

## A few pictures at the Rosendaelsche Golf Club



*Li Zhenqin and Robin Bargmann*



*Pius Muskens and Huguette Kazmierczak*



*JBK and Wayne Xing*



*Mika Hjorth and Marcel Kenhuis*



*Leif Einarsson, Iain Forrester, Robin Bargmann*



*David Hamilton, Wilma van Rijn, Claus Maeland*

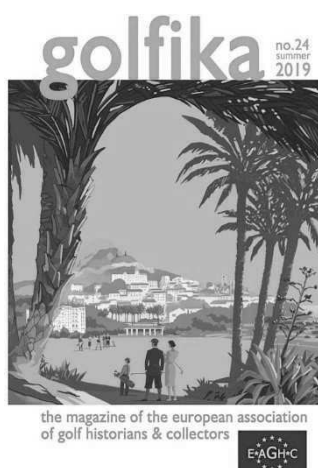


*Mika Hjorth, Ferd Vrijmoed, Wayne Xing*



*Dius Lennon, Czeslaw Kruk, Maria Vrijmoed*

# golfika



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The front cover of Golfika Magazine n°24 is after a painting by Viktor Cleve.

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

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

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## The President speaks

*David Hamilton*



We all enjoyed the annual meeting at Arnhem with play at the impressive local Rosendaelsche course where we had a comfortable meeting room with good food and drink at hand. Our society offers a unique mix of presentations, trading and play, and all the evidence is that interest in hickory golf is rising, as witnessed by our joint outing with the Dutch History Society at the Afferden Landgoed Bleijenbeek club. Their clubhouse is enlivened by the delightful Dutch Golf Museum, where I saw for the first time a colf (not kolf) club with part of its shaft surviving. JBK was our genial organiser and Huguette the financial brains behind it. Presentations were good, as ever, with plenty time for discussion. Iain Forrester put on a thoughtful display of hickories from each nation's golf clubs.

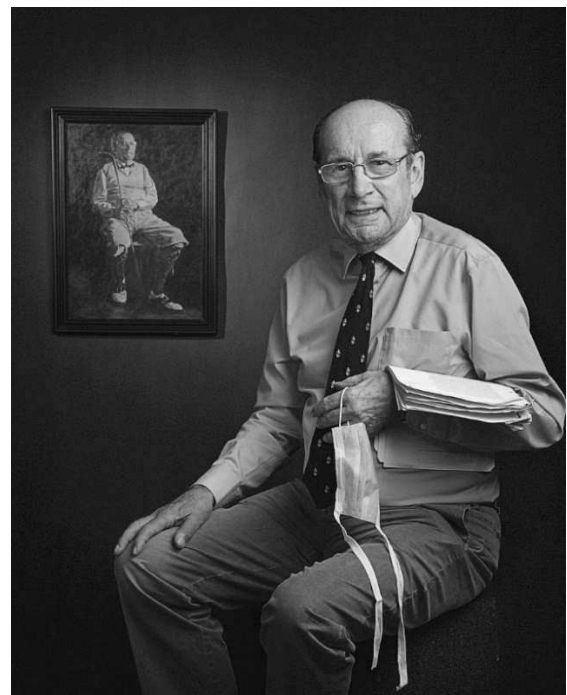
Hickory play simply increases and increases. It started as 'hickory hacking' about 25 years ago, when we used the good ordinary clubs piling up in the house, bought by the dozen to obtain a rare one. They were supposed to be fragile, but they were not. We were also surprised that the clubs performed so well, and serious play commenced. But this increase in hickory events is rather a mystery. Is it a reaction against the commercialism of modern golf, or the lengthening of courses to accommodate play with the titanium woods? Or is it that the huge amount of prize money offends or because some of our heroes have let us down? It certainly seems we are heading back to simpler, more innocent times.

There's an idea going about that the EAGCH should show some leadership in the enthusiasm for hickory golf in Europe. We could advise and, with a light touch, coordinate events, perhaps with a cluster or two in adjacent countries

offering 'Hickory Weeks'. Thoughts might turn to a FedEx-type accumulation of events, or even a 'Race to Pau'. But it would be a pity, having started as a fun game, if we got too serious. Certainly, there's no doubt that something exciting is happening in our world at a time when, paradoxically, golf courses are closing, even in Scotland.

Robin Bargmann, a polymath and author, is our new president. When I first met him, he managed to borrow money from me, a Scotsman. That takes skill. And he will guide us well in Poland next year, when our visit will help their growing golf heritage awareness.

David Hamilton  
St Andrews



## Editor's Corner

*Stéphan Filanovitch*



Dear EAGHC members,

Here is your 2019 autumn magazine!

Unfortunately, I was not able to be with you to our annual meeting in Arnhem, preparing my move from Paris to Anglet, near Biarritz. A new life is coming.

From what I have heard or read, this meeting was a success, as usual. Thanks to Robin Bargmann for the organization.

So, let's have a look on this new issue.

JBK, with his great knowledge on the history of the French Riviera, presents the golf course of Hyères-les-Palmiers. Always the same pleasure to read and see a lot of very interesting documents.

Then Christoph Meister reports on the opening of the first Golf Museum in Central and Eastern Europe, in Czech Republic – a great initiative that we would like to see in many other countries!

From Carlo Busto and Enrico Budel, you will discover a great golf player, Francesco Pasquali, who is a too unknown champion. Thanks to our new writers.

Robin Bargmann brings a very nice article on the relationship between Scotland and the Flemish People.

In a previous issue, we introduced a new topic: "An object, a champion". Here you'll find a short paper on Massy. As an extension, Leif Einarsson suggested to start a "collector's corner". I strongly support this idea, thanks Leif! So, dear reader, feel free to share your passion with the other readers.

This issue is finishing with a few words on our recent meeting – where you'll find a few souvenirs from the Netherlands.

And welcome to our new president, Robin Bargmann. The President's putter is in good hands!



Dear members, a few days ago, just before printing our magazine we received the very sad news: Britta Kittel passed away. We would like to express our warmest and heartfelt condolences to Georg and his family. RIP.

Georg and Britta were very loyal members of our Association and we shall keep a great souvenir of her. The picture here was taken last year in Pau just before Georg and Czeslaw Kruk played in the annual hickory tournament of the EAGHC.

## Hyères-les-Palmiers The first golf course on the French Riviera

JBK (*Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak*)



In *Golfika Magazine* #8 (Summer-Autumn 2011) we wrote a paper discussing which one between “Cannes Mandelieu” and “Hyères-les-Palmiers” was first on the French Riviera? The immediate question was “first what?”. If Cannes-Mandelieu (or La Napoule, as it was more often named at that time) was the first golf-club, Hyères-les-Palmiers was, without any doubt the first course. Recently, we got the opportunity to spend three days at the “Archives Municipales d’Hyères” and also at the public library and got access to a lot of precise information. Thanks for MM. Albert Llopis and Jérôme Mattio, the managers of these two places for their very kind welcome. We also must pay a tribute at the “*British Newspaper Archives*”. Their information is extremely valuable for the golf researchers. And special thanks to Mme Martine Peyron, the great grand-daughter of Alexandre Peyron, the founder of the golf at Hyères.

We shall not go back to the question which was initiated in *Golfika-Magazine* #8 and which we summarized just in a few words in our introduction. We shall insist here on the origins and key evolutions of the golf at Hyères-les-Palmiers. The very first reference<sup>1</sup> we were able to find is *The Scotsman*, dated 29 December 1890: “*A few days ago I mentioned that the delights of the Riviera, with Monte Carlo thrown in, had been found to want rounding off, and that this was to be done by laying-out a nine hole course at Hyeres.*”

A few months later, in the *Field*<sup>2</sup>, April 18, 1891, we read a very important letter signed by East Sheen and C. Home Sinclair:

*“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, and Mr Corbett has several men at work removing the meadow reeds which grow there, and sowing grass in their place.*

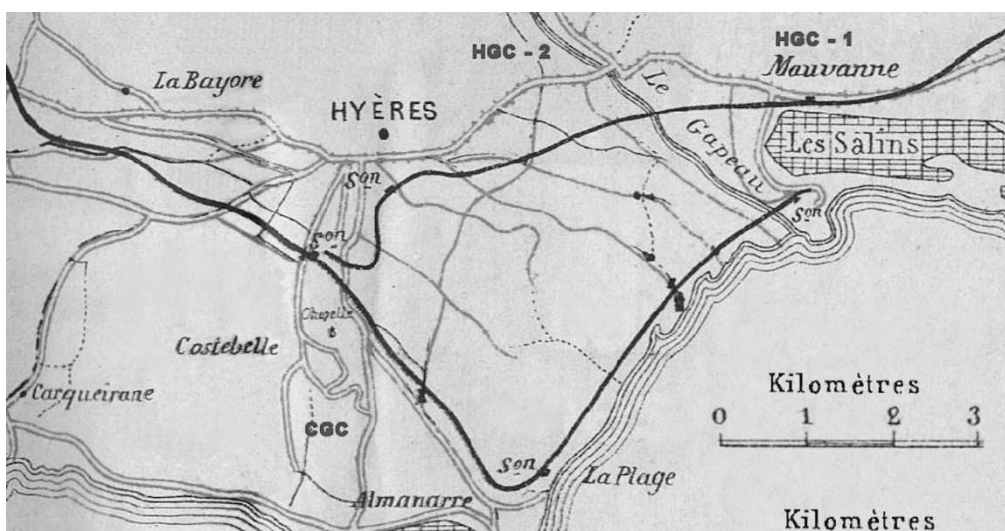
*A young Frenchman, who was employed on the links at Pau, is now looking after the greens. He is enthusiastic over the game, and also a good player and club maker.*

*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”.*

The importance of this paper is due to several facts : (1) the links are there! At least, one of the authors was able to play golf, (2) Mr Corbett – we’ll come back to him later – was a key figure, (3) nine holes are expected, (4) the location is pretty much precise: 150 yards from the train station “Les Salins” (written *Salines*), (5) the Pau professional, most certainly Joe Lloyd, designed the course and (6) a young man, who was employed at Pau is now working here.

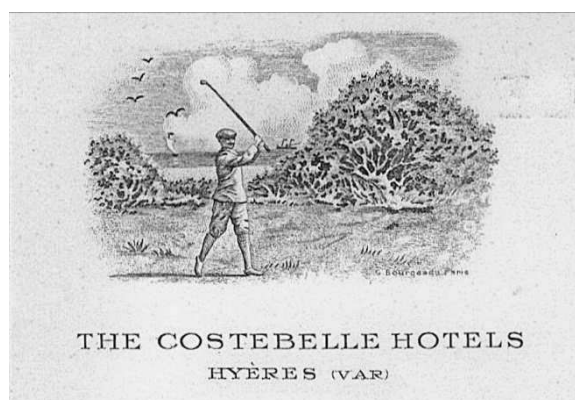
<sup>1</sup> Reprinted a few days later (Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1891), in the “*Coventry Herald*”.

