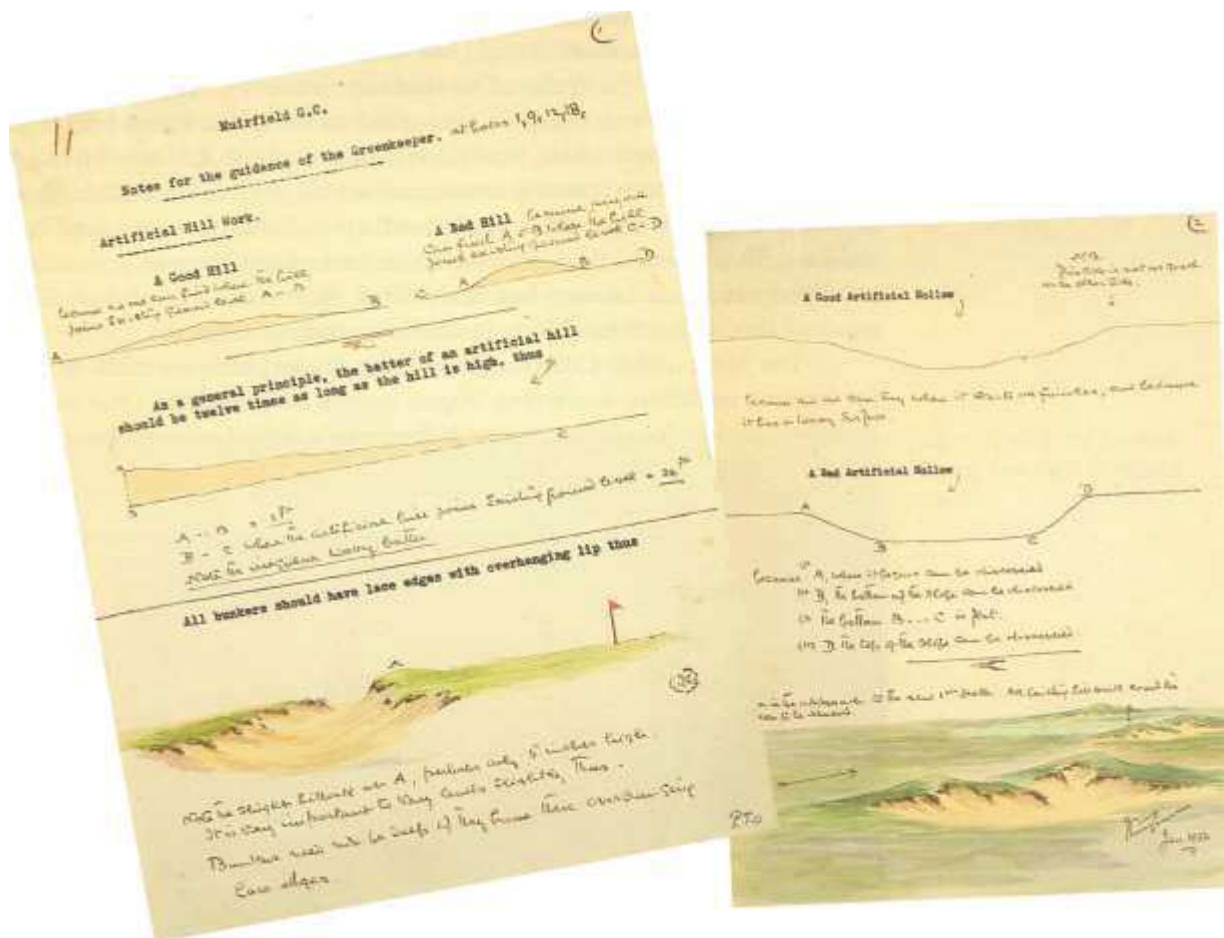


Simpson – Watercolour (A bunker) and indications for design and lay-out



golfika



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The front cover of Golfika Magazine n°16 is after a painting of one of our EAGHC fellow members, Viktor Cleve, It represents Grand-Duke Michel of Russia and Sophie de Torby visiting the Valescure Golf Club, c. 1910. Viktor Cleve is a former art director he kindly designed the title page and donated it to us. You can see more of his work on www.cleve-golfart.com

Illustration credit: Authors, EAGHC

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The price of this magazine (two issues per year) is included in the EAGHC annual membership of €25.00 p.a. The magazine can be sold to non-members of the EAGHC at €10.00 + postage & packing.

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President(s)' words

JBK (Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak)



Dear Fellow EAGHC Members,

When this issue of *Golfika*-Magazine will be mailed and distributed, we shall be starting our 10th Annual General Meeting of the EAGHC.

Ten different meetings in ten immense golf clubs: Chantilly (2006), Hamburg-Reinbeck (2007), Bad-Ischl (2008), Malone (2009), Kennemer (2010), Saint-Cloud (2011), Goteborg (2012), Royal Belgique (2013), Royal The Hague (2014), Valescure (2015).

All members had retained great memories from these meetings and we hope that all the clubs also kept a nice souvenir when welcoming our annual meetings. Warmest thanks to all the organisations, club-presidents, directors, secretaries and members who all helped us in running successful events. It was always an opportunity to make new friends and enlarge our network, getting access to more and more historical information. And we all know how fast the memory of events vanishes if it is not tracked and safeguarded – which is one of the duties of our Association.

