



## Valuation Days Golfing Memorabilia

We are now looking for golf collections and single items such as art, badges, balls, clubs, ceramics, medals, trophies, programmes and paintings. Our golf specialist Kevin McGimpsey is continuously travelling to meet with clients past and present to discuss their collections with a view to selling at Bonhams.

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# golfika



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The front cover of Golfika Magazine n°8 is again after a painting of one of our EAGHC members, Viktor Cleve, Germany's leading golf painter. As a former art director he kindly designed the title page and donated it to us. His painting shows Percy Alliss and Roger Golias onto Green No.8 with view of the Eiffeltower in the back.

Third page of cover : Various Chuiwan pictures

Back cover : Hickory Championship in Europe

## 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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## President's Letter

John Hanna



I wonder what the weather has been like all over Europe this summer? It certainly has not been good in Scotland and Ireland. It has been hard to find a day without rain to play golf. Just look at what the weather was like at Royal St George's for the Open Championship. Of course, there was one Ulsterman who was not complaining. Darren Clarke, the new Open Champion, found the weather just to his liking having honed his golfing skills over the often windswept links at Royal Portrush Golf Club.

As we all look forward to the Sixth Annual Meeting of our Association at the world famous golf club at Saint Cloud in Paris, I ask myself the question where has the time gone since we last met at the Kennemer Golf and Country Club last year. I understand that the number of members participating in the meeting shows signs of being the largest attendance so far. This gives great encouragement for the future of the EAGHC. The more frequent publication of *Golfika* is also an optimistic sign. Once

again I would like to encourage all our readers to consider making a contribution to YOUR magazine. The greater the number and variety of the articles the more interesting the magazine will be.

In every association there are one or two people upon whom the rest of us depend. The EAGHC is no different and on your behalf I would like to thank Jean Bernard for all the effort he puts in to our Association. Thanks JBK for your work on *Golfika*, and especially this year in organising our Annual Meeting in Paris. I would also like to congratulate Stephan Filanovitch on the wonderful effort he made in editing the last issue of the magazine. Keep up the good work Stephan and thank you.

Mavis and I are looking forward to meeting our many EAGHC friends in Paris. I hope you are going to be there. If not, keep in touch and help us make next year's Meeting even bigger and better.



## Editor's Corner

**Stéphan Filanovitch**



Dear members,

A great pleasure to prepare again this editorial for Golfika 8.

I am proud by the announcement of the venue of the Ryder Cup in France, in 2018.

Le Golf National, on the outskirts of Versailles near Paris, the home of the Open de France, will become only the second Continental venue, following Valderrama Golf Club, Spain, in 1997, when the 42nd edition of The Ryder Cup between Europe and the United States is contested in the autumn of 2018.

I am sure you have all enjoy this summer, and now that all minds are turned about Paris for our annual meeting, at Saint-Cloud, on a great and famous golf course, which will be a centenarian in 2013.

So, the end of september will be wonderful, I am really delighted to meet you !

This Golfika 8 was a special moment to prepare, as for an European association, we have got our first member from China ! Welcome to Mr Wu Linqi. I think you will be surprise to discover the “Chui-Wan”.

From Albert Bloemendaal, you will have some revelation about “Golf and the Olympic Games of Berlin 1936”.

Thanks you for all other writers, there wonderful help, to give you a magazine as valuable as possible in our common search, the History of Golf.

Looking forward to see you soon in Paris in September.



Your editor with the Ryder Cup, presented at the 2011 French Open



## A few words on Olympic Golf 1900

John Scarth



The Compiègne Golf Course 80 kilometres North East of Paris was designed by W. Freemantle in 1896.

According to Alan Jackson's book on Early Golf Professionals, 5 Freemantles are listed with W. Freemantle being attached to Hyeres G.C. 1901-1902, Dieppe G.C. 1901-1902, Engadine G.C. 1907-1919 and Villars Palace 1927.

The Engadine G.C. History states he was attached there from 1902-1905, 1909-1913, 1915-1917 and 1919-1923 as well as being attached to Hyeres G.C. 1901-1912.

There was a Lily Freemantle attached to the Sunningdale Ladies G.C. from 1911.

W. Freemantle designed an excellent course for it was selected to hold the matches for the 1900 Olympic Gold Medals, to be held in early October of that year.



*Margaret Abbott and her caddy*

Charles Sands from the U.S.A. won the Men's Event on 2nd October 1900 whilst Margaret

Abbott from the U.S.A. won the Women's Event on 3rd October 1900.



*Charles Sands (left) and Fournier-Sarloveze*

Margaret was a 22 year old art student from Chicago, Illinois and thought she and her mother, who came equal 7th in the event, were playing in the French Women's Amateur Championships.

Her 47 strokes for nine holes was 16 strokes better than her mother's and she found it strange to see the French girls playing in tight skirts and high heels. She married the political satirist Finley Peter Dunne on 10th December 1902 and died on 10th June 1955.

The author seeks information on any Freemantle professional and can be emailed at 'Robin Butler: [ullasec@westnet.com.au](mailto:ullasec@westnet.com.au)

## Golf and the Olympic Games of Berlin 1936 Surprise find

Albert Bloemendaal, MSc



For the annual meeting in September 2010 at “De Kennemer”, we were invited to have as many documents, books of historic interest with us, so as to exchange information on the history of golf. Two members: Dietrich Quanz and Kuno Schuch attached to the German Golf Archive (Deutsches Golf Archiv) Cologne, had a boxful of wonderful documents, magazines, leaflets and books with them that they made available.

One of those attracted my instant interest. A slight, thin but colourful brochure or leaflet with very prominent a background picture of Adolf Hitler adorned with the entertaining text: Adolf, Arnold & Tommy – Myth, Mystery and Fact; Subtitled: *Golf and the 1936 Berlin Olympics*.<sup>1</sup> Enough for the real golf historian to jump at the opportunity. How much, or rather how little did we know about that subject? Of course we all know there was no golf at the Berlin Olympics. So what were the myth and the mystery? The last person on earth to be attached to golf was Adolf Hitler. He did not even drink alcohol, which as we all know, would be reason enough to expel the man from any clubhouse.

Since then I have been researching in whatever source available. It was no surprise that there was not all that much. The developments in Germany in later years gave reason enough to for not reminding what happened there. In a way the Berlin Olympics were a beginning of something we'd rather forget. Still, the very fact that a connection “Golf and the Third Reich” existed, was enough to whet the appetite. The following tale must of necessity place the golf tournament that accompanied the Olympic

Games of 1936, in the historic perspective of that period.

### **The 1936 Olympics: A political showcase. A view on the behind the scenes – scene.**

Since the Berlin Olympics are already seventy-five years a part of history, it may be necessary to sketch the general pattern around those politically influenced games. Berlin had previously been chosen as host country for the 1916 Olympic Games. The First World War however prevented that. In 1931 it was considered that it was a good opportunity to forget and forgive and Berlin was elected again for the 1936 games. The choice would soon prove to be subject of international dispute.

From 1933 onwards, Germany's regime would allow only “Aryan” German citizens to participate, which made many countries think again about participation. Although despicable, it was not a unique sentiment to exclude people on racial grounds. In the USA a likely debate took place. Could black athletes represent the USA? After much deliberating, Germany's *Reichssportführer*, Captain Hans von Tschammer und Osten and the German NOC president allowed the Organizing Committee one or two Jewish participants and the Athlete Union of the USA agreed on having black

<sup>1</sup> Derek Holden, Hesketh Golf Club Southport GB 2005

athletes be present; All this despite the ideals of the good Baron de Coubertin.



Another issue was that the Olympics always had a tendency to invite side interests, in the earlier years mainly to find the finances. But sentiments of national pride or rather nationalism, would understandingly play their role. In general the Olympics provided a government with a powerful tool to present their country, and its business no doubt, on a world enveloping scale. Germany took that issue as a leading theme to present a new vital Germany by showing massive military presence, swastika flags and a general atmosphere of power.

One year earlier the well-known film director Leni Riefenstahl, (1902 – 2003) had made the spectacular film *Triumph des Willens* in which the vitality and ambitions of the new Germany left little to imagination. A similar atmosphere would remain all over the Games of Berlin 1936. Mass Power. After the Games Riefenstahl would make a similarly inspired film of the Berlin Olympics: *Olympia*.

Though Coubertin (1863 – 1937) and his committee reigned with a very strict hand to keep the games in an amateur ambiance, politics and national interest would always play their part as would be shown in the years after WWII; Just like they had in the original classic games more than two thousand years earlier.

Still, the sports participants themselves remained through and through amateurs until later athletes from Eastern Europe were mainly chosen from the military institutions and their training camps. In the end – from 1970 onwards – that would lead to abolishing the amateur rules altogether. In the nineteen thirties however, they were still mainly true amateurs.

What made the Olympics of Berlin 1936 so special was that the host country used them as a platform to show the world the sheer power of a nation in a fashion that openly advertised its ambitions.

*How little the athletes themselves took the racial issue seriously, was the fashion in which Jesse Owens, already winner of the 100 m. sprint, would win the long jump. He could do that after having been thoroughly coached by his German fellow competitor Lutz Long. Owens had failed on his two practice jumps and now had only one left for the real jump. Long, advised Owens whom he found a bit dispirited. to jump from a spot several inches behind the jump line. He argued that Jesse had distance enough to allow for a few inches loss.<sup>2</sup> Owens did and went on to win with a jump of 8.06 m. Long himself came away with 7.87 m. His reception though in the United States left much to be desired.<sup>3</sup>*

As for racial preoccupations, Owens himself said in an interview, he could move more freely in Germany than he could in his own country where as a black person, café's and public places were off limits to him. And, he

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<sup>2</sup> Lutz Long was posthumously awarded the "Pierre de Coubertin" medal or True Spirit of Sportsmanship medal.

<sup>3</sup> Upon Owens' return to New York and a ticker-tape parade, he had to ride the freight elevator to a reception in his honour at the Waldorf-Astoria..." Larry Schwartz cites Jesse Owens in an interview on ESPN 2007.



added, he never received congratulations for his golf medals from President Roosevelt as other US athletes did.<sup>4 5</sup>

In the course of developments later in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, politics would not be the only issue for using the Games as a carrier for the interests of the organisers. Commercialisation gradually took over and presently the schedule of events in the Olympics is dictated by the TV stations to cover the major events on a time schedule that fits the US viewers. The Olympics have become a cash cow for TV stations and their sponsors. The 1996 Atlanta – Georgia Olympics will forever be labelled in the Olympics history as “The Coca Cola” Games.

### And Golf...?

Meanwhile the question may be raised how this all related to golf. In his desire to bring the Berlin games on an international superior plane, the *Reichssportführer* - the official sports minister appointed by the *Führer und Reichkanzler* - suggested golf should be part of it. Sports have always had their own pecking order in which athletics are considered of a higher order than e.g. cycling. Golf definitely carried a high prestige for its British atmosphere, and this appealed to him. Making golf part of the Games was naturally not possible as the participating sports had already been agreed upon at a much earlier date.

On August 16<sup>th</sup> 1936, Count de Baillet-Latour, President of the International Olympic Committee pronounced the closure of the Berlin

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<sup>4</sup> Jeremy Schaap: “Triumph” *The Untold Story of Jesse Owens and Hitler’s Olympics*. Michigan Historical Review. Harcourt 2007. Also mentioned in Owens biography.

<sup>5</sup> “...When I came back to my native country, after all the stories about Hitler, I couldn't ride in the front of the bus,” Owens said. “I had to go to the back door. I couldn't live where I wanted. I wasn't invited to shake hands with Hitler, but I wasn't invited to the White House to shake hands with the President, either...” Larry Schwartz citing Jesse Owens in an ESPN interview programme, repeated from stored records in 2007 “Upon Owens' return to New York and a ticker-tape parade, he had to ride the freight elevator to a reception in his honour at the Waldorf-Astoria...”