<sup>2</sup> From the Scrap Books collection in the Library of the Royal Liverpool Golf Club (Hoylake).



Map of the Golf Links at Hyères: HGC-1 is the first one (1891-1894); HGC-2 (1894-1939) replaced the first one; finally CGC is the Costebelle Golf Club (1907-1933).

In the October 24<sup>th</sup> issue, we can read an advertisement which will be regularly published: “[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 Grand Hotel d’Albion, Hyères. The golf course has been provided a new attraction to the hotel. A professional from Saint Andrews 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)”.



The picture above is a thumbnail from an undivided back postcard (so, before Nov. 1903). At that time the Costebelle GC didn’t exist. It will be created in 1907 ... But remember that the first golf links at Hyères were created late 1890 and related to the “Grand Hotel d’Albion”, part of the “Costebelle Hotels”. The image is clearly

featuring a golfer driving close to the Salins. So this is certainly a very early postcard, most probably before 1894 when the course was relocated further from the sea. This confirms the location HCG-1 on the map above.

But on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 1891, the Field published a letter by a certain E.S. who 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”.

Immediately after, on November 7th, Arthur Carter is answering: “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.”

And in the following issue (December 12th) a certain Epping is also writing: *"In a reply to the queries in your issue of 31st 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 St Andrews professional has taken charge, and highly improves of the links"*.

The December 26th 1891 issue from *The Field*, we can read a long text from which we are extracting the key points: *"...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."*

Clearly, the less we can say is that the course was not reaching the highest expectations of some players. So, in the January 23rd, 1892 issue, 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 ..."*

The improvements should have been real and the first official competition at Hyères was played on February the 12<sup>th</sup>, 1892 as we can read from the magazine *Golf* – printed one week after. But the most important information here is that the club has engaged a new professional: Tingey.

#### HYÈRES GOLF CLUB.

These links have been enormously improved during the last six weeks. Several labourers have been at work every day under the direction of Tingey, the professional. The number of players, both ladies and gentlemen, has very much increased, and the constant trampling of the course has made the lies through the green much better than they were. If the course could be extended so as to avoid one bad piece of crossing and to give two more holes, it would be very creditable for a country where good turf is unknown.

On Friday, February 12th, the first competition ever held on the green was organised by some players at the Hotel d'Albion, who fixed the handicaps and drew up a few bye-laws to suit the special conditions of the course. There were nine entries, and a double round of the seven holes was played for a sweepstakes. The winner was Mr. R. Lodge, who played a consistently steady game, but the best single round was done by Mr. F. Dun, who would probably have won but for bad luck in his first round. Mr. Blane played brilliantly for a time, but fell off slightly towards the end, and had to be content with second honours. The following scores were handed in:—

	1st Round.	2nd Round.	Gross.	Hcp.	Net.
Mr. R. Lodge ...	35	36	71	8	63
Mr. G. G. Blane ...	35	36	71	5	66
Mr. F. Dun ...	40	33	73	3	70
Mr. J. Foggo ...	35	36	71	scr.	71
Mr. J. E. Sinclair ...	44	47	91	14	77
Capt. Swinford ...	41	45	86	8	78

Mr. J. T. Brunner (25), Mr. F. Medwin (30), and Mr. J. D. Baldry (40), made no return, or were over 100.



This magazine will regularly report on the competitions which were played there.

On December 17th, 1892, we read in *The Field*: *"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 Andrews. 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, and for hazards there are some broadish dykes and binks. The putting greens vary, some being rather short of turf and very fast, other mossy and slow. With play the links are 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"*.

Notice that the date of 1891 for Hyères is confirmed by the *Golfing Annual* in its vol. V (1891-1892).



## Alexandre Peyron.

At this stage, we must spend a few lines and introduce M. Alexandre Peyron. He was born at Carqueiranne, close to Hyères on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 1844 and died on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1908. He studied cooking in Lyon and then in Paris and was nominated chef at the Horse Guards in Windsor. It is certainly there that he met his future wife Emily Jane Churchman.

Back to his native region, he bought, in 1875, a small boarding house and transformed it into a luxury hotel: l'*Ermitage*. A few years later, with the help of Captain Corbett – and British funds – he erected a new high-class hotel: the *Hotel d'Albion*, opened on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 1881; and two years later, a third hotel: le *Grand Hotel de Costebelle*; the three forming a group: "*The Costebelle Hotels*".

He knew, from his experience in Great Britain, but also from his British in-laws and his friend, the banker Capt. Corbett, the passion for golf of the British tourists visiting more and more the region. It was an easy guess to say that they would be even more numerous in 1892 as the Queen Victoria was planning to spend her holidays in Hyères. This is certainly why Alexandre Peyron and Captain Corbett decided to create the first golf course on the Riviera.

We don't know who chose the location for this first golf course. May be the fact that these salt marshes were possibly cheaper? May be the fact that the father of Mr Peyron had a restaurant very close to the place – which could be used, at the beginning as a club-house<sup>3</sup>?

## From the first to the second location.

We have seen, from the various letters published in the newspapers that the course is offering only seven holes and that the global assessment is pretty much average. Nevertheless, in 1893, according to "*Golf*", D. Black, a professional, from St Andrews was present and handicap competitions were played every Saturday, in which G.R. Corbett was regularly participating to.

"*Golf*", 9<sup>th</sup> March 1894 writes: "*A four-in-hand coach leaves the Albion Hotel, Costebelle, for the links every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, for golfers liking to drive to the ground. The course is in splendid order, and is very much appreciated. Many of the natives are beginning to take an interest in the game ...*"

Even if Mr Peyron is very successful with his hotels, he has limited investment resources to improve his golf course. We may suppose that G.R. Corbett suggested him to support the creation of a private golf-club, not directly dependent of his hotel, so that the club could receive subsidies from the town hall. He was certainly convinced as on March 9, 1894 the "Hyères Golf Club" was officially instituted and one week after, the founders sent a letter to the Major (see next page). Not only this letter is important as it confirms the creation of the club, but it provides a brief history of golf in the Riviera, reminding us that 2 years ago, the Grand Duke Michel was creating the Cannes Golf Club and that 3 years ago, "la Société des Terrains de l'Ermitage" was starting the "Hyères Golf Links".

Notice that if the press was referring, even before 1894, to the "Hyères Golf Club", the new management is insisting that the old organisation should be referred to as "Hyères Golf Links".

In this letter (next page), it is reminded that the Cannes town hall is providing a grant of 1000 francs to the golf club and the new club at Hyères, would be happy to get a silver cup, inscribed "Prix de la Ville d'Hyères". This would be a challenge cup which could only become the property of a player winning it three years in a row.

In September 7 (and few following issues) the magazine *Golf*, published an advertisement presenting the HGC:

*"Hon. Vice-Presidents: Earl of Erne, Sir Thomas Sutherland, Count de David Beauregard, Count de Leautaud.  
President: Colonel St J. Barne.  
Captain: Captain Ralph Slazenger.  
Hon. Secretary and Treasurer: G. R. Corbett, Esq.*

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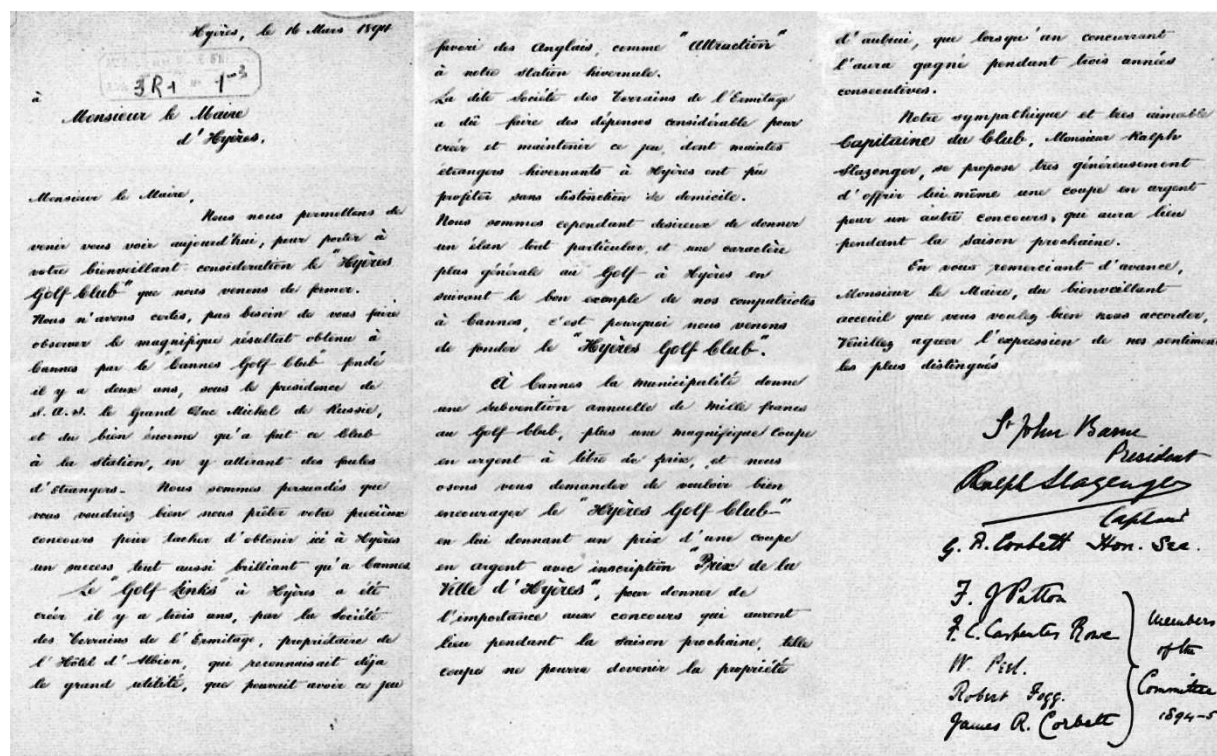
<sup>3</sup> *Golf*, dated Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1892 indicates that there is a club-house adjoining the station of "Les Salins".



Committee: Messrs. F. J. Patton, Wm. Peel, F. Carpenter Rowe, R. Fogg, J. R. Corbett, Colonel Leyland Needham, J. B. Maunder.

The new links will be opened in November next. The Course is situated on the banks of the river, ten minutes' drive from the town, and is covered with beautiful turf. A break will leave Costebelle daily for the Links, passing through the Town, and omnibuses will run frequently [...] For all information write to the Hon. Secretary, G. R. Corbett, Hasfield Court, Gloster".