This year again, I'm sure we'll have a great event and I would like to thank heartily M. François Naumann, the president of the club and M. Jean-Philippe Fernez, its director, for their so kind support. Also, we would add a few words for M. Sébastien Meslin, the manager of the Golf-Hotel who offered us a very attractive package in his great hotel, adjacent to the clubhouse, in order to facilitate our stay. All this was made possible thanks to the help and support of Cécilia and Geoffrey Lyon.

Last but not least, at the time we start our meeting, Cecilia Lyon is launching her book on the history of the Valescure Golf-Club. Further in this magazine I'm writing a few words about

it, but I cannot resist saying here how great this book is. Congratulations Cécilia!

For this tenth meeting, we had to do something special. So, first, we asked *David Kirkwood & sons* (David is one of our members) to engrave a die and strike an EAGHC medal. We'll offer it for the winners of the hickory competition. Those who are interested to buy it, please let us know. The price (to be defined) should be about 20 or 22€ + p&s.

Second, as decided during our last meeting in The Hague, we are preparing a commemorative booklet; a kind of photographic souvenir album. It will be available to all members for the next issue of *Golfika* Magazine.

But time is flying so fast and at the end of this year, I'll be finishing my second term as president of the EAGHC. It was a real pleasure to represent again our Association. I wish my successor as much pleasure as I had during these two last years ... And to all of you a great time – not only in golfing, but in all others activities.



The original drawing which served as a model for the EAGHC medal

Editor's Corner

Stéphan Filanovitch



Dear EAGHC Members,

Always the same pleasure to introduce a new issue of Golfika Magazine. In this summer edition, you will find the second part about Tom Simpson by Tom MacWood, concluding a very interesting article – a reprint from Golf Architecture, with the authorisation of Neil Crafter.

Then JBK wrote this wholly remarkable article about the Nicolas Popoff's life, golf and planes.

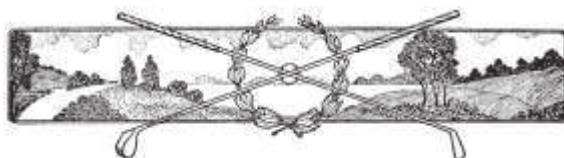
As I like searching about defunct golf courses, I'm happy to thank Christoph for his paper.

Discover or rediscover the Mac Cormack's story with Albert. A rich life!

Thanks also to all writers from this issue, we always need papers. Below, I give you a reminder of rules.

To finish, I think we will share a great moment in our next annual meeting. Valescure is a famous golf course. JBK and Huguette are preparing for us an unforgettable meeting, with the presence of a wonderful champion, Madame Catherine Lacoste.

Rendez-vous à Valescure !



Papers for Golfika-Magazine are always welcome. We would appreciate to receive the text in "word" (.doc) format if possible, but more importantly we would appreciate to receive the pictures in "High Definition" (300 ppi is ideal, jpg format appreciated but most of others format are ok). To get an idea of the space, use the "Times New Roman" size 11.

And don't forget to send us a picture of you (ID type suggested) for the header.

It is important that your pictures are not copyright protected. If you are not sure, please

contact us before sending them. In most of the cases, when the pictures are protected by a copyright, it is possible for us to ask for an authorisation of publishing. Until now, in 100% of the case, we got a positive answer, without paying any fees (as we are a non-profit organisation and we list our sources).

We cannot guarantee that each and every paper received will be published in the very next issue but we are careful to print it as soon as possible.

Join me : editor@golfika.com

Tom Simpson – An unconventional life *Part II – The Anatomy of a Golf Hole*

Tom MacWood



This is Part II of a paper on Tom Simpson. Part I was published in Golfika-Magazine #15. Simpson had definite ideas about the proper design of greens, fairways and hazards, as well as how those components should relate to one another. The influence of his mentor John Low is evident in these thoughts, as is the example of the Old Course.

Greens. Everything begins with greens in Simpson's system of design. The design and orientation of the green determines the best zone to approach the green, which in turn determines the design of the fairway, and so on. As to size, Simpson believed the average green was far too large. Small putting greens made for good golf, although maintenance requirements need to be considered.

The number of greenside bunkers should never exceed three and they should be made to eat into the green, frequently they are positioned too widely. Care should be taken that they are not placed symmetrically—the less balanced the relationship, the more difficult to judge the approach. The green's outline should avoid anything obvious – not square, rectangular, or oblong – keep them irregular and rather elongated. Also do not repeat the same pattern on any one course, every green should have a distinctive note, and the ground in front should be carefully studied. Far more should be made of ridges and hollows in front and generally around putting greens.