Games: *May the 1940 Games take place in harmony and joy.*”<sup>6</sup>

The 1936 games were dominated by the typical physical sports, sports of the “Körper Kultur” which fitted with the Nazi philosophy. Still, the prestige carried by golf in Germany, then a sport considered to be enjoyed by nobility and the upper classes – many golf clubs had a Duke or a Count as founder or club president – was something that had its own attraction for promoting the new Germany. That in Great Britain and the USA it was meanwhile a very general sport did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm for a truly German golf tournament. If not as a part of, then *attached* to, the Olympic Games. The *Reichskanzler* – i.e. Adolf Hitler – had soon after his power take-over already appointed a *Reichsportführer* to preside over all sport unions, including golf. From his office the president of the DGV was appointed for which was chosen Dr. Karl Henkell (1888 – 1944) heir to the Henkell wineries made famous by their Champagne-type wine known as “Henkell Trocken”. Henkell had to think of something that would bring golf into the atmosphere of the Olympic Games, though not making part of it. The tournament, he suggested, be presented as *Der Grosse Preis der Nationen* and take place immediately after the Olympics.<sup>7</sup>



*A postcard edited for the 1936 event – with the Olympic design on the back.*

In his book: “Golf and the Olympic Games” our EAGHC member Georges Jeanneau

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<sup>6</sup> Jeanneau, Georges : *Golf and the Olympic Games*. French Golf Federation. 2003

<sup>7</sup> Henry Longhurst dubbed Henkell : “The Golf Führer” in his book *My Life and soft Times*. (Cassell & Comp.Ltd. London 1971)



commented ” It is hard to explain the origin of such event. Germany had no golfing tradition, nor champions and only some fifty golf courses”. He also expressed his surprise at the insistence of the German Organisation for its insistence golf be part of the Olympics history by “attaching” it to the Games. As explained above, it must have been the international prestige golf enjoyed.



### Baden Baden: Große Preis der Nationen

Henkell could call on his world-wide network of business associates and influential people. In his travels to the USA he became acquainted with many political – and sports tycoons (in the USA then often together under the same banner) amongst whom nobody less than Bobby Jones. He was optimistic of having also a US representation. Invitations were sent to thirty-six countries. Meanwhile however, German golf clubs had had the instruction to scratch Jewish members from the members list. This did not go well with most countries and many hot debates took place as to whether or not participate. In the end only six agreed to be represented: England, France, Italy, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and the Netherlands. The signal was there: twenty eight declined participation. France and Britain’s agreement to participate was not without protests in their own country; perhaps under the pretext that sport must be kept separate from politics, just as Coubertin had always insisted. Some carried the illusion that in fact participation might mean that some influence could be applied. An illusion indeed,

“Kristallnacht 1938” had yet to come. Still, all those refusals were not quite what the *Reichskanzler* had had in mind.

He personally had had a special trophy made to serve as the first prize. An impressive thirty six centimetre gilded silver salver, inlaid with eight six centimetres amber dishes. It was specially created by the famous Berlin goldsmith Emil Lettré. The choice for amber was initiated by the special value it represented as a “Nordic” stone, with many ancient myths attached. In the centre was engraved that the prize was presented by the *Führer und Reichskanzler*. It may be that Hitler had in mind to present the prize himself in the expectation the German team may win.



The tournament would be played over four times eighteen holes and the accumulated result of the team players would decide on the winning team. The English Golf Union (EGU) would be represented by Arnold Bentley a past captain of the Royal and Ancient. Bentley was known on all the major European golf courses and had won many tournaments while representing England. His team companion was Tommy Thirsk, son of a Scottish family of Mill owners. He went to college in England where he soon was recognised as a golfing talent. From 1930 on he played thirty times for

England and was appointed team captain in 1939. Though from a more humble family, he was decidedly the better player and his total score over the four days was twenty two strokes better than his illustrious teammate.

### Demise of an illusion

At the end of the first day, to the surprise of all present, the German team was in the lead. The nineteen year old Leonard von Beckerath had scores of 68 – 67 and his twice as old team companion Carl Alexander Hellmers a 75 – 72, which made them five strokes up on the English team, seven strokes on the Dutch team and ten strokes up on France twice as old team companion Carl Alexander Hellmers a 75 – 72, which made them five strokes up on the English team, seven strokes on the Dutch team and ten strokes up on France. A win for the German team was far from illusory. Though the German team improved much on the last day with lower scores of 71 and 73, they could not beat the English anymore who came out with a 75 – 65.(Thirsk) Making a tournament total of 562. The French team formed by Michel Carlhian and Jacques Leglise, posted a total score of 566; Carlhian, a personal score of no less than 68 – 66. The German score of 574 had to be satisfied with third place. Bentley and Thirsk accepted the gilded sliver on behalf of the EGU.

The British press, from the beginning unfavourable to participation, kept a story alive that even in 2004 was given a prominent place in the news:

Hitler Cup provides sporting who dunnit since 1936 Olympics ...

*Though a good anecdote the story this heading refers to lacks any historic ground. The tale being that the Reichskanzler was on his way to hand over the prize himself but returned after hearing the German team was losing. It remained a persistent story – also Jeanneau refers to it in his book – mainly in the British press,(see above) but no historic corroboration could be found.*  
(Daily Express 28 Feb. 2004)



Altogether, the original intention presenting the new German *Reich* superior also in this prestigious area turned out a fiasco. The English winners got a decidedly cool reception at their return. And the EGU never officially accepted the prize. Neither was it given a commendation in the history of English golf. The prize itself received the un-glorious nickname of “The Hitler Trophy” and disappeared for many years, until many years later it was discovered in a private collection.



What remains of what should have been one more token of glory of the new Germany, only became an anecdotic side issue in the history of golf.

*NB. Bibliographical references are listed in the other Albert's paper.*

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I'm looking for golf postcards from the European continent and golf medals and trophies from France. I would also appreciate any document (even a photocopy) related to early golf in France. Please write to JBK: [golfika@yahoo.fr](mailto:golfika@yahoo.fr) or [jbk@orange.fr](mailto:jbk@orange.fr)

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The "Société Saint-Cloud Country-Club" was founded in 1911 and the first 18 holes course, designed by Harry Colt, was open in 1913. In 1926, the club hosted the French Open (won that year by Aubrey Boomer – Aubrey and his brother Percy, were the local pros). The second time this competition came back to Saint-Cloud was in 1932 and won by Arthur J. Lacey.

The competition was played on July 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. After winning the tournament, Lacey went to Belgium to defend his crown won the previous year which he won again on June 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. The funny thing is that we know a medal won at Saint-Cloud by A.J. Lacey on the 2nd of July 1932 ... Two weeks after Bruxelles and three weeks after the French Open! Was it another competition? A delayed celebration? We didn't find yet a record in the club and no trace in the French golf magazines ... Any information would be highly appreciated (write [editor@golfika.com](mailto:editor@golfika.com) )



## The Golf Courses of the Riviera

**Bernard Darwin (Correspondent of *The Times*, 1913)**

This text was initially published in *The Times*, on Feb 19, 1913. It was signed by “our special correspondent” (B. Darwin). We kindly received this photocopy thanks to one of our contacts, Neil Crafter, from Adelaide, Australia. We thought it worth to publish these documents in *Golfika Magazine*.

To play golf in flannels and white shoes and be too hot at that, to see the ball bouncing gaily over a bunker that one deemed far out of reach, to abandon pitching as too risky and play the run up shot as prayerfully as if it were to a hard-baked 17th at St. Andrews, to put as on the glassy slopes of Point Garry – this is a very different game from the golf of mittens and woolly waistcoats, of mud and slush and casual water that is now being played at home. It must seem a somewhat obvious thing to say, and rather too much in the nature of rubbing it in: – “Gentlemen, in England now abed” may think themselves too bitterly accursed they are not here. Yet it is a remark that is absolutely essential in trying to describe golf in the Riviera. It is not, as I had in my ignorance imagined, the golf of an eternally fine winter's day or even, of a spring day, but it is the golf of high mid-summer that one plays, very lazily and pleasantly, in this enchanted country – a country in which it is actually hard to find anyone to play anything but a foursome after luncheon.

We dropped, as it were, from the skies on Costebelle in the early freshness of the morning, a morning so hot and sunshiny and so filled with scents and drowsy buzzing as, coming on the top of the sleepless joltings of a night journey, to make golf too ridiculous a pursuit to contemplate for one moment. The next day, however, we were strong enough to withstand owner declines to sanction any digging operations. So it comes about that if Costebelle is the home of the ditch, Hyères is the home of the hurdle; not the atrophied and emasculated hurdle over which the athlete races and through which many a topped ball might run, but a stiff-backed, uncompromising hurdle, made impervious by brushwood and wire. One

may jump the hurdle, but one will assuredly never run through them, and so, although they do not constitute a very picturesque or orthodox hazard, they at least compel one to hit the ball in the air, and to loft cleanly and accurately off the bone-hard turf is a skilful enough business. Some of these holes amid the hurdles need really good approaching, notably perhaps the 12th and the 18th, where some banks and braes in miniature demand pitching of meticulous accuracy. Then, too, there are some pleasant enough little holes with real live sand bunkers in the earlier part of the round, and here again, whatever else one does, one must be able to play with the mashie.

Altogether Hyères is very charming, very amusing, fraught with almost infinite possibilities in the matter of 3's and wild hopes that will never be realized. Not that anybody minds a great deal if they are not, for the sun-shine has so mollifying and light-hearted an effect on the expatriated golfer that, even when his ball lies unplayable beneath a hurdle, he does not necessarily hate the man who put the hurdle there.



*Hurdles can clearly be seen on the left side of this painting by Lessieux*



## Playing golf in times of war (continued)

Albert Bloemendaal, MSc



The following article is a resumé of the lecture at the Annual EAGHC meeting at “The Kennemer” GCC in September 2010. It is a continuation of the paper published in *Golfika* #6.

### Cultural differences in perceiving consequences of a new situation

Situations as had happened near the battlefields in WW I did not develop in WW II. Then the entire theatre of war was stagnant in the relatively limited area of northern France and Belgium. In WW II all European countries from Russia to the mid Atlantic were involved in the sense that there was hardly an area without being part of a war scene.

Through the years the entire European continent would develop into one large battlefield. The very fact that this was not something new for Europeans will be shown as a major difference with the reactions of citizens and Government of the United States.

### European history is mainly war history

For two thousand years and more, the peoples of Europe had done their utmost to continuously harass their neighbours in order to profit from “they have something we mean to take away” Foreign armies marching through one’s own country, rampaging, destroying and taking away all that had value, had been a thing to live with for most Europeans. The usual reaction was to try and continue life as good as possible during the war period and rebuild what was damaged after things quieted down.

There’s hardly a building in entire Europe that was not on one or other moment at least partly destroyed and rebuilt and restored again. European people describe their history in

periods between wars. History lessons in all schools becoming a series of dates when war had begun and ended. Terms like “the thirty years”, “eighty years”, “hundred years” war, are known to all Europeans. Other expressions like “before” or “after” the war are just as familiar; the same for the expression *interbellum*.

I took a bit of going into detail here, as what will be the main subject of this article will be how the United States and the American People reacted to actually being at war. Meaning, some other country had *attacked* their country; a sensation that for them at first seemed to border on the incomprehensible.

Although golf was no great subject on the Continent, sports and the fashion in which free time would be spent continued wherever possible. Europeans simply would not know why not, whereas Americans still had to find out. From the beginning they would be wrestling with the moral implications of going on with a *game* where millions of young people were shipped off to fight for their country.

That moral puzzling would become part of American golf history. Whereas in the United Kingdom the R&A adjusted or amended the rules of golf so as to ascertain golf competition could continue, the debate went on in the USA if one should play golf or any other sport for that matter, at all. The fact that sports in the USA form part of an entire industry did not help either.

In European countries a thousand year history had made people resigned to the reality that at

times, their country would be part of a war scene and foreign armies would march through their land. Though dreadful in the consequences, away from the battlefields war became considered an inconvenience that at times had to be suffered. But not necessarily to the extent that it must all too much interfere with sports for those who had to stay and tend to the daily state of the country. It simply was one way to suffer the inevitable.

Golf was at a rawer end as it took up much open space and so was targeted to continue as an airbase, at the same time being object for destruction by enemy aircraft from above. Nevertheless, wherever possible, golf went on as one of the means to maintain a bit of normality. How different this would develop in the United States.

### Cultures Consequences

The internationally known professor of organisational psychology Geert Hofstede,<sup>8</sup> made a four year study as to how American management methods would apply in countries elsewhere in the world. Actual practice with IBM, the company which had consulted him on the subject, showed that the followed practice would often be observed as typically “American”, different from what was practiced elsewhere. He published his findings in a book that would become an internationally renowned University textbook titled: *Cultures Consequences*. His main point being that in order to be effective, one would follow a pattern typical for a country’s *culture*. This would differ per country in taking decisions to cope with circumstances. Reactions would be based on what in a certain country would be regarded as the acceptable course.

So the general European viewpoint as to go on with life, as much as possible, war notwithstanding, would meet little resistance. European people *knew* from centuries of tough experience that it was the only way to survive. Not so in the United States. The very fact of *being at war* in first instance held little reality. That it might mean enemy activities on their soil simply lacked any sense of reality. When this actually did happen, though at a distant

island few actually knew where to place, it was to be expected that reactions were best described as bewildered. America simply *could not be attacked*. It took quite a while even, actually more than fifty years, for a documented publication to review how the world of golf reacted to the new and entirely unforeseen situation. As we will observe, after a short period of being baffled, the reaction came in a manner that too was typical for the American view on life: Energetic.