And end October, in the same magazine, Frederik J. Patton is adding: "The club there has secured at great expense a course on beautiful, sheep-cropped turf close to the town, and well sheltered from wind. Amongst other well-known names, Lord Erne, Mr A. J. Balfour, M.P., and Sir T. Sutherland, M.P., have become vice-presidents, and there is every prospect of a successful season. The length of the holes (nine) varies from 110 to 350 yards, and the course will be in good order by the end of November, although it will be open earlier."



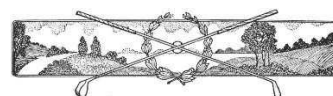
An important letter, signed by all members of the Board of the new Hyères Golf Club (see text)  
From "Archives Municipales d'Hyères (3R1 122/123/124)".

Until the end of 1894, the competitions will be played on the old course. Which proves that there was some gentlemen agreement between the "new club" and Mr Peyron.

An important competition on the new course is reported in a humorous way by *Golf*, dated 22 Feb. 1895, after a French newspaper jumbling football and golf: we are translating here in a more standard way "More than thirty players competed for the Prince of Rohan prize – honorary president of the club – consisting in a magnificent box containing six cutlery in solid gold. After several hours, Mr G.R. Corbett was beating M. Roberts in the final match.

The next important competition on the new course was the "Prix de la Ville", competed for on Saturday February 16, 1895 and won by the prince de Rohan.

The *Golfing Annual* (1894-1895) is providing some interesting additional information: the professional course record is 38 (for 9 holes) by W. Hamlet – the new local pro, replacing D. Black – in Jan. 1895; the amateur record being F.J. Patton in Dec. 1894 with 35 strokes.



## Additional improvements.

But new investments are still needed and in 1899, *La Société Hôtelière de Marseille et de la Riviera*, is taking control of the club. The first major decision was to design a 12-hole course – and soon expanded it to 18 – and to hire a renowned professional: Freemantle – who set up a new record on the course, on 30 March, 1900, with 69 strokes (source: *Golfing Annual*).

In 1906, the HGC got a new Honorary Secretary, Mr G.H. Logan, whose first decision was to modify the course design and bring it to an international level. Four holes were completely transformed to build the 9 (484 yards) and the 16 (489 yards). On this modified course, Freemantle set up a new record: 71 (same source: *Golfing Annual*).

Also, in 1905, a “Golf Hotel” will be erected very close to the course (nowadays the place is occupied by “*la Gendarmerie*”). The manager of this hotel was Mr Zick who ran it very actively.



*A postcard with the hotel stamp (Dec. 1906)*

Between 1907 and 1914, the life of the club will be mainly highlighted by three international matches which were played over there. We are providing here only the key facts; details are presented in Appendix.



*A silver medal of the Hyères GC. No date.*

The first one was played on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 1907 after the match organised by Grand Duke Michael of

Russia at Cannes a few days earlier. Almost all the players were present except Massy and Sayers who were retained in Cannes by Major and Mrs Clayton for the purpose of tuition. Rowland Jones and J.H. Taylor won the foursomes while Ted Ray and Sandy Herd shared the first prize, both finishing in 71.

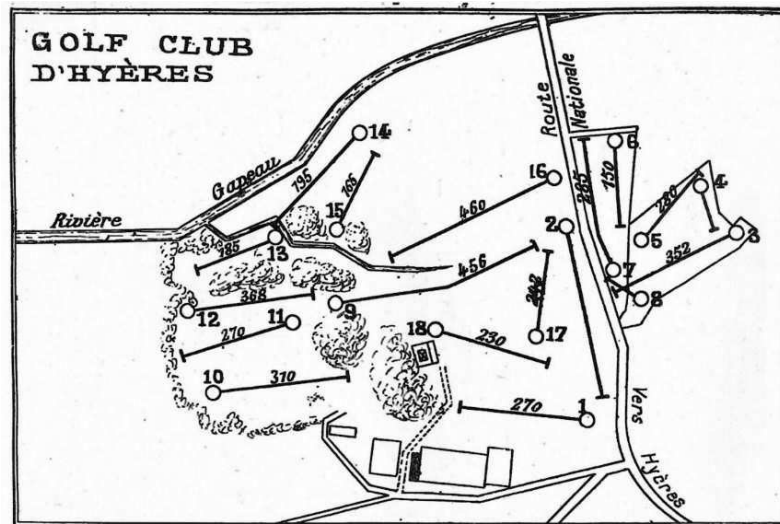
The following year, it was the Nice Golf Club which organised a “Great Match” and now all key professionals, were present at Hyères-les-Palmiers. Taylor, with 72 and 67 – 139 won the Tatler Cup, establishing a new course record (67).

The third one was in 1911. It was during a tour which started at Saint-Jean-de-Luz and ended at Rome, that four great players, Braid, Taylor, Sherlock and Massy, made a stop at Hyères-les-Palmiers. Braid was winner of the medal competition.

It must be noted that in 1908 and 1911 there was also a competition played at Costebelle. Not in 1907 as the course was not yet opened in March.



*A silver cup won by one of the best players of the club, E.C. Grant, at Hyères, on Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>, 1908.*

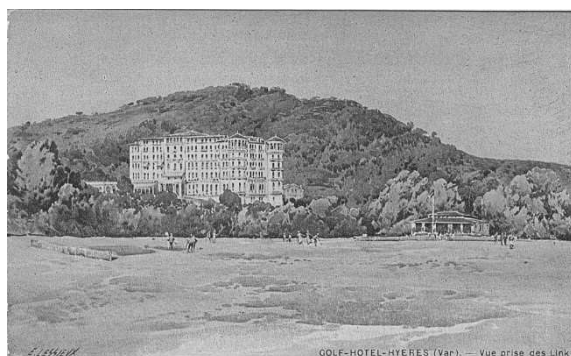


Map of the Hyères GC. Plumon Guide, 1926.

### The Hyères Golf Club after WWI.

After the war, the club will reopen for the 1922-1923 season. Very important work is being done to improve links: 350,000 francs were spent by the Baron Larenti Tholozan, with the help of local authorities, to build a dike protecting the course from the floods of the Gapeau river.

Of course, the management has changed. The president is now the count Stanislas de David de Beauregard. The Honorary Secretary is George H. Logan helped by capt. G. Spickernell and the Committee includes: C.-V. Trask, P. Rose, colonel Wortabet and T. Barry. Arthur Dell is the professional of the club and a greenkeeper, Charles Aimar, is in charge of the maintenance of the course.



A postcard after a watercolour by Lessieux.

Before entering the period between the two wars, let us come back to the initial courses. The land was rented to count David de Beauregard (the

father of Stanislas). According to lease, since the very beginning, it was forbidden to build bunkers on the ground (except one or two – at pre-defined places). The postcard, on the left, shows some hurdles and the hotel in the background. If this constraint was acceptable before WWI, it was hard to accept it in the late 20s. So, in 1927, the “Compagnie Hôtelière” renting the land decided to skip the ban and add some bunkers.

In addition, the renting was set at a pretty low level, almost unchanged since 1908-1910 ... and even 1895 for a part of the ground!

No need to say that several lawsuits were filed and in February 1931, the municipality seeks to acquire the land, which will be done in ... 1941. The golf club had then disappeared.

Clearly the years 30s were not an easy period for the club and many trials were done. The most important one was to keep 9 holes opened for the summer season 1933. Two years later, an additional Association: “Golf de Provence” will be created to manage these nine holes during the summer season. This Society, sharing the course with the HGC, is organising competition in which the two “clubs” are represented, sometimes competing one against the other!

The place is no longer as attractive as it used to be. Nevertheless, in February 1934, as a swan song, the club hosted a competition between French and British professionals *en route* to the Italian Open.

## Appendix – The three “Grand Matches”

### The Scotsman, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1907

Professional Tournament. Hyeres, March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Most of the British professionals who took part in the Grand Duke Michael's recent tournament at Cannes competed at Hyeres to-day for prizes presented by the Hyeres Club. Intensely hot weather prevailed. Four ball foursome matches were decided in the morning, while in the afternoon there was an eighteen holes stroke competition, in which the first prize was 300 francs and the second 200 francs; third and fourth prizes were 125 francs each, and there were five other awards of 65 francs each. The Britishers found the course somewhat trying. It is laid out on an old training ground for racehorses, and is very narrow in places. James Braid and Harry Vardon experienced a deal of difficulty in keeping on the course in the morning. The hazards are trees, ditches, hurdles, wire netting, and a bunker – at the fifteenth hole. Considering the difficulty of the putting, Braid, Herd, and White showed good form in the short game.

In the foursomes, Edward Ray and Alexander Herd halved with James Braid and Tom Vardon, while Rowland Jones and J. H. Taylor beat Harry Vardon and Jack White by three up and one to play. Jones and Taylor played excellent golf. They turned three up, a noteworthy incident being the halving of the ninth in 2, and were five up at the eleventh. Harry Vardon having driven out of bounds at the tenth, while his partner, White, picked up after playing five on to the green. Harry Vardon again sliced out of bounds at the fifteenth, but White won the hole by laying a long approach putt dead. At this point they were only two down, but the sixteenth was halved and Jones finished the match with a fine putt at the seventeenth.

The best ball scores were:

Jones & Taylor	Out	444 444 432 – 33
	Home	435 355 333 – 34 – 67.
White, Vardon	Out	454 454 442 – 36
	Home	644 344 344 – 36 – 72.

In the other match Ray and Herd turned one up, and Braid and Tom Vardon squared at the fourteenth, and eventually halved. The scores were:

Ray & Herd	Out	534 445 343 – 35
	Home	535 344 344 – 35 – 70
Braid, Vardon	Out	544 454 433 – 36
	Home	535 334 434 – 34 – 70

There was a large attendance of spectators to witness the stroke competition in the afternoon.

Braid was coupled with Ray, Harry Vardon with W. Freemantle, Hyeres; and Jones with Taylor; while Tom Vardon, White, and Herd played together. For first and second prizes two professionals attached to Yorkshire clubs, namely Alexander Herd, Huddersfield, and Edward Ray, Scarborough, tied, each going round in 71. Ray led at the turn with 35, and played steadily until he reached the seventeenth hole, which measures 214 yards. There he took 5. Herd accomplished that hole in 2. The figures of the two players were:

Ray	Out	545 443 343 – 35
	Home	644 343 354 – 36 – 71
Herd	Out	545 444 434 – 37
	Home	534 354 424 – 34 – 71

Jones and Taylor divided the third and fourth prizes with 73 each. Taylor did the last hole, which is over 400 yards long, in 3. The figures:

Jones	Out	444 544 533 – 36
	Home	643 445 335 – 37 – 73
Taylor	Out	445 444 443 – 36
	Home	645 444 433 – 37 – 73

The scores are appended :

E. Ray, Scarborough	35 36 71
A. Herd, Huddersfield	37 34 71
J. H. Taylor, Mid-Surrey	36 37 73
R. Jones, Wimbledon Park	36 37 73
J. Braid, Walton Heath	38 36 74
H. Vardon, South Herts	37 38 75
T. Vardon, Sandwich	36 40 76
J. White, Sunningdale	41 39 80
W. Freemantle, Hyeres	39 41 80

The features of Ray's play were his approaching and putting. Herd kept a good line and obtained his 2 at the seventh by running down a long putt. Braid was still erratic in the long game. White took no fewer than five putts on the eight green after reaching the green in 2.