Simpson claimed the back of a green should never be higher than the front because it gave the golfer confidence, *"the one thing the architect must never give him. There should always be an element of doubt in the player's mind as to whether he can be hole high without being over the green."* The best greens are those slope away or downhill, *"a feature that goes to make St. Andrews the most interesting,*

the most exacting, the most exasperating and the most enthralling test of golf in the world." A tilt from right to left, or vice versa, is also a good practice. *"No matter how long the hole maybe, the knowledge that the green has a tilt begins to exercise an effect on the mind before you arrive on the tee."*

Simpson advocated undulating greens, but it should always be possible for the player to lay his approach putt dead. *"The undulations ought never to be so pronounced that it becomes impossible to make any reasonable calculation as to strength or direction."*



The second green "Pandy" at Musselborough

The putting surface need not be all the same level. In fact, a two level green was an attractive alternative, but the rise should be on the diagonal. A very slight mound or depression in the middle is quite admissible, so long as it merges gracefully with the rest. *"All gradations should be very tentative and blend with the general contour."* Simpson's greens were

generally low profile, as compared those who preferred the pushed up or elevated green.

Never let a green be absolutely flat. *“Billiard-table greens can never pretend to be artistic.”* Something must be done to introduce a little novelty and interest into a flat green, and it may be necessary to create the effect artificially, but Simpson warned against altering the ground artificially more than was absolutely necessary, *“The less interference with Nature the better, for Nature is, for the most part, the best architect.”*

The question of visibility was an important one. For a short hole, most of the floor of the green should be seen from the tee. With a fairly long two-shot hole there is not the necessity for complete visibility, as it is the green that is the target rather than the hole. The semi-blind green was a common occurrence on the Old Course and a favorite ploy for Simpson, although not always a popular one!

Fairways. The exact shape and size of each fairway will depend on the length of the hole, the nature of the ground, the orientation of the green to the line of the approach and the run of the ball. Fairways like greens should be irregular in form – avoid straight lines.

So far as fairways are concerned the strategic school stands for wide expanses innocent of bunkers (or landmarks) – ground that is rich in natural features requires but few bunkers. A fairway hazard if placed well has two objects – first to govern the play of the hole and second to catch the scratch golfer’s good shot that is not quite good enough.

The centre of the fairway must never (except perhaps once in the round, for the sake of variety) be the true line to the hole. The shortest most direct route should be the most fraught with danger – imminent or deferred. *“Straightness is to no avail unless it is straightness with an object.”*

Simpson was a strong proponent of the dog-leg, to the point of being occasionally criticized for over doing it. *“One sometimes catches the remark ‘I dislike these newfangled dog-leg holes. Why not lay out holes as they are laid out at St. Andrews?’ The distinction has its humorous side, because all the best two- and three-shot holes at St. Andrews actually belong to the dog-leg type. It may be the absence of*

rough that the nature of the dog-leg (is not apparent)...but the fact remains that they have to be played on the dog-leg principle if they are to be played intelligently. There are few courses in the world, in fact, where the dog-leg principle is as pronounced as it is at St. Andrews.”

Tees. Except for purposes of visibility or better drainage, never raise the level of the teeing ground and never make them square or oblong, *“the straight frontal line is a foolish and mischievous convention and has a prejudicial effect on the mind of the golfer.”*

Hazards. There have been few architects who fashioned more lovely and naturalistic bunkers than Tom Simpson. *“Sand bunkers are not, as a rule, beautiful things, but if they are designed and constructed really well, they give an added charm to certain types of courses – especially the heath course, where heather can be introduced to give them a pleasing and natural aspect.”*



Hole #3 at Liphook

Bunkers should be irregular in form and not too large. If a large bunker is needed, it is preferable to construct a comparatively small bunker but mould the fairway in front of and on the sides as to form a gather. All bunkers should have a rough, broken, uneven edge, which give the effect of coastal erosion—a newly made bunker should have the appearance of antiquity. Really good and attractive bunkers cost about three times more than ordinary bunkers. *“From the mere golfing point of view there is little or nothing to choose between them. But I would say in all seriousness that the golfing point of view should never be the sole, or even the main, consideration.”*

The cross-hazard had been the object of adverse criticism, and with all reforms the tendency was to go to extremes, where moderation was in Simpson’s opinion advisable. For the sake of variety a certain number of holes should have a

cross-hazard of the diagonal type, but the hazard itself need not necessarily be a sand bunker.

Trees and bushes add enormously to the decorative value of the landscape, but are for the most part unsatisfactory as obstacles, though occasionally, a tree has both decorative and strategic value. As to water, Simpson was not fond of ponds, but a stream used or diverted strategically could be a perfect hazard.



Spa (Belgium)

When forming an artificial hill or hummock, it should not be possible to detect where artificial work joins existing ground level. In the case of a good artificial grass hollow, it should be impossible to find the bottom with any exactness. It is the first and last duty to adapt the golfing scheme to the natural features of the site, assuming there are any. The golf architect must always work with nature, and not against it.

The Artistic Side of Golf

Tom Simpson was an artist. Of all the golf architects of his era, Simpson had the most acute artistic sense¹. After all he had created, exhibited, collected and critiqued art – he had been involved in every aspect of the art world. It is not surprising then that Simpson viewed golf architecture and all aspects of creating golf courses in an artistic light.