The major facts of the following part are mainly based on the book: *When War Played Through*.by John Stregel/

### “Where’s Pearl Harbour?”

On December 7 1941 at the Miami Springs golf course, Ben Hogan with Partner Byron Nelson were playing an invitation match against Sam Snead with the host of the match Clayton Heafner. The match was a preliminary attraction to draw spectators for the ensuing four day tournament with a ten thousand dollar purse.

Among the spectators was the editor of the Miami Daily News, Dan Mahoney. With the match under way up to the sixth hole, Mahoney was taken aside by a just arrived breathless reporter bawling: “The Japs attacked Pearl Harbour !” After a pause Manoney looked around saying “...where’s Pearl Harbour ?...” He only met puzzled faces. Someone suggested: “somewhere near Hawaii” It did not attract much further attention and the match went on. There was a thousand dollars at stake after all. Whether the tournament the day after would go on never was a matter of debate. When later it became a fact that an attack on the United States had taken place, the incredibility was such, that it took time to digest the incomprehensible.

A first reaction further showed that the average American had no concept of what foreign military were capable of. In their state of confusion people on the East Coast expected the Luftwaffe to bomb New York and in California the expected invasion by Japanese forces. Authorities were likewise confused as they warned their citizens to prepare for defensive measures.

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<sup>8</sup> Geert Hofstede.,*Cultures Consequences. International differences in work related values.*(Sage Publ London.)

After the confusion in first instance, a typical American trait made that confusion and paralysis would turn into action. How this worked out for the world of - American - golf is the main subject for the remaining part of this article.

### **Sports, and so golf, are a serious part of American life**

In many ways golf was a serious part of life in the USA. In 1941 there were as many as five million enthusiasts from every level of society. Already as early as the first decades of the twentieth century, most cities had more than one *public* golf course which made golf an all classes opportunity. However, the majority of the courses was commercially based. Moreover, like almost all other sports facilities, golf courses formed part of the general business world. In a period when in Europe professional sports were still more or less frowned upon, cycling and boxing making the exception, in the Anglo Saxon world with America in the forefront, professional sports were the accepted thing.

So when war became a serious matter involving the entire society, the question came up whether it was morally acceptable to go on with a form of entertainment, where young America was sent overseas in millions to fight for their country. It is interesting to read how America wrestled with on the one hand the duty they had towards contributing to the war effort in every conceivable way, and the fact of life that golf courses and an entire industry behind that sport were dependent on at least a certain continuity. Still a strong feeling remained that it bordered on the immoral to go on with playing a game, where millions were risking their lives. The way the Americans, officials and professional players alike, managed to handle the dilemma was again typical for the American society with a preference for energetic action.

### **One term for handling it all: "the war effort"**

Many of the prominent golfers of those days found they could indeed not go on with a "game" under the circumstances and presented themselves for military service, Bobby Jones in the forefront. He could not be accepted as his

age of almost forty years prevented him from active service. He would continue pestering the authorities for a war function which he in the end finally got to see some active service in the Air Force. But all the great names of those days, Hogan, Snead, Sarazen, Byron Nelson and many others reported for the draft. This again put the authorities in a dilemma. After all they were national celebrities, who internationally represented their country. Losing them would mean a loss for America.

That made the situation go up to the highest point, President Roosevelt. His main advisor on the subject would remain John B. Kelly, a former Olympic gold medallist in the 1920 Antwerp and the 1924 Paris games; also, the father of the later film star "Grace Kelly", then twelve years old. Kelly expressed his views on the situation as: "...*Eight million youngsters will be going into the armed forces. My job is to look after the one hundred twenty-four million that can't go. They can keep fit by playing golf...*"<sup>9</sup> That last remark "keep fit" would mark one of the viewpoints with which the continuance of golf would be justified. The USGA official George Blossom jr. proclaimed that "...*golf in wartime has a mission - to keep us fit...*"<sup>10</sup> While John. B. Kelly himself addressing his fellow golfing Americans put it even more bluntly saying: "...*it's our duty to play more golf...*"

Since national budgets do not calculate in advance with the massive cost a war demands, every nation had to find ways and means to finance these huge expenditures. They were labelled "the war effort" a kind of container concept for anything even remotely attached to the war. It would cover not just the finance but also food production and other supportive actions. In both fields, Kelly stimulated the world around golf to do their bit.. He found new names to give activities a patriotic sheen. Every tournament of any importance received the label "Hale America Tournament", a term expressing "robust" or "vigorous". Tournaments would now express that they were a contribution to the war effort. Prizes would be paid not in dollars but in "war bonds", a kind of government debt securities. Golf equipment industries were "invited" (!) to sponsor special tournaments

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<sup>9</sup> *When War played through*, p.19 - 21

<sup>10</sup> George B. Kirsch., *Golf in America*. (University of Illinois 2009) p.123

with large sums of war bonds. In this way, the golf professional and all activity around the tournaments became patriotic activities.

Not all *Hale America* activities were greeted with applause at the golf clubs. Many of these initiatives were born out of enthusiasm for doing their patriotic bit, but lacked the professional expertise in the field. At many golf courses, the committee would propose to use part of the course – the rough mainly – for growing fruits and vegetables. A golf course taking part in that patriotic initiative would call those parts “Victory Gardens”. Not all members would show the required patriotic enthusiasm. One wrote in *Golfing Magazine*: “...*This year a ball may be moved two club lengths from broccoli, tomatoes and lettuce, without penalty.* Another wrote: “*If you are lying too close to a cabbage the new rule allows you to play the cabbage from that point on...*”<sup>11</sup>

But the worst example a golfer, wherever in the world, shall remember was what took place on Augusta National. In October 1942 the chairman decided the Masters would be postponed till after the war. Meanwhile they had to do their bit for the war effort so the club purchased two hundred steers that would graze on the fairways. They would keep the grass short and fatten themselves so as to contribute to the war effort. Sadly, the Bermuda grass of Augusta is dormant in the winter, so the animals became hungry and started eating even the fabulous azaleas. The steers were taken elsewhere. The whole thing turned out a fiasco.

### Professionals turn military

One last element may not go untold. As already mentioned earlier, most celebrated professionals presented themselves for active duty. That even presented President Roosevelt with a dilemma. He wanted to have them safe for representing the country once the war was over, but could on the other hand not overlook the fact that they had presented themselves for military duties. Again he consulted Kelly to find an acceptable solution for both parties.

Kelly persuaded the celebrities to accept that they could serve their country better than as a frontline soldier. “A professional golfer” he

argued with them “can do things for the military, few others can do. For example being a fighter pilot requires a good feel for the immediate situation and fine hand/eye coordination. Qualities a top professional golfer possesses. “So Hogan became a fighter pilot instructor and Sam Snead, famous for his fine distance judgement, became a marksman instructor. Kelly would find similar qualities for all major professionals, so they could do their patriotic bid, still be kept out of harms’ way.

Golf went on playing its special part during the entire war. In the American tradition, everyone with a prominent position would be persuaded to do their patriotic bit for the war effort; a well known example being Bing Crosby and Bob Hope, hugely popular as entertainers and both single handicappers. They would travel all through the war to meet the troops. And play whenever possible a round of golf with anyone willing to pay good money, in war bonds naturally – for the war effort! With only one exception: General Dwight Eisenhower with whom they played behind the frontline on the North African Coast when US troops were made ready for the battle against Rommel.

### Conclusion

When on December 7<sup>th</sup> 1941, the United-States were drawn into a war nobody actually had expected, government and citizens first could not comprehend what this meant. America had never been a theatre of war itself, save for the civil war of 1861 – 1865 which then involved only a small part of the nation. The likelihood of foreign forces threatening America’s very existence was never even considered. So when this actually took place the nation first reacted in a state of haze. It took however a very short time to turn this state of mind around in almost a frenzy of activity; small wonder that in the first year, civilians found it tough to adjust to a new way of life in which they obey to what was demanded of them. Sports of any kind, active or passive as spectators, had always been a major part of their lives. Still, it did not seem right to go on with what essentially was a *distraction* in a time when so many had to risk their lives for their country.,

So the American people were stimulated to continue taking part in sports to stay fit. Their life in factories and offices would demand a far greater effort than in peace time so keeping fit

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<sup>11</sup> p.122



became an issue in the decision whether to allow sports.

Golf however still suffered from the general stigma of being a “rich man’s game” though meanwhile three quarters of all golf was played on public courses. In 1942 the general public found that: “...*playing golf was frivolous and unpatriotic in war time*... (George B. Kirsch. *Golf in America*. – University of Illinois, 2009, p.122). This however created the problem of how to deal with the impression that playing golf while the country was at war was very *unpatriotic*. Authorities and organisations attached to the world of golf had to deal with expressly that omen. Though not mentioned in any publication on the subject, the fact that around golf – as in all other sports in the USA – an entire industry existed, employing tens of thousands of people, must have had its influence.

So the major impression in researching how golf continued in the period the United States was at war, was that it all circled around the problem that playing had to be presented as a patriotic act. The major arguments that were

developed, argued that matches and tournaments provided a welcome source of finance in the form of war bonds. Another being that playing golf kept people fit and vigorous so that they could continue doing their part in industry and administration.

Especially in the early years of the war up to 1943, golf organisations like the USGA and the UGA did their utmost to express their positive participation. New golf courses were constructed near military training camps, and later other new courses for the wounded returning from front duties. Special tournaments were organized with new *patriotic* names replacing the national championships for funding ambulances and field hospitals. It all gave in the later years a lasting positive, and above all a *patriotic* impression of golf in the USA during WW II. In the end, when it was all over, the USA could argue: “...We did it our way...”

America would remain first in the world in industry, economy and golf, for a long time to come.

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## Once upon a time, A crocodile daughter...

André-Jean Lafaurie



This paper was initially published in *Le Dictionnaire amoureux du Golf* (Éditions Plon © 2006) and André-Jean Lafaurie kindly gave us the authorisation to reprint this short extract. André-Jean is a journalist and writer. Thanks to Georges Jeanneau for the help. He was for many years commenting the golf broadcast on the French Canal+ channel. Among many books, he wrote an important history of golf “Le golf : son histoire de 1304 à nos jours” (Grancher Ed., 1988)

Her first name led her to becoming a tsarina. Her name indicated that in sport, she had whom to follow. Remained the talent, which can't be ordered. She possessed it too. It is rare that champion parents have winning children. Sometimes it happens but rarely. In other arts also, for a Dumas father and son, for some kids of Jean-Sebastien Bach or the Noah dynasty, for both Brueghel or Renoir father and son, how many unique Beethoven, Picasso, Orson Welles or Rodin?

Catherine Lacoste had as parents Simone Thion de la Chaume, one of best lady-golfer of the world pre-war period, and René Lacoste, one of the four Musketeers planetary heroes of tennis. She inherited with her brothers the commercial empire of the same name – one of the four or the five best known labels of the planet – but especially at least two genes, that of the competition and that of work. For so much, she is the opposite of her parents. As much as they were discrete and quiet, as much she is exuberant, blazing of life. On the other hand, they weren't easy, she isn't either; they knew their value, she never doubts hers; they created their name, she lengthened hers. Twice married to Spaniards, she imposes, in sign of love, to join their name to hers, magic, which signals her since her birth to the whole world.

At her apogee, Catherine Lacoste developed in parallel several signals. An unconventional swing but of a terrible effectiveness and a power of fire; an ascendant which terrified her opponents – sometimes her partners - a rage to win, certainly common to all leaders, but if



she didn't satisfy it, she fell literally sick. This conjunction of prides, wrapped in the genius of the game of golf, carried this apogee to a still unequalled level. She, the foreign one, as a young girl, still amateur, won the US Open (1967) against the hard professionals, carnivorous and devourers each week of new talents of tender skins.

Not Catherine, not the Great!

However, the nickname of which she inherited in the American press the day after her feat which made out of her an immediate star was that of a kid, coupled with her father's already well-known nickname : Crocodile Kid.

Certain aspects of these records, as that of precocity, resisted during more than thirty years. Others, like that of the amateur status, still hold. They would turn almost banal the incredible rest of her career. One collects with the shovel the International Championships of Great Britain or the United States, Majors on the five continents, a World Championship, altogether a collection of marshal sticks out of which one could make a fence. Isn't she secretly sad that so much fuss is made out of passing and light heroes while her incredible

career would deserve to enjoy the status of one of a true star French-woman ? It is only an assumption, as she never mentions it. Although talkative, she never confides. Control, always. But where she keeps the ton of world collected cups, trophies, trays and objects of vermeil, since, eternally amateur, she didn't win a cent during her career which could have made of her, if necessary since it she didn't seek it, a billionaire ? She owns several houses. One of them, perhaps, is already a museum.