### The Scotsman, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 1908

The professional tournament promoted by the Hyeres Club resulted to-day in another triumph for the British players. J. H. Taylor, with 72 and 67 – 139, secured the Tatler Cup, value 25 gs., and first money prize of 250 francs. The second prize of 200 francs fell to J. Braid, with 71 and 71 – 142; and, the third prize of 150 francs to Harry Vardon, with 71 and 73 – 144. The Frenchmen were out classed. Arnaud Massy, the Open Champion, finished fourth, with 76 and 74 – 150; and Jean Gassiat fifth, with 80 and 73 – 153. Next came two British professionals attached to Continental clubs namely R. G. Macdonald, with 80 and 80 – 160; and W. Freemantle, with 81 and 85 – 166.

Baptiste Bomboudiac, the other French professional, brought up the rear with 84 and 83 – 167.

Thickly wooded, very narrow in places, and boasting hurdles as bunkers, through which, the local rules announce, a ball must not be deliberately played, the Hyeres course is somewhat different from most links, and at first it bothered the visitors. Taylor did not start particularly well. At the seventh hole he was 3 over 4's - moderate golf, considering that not one of the seven holes is more than a par 4, and that most of them are drives and pitches.

At the eighth hole he did a remarkable thing. The length of this hole is 187 yards. Taylor took his brassie for the tee stroke, and holed it. He has developed quite a trick of doing holes in 1 in competitions. He accomplished a similar feat in a tournament at Guildford last year.

His success at the eighth hole to-day enabled him to lead at the turn with 35, Braid and Vardon coming next with 36 each. Massy took 38.

On the homeward journey Taylor's approaching was not particularly good, and at the end of the morning round Braid and Vardon led with 71 each, Taylor coming next with 72, and Massy standing fourth with 75.

Massy began by laying his chip stroke to the first hole seemingly dead, but he missed the putt, and never afterwards got on his game. At the eighth, where his partner holed the tee stroke, Massy found the bent from his drive, and took 4.

Vardon played steadily, except that he slipped a few strokes on the greens. Braid laid a 25 yards pitch : two feet from the hole at the third and obtained a 3. He would have led the field at the end of the morning round had he not missed a putt of no more than eighteen inches at the ninth. Jean Gassiat played some of the most brilliant golf of the day. He had two bad holes, otherwise he would probably have been well up with the leaders. He was also unlucky with his putts on the outward journey. Three times he lipped the hole with putts that deserved to go down. At the tenth he drove out of bounds, and then hit a hurdle bunker, a 7 resulting, and his card was finally ruined at the fifteenth, where, getting into a bunker, he took three to recover, the hole costing him 8.

#### *Great Display by Taylor*

In the afternoon Taylor played wonderful golf and beat all records for the course. Hyeres affords plenty of scope for mashie play, and Taylor handled his mashie with all the dexterity that made him famous years ago. Opening with

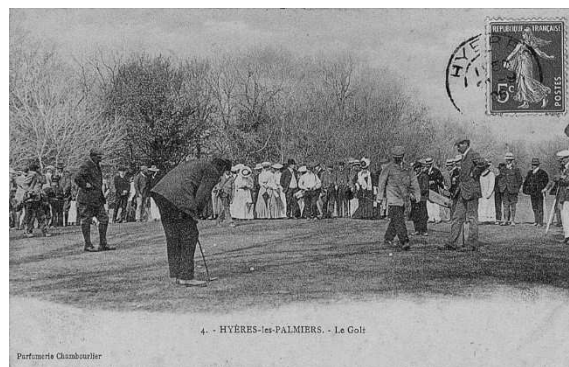
two par 4's, he ran down a putt of twelve yards for a 3 at the third. At the fifth he hit a tree trunk with his drive, and was stymied by it, but played round, laid a chip stroke of twenty five yards a foot : from the hole, and secured a 4. Out in 33, he had a splendid 4 at the tenth which is 491 yards long, and although he dropped a stroke at the twelfth, he recovered it by getting a 2 at the sixteenth. No professional had ever before done better than 71 in a competition at Hyeres. The amateur record is 73 by Mr J. B. Watson.

Braid played a very fine game on the outward journey in the afternoon, and, like Taylor, reached the turn in 33. At the tenth, however, his long game was faulty, a 6 resulting, and he made a mess of the short sixteenth hole, which cost him 5.

Vardon spoilt his chance by the all-round indifference of his golf for the first eight holes in the afternoon. Beginning with two 5's, he never afterwards looked like doing a good score, although played well coming home.

Massy, after starting with a 4, sliced out of bounds at the second. The hole cost him 6, and he required 39 for the outward half. Homeward, a couple of 2's, helped him considerably, but he finished badly with two 5's.

Gassiat accomplished a steady round of 73, but never had a chance of overhauling the leaders.



#### **St Andrews Citizen, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 1911 and Diss Express – April 7<sup>th</sup>, 1911 (variant)**

On the 31st ult. at Hyeres the scores were – Braid, 73 (37, 36); Sherlock 77 (38, 39); J. H. Taylor, 78 (39, 39) and Massy, 81 (40, 41). Braid's approaching and putting were deadly. On the 1<sup>st</sup> curt. (medal day) the scores were – Braid, 72 (37, 35); Massy, 75 (37, 38); Taylor, 77 (39, 38); Sherlock, 63 for 15 holes.

The Frenchman spoilt his chance at the tenth hole, which cost him seven.

In the afternoon four-ball Braid and Sherlock won by 2 and 1.

## The first Golf Museum in Central and Eastern Europe Ypsilon Golf Club, Liberec, Czech Republic

*Christoph Meister*



The 2019 Czech Hickory Championship was played on Saturday, 8th of June 2019 at Ypsilon Golf Club, Liberec. The Ypsilon is not only the symbol for the region where the golf club is located, namely where the borders of Czech Republic, Germany and Poland are meeting, but also a truly European three nation region. On Friday, 7th of June, 2019, the Ypsilon Golf Museum, the first one of its kind in Central and Eastern Europe, was officially opened.



The museum was founded by golf historian and collector Vítězslav Hoffmann – those of you who have played in past Czech Hickory Championships and tournaments during the last years will certainly have noticed him and his most beautiful and not less charming wife Andrea.

It all started out of a simple curiosity that came up Vítězslav's – or Vita as his friends call him – mind. Why is the modern metal club used to hit the golf ball over long distances still called "wood". That was some 13 years ago and after having received his very first hickory shafted golf club as a gift from one of his friends one thing added up to the next and Vita became interested in the development of golf clubs, and then came the interest in golf balls, bags and sooner than later a rich collection was born.

"The first exhibits were two wooden-headed golf clubs from the 1960s, imported from the US,"

recalls Hoffmann, adding that most of the exhibits come from England and the US. "The most difficult thing has always been to find a specific piece of golf memorabilia and then transport it safely to the Czech Republic."

With the help of Petr Pastrňák, the director of the Ypsilon golf resort, the idea of establishing the first golf museum in Central and Eastern Europe was born and realized this year. "The physical realization of the golf museum at Ypsilon began to work in the second half of 2018. However, preparations for the museum project began as early as 2017," explains Vita.

Petr Pastrňák also has a good feeling: "We believe that we will also attract non-golf enthusiasts and golf enthusiasts from abroad, where they generally look at golf history and the sport a little differently than the people here, where golf for most people it is still a rather young sport. I believe that the museum will also serve the general public."





Despite all the advice of many people to open the golf museum in Prague, however, Víta decided for his home golf club Ypsilon. "And that was the best decision I could make. I hope that golfers will find their way to Ypsilon, not only to the golf museum," he believes.

Víta also started to work on the idea of building a museum because he found out that even many golfers know nothing about the history of this beautiful sport. At the same time the number of golfers playing with pre-1935 hickory shafted golf clubs is increasing in Continental Europe. With the Czech Hickory Championship played on the next day there were a lot of enthusiastic foreign guests attending the official opening of the museum.



*Víta Hoffmann cutting the opening ribbon under the eyes of CGF president Kodejš.*

Additionally, the opening ceremony was attended by the current President of the Czech Golf Federation Zdeněk Kodejš. "I know many golf museums, including the one in St Andrews, and let me say that what we see at the Ypsilonka museum is like that," says the first man of Czech golf, recalling that Czech golf history dates back to 1931 when the Czechoslovak Golf Federation was founded. There is still a belief in the Czech Republic and in neighbouring countries that golf is a new sport and many people are surprised to learn that it is not at all something new and that Czechoslovakia was also one of the seven countries which founded the European Golf Association in 1937. "Not only does Víta know all this, but he has all well documented. It's incredible what he has put together and that's why I congratulate him so much."

Even though the famous British Golf Museum at St Andrews remains the unchallenged no.1 of all European Golf Museums, it is great to see that Golf Museums have now materialized not only in Denmark, Germany and Sweden, but recently

also in the Netherlands and in the Czech Republic. At Ypsilon Golf Museum you can trace back the history of golf as far back as to 1550–1650. Furthermore, the development of the golf clubs and golf balls are presented in a particularly detailed and extraordinary manner.



In the museum the visitor finds early wicker baskets which served as a golf flag while playing on the coast (fabric streamers would quickly tear in the wind). You can also see replicas and originals of old leather balls. The museum also proves, for example, that bags with stands are not the latest trend of modern times, but were patented as early as 1893.



*Golf trophies from the early 1940's played out at Prague Golf Clubs now defunct Klanovice golf course.*

The exhibited items and memorabilia from the history of golf include, in addition to golf clubs and golf balls also golf bags, silverware and several hundred pieces of golf literature including an audio library with a video library.



Mr Hoffmann has no downright favourite exhibit. "I appreciate the collection as a whole, because only as a whole it creates what we wanted to build," he explained.

When asked about the future, Vita replied that he hopes to introduce one new exposition every year as well as continuously changing and modifying all current exhibits available. On top of that he would like to focus on mapping more of the Czech golf history and creating a digital library for the better accessibility of old golf documents such as books and magazines.



*The first golf book in Czech language.*

Last but not least I asked Vítězslav, if he has a funny or interesting story how he got hold of a

special item in the museum. His reply was: „Yes! It's very simple! All you have to do is to win the German Open Hickory Championship and you have an interesting exhibit for the museum exposition for the next 12 months. “What he was referring to was a silver plate from the 1931 German Open Championship at Berlin-Wannsee, which Vita won as a Challenge Cup at the 2019 German Open Hickory Championship.