A compelling work of art requires not only diligence on the part of the artist, but also God given talent, and golf course architecture was no different. *“No man can lay out a golf course properly, unless he has the gift of a vivid imagination, and is also something of an artist. An artist—I speak of the real article—is born, not made. The same remark applies to the golf architect. Either he has it in his veins or he has*

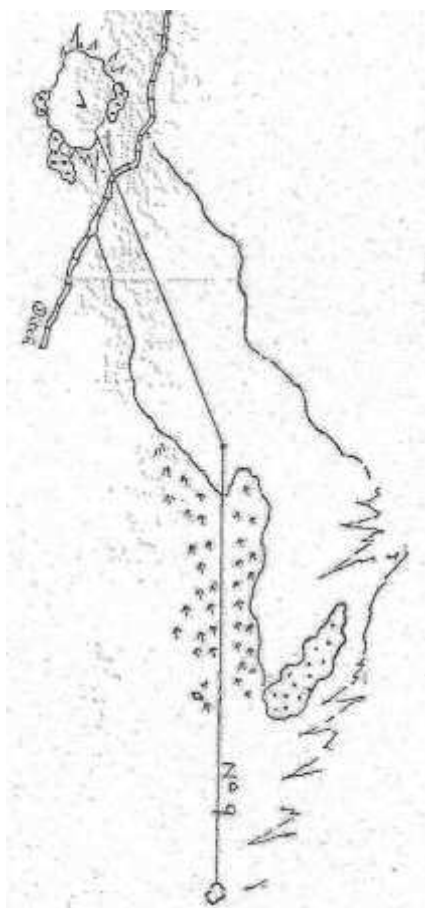
not—no amount of ability, coupled with laborious study, will put it there.”

Another attribute a golf architect should possess, like the painter, is a sense of connection and rhythm. In particular rhythm, for it is as important to a golf design as it is to a painting. If the rhythmic element is absent, the defect is immediately noticeable. Instead of appealing to the artistic as well as the strategic sense, the hole *“introduces a problem needing no thought to overcome its difficulties and yields little more than the satisfaction of the uninspired shot accurately played. A hole can very easily be cold, empty and lifeless in spite of apparently being full of incident: on the other hand, if the design be clearly and economically expressed, it will be found to contain vitality and the refinements which add attractiveness without losing force.”*

The simplicity of Simpson’s minimalist approach was linked to his understanding of art and composition. *“The educated taste admires simplicity of design and sound workmanship for their own sake rather than over-decoration and the crowding of artificial hazards. The strategic school above all aims at escaping formality by limiting the use of the artificial bunker, the excessive employment of which can easily crowd a course to the ruin of everything that contributes to spaciousness of design.”*

Simpson saw the importance in having a balance between sound strategy, aesthetics and the unique nature of the site—they are all connected, one aspect should not be emphasized at the expense of the others. That is why facsimiles of famous holes can often leave the golfer empty, especially those forced upon the landscape. Simpson believed the individual odd or imperfect hole is essential to the composition. *“The point was emphasized by Ruskin many years ago, that the demand for perfection was invariably ‘a sign of a misunderstanding of the ends of art’...he even went as far as to lay down the seeming paradox that ‘the work of man cannot be good unless it is imperfect.’ The application of this principal does not imply that all imperfect golf courses are necessarily admirable; but it does suggest that in the absence, fortunately, of any existing course that confounds all criticism, some imperfect courses are among the most interesting and amusing to play over.”*

¹ See also cover illustration, page 2.



Simpson's almost ideal hole (Sunningdale 9)

True to Ruskin's axiom, that all aspirations for greatness must have their imperfections, Simpson took care to introduce "attractive discord." Insisting on including at least one "thoroughly amusing but bad hole" for the sake of variety and a brief interval of mental tranquility - he often gave the example of the 10th at St. Andrews."

Simpson believed the entire golf course creation process must be viewed from an artistic point of view. In his opinion it was important to allow the craftsmen on the ground to interpret the architect's design, their individual creativity should be encouraged and not suppressed. "Few realize the important role of the contractor. In my opinion it is just as important to employ a contractor who specializes in this type of work, as it is a golf course architect. The planning and construction of a golf course cannot be compared with the planning of a railway or road. In the latter the contractor must never indulge in any form of artistic license...Not so in the case of golf course contractor. From an artistic point of view, which is all important, every thing depends on whether or not the course contractor and his foremen have a true

understanding of how Nature works in fashioning a hill, a hollow or a slope."

As important as strategic considerations were to Simpson, he understood the appeal of aesthetics, especially for the undiscerning. He felt most golfers could appreciate or have some understanding of a lovely landscape, "but not one golfer in a hundred know a good hole when he sees it, or has any understanding of what goes to make a good hole. He may like a hole or dislike it, but that has nothing to do whether it is good or bad. The same applies to wine, or a picture gallery. It is the expert alone who is competent to say whether the wine is a great wine, or whether the pictures have anything more than decorative wallpaper value." One detects the air of an enlightened connoisseur in Simpson's comments.

Diabolical Antics

Controversy seemed to follow Simpson, and based upon his words and actions one might conclude he even thrived upon it. Perhaps it related to his belief that a hole of great merit was often the object of unfavorable criticism or maybe it goes back to his first introduction to golf architecture at Woking—where criticism and controversy first led him to golf design. Whatever the source, Simpson enjoyed being known as diabolical, brazen and a little mad.