*Catherine Lacoste with her father René, the tennis champion – called “the crocodile”. He used this nickname as a logo on the Loacoste shirts.*

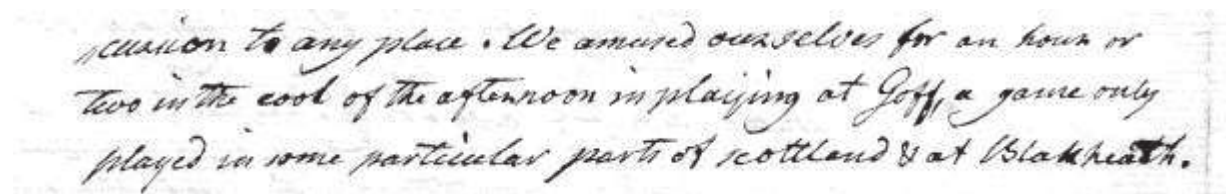
**Help requested :** The Royal Belgium Golf Federation ( *Fédération Royale Belge de Golf* ) has a lack of proof that their Federation was officially founded on 19 March 1912. Is anybody able to provide them such a proof ? If you have any evidence of this fact, please write to Vincent Borremans ( [vborr@edgolf.be](mailto:vborr@edgolf.be) ) or the FRBG (Jean de Vooght: [metal.golf@telenet.be](mailto:metal.golf@telenet.be) ). A copy to the editor would be appreciated ( [editor@golfika.com](mailto:editor@golfika.com) ).

## The first players in Sweden

Pehr Thermaenius



This text was first published in “Golf in Sweden” (2010). Pehr just made a few corrections and kindly offered us this revision. Pehr Thermaenius as well as Leif Einarsson (who suggested publishing the text in Golfika Magazine) are both member of the EAGHC as well as the Swedish Society of Golf Historians.



The English explorer Henry Smethman sent letters from Sierra Leone to his backer in London. The original letters are lost, but they were copied in London by Adam Afzelius, a pupil of Carl Linnaeus. The copies are kept in the library of the University of Uppsala.

### A few holes before supper.

The first Swede known to have played golf was Andreas Berlin from Nordvik. He played with Scottish slave traders in West Africa in 1773. Andreas Berlin was a botanist. He studied under Carl Linnaeus at the University of Uppsala.

Linnaeus is world famous for creating the *Systema naturae*, where he made a catalogue of plants and divided them into families. To develop his *Systema* he needed plants from different parts of the world, so he sent out his pupils to the Americas, to China, to India and to Africa. One pupil took part in James Cook's first circumnavigation of the world.

After Andreas Berlin had completed his thesis in Uppsala he received a letter of recommendation from Linnaeus and went to London. He wanted to join Cook's second expedition but was turned down for poor health.

Instead he got a job as an assistant to an English explorer and entomologist, Henry Smeathman, who worked in Sierra Leone. Andreas Berlin arrived there in 1773 and came with Smeathman to Bense Island, a slave trade station run by a Scottish company.

In a letter to his backer in London, Henry Smeathman described the 4th of May (or possibly the 5th):

*We amused our-selves for an hour or two in the cool of the afternoon in playing at Goff, a game only played in some particular parts of Scotland & at Blackheath. Two holes are made in the ground at about a quarter of a mile distance, and of the size of a man's hat crown or a little more: these are goals.*

*The players make two parties, each party has a ball like a tennis ball. The ball is laid on the ground near one goal, and is struck by everyone in the party in his turn toward the other, with a*



*particular sort of light club. That party which get their ball struck into the hole with the fewest strokes win. They then set out and strike back toward the other. This is a very pretty exercise for a warm climate as there is nothing violent in it except the single blow, which each man gives in his turn; when he naturally exerts himself to drive the ball farther than his antagonist. The whole company walks together at their leisure after the balls, which time is very agreeably past in various & pleasant conversation.*

After the golf they usually played whist and backgammon before supper. They ate: *a delicious variety of fish, many of which are not described by Linnaeus.*

The course must have been terrible. Smeathman wrote in another passage that the island was: *little else but iron rock & gravel.* To create a better golfing atmosphere the traders might have had the caddie-slaves dressed up in tartan loincloths, which were used on the island. So they played, despite the rocks, just like Scots in many other parts of the world. Andreas Berlin, however, never got the chance to develop his game. He died onboard a slave ship up the coast a few months later.

When I read Henry Smeathman's diary in the Uppsala University library it was difficult to concentrate on golf. He writes in chilling detail about one of the most dreadful periods in history. But if we turn back to the history of golf it is interesting that a Swede was among the Scots who took the game around the world.

### **A Scottish golfer in Gothenburg**

This Scottish urge to play golf is what leads us to believe that when Andreas Berlin played in Africa, clubs were also swung in Gothenburg. And the player to whom we fix our hopes is none other than Thomas Erskine, later 9th Earl of Kellie, Captain of the Society of St Andrews Golfers and owner of the Old Course in St Andrews.

The Erskines were a golfing family. The first Earl of Kellie was brought up with King James VI, who moved to London and started golf at Blackheath. There were "golf sticks" in the family home. So he might well have played with the young king in the 16th century.



*Thomas Erskine, 9<sup>th</sup> Earl of Kellie.*

Thomas' father found the family on the losing side in politics after the battle of Culloden in 1746, when the English beat the army of Bonnie Prince Charlie. The father thought that Thomas' future lay in trade, so he sent his son to Gothenburg in 1760 to be apprenticed to a family friend, the successful merchant George Carnegie. Thomas was then 15 years old.

Thomas became a successful Gothenburg businessman and burgher. He frequently visited Fife. In 1790 he managed to buy back the family estate, Cambo House, that had been sold by a relative to pay off debts. From 1791 he seems to have had his residence in Scotland.

In 1797 Thomas Erskine became Captain of the Society of St Andrews golfers. He does not appear to have gained his captaincy by winning a golf competition for the silver club. Instead he seems to have been among the early elected captains. Some historians even think he did not play at all. He was also captain of two other golfing societies.

For two years at that time he owned the Old Course and the surrounding area where another five golf courses have since been laid out. He sold the land after he had leased it for breeding rabbits.

Thomas Erskine inherited the Earldom of Kellie in 1799. He kept close ties with Sweden, where he had a daughter.

So here we have a young boy of a well known golfing family leaving home and on his return as a wealthy man joining the local golf club and becoming its captain.

What do you think he was thinking of while he was away? We think that he thought of golf and we think that he also played.

Gothenburg in this period was an important Scottish and English trading centre. The merchants exercised economic and political influence. Ships from England or Scotland arrived all the time.

It would have been easy for the merchants to have clubs and balls sent out from home. Many of their countrymen did so, not only in Sierra Leone but also in India and America – and in Latvia, across the Baltic from Sweden. Or maybe Thomas Erskine simply brought clubs and balls to Sweden when he returned from his visits to Scotland.

If there was a group of golfers in Gothenburg at this time, surely Thomas Erskine was a leading figure. Or, to put it stronger: It is impossible to think that the young lions of Gothenburg would have played golf without Thomas Erskine being one of the leaders.

In 1769 he was one of the founder members of the Bachelors' Club in Gothenburg. This club still exists, its records intact. Suppose we can find a mention of golf in the Club's minutes. Or suppose we could find a mention of golf in the records of the English and Scottish merchant community in Gothenburg. Then we would have, if not a golf club, so at least a club with golf, which is among the ten or so oldest in the world.

Our research continues.

### **A game of gold, silk and ivory**

There is reason to believe that in the early 19th century maybe hundreds of people in Sweden had heard about a club and ball game called golf.

The first mention of golf in print in Sweden was in a book on games by Johann Christoph Friedrich GutsMuths, printed in 1796. The title is *Games for exercise and enjoyment for body and soul*. He was the father of gymnastics in Germany and he produced this book to help reform youth. The book was written in German, which educated Swedes could read.

The book's four pages on golf are based on a translation from the English betting handbook Hoyles Games Improved.

There is nothing to indicate that GutsMuths ever tried to play, but he came down in favour of golf: *Because this game greatly resembles Mail, my judgement is over all: that it deserves all recommendations.*

The book might well have had a wide readership in Sweden. There was at this time an emerging interest in sport and games. The Royal Library in Stockholm holds three copies of the book. A selection of GutsMuths' writings was later translated into Swedish, but the chapter on golf was left out.



*Johan Christopher Friedrich GutsMuths had a chapter on golf in his book about games (1796).*

At about the same time there appeared a Swedish translation of the English writer Edward Topham's Letters from Edinburgh. The book was first published in London in 1796 and the Swedish translation came out in 1798.

This is what Swedes could read about golf, quoted from the English original:

*The diversion which is peculiar to Scotland, and in which all ages find great pleasure, is golf. They play it with a small leather ball, like a fives ball, and a piece of wood, flat on one side, in the shape of a small bat, which is fastened at the end of a stick, of three or four feet long, at right angles to it. The art consists in striking the ball with this instrument, into a hole in the ground, in smaller number strokes than your adversary.*

*It requires no great exertion and strength, and all ranks and ages play at it. They instruct their children in it, as soon as they can run alone, and grey hairs boast their execution.*

This is a fine description of our game, much better than what came next. In 1846 came a Swedish translation of a travel book by the German Johann Georg Kohl. Much of the golf content is about a match that the author played in a golfing friend's house.

*Now just suppose that this room is the Links of Leith, says the friend as he draws a hole on the floor with a piece of chalk. He orders the furniture to be cleared away and saving the grass [the indoor links] had a tolerably close resemblance of the North Inch.*

The exercise was meant to persuade the author that golf is a difficult game and it did not take long.

*My first ball shot right into the turf ashes under the grate, and was there in a very critical position, writes Kohl.*

The story is funny, but it did not tell much about golf. Kohl however gave the name of the leading clubmaker in Edinburgh, Mr D McEwan, and he let his golfing host give Swedish readers a good description of a club:

*The knob must have exactly the proper curve; it must not be either too heavy or too light and the stick must possess a certain elasticity and great strength. The wood of which the stick is made must be selected with great care. The wood is loaded inside with lead, and a thick plate of horn must be fastened on the back of it to increase its strength. I have ivory on mine, as you see, because it looks more elegant. The stick itself must be wound round strongly with silk velvet at the handle; I have mine covered above the silk with velvet and gold thread for ornament's sake; one's hand would slip on the smooth wood.*

Ivory, silk, gold – it is not surprising that this extravagant game did not take off in Sweden.

### **A London golfer**

We have no information that these books inspired Swedes to start playing. Not until 1886

came a book in Swedish that gave a good description of golf. The first known Swede who joined a golf club and seems to have played regularly did so in England.

His name was Torsten Nordenfeldt and he mentioned his golf when he was interviewed for a magazine article in 1913 under the headline: *From the childhood of sports in Sweden.* Nordenfeldt said: *In 1863 I became a member of the first club in London that brought the Scottish game of golf to England.*

We think he referred to Royal Blackheath. But Torsten Nordenfeldt also says in the article that he was a member of the fourth battalion of the London Scottish regiment during 1863–1890 and that he was a champion marksman. So he might have belonged to the London Scottish golf club, established in 1863, the year he mentions.

Torsten Nordenfeldt was an iron trader in England and later established his own business selling machine guns and submarines. He retired to Sweden where he died in 1920. We do not know if he played golf after he returned home.

### **The blood is up**

The first golf course in Sweden was built by the brothers Edvard and Robert Sager in the park of their estate in Ryfors. Play started in 1888.

The brothers' father made a fortune from making brännvin (snaps) and from investments on the stock exchange. He died when the brothers were young. The family also owned Sagerska palatset in Stockholm, now the official residence of Sweden's Prime Minister.

The brothers had been in England and had played golf, so when they decided to build a park, the plans included a golf course. The Sagers commissioned the English landscape gardener Edward Milner to lay out an English park at Ryfors. He had worked with Sir Joseph Paxton, who created Crystal Palace in London and the trendsetting Birkenhead Park.

Edward Milner made a plan for the grand park in 1880. After he died in 1884 his son Henry Ernest took over. The Sager family hired the garden contractor H. Hughes to supervise the work and to train Swedish gardening workers.



Edvard Sager's wife Ida was a driving force behind the garden project. She is the first known Swedish lady golfer and she is pictured on a photograph of golf at Ryfors.



*Ida Sage's blood circulated forcefully when she played in Ryfors.*

There is no doubt she enjoyed her golf. This is what she told the French newspaper *Le Figaro* in 1904, interviewed about her needlework. *Sport might encroach on our needlework but in return it favours ourselves. When I come in after a game of golf or tennis, which has set my blood circulating forcefully, there is a joy to resume my work.*

Tradition has it that Edward Milner laid out six rather short golf holes. Or rather he placed six greens and six teeing grounds in the park. The greens were square. There does not seem to have been any hazards.