Finally, what remains to be said, is that the Museum is always searching for more items related to the history of golf in the Czech Republic and is hoping to find more documents, photos, films, cups, and golf clubs stamped by Czech and Slovak clubs (Karlsbad, Marienbad, Franzensbad, Prag, Pistyan).

So, any EAGHC member holding such an item of golf memorabilia he is willing to spare is kindly invited to contact the Ypsilon Golf Museum, which is open every day during the golf season. Just ask at the reception desk and they will let you in. There is no entrance fee and anyone is welcome to visit. If you have any questions or would like to contact the museum or Vita personally please do so through [golfmuzeum@ygolf.cz](mailto:golfmuzeum@ygolf.cz).

## Golfika Magazine

Dear members, twice a year, Stéphan is struggling in order to get papers for Golfika Magazine. In the last issue, he started a new regular topic “An object – A champion” to which Leif Einarsson reacted by suggesting to extend it to anything related to the collection. It could be the “Collector’s Corner”.

We are sure that each of you have, at home – in your heart! – an object (a club, a ball, a cup, a medal, a postcard, a letter, a photograph ...) which you cherish. It is related to a champion, an anonymous player or to yourself! If you treasure it, other members will find a great interest in it. Please share this with us.



Another topic which we could open could be for sharing short news or information, which do not necessarily deserve a long paper. A kind of “Correspondence” or “Letter to the editor”.

## The Elegance of a Champion

### The unpublished biography of Francesco Pasquali winner of the first Open d'Italia 1925

*Carlo Busto and Enrico Budel*



*Front row: N. Nutley (Mont Agel), on the left, M. Freemantle (Mandelieu), W. Armour (Mont Agel), Mrs Walker, A. Grant (Mont Agel), A. Boyer (Nice) and B. S. Callaway (Mandelieu). Back row: W. H. Jolly (Bordighera), on the left, A. Gand (Mandelieu), A. Viney (Nice), F. Pasquali (St. Raphaël) and L. Fighiera [during a competition at the Monte-Carlo GC, 1925].*

For golfers, and even for many historical golf enthusiasts, the name of Francesco Pasquali probably won't say much. Yet he was a great teacher. A champion who made golf history and an excellent clubmaker whose pieces are still highly appreciated by collectors. And above all he was the man who, in September 1925, won the first Italian Open in Stresa.

Pasquali was born in Bientina (Pisa) in 1894. A few months later, like many Italians at that time, he moved with his family to the south of France, to Hyères. And like so many kids, he approaches the world of golf as a caddy on a nearby golf course. He is noticed and followed by the English professional Freemantle, of whom he will later become assistant. At the outbreak of the Great War Pasquali becomes a soldier and joins the Garibaldi Legion under Peppino Garibaldi, which was a regiment of the Foreign Legion composed entirely of Italian citizens. With the

regiment he fights in the Forest of Argonne some 200 km East of Paris during 1914/15. Yet his dream remains to return to Italy again. He succeeds towards the end of the conflict - it is now 1918 - when he is sent to fight on Monte S. Michele. He is injured, and during his hospitalization, being also a skilled board game player (Draughts), he is held by doctors to entertain the soldiers most in need of assistance.

In 1922, back in France, he began working as a golf professional at the Golf de Valescure at

Saint-Raphaël, which was founded in 1895 by a group of English enthusiasts. During summer, when no golf was played at Valescure, Pasquali worked in Paris, where he meets his future wife Madeleine. He then spent the next three summers in Holland, at the Scheveningen golf course. The winter season, on the other hand, is spent on the French Riviera, where English guests flock to the area because the mild climate allows them to practice sport even during the coldest months.



Pasquali is now not only a very well-respected golf professional but also a successful clubmaker. He has four children, two girls and two twin boys, one of whom will follow in his father's footsteps and become a golf professional. The family lives well. He has many Italian friends, mostly immigrants who have integrated well in Southern France. But for many years Francesco has a dream in the drawer which is to return to live permanently in Italy. One of his golf pupils, a baroness who knows about Pasquali's homesickness, informs him that a group of hoteliers in Stresa is about to start building a golf course in Gignese, on the heights above the lakeside town on the shores of Lago Maggiore. The baroness puts Pasquali in touch with the initiators at Stresa from where things then develop into the right direction.

Peter Gannon, an Argentinian born golf architect and scratch player of Irish origin, was commissioned to design the layout of the new golf course at Stresa and also to supervise the construction work. Shortly after construction work began at Gignese, however, Gannon intends to abandon the direction of works in Stresa to follow on the southern shores of Lake Como what will become his first 18-hole project in Italy: the Villa d'Este Country Club. In the following years he will create more splendid golf courses at Milan (Monza), Florence Ugolino,

San Remo, Marseille-Aix and Varese only to name a few. This is how the investors of Stresa invite Pasquali to supervise the work of tracing and carrying out Gannon's project including the offer to then become the master professional at the new golf course. Francesco Pasquali, the golfer from Provence, accepts. He doesn't want to miss an opportunity he has wished for so long. His wife though is less enthusiastic: Gignese is a mountain village, rustic and a thousand miles away from the comforts and the worldliness of the French Riviera. But Francesco already has everything in mind and reassures her: «It is true, it is a poor land. But it was all that is needed for a beautiful golf course to be born». We are in 1924, no more mists of Holland. After winter, finally the Italian sun.

Gannon's project is beautiful even if thought for by a left-handed player and it is necessary to work hard because the time schedule is tight. Also, the financial situation is not blooming, but everything will be done to ensure the opening at the end of the summer of the following year. It will be called Stresa Golf Club. On June 7th, 1925, in the premises of the Hotel Regina in Stresa, the Board of Directors resolves that the inauguration of the new course will take place with a "Golf Championship Tournament" between 21 and 27 September. On June 28th, the Council allocates 3,000 lire to hold a competition for "professionals". The first "Italian Open" was born, although at the time it is still called by the Latin name "Omnium".

On September 21, 1925, there are three distinct gentlemen on the first tee of Stresa golf course: Francesco Pasquali, William H. Jolly and Luigi Prette. There is also the golf architect and designer of the course, Peter Gannon: A left-handed scratch golfer, French and Italian Champion 1910 as well as Swiss Amateur Champion 1911 and 1923, he was not a professional golfer and therefore theoretically unable to compete in the competition. In order to avoid any embarrassment, the solution was to allow him to play and participate but without reporting his score to the registers.

At that time the dress code requires you to show up on the tee with a jacket. However, it is allowed to take the jacket off during the golf shot. All competitors are doing it this way, only Francesco Pasquali keeps his jacket on and limits himself to unbutton a button in order to perform a series of impeccable swings. He finishes the 36

holes playing four rounds on the 9-hole course at Stresa with 154 strokes, thus becoming the first Italian Open Champion. An exceptional score, if we think that it was obtained with 1920's hickory woods and irons decidedly less efficient than those of today.

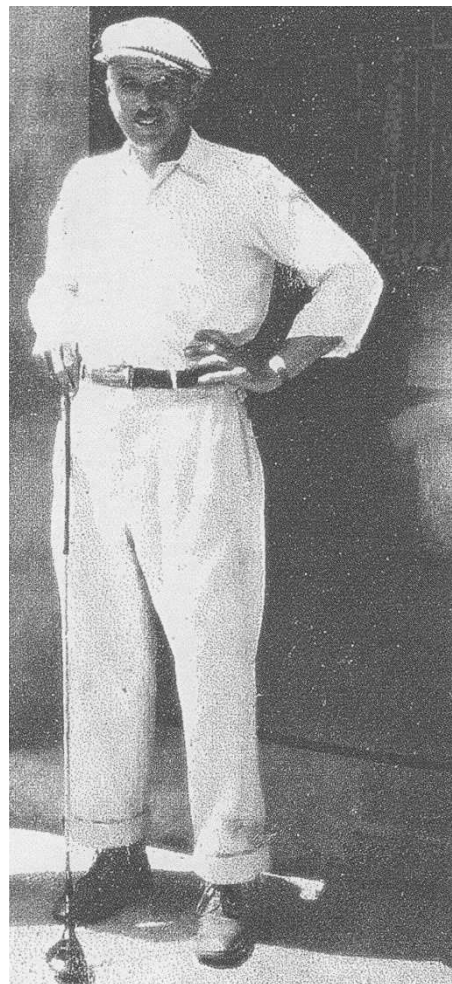
In the following years Francesco Pasquali will divide his activity as a valued master professional between Italy and Valescure. The outbreak of the Second World War, in the summer of 1939, caught him in Italy while staying with his family. He can no longer return to France and hard years are beginning for him. He makes up with giving a few golf lessons in Milan at a sporting goods store to his loyal golfing students. This was certainly not an easy period for him, but his students and clients love to chat with him because he is also a great philosopher with respect to discipline and he knows how to fascinate them. Not an unimportant thing for a golf teacher.

One of the sons, Giacomo, will become a teacher in turn and will support his father for many years at the Stresa golf course, which in the meantime takes the name of Golf Club Alpino di Stresa. Francesco Pasquali gives lessons until almost the last years of his life. He died in 1977 when he was 83 years old. His son Giacomo died far too early in 1988.

Yet Francesco did not like to talk about his title at the first Italian Open. He felt a little uncomfortable. He said: "There were three of us. Three friends, and I was the only one who knew the course ... ». His motto was: honesty, humility, deference. A very special character, Francesco

Pasquali certainly left a mark for golfing generations to come and therefore thoroughly deserves to be remembered.

*Translation by Christoph Meister, Sept. 2019*



*Francesco Pasquali at Valescure*



*Pro-Am, 1931. Haig-Chester; Pasquali-Orengo.*



*Pasquali and Jolly (most probably)  
During the Italian Open at Stresa, 1925*

## An object, a champion : Massy, 1910

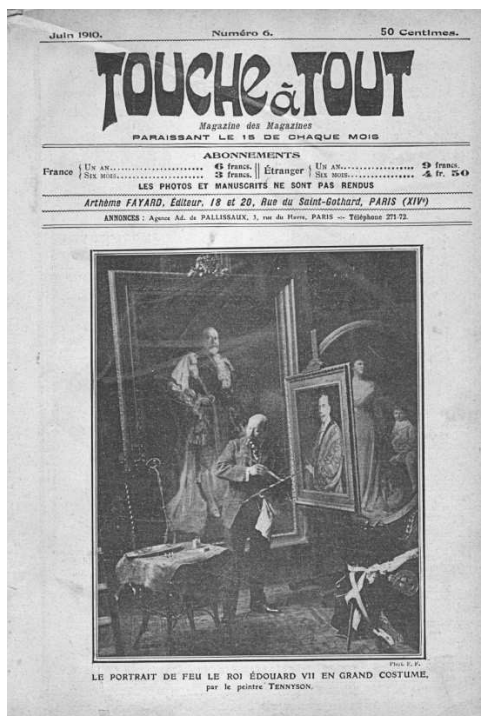
*Stéphan Filanovitch*



When I bought in 2015 an english version of Massy 's book "Golf", I realised that there were also some pictures from the french golflayer. At the back of theses pics, there was always the same comment, "Touche à Tout", 1910.