His good friend Bernard Darwin often described Simpson in somewhat dark adjectives, helping to feed his persona. "Mr. Simpson is a stark man with a strict golfing conscience..." "A golfing architect of an almost diabolically ingenious mind who loves to see what the thoughtless golfer calls a good shot go bang into bunker" "The course was designed by Mr. Simpson, and no architect has greater relish for twisting the tiger's—or everybody else's—tail, not a more devilish skill in doing so." "Its artistic and remorseless creator is Mr. T. Simpson, who has a really diabolic genius for this kind of things." "Many golfers have probably heard exciting or rather sinister rumours about the New Course at Sunningdale and the dare-devil things that Mr. Simpson has been doing do it... I was prepared for almost anything in the way of the alarming and the fantastic." "Mr. Paton and Mr. Simpson conspired darkly together the result deserves an article itself."

Simpson used this image of mad genius to his advantage, especially when dealing with green committees, bodies he generally disliked and distrusted. In fact to say he had a low opinion of committees is an understatement of some order. *“But however incompetent London social club committees may be, it is even worse in the case of golf clubs where the only real qualification for membership of the committee in most cases seems to be that the members’ handicap shall be scratch or better. Whether he has brains or not interests no one, and never has. Why the ordinary club member would be influenced by physical capacity in preference to mental agility when choosing a committee man is something I have never understood.”*

An illustration of Simpson’s contempt for committeemen - on the blank leaf, inside the front cover of his ‘Golf Architect’s Bible’, was an inscription written in bold red ink, it said: *“Ninety percent of the criticisms made by club members are due to invincible ignorance.”* This is the first statement anyone (including Simpson) would read when opening the book. On occasion he resorted to extraordinary measures when confronting a committee. At his home club of Liphook, when Simpson suspected the committee was meeting to demand his resignation, he had his chauffeur drive him slowly in his Rolls Royce, back and forth, in front of their window.

Simpson saw the green committee as a *“most mischievous institution.”* He suggested that if a golf course is a really good one, and the club has a good greenkeeper, the green committee, if they were wise, should do nothing². *“Unfortunately, their very inaction leads to trouble. Members begin to say: ‘What is the use of our Green Committee, they never do anything. We had better put some new blood into the committee.’ Fear of this occurring, often causes the Green Committee to become active, and they start filling bunkers and putting down new ones with a complete disregard to strategic design, or the science of golf architecture.”*

There is something of a paradox in Simpson’s warning. There were few architects who were more active in *“filling bunkers.”* One gets the impression he never met a golf course he couldn’t improve – with the exception of the

Old Course. In 1933 Simpson was asked by Royal Porthcawl to give advice on their 17th hole—his recommendation was to preserve the 17th, but alter nearly all the others!

His ability to sell a committee is illustrated in this excerpt from his Porthcawl report: *“This is actually the finest piece of natural ‘links land’ that we have seen in the UK, and we do not except St.Andrews or Hoylake...Unfortunately those who are responsible for the design of the course as now planned, either failed to observe and/or take advantage of the glorious possibilities that the ground offered; or were not given, or did not ask for, the necessary amount of money to exploit those possibilities to full advantage....if you adopt our suggestions, your course will in the very front rank, and will take a high place among the great courses of the world.”*

A similar report was produced at Baltray in 1937: *“This is just about as fine a piece of links land, ordained by nature for golf, as we have ever seen, but it would be idle to pretend that in its present form and condition it is a good golf course...you have so few full-length two shot holes....the weakest point of all is your one-shot holes, they are featureless and badly sited...unfortunately, those who were responsible for the design of the course as now planned, failed to observe and/or take advantage of the glorious possibilities that the ground afforded.”* The blunt assessment was effective, the committee acted without hesitation on Simpson’s recommendations.

At Muirfield, among the subjects of his report was the famous bunker he planned for the center of the fairway just short of the ninth green. Simpson predicted this bunker would be *“the best and most hated bunker on the course”,* he then ordained, *“Let it be called ‘Simpson’s Folly.’”* It isn’t unusual for a bunker to be named after its creator, however, it is unusual for the creator to be doing the naming, but Simpson wasn’t one to follow convention. There is also a “Simpson’s Folly” at Liphook—a mound guarding the left front of their ninth green. As the longtime chairman of the Greens Committee, its quite possible Simpson named this feature as well. There is also the bunker in the center of the first hole at Ballybunion (formerly the 14th) known as “Mrs. Simpson’s”—we won’t speculate as to who named it or why.

² See also cover illustration



Liphook #9 (previously 18) – Simpson's Folly

Often these controversial features tested Simpson's abilities of persuasion after his work was done. After redesigning Ballybunion in 1937, "Mrs. Simpson's" bunker was the focus of severe criticism, his confident response to the committee was: *"There was bound to be an outcry about the "Principal's Nose" bunker, but I know you will not allow it be altered."*

Likewise a number of his changes at Porthcawl drew similar complaints. Simpson said he would do anything to satisfy the wishes of the club provided their suggestions did not involve what he regarded as "heresy", which he defined as (1) interfering with a classic hole and (2) doing something to a hole which violated the cardinal rules of design. In other words, he wasn't going to change anything. Unfortunately for Simpson the club did reverse a number of his changes. While paying a visit to nearby Southerndown, a member saw Simpson on the verandah and told him, *"Go away, we don't want you here. You have ruined Porthcawl."*