The earliest map of the garden that has survived is dated 1911, but it is believed to be a copy of the original plan. The golf course is marked with eight square greens. The reason for this unusual number is probably that the map is not really a map of the course but that the architect just drew a few greens to mark the general area of the golf course. The greens and tees were then cut where it was suitable and the layout probably changed from time to time.

Golf was played in Ryfors until about 1920. By then the work in the park had been going on for forty years. The brothers' families had fallen out and the estate and park had been cut in two. None of the families lived permanently in Ryfors and the profits of the estate shrank. During the following fifty years the park decayed. A restoration project started in 1982 and it included the golf course. It was re-opened in 1988, complete with square greens. But the golfers were not terribly interested. After a few years the present Ryfors Golfklubb built its new course across the Milner holes.

Ida Sager still swings in Ryfors. Her statue, inspired by the photograph, stands outside the clubhouse to greet today's golfers on their way out to have their blood circulating forcefully.

### **The spark that lit the fire**

The first golf club in Sweden was Gothenburg Golf Club. It was formed in 1891 and was dissolved in 1894. The man who started the club was the new chaplain of the English Congregation in Gothenburg, Arthur Vandeleur Despard.

He came to Gothenburg in the summer of 1890 to work in St. Andrew's church, which was built in 1857 by the city's English and Scottish merchants and industrialists. The chaplaincy has existed since 1747. St. Andrew's Anglican Episcopal Church in Gothenburg is today the centre of the Anglican Chaplaincy of West Sweden.

The congregation was dwindling when the Reverend Despard came. Several members had left Gothenburg. Maybe that is why he started the golf club, to attract new members. Or was it just because he was a keen golfer? We do not know.







*A.V. Despard, chaplain of St. Andrew's church in Gothenburg, who started the first Swedish golf club.*

The golf club was established in spring 1891. It laid out its course near Sandviken on the island of Hisingen, which is on the north side of river Göta that flows through Gothenburg. The golfers found a pasture squeezed in between rocks, hardly an ideal terrain for golf. But the name Sandviken means Bay of Sand, so the soil was sandy. There were four holes and the total length of the course was 900 metres. The hazards were natural sand bunkers and roads. We have several photographs of golf at Sandviken. The golfers look keen enough, but they became fewer and fewer. The membership of the congregation also went down. When the London Bishop Wilkinson visited Gothenburg in 1893 he was clearly worried. A.V. Despard must have felt lonely, both in church and on the golf course. The Club was formally dissolved in January 1894. The members, who had paid 100 kronor for life membership received 66 kronor back.

The Reverend Despard left Gothenburg in 1895 and moved to Edinburgh. His home was not far

away from Bruntsfield links, but we do not know if he played there. In fact, we do not know if he played at all, either before or after his stay in Sweden.

### Setterberg's Golf March

So the Gothenburg Golf Club was not much more than a spark. But this spark was enough to ignite the game of golf in Sweden. The man who started it all was Viktor Hugo Setterberg, the country's first serious golf nut.

Viktor Hugo Setterberg, 1859–1945, was an energetic organizer and a visionary. He was the founding Secretary of the present Göteborgs Golf Klubb and the Swedish Golf Union. Although he played in five championship finals he swung his pen with more power than his clubs. He estimated that he wrote some 40,000 pages on golf. Here is how he envisaged the development of the game in 1928: *Because golf, with its many favourable qualities constitutes the best sport of recreation for present day men and women, I wish and hope that, like it has been in Scotland and soon will be in America, it will also in Sweden become a truly national game, played by all classes and ages.*



*Viktor Hugo Setterberg took over and organized golf when the Church's golf club folded. This picture comes out from his own album. The caption reads: "Golf Champion of Arendal, 1894"*

He backed up this proud declaration with a stream of ideas and hard work to make them real.

He surveyed the Gothenburg area and the west coast of Sweden for suitable golf land. He urged the Golf Federation to encourage cities around Sweden to build courses. He wanted to lay out special courses for boys and girls and start

youth championships. Many of his ideas became reality ten or twenty or thirty years later.

Viktor Hugo Setterberg translated the rules, gave swing tips and commented on golf literature. He had a golf column in Sweden's first sports magazine. He sang and played the lute. He composed, wrote and translated golf songs. One of the songs in his repertoire is *The Golf March*, which we sing during dinner each year after the Swedish Hickory Championship. During Viktor Hugo Setterberg's time as a promoter of golf, the number of players in Sweden climbed from a handful to 1,300 and the number of clubs from one to ten. And he built the foundation for what came after that – 600,000 players in 500 clubs.

### **The long road to Hovås**

Viktor Hugo Setterberg saw golf at the Sandviken course sometime in the years 1891–1893. He was a merchant, trading in ships' supplies, and must have been well connected, not least in the British merchant and shipping community. He spent much time at Arendal, where the well-off had what could be called a country club, with sailing, water sports and other games. Arendal is situated on the island of Hisingen, west of Sandviken.

When A.V. Despard's Gothenburg Golf Club folded, Viktor Hugo Setterberg took over. He organized golf on the Sandviken course and laid out a course at Arendal. Play started there already in 1894 on 18 holes measuring 1,692 metres. This layout was modified in 1902 to nine holes and 997 metres and finally to six holes and 990 metres in 1904.

At the same time Viktor Hugo Setterberg laid out a better course near Sandviken. There were nine holes measuring 860 metres, later extended to 1,332 metres. Play started in 1901 but the golfers were later driven away by the city of Gothenburg, that dug up the pastures to take sand to build the new harbour.

James Keiller was one of the Sandviken players. He was a third generation immigrant from Scotland and head of the family's shipyard in Gothenburg. Like many other wealthy families in the city, the Keillers had a summer house in Särö, on the coast some 20 kilometres to the south. James Keiller visited St Andrews around

1895. He brought back clubs and balls and laid out a course in Särö.

The Särö Golf Club was founded in 1899. But the ground was not suitable. The course was flooded and summer guests turned to tennis and croquet. The club was dissolved in 1901 and its funds were later donated to the new club in Gothenburg in 1902.

When Sandviken became threatened, Viktor Hugo Setterberg found land for yet another course. This time he went to Hovås, south of the city. The soil here is sandy and the site was easy to reach by train on the new line to Särö. With assistance from prominent citizens, Setterberg managed to secure land for six holes measuring 1,466 metres and play started in 1904.

This is now the heart of Göteborgs Golf Klubb's 18-hole course. The second hole is Sweden's oldest golf hole in play. When we played the seventh Swedish Hickory Championship at Hovås in 2004 the club had recreated many other of the original holes.

### **The committee man**

Viktor Hugo Setterberg also applied his energy to build an organizational framework for the game. When the Gothenburg Athletic Association was formed in 1902, the golfers were members from the start under the name of Golfafdelning (Golf department). Setterberg was Secretary and Tor Törnsten was Vice Chairman and a few years later Chairman. Setterberg also served as Treasurer. In 1910 the name was changed to Göteborgs Golf Klubb.

Sport was also organised on the national level. The Swedish Union of Gymnastics and Athletics Associations was formed. Golf was among the eleven sports that were members from the start. The Union held its first annual general meeting in 1904. The golfers' section elected its first committee with Törnsten as Chairman and Setterberg as Secretary. That was the birth of the Swedish Golf Federation. Törnsten and Setterberg worked together in the Club and in the Federation for ten years. They also played in two championship finals and Törnsten won both.

Then, in 1914, Viktor Hugo Setterberg suddenly resigned from his positions in the Club and the Federation. The reason was he felt he was badly treated in a dispute about rules.

After ten years the Hovås course was still rough. On one hole in particular, long drivers often found their balls in bad lies. For Setterberg this was not a problem because he could not reach the rough ground. He had a bad leg and did not hit the ball very far. The other players claimed they were allowed a free drop out of the rough ground, but Setterberg protested. He insisted that you must play the ball as it lies and the course as you find it. The dispute escalated. Setterberg sought help from the Golf Federation and the Royal & Ancient, but they gave him no support. That was that. Setterberg quit. It is easy to imagine his fury. Viktor Hugo Setterberg however continued to write and to promote golf, exhausting the committees of Club and Federation with a stream of ideas and proposals.

### Sweden plays away

Sweden's second oldest club is Stockholms Golfklubb, founded in 1904. Golf was played in fields outside the city in the 1890s. The Sager brothers were among the early golfers as were Crown Prince Gustaf Adolf and his English wife Margareta.

Next in line was the club in Carlskrona, Sweden's most important naval base. Officers formed the club and sent for Viktor Hugo Setterberg to lay out six holes, where they played from 1907 to 1922. Officers helped spread golf for years to come. Several golf clubs were started in military towns and they laid out their first courses on the army's training grounds around Sweden.

Then came Falsterbo. The earliest known players on the peninsula were Erik Schweder, who had been sent to England to learn business, and his friend Adolf Faxé. They were out with clubs and balls in the summer of 1909. The Club was founded in December that year by well-off citizens in Malmö, who rode to their summer houses in Falsterbo on the new railway.



*Crown Prince Gustaf Adolf, swinging, and his English wife Margareta played on the linksland along the Öresund strait, near their summer residence (early 1900s).*

The Club's first problem was that the new golf enthusiasts had neither clubs nor balls. So the committee sent for eight clubs, four each for ladies and gentlemen, and two dozen balls. The members seem to have been confident they could keep out of Falsterbo's heather and sand. During 1910 the club played on a provisional course and then in 1911 moved to its present site, where Copenhagen Professional Robert Turnbull laid out nine holes.

Up the coast, golf was played in the 1890s on the linksland near the village of Viken, near Helsingborg. The Helsingborg club was formed in 1924 and it sent for Falsterbo's Professional William Hester to lay out a course at Viken. Crown Prince Gustaf Adolf's summer residence Sofiero is nearby. The royal couple played on the linksland in the early 1900s. Later the Prince played at Viken.

Veteran professional Carl-Erik Nordgren, who grew up in Viken, remembered how an officer came to inspect the caddies. He told Carl-Erik to put on a clean shirt next morning because he would be carrying for the Prince. "He could swing", Carl-Erik Nordgren said approvingly when he told me about it in 1999. But on the first hole the Prince sliced his ball onto the beach. It found a good lie on the dry seaweed so he could get back on the fairway with his second shot.



## Fred Daly Open champion 1947

John Hanna



This contribution to the latest edition of the *Golfika* magazine is sent from 'The Golf Capital of the World,' which, of course, is Northern Ireland. We are now home to three Major Championship winners in the last thirteen months: Graeme Mc Dowell US Open Champion 2010; Rory McIlroy U S Open Champion 2011, and Darren Clarke Open Champion 2011.

What a time it has been for golf in this part of the world. With a population of just under 1.8 million the odds in favour of this performance happening were astronomical. In fact given the size of the population, and the number of champions from here this ratio shows that Northern Ireland is the best in the world. There is no truth in the story that there is something in the water, still you never know? It is rumoured that property values around Portrush have shown a considerable increase in the last year!

The euphoria around the Causeway Coast, which includes the World Heritage site, the Giant's Causeway, also Portrush and Bushmills, home of the world famous whiskey, has been amazing since Graeme arrived home last year. His club, Rathmore Golf Club which is attached to Royal Portrush, gave him a tumultuous welcome to remember. Similarly this month Royal Portrush did the same for Darren. He marked the occasion by presenting his Open Championship medal to the club. Of course, the serious golf historians in Europe, and elsewhere, will be aware that Darren is not the first Ulsterman to win the Open Championship, or indeed the first from Portrush. (Although Darren lives in Portrush he originates from Dungannon in County Tyrone) There were similar celebrations here before, and in Belfast, for Ulster's only other Open Champion. This honour fell to Fred Daly, who won the Championship at Royal Liverpool in 1947. So



while it has been a long wait over the last sixty four years, it has been worth waiting for. People will have read all about Darren in recent weeks, but how many remember Fred. The older generation will never forget him.