What was "Touche à Tout"? After some searches on the net, I discover that "Touche à Tout" was a french magazine printed in the early 1900's. The english translation would be "Jack-of-all-trades". This bi-monthly magazine has been published from 1908 to 1914 by Arthème Fayard.

Joseph Arthème Fayard, (1866-1936), was Jean-François Arthème Fayard son's, founder of the publisher Librairie Arthème Fayard in 1857. Fayard is still nowadays a great and famous french publisher.



*Cover of the Magazine (here June 1910)*

The magazine was a generalist news magazine and contained various articles all over the world.

When Arnaud Massy won the Open in 1907, at Hoylake, in France, no so many people were interested in golf. So, with this four-pages article, issued in June 1910, Fayard will try to popularize this sport.

The content of the article begins with an explanation of the golf game. It continues with technical information about golf club and how to use them.

The author, Paul Arosa was a poet, a novelist and also a songwriter! I am not sure that Arosa was a golf player ... He finishes his paper, with lyrical flights about golf.

« Le golf est incontestablement le plus hygiénique de tous les sports » which could be translated as: "golf is unquestionably the most hygienic of all sports".

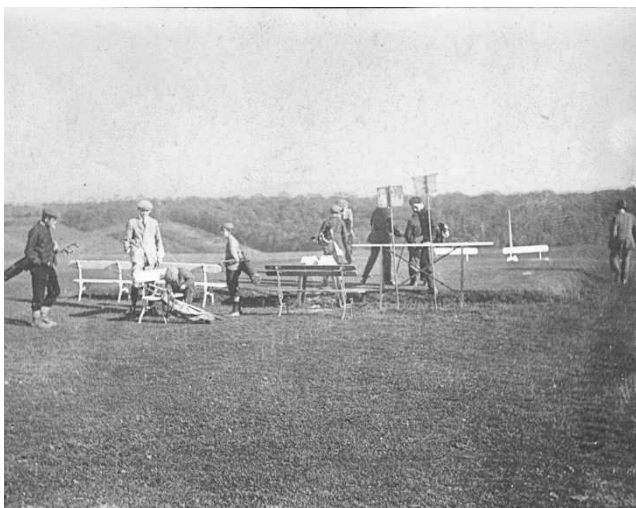
He also said "tools or crosse" instead of "golf clubs".

All pictures were taken in La Boulie, the famous golf course near Versailles.











## Scotland and the Flemish People - Early Games

*Robin K. Bargmann*



Recently the University of St Andrews has undertaken a research project 'Scotland and the Flemish People' headed by Prof. Roger Mason. The following is an article contributed to the book with the same title published this year and edited by Alexander Fleming and is a summary of a paper presented at the concluding conference in St Andrews in 2017.



*Left and middle: Two colf players on ice in the Low Countries – Hendrick Avercamp (detail) – 1620 and 1615; right: golf player on links land in Scotland – William St Clair – 1764. The similarities are quite obvious. Note the middle player with a jointed club or 'Schotse klik'.*

The medieval relationship between Flanders and Scotland was multifaceted. Commercial and political links were clearly vital to Scotland's economic growth and health, but there were also social and cultural exchanges between the two countries. Migrated Flemings also interacted with local Scottish population by way of recreational activity. Indeed, it can be argued that the quintessentially Scottish games such as curling and golf are in fact Flemish in origin, or at least may have been developed or modified in its adopted country of Scotland.

The most significant changes took place in Scotland during the rule of King David I (1124 - 1153) with the foundation of burghs and monasteries, the introduction of feudalism and implementation of modern governmental reform through Norman-Flemish knights, and immigrant clerics, merchants and artisans from the greater Flanders region during this

Normanisation process, known amongst scholars as the Davidian Revolution.

These Norman-Flemish migrants helped to create the Lowlands (or in Older Scots Lallans, in Modern Scots Lawlands) as a dominant cultural and historic region of Scotland. The term Lowlands is not an official geographical or administrative denomination of the area of the country, but rather demographical and linguistic. In normal usage Lowlands refers to those parts of Scotland not in the Highlands where Gaelic is spoken. Note that in Gaelic *a' Ghalldachd* means "the place of the foreigner" or the land of the non-Gaels. It can be established that the Scots language was subjected to substantial Flemish influence. From this linguistic and etymological evidence can be determined of the Flemish influence on the development of early games in Scotland in medieval times. This sheds new light on the much debated relationship between the modern Scottish game of golf played worldwide and the game of colf played on ice during the

seventeenth century in the Dutch Republic, illustrated in the numerous paintings by Dutch masters of the Golden Age.

The Flemish impact on Scotland is evident in modern games such as golf, curling, and even tennis. To understand how this influence developed, we need to bear in mind the linguistic as well as cultural links between Scotland, England and the Low Countries. Following the Anglo-Saxon settlement of Britain from the fifth to the seventh centuries the standard language spoken in southern and eastern parts of Scotland was Old English, a Germanic language very similar to and phonologically resembling Old Frisian. A close relationship exists between Old Frisian and Old English due to a shared history, language and culture of the people, Anglo-Frisians and Saxons from present day Northern Germany, who came to settle in England from around the fifth century onwards. Meanwhile, Old Dutch evolved to Middle Dutch around the

twelfth century. Middle Dutch was spoken by the populace that occupied what is now the Low Countries or the Netherlands, i.e. including present day Belgium, part of northern France, and parts of the Lower Rhine and Westphalia regions of Germany. The language of the Flemish was therefore Middle Dutch. The inhabitants of northern Dutch provinces, including Groningen, Friesland and the coast of North Holland, originally spoke Old Frisian mutating to Middle Dutch too. All these languages are closely related and have remarkable phonological resemblances. In Scotland the distinctive Older Scots tongue spoken throughout the Lowlands by the later Middle Ages developed from Old English (Inglis) but with substantial Middle Dutch influence due to the extensive Norman-Flemish settlement of the twelfth century and after. Such influence – linguistic and cultural – is evident in early games played in Scotland.



From left to right: Illustrations in Books of hours (16th century) of colf, bollen and caets. Note that the early game of colf was played on land towards a hole; the full swing indicates a long game.

### Curling bonspiel – Krulbolspel

The game of curling or the curling bonspiel – a match between opposing teams – is considered a traditional Scottish game, and certainly the game as it is played worldwide today has its origins in Scotland. However, historians have long debated whether there was earlier Flemish influence on the development of the game. There is strong etymological evidence that this was indeed the case. English dictionaries state that the game of curling is played with stones on ice (1610s) and that a description of a similar game is attested from Flanders (c.1600). The word curl as a verb is derived from the metathesis of *crulle* (c.1300), from Old English or Middle Dutch *krul*. In Dutch today *krullen* means to curl (v.), i.e. to cause an object to make a curling movement or motion. The word *bonspiel* (n.) consists of two elements, the word *spiel* and the prefix *bon*. The word *spiel* as a noun is related to Old English or Middle

Dutch *spilian* (v.) meaning to play, and *spil* or *spel* (n.) meaning a game. Curling historians in Scotland have discussed the origins of the word *bonspiel* and the prefix *bon* at length, but without reaching consensus. However, it is likely that *bon* is related to Old English or Middle Dutch *bolle* (n.) meaning a round (wooden) object.

This is similar to the present-day English *bowl* (n.) and Dutch *bol* (n.), as used in games. In Germanic languages the letter *n* is added at the end of a word to create verbs and plurals. To play with a *bol*, therefore, is *bollen* and the plural of *bol* is also *bollen*. In Dutch dialects the middle letters may dissolve in the pronunciation, *bollen* becoming *bol'n* or *bo'n*. The traditional Scottish curling word *bonspiel* may then be related to the Dutch *bollen spel* and *curling bonspiel* to *krul bollen spel*. Interestingly, today *het krulbolspel* is still played in the Netherlands and Belgium (in Zeeuws-Vlaanderen) and is considered an old

Flemish folk game, even protected by UNESCO as part of its national heritage.

There is additional proof that the game of curling has been influenced by Flemish (Dutch) elements. Archaeological finds suggest that, in the medieval Low Countries, various ball games were played with wooden objects (bowls). The origins of many ballgames, and stick- and ballgames, from the Middle Ages are obscured by the absence of clear documentary evidence, but edicts banning certain games being played in the streets inside the town walls and images in Books of Hours testify to their popularity. In Netherlandish art of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries there are many depictions of the bollen game (e.g. David Teniers), whereby wooden bowls are rolled on flat land towards a stake as target.

Winters in Northern Europe during the Middle Ages were particularly cold and peaked during the so-called Little Ice Age. As a result, the bollen game, and the game of colf too for that matter, were played on ice too as winter pastimes. The wooden bol was laid on its flat side and a wooden stick handle attached to aid in throwing it across the ice. A painting by Pieter Brueghel the Elder, *Hunters in the Snow* (1565), clearly depicts this bol game being played on ice, while further evidence is provided by a remarkable engraving by Robert de Baudous (after a drawing by Cornelis Claesz. van Wieringen), *Winter* (1591-1618), part of a series of four engravings depicting seasonal life on the

water. Here we can clearly see a group of men playing a game on ice very similar to the curling bonspiel as it is played in Scotland. Coincidentally two men are also playing colf on ice too.



Engraving by Robert de Baudous depicting a group of men playing krulbol on ice, similar to the game of curling bonspiel. Note the rink and the besem. On the left two men playing colf on ice.

It is possible, therefore, that the krulbolspel – played both on land and on ice in the Low Countries with wooden implements – was introduced to Scotland by immigrant Flemings prior to c.1500 and that this game was merged with the native Scottish (Gael) game of throwing stones on ice after c.1500 to become the game we know today as curling. A wooden bol was perfectly round, whilst kuting stones were pluriform. The curling stone evolved into a rounded implement we know today in the 17th century in Scotland.



From left to right a wooden bol from the Low Countries (13th century), the Stirling stone (1511), the Channel stane, and a wooden curling, demonstrating the evolution and assimilation of krul bolspel to curling bonspiel.

### Cache (cache or tennis) – *Caets*

Cache in Scotland or *caets* in the Low Countries was originally played as a handball game and is considered a forerunner of the modern game of tennis. In England the game was referred to as tennis (or *tinnis*) but in Scotland the now almost extinct word cache was used to denominate the handball game. The word tennis (in a 1400

document spelt as *tenetz*) is derived from the French imperative *tenir*. '*Tenez*' was used as a warning required by the rules of medieval tennis before serving the ball.