Simpson's eccentric personality and actions didn't always sit well with his fellow architects either. Take the case of Sunningdale-New, the work of the great Harry Colt. Colt had been a fixture at Sunningdale—the club's first Secretary and the man who perfected their Old course and designed the New. Having Simpson completely redesign his New course in 1934 must have come as a blow to Colt and his associates. In fact one of his partners, John Morrison, was an active member at Sunningdale—the club's Captain in 1933. (To add insult to injury Simpson also redesigned Colt's Rye and Muirfield)

Turn about is fair play. By 1937 Simpson's new holes at Sunningdale had encountered so much criticism, the club was forced to engage John

Morrison for architectural advice. Morrison re-established a number of Colt's holes and redesigned many of Simpson's—in fact very little of Tom's work there survives today.

An excerpt from a letter written by Morrison to Hugh Alison provides a glimpse into how he was perceived by some of his fellow architects (04/1949): *"P.S. I saw Tom Simpson at Sunningdale yesterday. He told me that Spain where he has been making some new courses and Switzerland are the only two civilized countries in Europe. I always thought he was a bit mad but now he appears to be completely 'bats'. He told me he is nearly eighty."*

Another letter from Morrison to Alison touches on Simpson's remodeling of Hayling (09/1949): *"I had a weekend at Hayling and jerked the golf on three occasions. It is lovely golfing country. Tom Simpson has excelled himself and made the famous Widow into the worst golf hole I have ever seen on any seaside links."* Some of this might be explained as professional jealousy, but one can detect a more deep-rooted animosity.

Colt wasn't the only architect to suffer from Simpson's redesign efforts. Guy Campbell and C.K. Hutchison designed Ashridge in 1932—the course received universal acclaim—but less than two years later, Tom Simpson was redesigning it. If you follow the newspapers and magazines of that period, one often finds Simpson and Campbell engaged in a war of words—arguing which man was more in tune with the Rabbit, or who more closely followed the ideals of John Low or any number of issues. Ironically their philosophies had more in common, than not. Ultimately Campbell again would have the last laugh, redesigning Simpson's redesigned Rye.

A Complex Man

Among the notes and reminders in Tom Simpson's *'Golf Architect's Bible'* were what he referred to as *"stock phrases"*. Simpson collected these "phrases" to use with, or against, club committees. If a particular issue arose, he would have a "phrase" ready to support his position.

For example, after informing a club their golf course was *"far from attractive,"* the stock phrase runs *"we would stress the importance of beauty in all construction work. Beauty is*

difficult to define, as is the taste of sugar, but is nonetheless very real. Those who appreciate it take off their shoes. The rest just sit around and eat blackberries." An interesting analogy – confusing the committee may have also been an effective tactic.

On the surface these "stock phrases" reflect, more or less, Simpson's core architectural principles—his articles of the faith. But they also reveal the complexity of the man, the many faces of Tom Simpson.

Simpson the traditionalist: The stock phrase emphasizing the subtle qualities of the Old Course at St. Andrews.

Simpson the artist: *"It is important that a golf course should be a good one from the point of view of playing golf, but it is at least as important, if not more so, that it shall be pleasing from the aesthetic point of view."*

Simpson the protagonist: "It is necessary to remember professionals are not the masters of the game. At a pinch we could do without professionals."

Simpson the eccentric: Another stock phrase reminds the client that humdrum holes are no good and *"it is only the mad masterpieces that remain in the memory."*

Simpson the strategic mastermind: *"Golf should combine a pleasant form of physical vigour with the problems of the chessboard."*

Simpson the connoisseur: *"It is not the individually great holes that make a great golf course. It is rather the relationship that exists between one hole and another which can only be properly appreciated by the expert."*

Simpson the psychologist: *"The vital thing about a hole is that it should either be more difficult than it looks or look more difficult than it is. It must never be what it looks."*

A fascinating man—brilliant, arrogant, creative, quirky, condescending, thoughtful and controversial—a man of numerous qualities, but also more than a few flaws. What these 'phrases' don't reveal, however, is Simpson's greatest attribute—his passion. It is difficult to find that emotion in a book of doctrine or

practical hints. A man's passion is only discovered through experience and observation, therefore we must rely upon those who personally observed him carrying out his art.

Charles Ambrose said of Simpson, *"Once he has turned his hand to a job, he sees it through with all his might and main, giving to it the fire of a frenzied enthusiast."* Quotes from Simpson – in the field or discussing architecture – are often accompanied by exclamation marks. *"To me the artificial bumps and gun-platforms and redoubts and rifle butts which disfigure most of our golf courses, so-called, are horrible! I want to knock them all down!"*

Darwin relaying his experience with Simpson at Rye: *"Our new first hole, for instance, hugging the sandhills, with a tee shot from a height, he blessed entirely, but he found a far better green than we had only twenty yards away. Why in the world hadn't we seen it? I am sure I don't know. Our architect made straight for it with ecstatic cries, "look at it," he exclaimed, "it's perfect. Look at the slopes the folds, and oh! Look at the lovely drop into the little valley behind."*

Ambrose again, *"Frequently words fail him, and he is unable to speak fast enough to describe to you all the beauties of the scene he is about to create. When the flow does come, his language is as picturesque as his imagination. 'Always, always, my friend,' he ejaculates, 'I follow Nature!'"*

When studying a great artist, there is often an attempt to discover the secrets of his success, to explain why he was able to rise above the rest. Was it God given talent, was it his formative years, was it his intellect and imagination, was it his flamboyant personality? In Simpson's case undoubtedly it was all these things, but it was his passion, above everything, that was the secret to his genius. It was his passion that maximized his strengths and overcame his weaknesses. Had that fire been absent would we be paying tribute to this extraordinary man? Thankfully the question is moot, and the world of golf is eternally grateful.