Fred Daly was born in Causeway Street, Portrush in October 1911, the son of Daniel and Anne, (Nancy) Daly. Daniel Daly was a blacksmith, who worked at Simpson's Forge on Causeway Street. Fred was the youngest of a family of six, three boys and three girls. From 1916 to 1925 he attended Kelly Memorial Public Elementary School in Portrush. In comparison with today, at this time no children would have left school with the idea of their chosen sport as their career. So it was with Fred, and after leaving school, or maybe even when at school, he caddied on the links at Royal Portrush Golf Club. His reward was a shilling (5p) a round. His father was keen to make sure he learned a skill, and so Fred was apprenticed to the electrical trade. This only lasted six months, and after a period assisting in the professional's shop under P G Stevenson (Stevie), and doing a lot of caddying, he decided to become a professional golfer. Since leaving school he had been playing some golf, and his talent was very obvious to the RPGC members. They encouraged the young man in their midst, and his first set of clubs was given to him by Mr. Hugh Carson, a past Captain of the club. Another member, Mr. Nelson McMillen, helped Fred obtain his first professional appointment in 1931 at Mahee Island Golf Club, in County Down. He was to be a part-time professional and the green keeper. This dual role was not uncommon at this time, especially in smaller clubs.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> May 1931 Fred married his teenage sweetheart, Miss Jean McCreadie, of Chapel Square, Coleraine. After Mahee Island Fred moved first to Lurgan Golf Club in 1933, and remained there until 1939. His next club was City of Derry, where he was offered wages of £3.10shs per week, with a free house and coal, a considerable increase on his £2 a week at Lurgan. Though the greatest attraction to him was he no longer had to cut fairways and greens. He was a professional golfer. Plenty of servicemen, both British and American, were stationed in, or visited, the City which provided Fred with plenty of opportunities for giving lessons, and even more so for the lucrative money matches, which not only put a

competitive edge on his game, but added a few welcome shillings in his pocket. Despite the arrival of the Second World War, Fred won the Irish Native Championship in 1940, and before the war ended he had won other competitions. Fred's big move came in 1944 when he was lured to Balmoral Golf Club in Belfast by a wage of £5 per week. This was the highest amount paid to any professional in Ireland. He remained at Balmoral, and was synonymous with this Belfast club for more than forty five years.



### **Fred Daly "Open Champion"**

The Open Championship was held at Royal Liverpool Golf Club in 1947. Among the entrants were a number of Irish golfers, the best known of who were Fred Daly and Harry Bradshaw. On the first day Henry Cotton opened with a great round of 68, while Fred Daly was in fourth place with a 73. Conditions were not as favorable on the second day and Daly came in with score of 70, a very good score on the day. Cotton, had a most uncharacteristic round scoring 78. Many of the first day leaders fell away, and Bradshaw missed the cut.

In these days the last two rounds were played on one day, basically to allow the competitors to return to their clubs for a busy Saturday with their members. As the final day's play began Fred led by four shots, but in the strong winds he made things difficult for himself with a third round of 78. Henry Cotton, the winner in 1934 and 1937, had a 74 and was now tied with Daly.

Another big difference between then and now is that the players did not go out in the last round in order of their scores. They went out in the same grouping as they had been in for the morning round. This was due to the fact that two rounds had to be played. So Cotton and Daly were not drawn to play with one another. Reg Horne of Hendon set the early club house lead with an aggregate of 294.

Daly was not playing well taking 38 shots for the first nine. He began the next nine much better with 3, 3, 4, and 3. The last of the three's was crucial, because at the short 13<sup>th</sup> hole he had missed the green with his tee shot. He shanked his second shot, but holed out from about fifteen yards for his bogey. A par in old parlance! For most of the round he had hit his irons well, and had putted well. This gave him confidence to tackle the remaining holes.

Incidentally, this was the last time a player with a score in any round higher than 75 won the Championship. After the 16<sup>th</sup> hole Fred was now one under fours, but three putted the 17<sup>th</sup>. Going to the last tee he knew he needed a birdie to win. Whistling to himself as he made his way through the large gallery he even took time to sign an autograph. Two great shots saw him safely home to about twelve feet, and he sank the putt to take the lead. Frank Stranahan, the American amateur, came to the last needing a two to tie Daly. After a monstrous drive, which split the fairway, he walked the short distance remaining right up to the green. He viewed the hole from every angle, and returned to his ball. He struck the iron beautifully, and the ball rolled right towards the hole. It is said it just missed the hole by inches. Fred was the Open Champion, the Golfer of the Year for 1947.

Fred knew none of this. He did not bother to go out and watch, but said that whatever happened he could not change it, so he just waited and sat chatting with friends. He tells the story that he has heard that Stranahan's ball came so close to holing out so many times, that he expects some time for the story to change, and find that the ball actually went in to the hole, and he had to go out in a play-off! During his acceptance speech at Royal Liverpool, Daly said he was very honoured to receive the Claret Jug and take it back to Northern Ireland.

He went on to say that the trophy had never been to Ireland and that he was hoping that the

change of air would help it. Now it is back, let's hope it is not as long again before it returns. One young man by the name of Rory McIlroy might just see that this is the case.



Another lovely story is that Fred and his good friend Harry Bradshaw celebrated with a few drinks immediately after the prize giving, and when they enquired in the Royal Liverpool club house if there was anything to eat, there were told there was nothing. So they headed into Liverpool and were joined by many friends from Northern Ireland. They were to sail on the night boat from Liverpool to Belfast to play in the Irish Open beginning at Royal Portrush on the Wednesday. Fred was the defending Champion. A crowd of supporters, mostly from his Balmoral Club made the early morning trip to the docks to welcome their champion home. Despite the fact that they recognized many of the other golfers disembarking, there was no sight of Fred, or Harry, or indeed Max Faulkner, who was to win the Open Championship at Portrush in 1951. They had missed the boat, and returned to Belfast on the boat the following night.

In addition to winning the Open in 1947 at the age of 36, Fred achieved much in his career, despite the fact that, like so many of his

contemporaries, the bulk of his prime golfing years coincided with the Second World War. After his Open Championship success there were detractors who talked of his win being a 'flash in the pan'. Fred was able to show them otherwise, and many would have been proud of his record over the next four years. As defending Champion he was runner up to Henry Cotton in 1948; tied for second with Robert de Vicenzo, behind Bobby Locke in 1950; fourth in 1951 at his home course at Royal Portrush, where of course he was the favourite; and third in 1952. He was seventh behind Ben Hogan at Carnoustie in 1953, and in 1955 still made the 'top ten' at St Andrews. He was still competing in the Open in 1958, when he was only just twelve strokes off the winning score.

Fred had also a great record in the British Matchplay Championship. He was the first Irishman to win this championship, and only the second man in the 20<sup>th</sup> century to complete the double by winning the Open and the Matchplay in the same year. One day in the 1953 Championship stands out. He was drawn against Alan 'Tiger' Poulton in the second round, and after 18 holes they were still locked together, so they had to play a sudden death play-off. Finally after a grueling five and a half hours and ten minutes Fred won at the 12<sup>th</sup> hole. Not content with having set one record for the longest match, Fred then played a young up and coming professional called Peter Alliss in the third round, after only a ten minute break. Fred proceeded to produce scintillating golf resulting in one of the most forgettable matches in Alliss' career. Fred scorched round the first nine in 31 shots and was close to giving Peter a 'dog licence, (this saying came about as a dog licence cost 7shs and 6 pence, i.e. 7 and 6, but still the result was a crushing defeat of 6 and 5. This time he was on the course for only an hour and fifty minutes!

He had a great local record winning the Irish Open in 1946. He won the Ulster Professional Championship from 1936 to 1943, and then again in 1943, 46, 51, and finally from 1956, 57 and 58. He was the winner of the Irish Professional Championship 1940, 46 and 52. Fred's golfing prowess earned him four places on the Ryder Cup, playing in 1947, 49, 51 and 53.

In describing Fred Daly Sam Snead echoed what every Ulsterman knew; Fred Daly was the

best long iron player in the world. Sam said, 'he was the Prince of iron players, and could knock your hat off with a one iron at 220 yards.' Former Open Championship winner Henry Cotton partnered Fred in many 'money' matches particularly against Americans. He said he kept Fred hidden behind the starter's hut until the bets were settled.



Fred was known and loved all round the world for his ready wit and charm. He was the shilling a round caddie, who never had a lesson in his life, yet won the Open Championship. If riches were to be measured in friends then Fred would have been one of the richest Champions, as he had many, many friends. Of course winning the Open Championship nowadays results in the winner receiving many millions of pounds. In addition to his £900,000 first prize, Darren was able to pick up a 'bonus' cheque from one of his sponsors for £2 million pounds. This is just the start. When Fred won at Hoylake in 1947 the total prize fund was one thousand pounds, with the winner receiving just £150! There were no Mark McCormacks, or agents in those days, yet Fred Daly lived a good life until he was 79, when he died of a heart attack.





# **Berlin Open Hickory Championship 2011 Austrian Hickory Championship 2011 German Hickory Championship 2011**

**By Christoph Meister**



## **Berlin Open Hickory Championship 2011**

On June 2nd, 2011, 52 players came together at Germany's oldest still existing golf club, the Golf- und Landclub Berlin-Wannsee (founded 1895 as Berlin Golf Club) to play an 18-hole greensome using only original pre-1935 hickory shafted golf clubs competing for the Miller trophy, donated by the German Society of Periodontology commemorating Willoughby Dayton Miller, the first president of Berlin Golf Club in 1895.

Playing off their regular steel-shaft handicaps Boris Lietzow (Golf-Club an der Göhrde) und Christoph Meister (Wentorf-Reinbeker GC) finished as the best net-amateur score winning the Miller-trophy with 33 stableford points. Scottish-born professional Iain Forrester (Hoenshuis/NL) won the gross price playing together with German dentist Klaus Sasse (Berlin-Kallin) with 27 Stableford points beating German (steel-shaft) match play championship semi-finalist Christian Althaus (Düsseldorfer GC) playing together with Achim v. Stutterheim (GC Föhr) finishing also with 27 gross points playing from the yellow tees at 5.875m (6.425 yds).

On Friday June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011, the hickory golfers played an 18-hole stroke play event for the Berlin Hickory Open Championship 2011 (gross) and the Percy Alliss – trophy (net). With 77 strokes Iain Forrester won the Berlin Hickory Open Championship for professional golfers, whereas the Amateur title remained in local hands with Jessica Jensen winning the ladies gross with 91 strokes and Warayu Melzer winning the gentlemen's gross with 82 strokes.

The net competition for the Percy Alliss trophy, remembering the former Ryder-Cup player, club-professional at Berlin-Wannsee from 1926 to 1931 and father of Ryder-Cup player Peter Alliss, whose letter with his apologies of absence was read out by Iain Forrester the day before already, was won by local player Claudia Splieth 70 strokes net beating Boris Lietzow (net 72) und Klaus Sasse (net 77).

Photos from the event can be found here:

<http://wannsee.de/berlin-hickory-open-und-hickory-jubilaumsturnier?page=1&titles=off>

## **Austrian Hickory Championship 2011**

The first international Austrian Hickory Championship 2011 was played on Austria's historic Golf-Club Salzkammergut that commemorated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary three years ago with a visiting delegation from the British Golf Collectors Society resp. the European Association of Golf Historians & Collectors playing the course with hickory shafted golf clubs bringing the idea of hickory golf back to the local members, who in the meantime have set-up an Austrian Hickory Golf-Club (organizer of the event of course) officially registered as an extra-ordinary member of the Austrian Golf Union.

On June 11<sup>th</sup> 2011 Amateur players from Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Germany, the Netherlands and of course Austria came together at Golf-Club Salzkammergut, Bad Ischl, all equipped with their own original hickory golf clubs or those provided by Iain Forrester, who kindly agreed to be the official



partner of the Austrian Hickory Championship for rental clubs.

International player Markus Kümmerle (GER) won the first Austrian Hickory Championship with 86 strokes gross beating the local players Gottlieb Peer and Andreas Wieder by one stroke each.

The net price, the Heimo Hrovat Trophy, remembering our fellow Austrian hickory golfer who died much too early, was won by local player Günter Gaderbauer (AUT) with 66 strokes (net) beating Christoph Meister (GER) with 69 strokes (net) and Robert Kaubek (AUT) with 71 strokes (net).

Photos of the Austrian International Hickory Championship 2011 are provided with kind permission of Golf-Club Salzkammergut GC and Andreas Zeppelzauer here:

<https://picasaweb.google.com/115857898276526190040/1InternatOsterrHickoryGolfMeisterschaft1162011?pli=1>

The **German Hickory Championship 2011** was played on Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011 again at historic Bad Wildungen Golf-Club in Central Germany designed by Charles Mackenzie, brother of the more famous Alister Mackenzie, in 1930. The 18-hole stroke play championship was open to Amateurs and Professional golfers. Britta Nord (93) from Stockholm won the German Ladies Hickory Championship for the third consecutive time while last year's German Hickory champion Perry Somers (79 strokes) repeated his victory beating Iain Forrester (2<sup>nd</sup>), Andrew Gauld (3<sup>rd</sup>) and David van Mulken (4<sup>th</sup> on countback). Boris

Lietzow again won the German Amateur Hickory Championship.

