she had presented

for competition. They were also indebted to Mr Simpson for his valuable assistance in the laying out the course. His special duty was to propose a vote of thanks to Mr Crombie for having performed the opening of the ceremony, and to Mrs Crombie for having driven off the first ball in so graceful and efficient a manner. (Applause.)

Mr Crombie returned thanks behalf of his wife and his own behalf.

On the call of Mr William Sangster (Messrs Sangster and Henderson) a hearty vote thanks was accorded to the chairman for presiding.

Congratulations from other clubs.

In the course of the afternoon tea was provided to all those present. At an opportune time, on the invitation of Mr G. F. Duthie, representatives of other city clubs – Messrs M. M. Duncan (Royal Aberdeen), John Thomson (Victoria), Fraser (Bon-Accord), and C. W. Duff (Deeside) congratulated the Balnagask Club the opening of their new course, and wished it every success in the future.

On the call of Mr Robert Dunn, three cheers were given for Mr G. F. Duthie for active part he had shown in the interests of the club, and in the proceedings that day.

Interesting game.

The match between Massy and Simpson was followed with great interest by a large and appreciative crowd. The first two rounds were played immediately after the opening ceremony, and the third was made at six o'clock.

At the first hole Archie had the advantage of the lane and the lie, and got down in 3 to 4. At the second hole Massy twice pulled out of bounds from the tee, but taking his cleeck for his third try he laid his ball within two feet of the hole amid applause, and the Frenchman, after all, succeeded in getting a half in 4. At the third hole Massy had the straighter drive, but Archie had the better second, lying the green. The Frenchman, however, pulled off a half in 4. At the fourth Archie had a good try for a 3, but just lipped the hole, and was stymied with his fourth, and a half in 5 was called. At the fifth both pulled

their drives, into the rough ground to the right, and Archie alone found his ball. Massy gave up the hole, while the Royal Aberdeen professional holed out in 4, and stood 2 up on the match. A bad second and third at the sixth cost Massy the hole. Archie had fair chance of 4, but it cost him 5, to Massy's 6.

Archie now stood 3 up. At the seventh – Spion Kop – both were strong with their irons, and Massy played his second back again strong, while Archie was on the green in 2, and just lipped the hole for a 3. Massy put the Aberdeen man in 3, having 5 himself, and losing the hole, Archie now standing 4 up on the match. At the eighth Massy drove to the green, while Archie was far short. Massy got down in 3, won the hole, Archie having 5. Massy now stood three down. At the ninth hole Massy had a beautiful, straight drive, Archie being slightly to the right, and requiring 4 to the Frenchman's 3. With a beautiful long putt at the tenth Massy won in 3 to 4, thus winning three holes in succession in 3's, and stood 1 down. Massy squared the match at the eleventh, where Archie took two to get on the green, and missed a putt for 4, Massy getting down in 4. A half in 4 the twelfth left the players square for the round.

At the opening of the second round Massy drove out bounds. His second was on the green, but he failed to get down his putt, and lost the hole in 4 to 3. The second was indifferently halved 5. By weak play on the green at the third Massy lost the hole in 5 to 4, Archie now standing 2 up. There was uneventful half in the fourth. A pulled drive at the fifth gave Massy a bad lie at the edge of the rough ground, and only getting on the green with his third, he lost the hole in 5 to Simpson's 4, the latter now standing 3 up. At the sixth Archie missed his drive, and Massy won in 4 to 5, bringing his leeway down to 2. There were halves in 4 at seventh and eighth holes, at the latter both being rather slack on the green. At the ninth Massy, with a drive on to the green, got down in 3 to Archie's 4 and stood 1 down. There was a half in 4 at the tenth. The result at the eleventh was the same. A half in 5 at the twelfth found Archie 1 in the lead for the two rounds.

Simpson wins the game.

In the third round Simpson played and 44 and Massy 46; Simpson winning the match 2 and 1 to play.



Arnaud Massey, French Professional.

Ogden's *Guinea Gold* Cigarettes

Arnaud Massy on an Ogden's cigarette card edited c. 1902

CHEMIN DE FER DU NORD

LE TOUQUET PARIS PLAGE

2^H30 DE PARIS — 4^H DE LONDRES



LA PLAGE MONDAINE DU NORD
LA MER. LA FORÊT