Tom MacWood was a freelance writer and researcher dedicated to the history of golf course architecture.

Nicolas Popoff: when history of aviation crosses history of golf

JBK (Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak)



The story of Nicolas Popoff is a true romantic drama which I cannot resist sharing with our readers. Wealthy man, early aviator, famous for his feats but ruined by the soviet revolution, he worked as a starter at the Cannes-Mandelieu Golf Club before committing suicide. Initially, I had only some very small pieces of information related to Popoff, which could be read in various places. Trying to learn more, I searched on the internet, and experienced, once more, that you can find there the best and the worse – and sometimes it is difficult to sort out the good from the bad. If we still have many points to clarify, we consider that we have here a consistent and nice story to tell.



Roujon and Bablot, left side of the picture; Nicolas Popoff is close to the grand duchess of Mecklenburg-Schwerin. Full right, the tall man is grand duke Serge. Picture taken just after the fantastic flight, April 4th, 1910.

Early years of aviation.

If we want to say a few words about the first flights, we cannot forget Clément Ader's trials even if there was no precise and indisputable recording. But on December 17th of 1903, in North Carolina, USA, the Wright brothers

(Orville and Wilbur) were able to repeat four successful flights. The most impressive one lasted almost one minute to cover 284 meters, reaching the altitude of 4 to 5 meters! It is not the place here to detail the next progresses. Let us just remind our readers of a few names and feats.

Such an exam was instituted only a few months ago (January 1st, 1910). MM. Jeancard and Spinabelli, the official recorders for the competition, timed the flight and eventually Popoff got his licence, bearing the low number 50. So, he was allowed take part in the event.

It's not the place here to report the various achievements Popoff accomplished during this week, but it is important to report here that on Sunday April the 3rd (reported Monday 4th) a few aviators competed for le "prix de la croisière" (the "cruise prize"). Popoff took off, rising 90 meters over the level of the sea, continuing to get higher and higher.. Disappearing behind the forest where is located the golf-club, he decided to fly in the direction of the Lerins Islands. The military ships were keeping an eye on him. He reached an altitude of over 200 meters and turned back home at Sainte Marguerite. Eighteen minutes later, he was landing at the aerodrome of La Napoule.

According to the newspaper "*Le petit Parisien*", dated April 4th, 1910, just before taking off, Popoff announced: "I would fly up to the Lerins Islands even if I have to kill myself".

The crowd was jubilant and the whole city of Cannes enthusiastic. The "chasseurs alpins" band was playing the Russian national anthem. The Russian flag was hoisted on Popoff hangar. This was the moment chosen by the Grand Duchess of Mecklenburg-Schwerin to congratulate Popoff (see picture on page 13).

M. François Arago, MP, gave him a hug, saying that "as it is not a French aviator who won the Cruise Prize, I'm happy that it is a Russian".

Popoff won the prize and got a reward of fifteen thousand francs – a very significant amount of money at that time³.

He was also expecting to receive the prize for the highest flight but it was not officially attributed to Popoff as he took off after the official time limit! But, according to Crochon: "It would be regrettable that this decision is not sanctioned favourably, because Popoff deserves it".

³ This would represent more than 50,000 euros nowadays.

It worth to mention that the previous highest flight recorded was of 155 meters, so that the 207 m altitude was a real feat ... even if it did not lasted long. On December the 3rd, 1910, on board of a Blériot aircraft, the french pilot Géo Legagneux beat the altitude record by climbing up to an incredible height of 3 100 meters⁴.

It is also important to note that many references are stating March 27th for the event. This is definitely not the date when Popoff succeeded in his feat.



Just after this success, Popoff participated to the next (10th) international aviation exhibition. It was held in Saint Petersburg, Russia.

As all the Cannes people had still in mind the name of Popoff, "*Le Littoral*" reported some news and on May 13th, 1910, inserted a small note which we are translating here:

⁴ The most accurate recording seems to be: Hubert Latham, 1909, August 22nd with 155 meters (at Reims-Betheny), then Popoff 207 m, followed by Hubert Latham (Reims), first time reaching 1 000 m, 1910, July 7th and eventually Géo Legagneux.

“Saint-Petersburg – aviator Popoff was seized by a mighty gust of wind and thrown down to the ground from a height of five meters. The plane was destroyed, but Popoff is safe.”

We have a postcard, which is claimed to be from this event and representing Popoff next his aircraft. Clearly, this is the same face as the one we can see on the photograph taken just after the Cannes feat – which makes the claim realistic. This is confirmed by a press photo (see illustration below).