The net trophy for the Dr.-Jürgen-Kienle trophy kindly donated by Hannelore Kienle in remembrance of her late husband who was a keen German Hickory player and golf collector originating from Bad Wildungen was won by Polish player Sofia Lelakowska from Warszawa with 65 net strokes followed by Petra Dudzus from Berlin-Wannsee (71 net) and local player Ingrid Wolf-Hayn (73 net), who also happens to be Dr. Jürgen Kienle's sister.

In the gentlemen section Boris Lietzow from Northern Germany also won the Dr.-Jürgen Kienle trophy with 74 strokes beating Kuno Schuch from Cologne (also 74) on countback. 3<sup>rd</sup> place was achieved by Dutch International Player Harry Altman with 75 strokes net.

Summarizing the weekend it can be said that almost 30 hickory players from Australia, The Netherlands, Poland, Scotland, Sweden and Thailand enjoyed two lovely days of good weather at Bad Wildungen while the rain was pouring at Berlin, Hamburg and Munich. Again our hosts made us feel more than welcome and we hope to be back soon at the charming Spa Town of Bad Wildungen soon....

All photos from Bad Wildungen with kind permission by (c) 2011 Martin Kufner – see also <http://martinkufner.com/>



## A competition between Hyères or Cannes : which one was first?

JBK (Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak)



In a previous paper on Golf on the French Riviera, we stated that Cannes (Mandelieu) was the very first club on the Riviera (1891) and that Hyères started later. In fact the story seems being a bit more complex and we would like to bring additional information in this issue. Most of the today sources I'm referring to are from the library of the Royal Liverpool Golf Club, in Hoylake. Again, I would like to thank heartily both the Captain and the Secretary to provide me with the authorisation to browse through their fantastic collection of scrap books. I was then able to find many articles from *The Field* (a two-weekly publication) which are related to Hyères and Cannes.

I started browsing the 1890 book, from January, and had to go until April 18<sup>th</sup>, 1891, to find the first reference on golf in the South East of France. Under the title "Golf on the Riviera" I was expecting to find some information related to the Cannes Golf Club. The surprise was great when I realised that the author was referring to Hyères! Here is the paper:

*Sir, – I have just returned from the south of France, and think it may be of interest to many golfers to know that very good links will be opened next season on the Riviera. Through the kindness of Mr Corbett, the English banker at Hyères, I was enabled a few days ago to visit the links, and we also played a foursome. I feel pretty confident that, with some few alterations, it will become a very sporting round of nine holes.*

*They are most conveniently situated close to the station of Les Salines, which is about four miles from Hyères, the start for the first hole being within 150 yards of the station. The round has been laid out by the Pau professional<sup>(1)</sup>, and Mr Corbett has several men at work removing the*

*meadow reeds which grow there, and sowing grass in their place.*

*A young Frenchman<sup>(2)</sup>, who was employed on the links at Pau, is now looking after the greens. He is enthusiastic over the game, and also a good player and club maker.*

*The links are close to the sea, with lovely views over the Isles of Hyères and the hills around, and altogether will be welcomed by those who prefer bright sunshine, lovely flowers, and the purest air to the fog and east wind of a winter in England.*

This paper is signed: East Sheen and C. Home Sinclair.

Next fall, starting October 24<sup>th</sup> and until December 19<sup>th</sup>, 1891, the magazine is publishing an advertisement, in almost every issue, which states:

*[Advertisement] – Golf on the Riviera (without the risk of fog, mist, and snow). – The only golf links on the Riviera are in connection with the*

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<sup>(1)</sup> Jo Lloyd was the Pau professional at that winter-time. In 1897 he was the winner of the US open, representing the Essex Golf Club. This name is confirmed in a later publication.

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<sup>(2)</sup> Dominique Coussie was employed as a caddie in Pau since 1882 and became later an assistant pro to Jo Lloyd. Nevertheless, we have no evidence that he also spent any time in Hyères.

*Grand Hotel d'Albion, Hyères. The golf course has been provided a new attraction to the hotel. A professional from Saint Andrew is engaged. The hotel is fitted with perfect sanitary appliances, and is conducted according to the English ideas of comfort and luxury. Full detail on application to the Manager, Grand Hotel d'Albion, Hyères (N.B. The nearest and most southern winter station on the Riviera).* And in the issue of October 31<sup>st</sup>, E.S.<sup>(3)</sup> is writing:

*I should be greatly obliged if one of our readers would kindly inform me whether golf can be played at Hyères this winter. The Hotels are advertising "splendid golf links" last year; but when I went, I found nothing but a barren waste (without a blade of grass, except some dried up bent), on which a solitary Frenchman was mooning about with a cleek in his hand. He said he was going to laid out a course after Lloyd from Pau had inspected it, but, though I remained at Hyères two months, nothing was done to the course, and no golf was played. What I want to know is whether a course had been made, and whether there is a properly constituted club, so a golfer going there can make sure of finding someone to play with.*

On November 7<sup>th</sup>, 1891, Arthur Carter is answering in a pretty non-informative manner to this inquiry:

*In answer to E.S. and R.B., I beg to inform them that I heard last week from a friend at Hyères that the golf links are completed, and are pronounced by a Scottish professional who has been engaged to be very good. I'm not aware whether or no there is a properly constituted club, but I imagine that E.S. would have no difficulty in finding someone to play with. I see, from an advertisement in the Field of Oct. 24, that full particulars can be had on application to the Grand Hotel d'Albion, Costebelle, Hyères.*

In the next issue (December 12<sup>th</sup>) a certain Epping is also writing:

*In a reply to the queries in your issue of 31<sup>st</sup> ult., I'm able to say that a proper course has been laid out a few minute's walk from the Salius [sic, for Salines] d'Hyères station, and, that a Saint Andrews professional has taken charge, and highly improves of the links.*

*Further than this, there is an advertisement on page 684 of your last issue announcing the opening of the links. If "E.S." writes out to the parties advertising he can easily learn if a regular club has been formed; but in any case he is quite sure of some one to play with this season.*

The December 26<sup>th</sup>, 1891 issue from *The Field* is not offering a Christmas gift for the Hyère golf club, as the following text was published:

*A short time ago we had several inquiries as to the opportunities of golfing at Hyères, and insert a note in this department of our paper, to elicit information. Nothing, however, definitely came of it, and some of our correspondents, it appears, seeing an advertisement in which the golfing possibilities at Hyères were highly praised, went to this particular part of the south of France, thinking to combine the practice of golf with the other attraction of the place. One of these gentlemen now send us word that he has been greatly disappointed, and, for the benefit of other golfing readers, he gives us liberty to quote a portion of his (otherwise) private epistle. It runs as follows:*

*"It is an expensive journey, and very annoying to find that what one has come out for is practically non-existent. The ground itself is seven miles off. It takes an hour to get there. It consists of seven holes, zigzagged across a bit of rough ground close to the sea. It has recently been under water (though dry enough now), as it is about here salt is produced by evaporation. The young man in charge is a good player, but he feels the futility of attempting to 'make a silk purse out of a sow's ear.' The grass is of the worst, coarse and rank, and lots of tufts of a grass like wire. There is no caddies of small boys, the ground is intersected by made ditches, and hundreds of short, scrubby bushes, and no decent lie, the clods of earth lying promiscuously about). The greens, with the exception of one, are beneath contempt. There are two teeing grounds; but I will not go on, and only say that no good player would care to play on it, and it would sicken a beginner. The weather, however, is so perfect, that it makes something to do to go down there and watch the Frenchman engaged in the attempt to clear single-handed such an Augean stable."*

Is it necessary to say that the advertisement stopped with this issue?

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<sup>(3)</sup> Most probably East Shhen

Note that during all the 1891 year, there is no reference to any golf in Cannes. Eventually, on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1892, we can read the first information on “Golf at Cannes”:

*What has long been the crying want of the Riviera seems at last to be in a fair way of being satisfied. For many years, visitors to Cannes have felt that a golf club was the one lacking to make existence in that favoured neighbourhood perfect. But for various reasons this has hitherto been impossible; the stretches of land suitable for links are very few; the tenants on any one stretch of land were many and intractable; keen golfers were few, and those few, finding no opportunity of playing their favourite game, were naturally attracted away to such places as Pau and Biarritz, where the game thrived and flourished. But now, at least, these difficulties seem likely to be faced and surmounted; under the lead of H.I.H. the Grand Duke Michael of Russia an influential committee has been formed, and a golf club is an assured fact. No time has been lost; no sooner had the idea of giving Cannes a golf club taken definite shape than, within a space of six days, the Grand Duke took measures to secure the use of suitable land, and induced the Pau Club to most kindly send over their professional, Joseph Lloyd; a course was laid out, greens made, a professional engaged, and the first tournament played. The links are one and half miles from Cannes, situate in a beautiful valley commanding superb views of Grasse and the Esterels. It is an entirely inland course, the chief hazard being defined ditches, bushes, &c. Lloyd gave it as his deliberate opinion that there are the making of a really good golfing course. At present there are only nine holes. There are now but few golfers at Cannes, but the existence of these links surely needs only to be known to draw many lovers of golf and sunshine to Cannes. All inquiries should be addressed to the hon. Sec. Rev. L.J. Fish, Villa Haute Rive, Cannes, who will gladly afford every information.*

In the January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1892 issue, possibly in reaction to the long paper promoting the Cannes Golf Club, Charles J. Steward, from the Oxford and Cambridge Club, Pall Mall, S.W. (also Hon. Sec. of the Oxford G.C.) was sending the following information:

*Sir, – Having played for the last fortnight on the links at Hyères les Salins, it may be of interest to any golfers intending to go to the Riviera to*

*know that there are much improved during the last two or three weeks. There are seven holes, three of which are fairly sporting; and, though none of them are yet long, some are capable of being lengthened, and the green is now in a fair way of being made the most of. Though a golfer may sigh for St. Andrews, still he can make fair practice on these links. Golf at Hyères at present has the merit of cheapness. No charge is made for playing, and there are no caddies. Visitors from the Hotel d’Albion are conveyed to and from the station free of charge. The second class return fare is 1s.*

*If the management of the Hotel d’Albion will take pains (which they have promised to do) with the putting green, and make fair courses between the tees and the holes by removing the rushes, there seems to be no reason why golf should not be successful at Hyères.*

In later issues, there are regular publications of competitions’ results (and sometimes comments) in Hyères and Cannes. This is not the place to report here all these information. Let’s just say that for 1892, the first competition reported is in Hyères on February the 20<sup>th</sup> and on April the 9<sup>th</sup> in Cannes. The later was likely more important.

On the French Riviera, the season was usually closing with Easter, so, not surprisingly we have to wait until December 17<sup>th</sup>, 1892, to read again about both Hyères and Cannes:

*The first handicap of the season on the Hyères links took place on Dec. 3, and was won by Mr. H.H. Child from Mr J.E. Moore by five points; Mr S. Hoare, M.P., was third; and close behind him came Dr Buckley, Mr Peel [...]*

*The links are situated in some salt marshes, which have been leased and laid out by the proprietors of the Hotel d’Albion, Costebelle, Hyères, who have also engaged a young professional from St. Andrew. The clubhouse adjoins the station of Les Salines d’Hyères, which is fifteen minutes by train from the town. This soil is of a sandy nature, rather bare of turf in places, greens vary, some being rather short of turf and very fast, other mossy and slow. With play the links and improving in every particular, and golfers who are tired of the murky climate of Great Britain might travel farther and fare worse before finding a place*



where they can pursue their favourite pastime under an almost cloudless sky.

Sir, – Can you spare me, as last year you did my predecessor, a small space in which to set forth some facts which may be of interest to migratory golfers? The Cannes Golf Club was founded last year under the presidency of H.I.H. the Grand Duke Michael of Russia. Everything went well with us except that, owing to circumstances which I will not trouble you with, we were compelled to seek new links at the end of last season. These were found near Napoule, and the change carries with it the following marked advantages over our old arrangements: 1. We are entire masters of 78 acres, with the option of 150. 2. We have been able to transform a very spacious farmhouse into a roomy and thoroughly appointed clubhouse, which can, in all respects compare with the quarters of the best home clubs. 3. This same clubhouse is so near the P.L.M. Railway that the directors of that company have agreed to build us a station eight minutes' walk from the clubhouse, and to expedite and accelerate the journey of golfers by stopping trains both to and from Cannes. 4. We have this year an English professional permanently engaged – Robert Alty, late of Blundellsands.

I must tell you that, owing to the lateness of the rains this year, our intended course, which promise to be a most sporting and interesting one, is not yet fit for play, but, pending such fitness, we are now playing daily on course which has been temporarily laid out, and which affords the golfing enjoyment of ordinary inland English links. I shall be delighted to answer all golfers who may address me by letter, and give them every information in my power.

C.C. Woodward (Col.), Hon. Sec. Cannes Golf Club.