Discussing the game's origins David Murison, the renowned editor of the *Scottish National Dictionary*, suggested that:

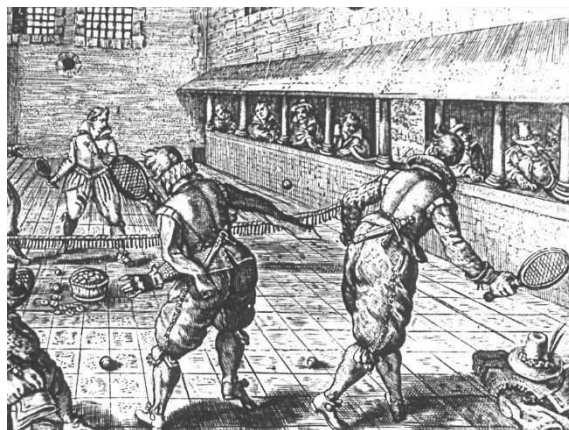
“A sure indication of the close and cordial relations existing between the Netherlands and Scotland appears in the various names for games which the Scots borrowed chiefly in the 15th century and in one instance at least appropriated for good: cache, and later the combination *cachepele*, tennis, are Middle Flemish *caetse(-spel)*; golf (Middle Dutch *kolf*, a club, *kolven*, a game with clubs), despite the disbelief of some Scottish devotees, is too well illustrated in Flemish painting to be anything else than of Dutch [Flemish] origin, however it may have been developed or modified in its adopted country.”

The early hand ball game was originally an outdoor game played on the open field or in the streets. Traditionally the game was played between two opposing teams of three players. Court play was limited to single or double players while a cord or net was introduced for the ball to be played over as an additional obstacle. Ball games, like *caets* and *colf*, became hugely popular in the Burgundian Low Countries, especially Flanders and later Holland. Racket tennis played on courts in Europe mostly replaced the handball game played outside and was a game for aristocrats and royalty due to the exclusivity of available space and buildings. An enclosed tennis court required large dimensions and was usually attached to palace buildings or

otherwise special tennis houses were built. In Scotland the construction of an open *cachepele* (or tennis court) at James V's royal palace at Falkland began in 1539 and still stands today as the earliest tennis court in Britain.

In its heyday the game in Scotland was not called tennis but rather cache, a term originating from the Dutch word *caets* used in the Low Countries. The game of *caets* or *cachepele* may well have been introduced by twelfth-century Flemish immigrants. Most of what is known about cache in Scotland relates to the sixteenth century and after, but there is reference to the game as early as the reign of Alexander III in the thirteenth century. In 1598 James VI commended ‘playing at the cache or tennis’ to his young son as a ‘fair and pleasant’ field game, and there are references to cache being played in Perth, Stirling, St Andrews and Edinburgh.

Cache remained a highly popular game at the royal courts of Scotland and England until the Civil Wars of the mid-seventeenth century from which the game never fully recovered until the introduction of the new Victorian form of lawn tennis in 1874 by Major Winfield. The old game of tennis played inside walled courts has sporadically continued to this day and is better known as real tennis as opposed to lawn tennis.



*On the left the cachepele (tennis court) at Falklands Palace in Scotland; on the right students of Leiden University playing caets in the Low Countries. Note the similarity between the two courts. The game had evolved from a handball game to a ball game played with rackets.*

## Golf – Colf

The origin of the game is probably the most debated subject among golf historians. But who invented the game, and where, is an inappropriate question to pose as early games

were not invented but rather evolved over time and were influenced by numerous cultural developments. Moreover, stick and ball games in medieval times were played in varying forms and were not governed by standard rules as is the convention today.

Golf historians have commonly focused on the comparisons and analogies between the game of golf in Scotland and the game of colf (also spelled *kolf*) in the Low Countries, especially during the seventeenth century in the Dutch Republic. The reason for this is the abundance of images representing the game of colf in popular landscape paintings and portraits by many well-known Dutch artists. The similarities between the two games in Scotland and the Dutch Republic are indeed quite striking, and there is documentary evidence to suggest that they are in fact related, leading historians to the conclusion that golf had its origins in Holland. A closer analysis, however, suggests that there is a distinct Scottish influence on the game being played by the Dutch in Holland. There is little doubt that the words golf (or goff, gowf, and other spellings) and *colf* (or *kolf*) are linguistically related. But there is an issue as to whether an earlier Flemish connection gave rise to the game of golf in Scotland.

A starting point for addressing this possibility is to look at the game of *colf* played in the northern Low Countries. With the founding of the Dutch Republic, following the fall of the city of Antwerp in 1585 during the Eighty Year War, large numbers of people from Flanders and Brabant fled the southern Netherlands and settled in northern towns and cities. Almost half of the population left Flanders and migrated to Holland and other provinces. This included the upper crust of Flemish society consisting of wealthy merchants and bankers, intellectuals and artists. This influx of Flemings substantially influenced cultural development in the north and gave rise to the Dutch Golden Age. The influence included an increase in popularity of games such as caets, bollen and colf in the northern counties.

At the same time substantial numbers of Scots also settled in the Dutch Republic, either attracted as scholars or students to the University of Leiden, the now famed bulwark of religious and intellectual freedom in Europe; as mercenaries fighting for the Dutch rebellion against their Habsburg suppressor overlords; or as (wool) merchants trading in such Dutch ports as Veere and Rotterdam. It is not surprising therefore to find evidence in paintings and in literature of Scottish influence on the game of colf as played in the northern Low Countries. The development and popularisation of this Dutch game of colf benefitted from cross-

fertilisation with the traditional version of the game already being played in Scotland. In illustrations and documents there is evidence of both the Dutch single piece colf with leaden shoe, and the Scottish two-piece jointed club (Schotse klik) with boxwood head.

It is possible that golf, like bonspiel and cache, was originally introduced to Scotland by twelfth-century Flemish settlers. Certainly, there is sufficient linguistic and phonological proof that the Scots word golf derives from Middle Dutch (Flemish), as are other words related to these games, used by Flemish immigrants at the time.

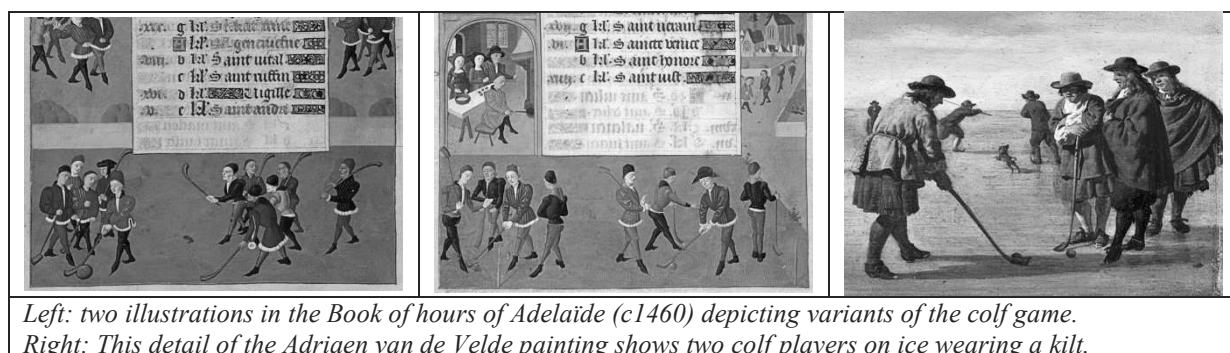
The early game of golf in Scotland was probably played in various forms. From illustrations in fourteenth-century Flemish Books of Hours we can discern two basic forms of stick and ball games by the name of colf: one with two opposing teams with a number of players contesting a single ball (similar to today's shinty in Scotland); and the other with two or more individual players playing their own ball towards a set target, a hole or post (similar to today's golf or croquet games). Another interesting illustration from the late fifteenth century is in a Book of Hours illuminated by Simon Bening, whose father coincidentally was from Scotland, that depicts three colf players each playing their wooden balls on land towards a hole in the ground. The fourth man is probably the person acting as neutral arbiter and pointing at the inn where the innkeeper stands in the doorway waiting to serve beer after the game when the wagers are settled. Arbiters were customary and necessary because of the heavy gambling and betting habits of the players.

Another illustration of colf in a similar Book of Hours depicts a player in full swing and another attempting to stroke his ball into a hole. In the background the contours of the town of Antwerp are visible. The game is played on land and contradicts the assumption by some Scottish golf historians that the game was originally played on ice over short distances towards a post as target. Clearly the early game of colf was originally played on land and not on ice as later became customary during the Little Ice Age. It is also clearly a long game requiring a full swing at the ball. And finally, the ball is played into a hole as a target. At first the ball was made of wood, but this was replaced by a leather ball stuffed with feathers (pennebal), a cross-over from the game of caets or cache. It is not impossible that this

cross-over was first made in Scotland where golf played on grassy links land had become increasingly popular whereas in the Low Countries caets was still the dominant game. On the other hand large quantities of balls were produced in the Low Countries and exported to other regions, i.a. Scotland.

Although played by royalty in Scotland – Mary Queen of Scots is believed to have enjoyed it, although more likely reference is made to the game of pall mall fashionable at royal courts in Europe – golf had not yet made it to royal status in England. However, James VI's accession to the English throne in 1603 saw his court move from Edinburgh to London and with it a large retinue of Scottish nobles, gentlemen and merchants. As a result, the Scottish game of golf was introduced to England, first played on Blackheath beside the royal palace at Greenwich. Continuing commercial links between Scotland,

England and the Low Countries, especially the Dutch Republic, ensured that the Scottish and Dutch versions of the game, both having strong Flemish roots, adapted to and adopted from one another. In Scotland, including the Scottish enclave in England, golf became the favoured game of a new class of wealthy gentlemen and burgesses – just as it did in the Dutch Republic. This is clearly visible in numerous Dutch paintings portraying players wearing a kilt or players using jointed clubs as normally used in Scotland as opposed to the single piece colf club used in the Low Countries. Confusingly the numerous Dutch paintings with colf scenes have led to the belief by some historians that the game of colf in Holland was the origin of golf in Scotland, whereas its true origins lie much earlier among Flemish migrants from twelfth-century Flanders settling in Scotland in the newly founded burgh towns.



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## Golf played in the Dark

*After the "Dundee Courier", Friday 28th October, 1927*



Golf by artificial light is the latest innovation in the royal and ancient game, introduced by Arnaud Massy in connection with a miniature golf course in the Forest of Marly, 10 miles from Paris.



*A postcard from the Marly – Le Pecq golf course*

There, with the aid of powerful arc lamps of 3000 candle-power each, golfing enthusiasts, motoring out from Paris in the evening after dinner, may practise not only putting and approaching, but even driving as well, nets being spread to stop the flight of the ball in the latter case.

There is no record of golf having been played by the aid of artificial light round a full course, but more than once a tournament has been finished with such assistance.