This important paper got an immediate response from Samuel Hoare, Hotel de l'Ermitage, Costebelle, Hyères, on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 1892:

Sir, – A statement made in the columns of one of your contemporaries, that Cannes is the only place on the Riviera which boasts a golf links requires some contradiction. We are very fortunate in having a capital course here, within half an hour both of Hyères and Costebelle. Beautifully situated close by the sea, the links form a delightful place for the golfer to spend a happy day. While the course is one which will give plenty of amusement to good players, the

moderate player will find that the hazards are negotiable without much difficulty. Under the care of the young St. Andrew's professional, the greens are rapidly improving; some of them are very quick, and demand careful putting. I need scarcely say that the climate is perfect. There has been no rain for a month, fog and frost are almost unknown, and there is nothing to interfere with the golfer beyond the brilliance of the sun.

Golfers are most certainly indebted to the enterprise of the directors of the Hotel d'Albion, Costebelle, and to Mr Corbett for founding so playable a course for them, and, I feel sure that the more the course is known the more it will be appreciated.

It seems that the confrontation between the two places was finding an end as there was no longer any significant information in the magazine – except for providing results of the competitions. But, finally, on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 1893, we can read:

Hyères (France) Golf Club - Weekly Handicap, March 18  
[results]

Four members of this club took part in the scratch competition on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> inst., of the Cannes Golf Club. The Hon. R. Jervis and Mr S. Oliphant won respectively the first and the second prizes. They were, however, disqualified for breaking a rule of the club of which they were ignorant at the time. The gentlemen to whom the first prize was actually awarded (Mr Denniston) made a score inferior by eight points to that of the Hon. R. Jervis.

In conclusion, it seems that in Hyères and Cannes, there were, early in 1891, strong initiatives to organise some golf game. In Hyères it was certainly a way, for Messrs Zick and Peyron<sup>12</sup>, to attract more clients in their hotels while in Cannes it was definitely to organise a true club as the Grand Duke discovered in Great Britain during his trips.

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<sup>12</sup> Mr Peyron was the proprietary of the Grand Hotel d'Albion and l'Ermitage (Costebelle), referred in this paper, while Mr Zick was the proprietary of the Hotel des Palmiers and the Golf Hotel.

This would explain why Horace Hutchinson in *The Golfing Pilgrim* (1898) is referring to the Cannes GC but is not saying a single word on Hyères – just ignoring it.

A Correction.

In a previous paper on “Golf on the French Riviera” published here, we stated that “... another tournament was played at the Hyères Golf Club as a prelude to the Tattler cup (see below: Costebelle). Also, it must be noted that this club was often referred to as “Hyères Les Palmiers” in order to avoid any confusion with another club in Hyères: Costebelle.” And later, “In March 1908 *The Tattler* (a British magazine) organized there an important tournament called “*The Tattler Riviera Cup*”

(or, in France la “*Coupe de la Riviera*”) played on the Costebelle course.”

It seems that we certainly made confusion between Hyères and Costebelle. As an excuse, we were referring to what Arnaud Massy was writing in his book “*Le Golf*”, published in 1911, in the paragraph related to Costebelle: “... j’y jouais la Coupe de la Riviera en Mars 1908”. We consider that the most reliable information must be the one published by “*The Tattler*” – who was organizing the event – writing at the time the event was played. So, we must admit that Massy was mistaken as well. With such a reference, we should not to be ashamed of our error – but, may be blushed of pretention for such a comparison!



This rare photograph bears the hand written caption “Opening of the new Golf Club House and Course – Cannes”. It is certainly one of the earliest pictures of the club (late 1892). On the original document, it is possible to recognize the Grand Duke Michael with the Prince of Wales – and possibly Countess Sophie Torby as well as the Captain of the Club, Colonel Cragg.

## Did Yuan Dynasty Mongols bring Golf Game Into Europe?

Wu Linqi



More and more historical records and archaeological findings are telling that the royal game of “Chui-Wan”, which translates "striking-ball", was very popular in the Northern Han Dynasty China; the course layout and the rules of the game were very similar to today's golf.

During the last ten years, I have collected nearly a thousand of Chui-Wan pellets which are made of various materials: stone, ceramics, Tang tricolour pottery, superfluous wood, agate etc. The earliest one can be dated back 1500 years ago.

Meantime, I have also collected more than hundred historical books of all kinds related to the game. According to Wan Jing (*Classic of Chui-Wan*), by Ning Zhizhai, published in Yuan Dynasty in 1282, the Chui-wan is an ancient game which was originally played in the “Warring States Period” from year 475 B.C to 221 B.C.

Another book, “Explanation of Chinese Language” by Piao Tongshi, a Chinese language textbook published in Gaoli – nowadays Korea – in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, gives evidence that a form of modern-day golf was then already played. It recorded very clearly that golf was practiced among the noble classes in China some 500 years earlier than in Scotland, contradicting the traditional notions that Scotland was the birthplace of golf in the 15th Century.

The Wan Jing book (*Classic of Chui Wan*) lists 32 chapters, ranging from competition rules to financing management, from play partner choices to the essentials of playing skills, from the manufacture of clubs to the maintenance of the greens, from keeping a perfect psychological situation to knowing well partner's characteristics and moral level of golfing behaviours, talks and etiquettes. The overall game processes which were described in

this voluminous work doesn't seem to be even a little less "professional" or refined than the modern game of golf. Chui-Wan was played with 10 different kinds of clubs. Take the Dipper stick example: its basic function is same as the Driver today; the Hand flapping stick, putter-like. The first stroke had to be played from a base and each subsequent stroke being played from where the ball last stopped. The score ways were various. There is a detailed description in the book “Explanation of Chinese Language” (*op. cit.*), including one-stroke into hole and two-stroke into hole and triple-stroke into hole. It was surprisingly similar to modern golf wording such as Birdy, Bogey, Double bogey. Chui-Wan competition also can be conducted between two persons or groups.



Old Chiu-Wan club and ball.

We using the word “hole” as there was most probably a hole in the old times. Emperor Ming Xuan Zong was described 500 years ago as playing Chui-Wan on a 10 holes course.

Chui-Wan was also played on some naturally undulating areas. But also courses were artificially laid out on flat grassland, raising barriers and digging ditches.





*Song Dynasty (960-1279) copper made with engrave hollow crafts.*

To start playing a hole, Chui-Wan had a special tee, which was called Ji, which translates to “base” in English (see also Appendix – Fact 2)

From Chinese paintings, we have strong evidence of the Chinese golf sport in history. A Chui-Wan drawing, featuring ancestors of the Chinese, on a stamp, was issued in 1986, Painters from the Yuan (1279-1368) and Ming (1368-1644) dynasties laid out scenes: respectively an emperor waving a golf-club-like and a player striking a golf-ball-like into a hole. The painting shows the Emperor Xuanzong, of the Ming on the Spree, in plain clothes, striking the pellet in the field. This painting also shows the course, the clubs, and the coloured banners.

In Europe, the game of golf was first seen on paintings in the 14th and 15th centuries. That was at least 1000 years after the Chinese games of Chui-wan.

Chui-wan was originally called “bu da” (walk and hit), a game in which the player scored points by hitting the pellet into a hole in the ground. The game was developed from Polo of Tang Dynasty; a popular game in palace between women. Wang Jian, a poet of the Tang Dynasty, describes the game in one of his poems: "Stands have been set up on both sides of the palace hall, during the Hanshi festival court people play the bu da ball. They walk and kneel in competition, and the champion thanks the emperor when he wins." This proves that bu da, a game similar to golf, had been popular more than 1,000 years ago.

Some professionals concluded that golf only arrived in Scotland after it was exported to

Europe by Mongolian travellers during the late Middle Ages.

There are some descriptions in Wan Jing that, in the old times, Chu Wan had been favoured as a game for training soldiers, as it was helpful both physically and mentally.

According to the British-published book “*The Encyclopedia of Golf*”, golf first appeared in Scotland around 1319. It became so popular that even military men became tirelessly absorbed in the game. Hence the Parliament of King James II of Scotland decreed in 1457 that "Golfer be utterly cried down," so that the people might again turn their attention to the practice of archery for the defence of the realm.

During the Yuan Dynasty, China and Western countries' exchanges in business and culture reached a high level, and I think it is not surprising that Chui-Wan was introduced to other countries at Genghis Khan era.

Most people living in the Mongolia grasslands, and taking sheep to pastures, developed skills similar to driving a golf ball to recall sheep which went far away.

Most books and records, about the European golf, are originating the birth of golf game in Scotland and referring to year 1457. This is six or seven hundred years after the Tang Dynasty and after the Yuan Dynasty – “Wan Jin” book was written 200 years later.

During the Yuan era, there was a large-scale interaction and exchange between East and West. Many oriental cultures and technologies, including games, moved to West – a real tide. The famous French Sinologist Abel-Rémusat has also described a great numbers of cultural aspects about China in his book “*Eléments De La Grammaire Chinoise*”.

As a complement of his paper Mr Wu sent us three additional facts which we would like to share with our readers:



### Fact 1. The Genghis Khan expedition.

1219 – 1225, Genghis Khan Expedition arrived in the Caspian and Black Sea far north of Iraq, Iran and India. 1235 ~ 1242, Batu, the grandson of Khan led the expedition even further, to the Kipchak, Russia, Hungary, Poland and other countries and regions.

There are some Mongolian historians arguing that "the descendants of Genghis Khan's western expedition had taken the great inventions of China gradually to the West, leading the indirect impact of the Renaissance in Europe". Sports must also have a direct impact as suggested.

### Fact 2. Some linguistic aspects.

Not only *Ji* is a tee (see above) but also *Gol* in Mongolian language has the mean of ball. Some soccer and basketball players often shout "gol,gol,gol" in gaming.

"*f*" means kid, then "*golf*" would mean the son of ball, because it was originated from old times Chinese football, Cuju (Remarks by FIFA president Joseph Sepp Blatter at the opening ceremony of the Third International Football Expo on July 15, 2004 in Beijing that the game's governing body concurs with the findings of the Chinese Football Association (CFA), who concluded football originated in

Linzi, Zibo of East China's Shandong Province, may go someway to settling the matter).

Golf in the English Etymology Dictionary has such a description, the word is first mentioned (along with fut-bol) in a 1457 Scottish statute on forbidden games.

In ancient Chuiwai clubs, one of its was called Spoon stick, is same as the Wood 3 in modern golf.

### Fact 3. Similarities in teaching.

In the WanJing book, published in 1282, vividly described how to play Chuiwan:

The eyes should be kept on the ball when hitting it and not looking at the hole. When hitting, attention must be focused on the ball.

Do not swing too fast; be slow to use your strength. Do not suddenly lower or raise your body.

When two-hand clenched rods, the right hand position should be aligned with the heart.

Is this a coincidence?

Many special thanks from the author to Mr. J-B Kazmierczak's warmly invitation and recommendation.



Left: A mural, Yuan Dynasty, located on the Guangsheng Temple, Hongdong county, in the Shanxi province: several officials are playing Chui-wan game. On the ground, there is a plate in a hole; when the ball was holed out a nice sound will announce the winner.



*Tang Dynasty, (618-917)*



*Northern and Southern  
Dynasties (420-589)*



*Song Dynasty (960-1279)*



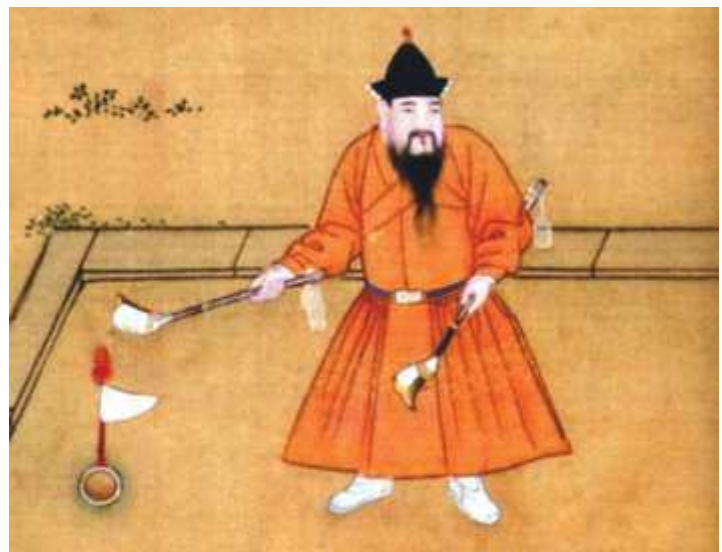
*Song Dynasty, (960-1279)*



*Yuan Dynasty (1279-1368)*



*A Chinese painting, Autumn banquet play*



*Ming Emperor Xuan Zong diem paintings*





Perry Somers, Britta Nord & Davey van Mulken



Sofia Lelakowska



Markus Kümmerle.



Markus Kümmerle



The Miller Trophy