Exactly 20 years ago, for example, several players in a professional tournament at Burnham Beeches, on September 25, 1907, finished in the dark, and torches were lit around the last few holes to enable them to see to complete the round.

When the last Open Championship was played at Musselburgh – in 1889 – there were numerous

competitors still going round the course after the lamps in the streets had been lit; and, although no artificial lighting was provided to assist the actual play, candles had to be procured in order to mark and check the cards.

Only five years ago, in 1922, when Mr E. F. Storey, of Cambridge, made his record of 66 in the match between the Cambridge University and Royal Wimbledon Clubs, it was dark long before he finished his round, and when was playing to the last green a candle was tied to the flag stick to indicate to the player the situation of the hole.

An interesting record exists of a match played at St Andrews by the aid of lantern light about 70 years ago. A Mr Cruickshank and Lord Kennedy agreed to play three holes in the dark for a stake of £500 a hole, the game starting at 10 p.m., and no lights being permitted save a lantern at each hole. The record adds the remarkable fact that the players succeeded in doing the three holes in much about the same number of strokes as they were value for during the daytime.

Matches for wagers, of course, have frequently been played in the dark, with no light of any kind to aid the players.

At St Andrews in 1876 David Strath, for a wager, went round on a moonlit night in 95 and without losing a ball. Mr J. E. Laidlay, the famous amateur, once did nine holes of Musselburgh, starting at ten o'clock at night, in 41; and in December, 1864, the noted old "pros." Tom Morris and Charlie Hunter, did 12 holes at Prestwick with two amateur opponents, driving off at 11 p.m., and finishing at 1.30 in the morning.



## A letter to the EAGHC By Roger McStravick

We received this very kind letter from Roger McStravick, St Andrews. We read this letter during our last EAGHC AGM at the Rosendaelsche GC. Our readers may remember that the EAGHC, during the 2017 St Andrews meeting, we were able to support the fund-raising efforts initiated by Roger McStravick. Let us also remind that Roger, winner of the USGA Herbert Warren Wind Award in 2015 and the BGCS Murdoch Medal in 2016 for his book *St Andrews in the Footsteps of Tom Morris*.

Roger McStravick  
Knockhill of Nydie House  
St Andrews  
KY16 9SL

E: rmcstravick@gmail.com  
M: 07817 856706

11 December 2019

JB Kazmierczak  
EAGHC c/o J-B KAZMIERCZAK  
20, avenue Notre Dame  
06000 NICE  
FRANCE

Dear JBK,

Re: Jamie Anderson headstone

I hope you are well.

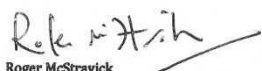
First of all, may I express my sincere condolences for the passing of John Hanna. He was the kindest man but also a tour-de-force in Irish golf history. His passing is a colossal loss for us all.

Could you please pass on to the members and Committee my sincere gratitude for the assistance given with the Jamie Anderson headstone? Without your support, it would have been a much more difficult task to get Jamie's headstone completed. I do hope you like the finished result.

In addition I would also like to say that I enjoyed my time with your members in St Andrews. It is a joy to spend time with fellow enthusiasts. Please do let me know if you plan to return.

Thank you once again. Your association's donation, made such an incredible difference and I am truly grateful.

With kind regards,



Roger McStravick

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*With kind regards,*

*Roger McStravick*

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*Re: Jamie Anderson headstone*

*"I hope you are well.*

*"First of all, may I express my sincere condolences for the passing of John Hanna. He was the kindest man but also a tour-de-force in Irish golf history. His passing is a colossal loss for us all.*

We would like to inform our readers that Roger has just finished a new book "about the road war in St Andrews – a court case in 1879 regarding the Town Council who wished to allow a road on the links, directly outside the Tom Morris shop by the 18th. The controversial case went all the way, through twists and turns, to the High Court."

A special edition is available right now. You can view it at:  
<http://www.thegolfbookshop.com/shop/st-andrews-the-road-war-papers>

Please write to Roger if you are interested – or to get more information:  
[rmcstravick@gmail.com](mailto:rmcstravick@gmail.com)

## The 2019 AGM in The Netherlands

*By JBK (Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak)*

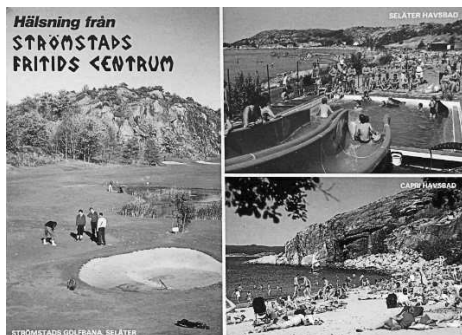


*Group picture on the first day, in front of the Rosendaelsche Club-House.*

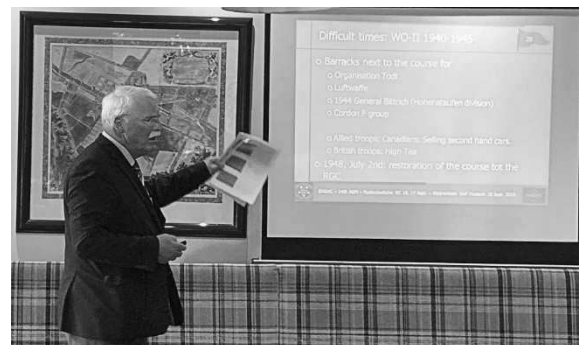
*From Left to right: Geoffrey Lyon, Dius Lenon, Elsa and Leif Einarsson, Pius Muskens, David Hamilton, JBK, Cecilia Lyon, Huguette Kazmierczak, Kuno Schuch, Robin Bargman, Mika Hjorth, Ferd Vrijmoed, Czeslaw Kruk, Maria Vrijmoed, Daniel Quanz, Claus Maeland (sitting), Marcel Kienhuis and Wayne Xing,*

If some members arrived at Arnhem – at the Postillon Hotel – on Sunday afternoon, the true meeting started at the Rosendaelsche GC (RGC), located at a few minutes walk from the hotel, on Monday morning with an informal session where we could see some nice artifacts passing from one hand to another one.

After a quick lunch and the official welcome and opening by David Hamilton, JBK presented in a few words the lectures of the afternoon which started with a very interesting history of the RGC by one of the members of the historical committee of the club: Frans König.



*On the postcard above, the man on black trousers and white sweater is our new member Claus Maeland.*



*Franz König during his lecture.*

The club was instituted in 1895 but the early minutes disappeared until a couple of years ago – found in an attic – so the history of the club is now much better known. A great lecture from a member of the hosting golf-club.

Robin Bargmann was the next speaker and offered to explain the links between the Flemish and the Scottish people – with the objective of better understanding the similarities and differences between the stick and ball games which were played in both countries.

Daniel Quanz jumped several centuries ahead to present a short history of the “impregnable quadrilateral” – more commonly called nowadays the grand slam ... with a definition which has changed with the years.

The last lecture of the afternoon was by JBK who discussed the question “which was the first golf course on the Riviera?”. The usual answer is “Cannes-Mandelieu”. But in fact, the first one was “Hyères-les-Palmiers”! As the first course was linked to an Hotel which belonged to Mr. Peyron. It was not a proper golf club – a true “club” was instituted later on, in 1894. If Cannes was not the first “course” on the Riviera, it was definitely the first “golf club” – and a very important one.

After a break, we continued with the AGM – which opened with a minute of silence in the memory of John Hanna and Geert Nijs. Various subjects were discussed, including the accounting approval. It was also decided to send a kind letter of thanks for Mr John Lovell for his various gifts for past or future actions. A new Board was elected and we were pleased to add a new name to the list: Mika Hjorth, from Finland. Welcome on board! The last question discussed was the place of next year meeting. It was decided to have it in Poland. Clearly, it will not be an “historical course” as during the communism period, the game of golf was banned in Easter European Countries. But the interest in history is already important in Poland and the appeal of hickory golf a real one!

Just after the AGM, the Board elected the new president (2020 and 2021): Robin Bargmann.

The day was concluded by our official dinner served at the RGC.



*Robin Bargmann receiving the President's Putter from David Hamilton. The Putter has now a chain holding medal bearing the past president's names.*

On Tuesday, our president David Hamilton opened the lectures with an unusual topic: “sand”. “Put on more sand, honeyman” was the favourite saying from Old Tom! ... and we all discovered that sand is not just a “neutral product” which is there to bother the golfer when he is bunkered ...

Iain Forrester presented then the history of club-makers on the Continent – and displayed a large number of clubs from his own collection – presented by country.

JBK concluded the morning session with a review of Pau medals – one of the rare clubs in France which can present a so large set of medals – to which JBK added a few of his personal collection.

In the afternoon, the EAGHC Hickory Invitational was played. With excellent results from Wilma van Rijn, Iain Forrester, Czeslaw Kruk, Mika Hjorth (see additional pictures p.2).



*Czeslaw Kruk receiving his medal.*

## The Bleijenbeeck GC and Golf Museum

After a short welcome by John Ott and Maria Vrijmoed at the Club-House, we were invited to a lecture given by Robin Bargmann (see below).



I must say that it was an exceptional one! The title “Petrus Apherdianus – Ludimagister”. This man – Pieter van Afferden – in our modern wording, lived about 1510 and 1580 and he was Rector of the Latin School in Hardewijk in 1540. In his “Tyrocinium lingua Latinae” he is extensively describing a game which sounds so close to our golf.



*John Ott and JBK at the Golf Museum.*

Then we spent an hour at the Golf Museum. Even new, it really worth the visit.

After a quick lunch, we split in two groups; the most important one being golfers. A smaller one got the privilege to visit the estate – including a farm and an old castle.



*Czeslaw Kruk, Wilma van Rijn and Claus Maeland waiting for the starting time.*

During the dinner Robin Bargmann and Ferd Vrijmoed gave the results of the Hickory competition. Maria Kom, Britta Nord for the ladies and Iain Forrester, Menno Beelen and Mika Hjorth from gentlemen returned the best scores. No need to say that the atmosphere was very friendly and warm.



*Iain Forrester receiving the EAGHC Medal from Ferd Vrijmoed and Robin Bargmann.*

We added two group pictures on the back-cover page (upper is Rosendaelsche GC and lower is Bleijenbeeck GC and Museum).

## A few pictures at the Bleijenbeeck Golf Club & Golf Museum



*Clubs displayed at the Museum*



*Golf outfits and artifacts*



*B. Nettelbladt, M. Hjorth, B. Franzon, B. Nord*



*Huguette, JBK and Li Zhenqin at the Castle*



*Christoph Meister, Maria Vrijmoed, Leif Einarsson*



*John Ott, B. Nettelbladt, Wayne Xing, J. Schuiling*



*Viktor Cleve, Petra Manders, Bengt Franzon*



*Ferd and Robin thanking Czeslaw Kruk for his present*