Popoff and the civil life.

There is some evidence that Popoff was back in Cannes during 1915. The Independent Evening⁵ of 17 February 1915 was announcing the wedding, on January 26, of Nicolas Popoff, a Russian aviator and journalist in Cannes and Ellen Percy Barrows, a former school teacher⁶.

⁵ The Elyria Evening Telegram was printing the same information.

⁶ Mrs Popoff was an American woman from Lorain (Ohio), daughter of the late H.J. Barrows, a pioneer merchant. After graduating from North-Western University she became private secretary to Upton Sinclair.

After the revolution in 1917, Nicolas Popoff was ruined and, as so many Russians, he immigrated to France and came back to Cannes. His patron, grand duchess of Mecklenburg-Schwerin was the sister of grand duke Michael Michailovich – who created the Cannes Golf Club, in 1891. She asked her brother to help Nicolas Popoff who then got a position of starter at the Club.

In 1928, he published a small pamphlet entitled “Golf Etiquette”. This eight pages booklet is illustrated with three nice woods (Cannes and Villa d’Este) by Stelletski and two photographic pictures. It is now a very rare document, difficult to find – also sought after because of the drawings.

One year and half later, newspapers were reporting that Nicolas Popoff committed suicide. But here again, there are two stories. According to some sources he shot himself in his right temple. But the most probable one⁷ is that he was found with his throat cut at a bathing establishment in Cannes. It is said that “*he had carefully shaved and dressed himself before taking his life*” and that [...] two letters were found on the body, one addressed to a brother and the other to the commissioner of police, enclosing 400 francs (about £3 4s.). He directed that 100 francs should go towards the expenses of declaring his death, and the rest to the bathing establishment.

He wished the proprietors a prosperous New Year, and hoped that the publicity forthcoming from the circumstances of his death would prove of benefit them.”

He was buried in Cannes, at the “Cimetière du Grand Jas”, English square. As his concession was not renewed, his grave has disappeared, but hopefully the “Aéroclub de Cannes” positioned a commemorative plaque on the wall in front on his original burial place.

For the last years of his life he was domiciled at villa Nathalie, La Napoule (A.M.) France, located “lieu dit la Rague”, today “route des crêtes”. It is located at a short distance of the golf club.

The plaque bearing the name is no longer on the house but, fortunately was kept by the current owners (see next page).

⁷ See the *Western Morning News*, Jan 2nd, 1910.



Golf Etiquette, by Nicolas Popoff

“Golf Etiquette” is the title which appears on the cover only bearing the additional information Paris 1928 (see illustration below).

It is a very small pamphlet as it has only eight pages, with almost anything else that a few illustrations by Stelletski.

Dimitri Stelletski is a Russian artist, born in Brest-Litovsk, 1875 and died in Paris, 1947. His artwork is nowadays highly appreciated and very looked after. Some important of his frescos could be seen in the Russian Church Saint-Serge, rue de Crimée, in Paris.

The first illustration in the booklet (see next column) is referring to the Cannes Golf-Club and reminds: “This is the real Greenwich time. Dear Golfers, please believe! And kindly accept this fact, as being final!”



If the illustration is signed Stelletski, the caption, illustrated with a watch hanging on a nail and a golfer in plus-four showing the text, is signed by “Starter”.



Next page we read:

“Dear charming Ladies! Please do not wear shoes with high heels or – I am sorry – I shall have to saw them off, as they make too many holes on our greens, and one is quite enough.”

These two last illustrations are supposed to be featured at the Villa d’Este golf club, Italy.

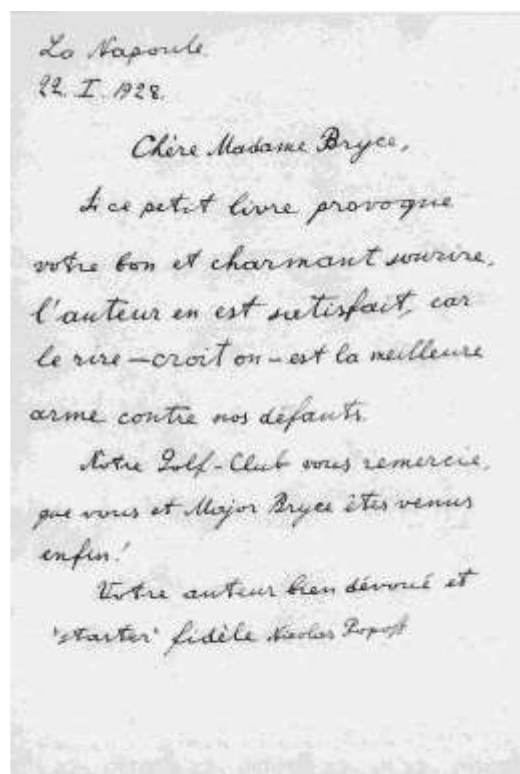


Below is a dedication, hand written by Nicolas Popoff to a certain Mrs Bryce – which translates:

Dear Madame Bryce, if this little book causes your good and charming smile, the author is satisfied, because the laugh - it is said - is the best weapon against our defects.

Our Golf Club thank you and Major Bryce that you've come at last!

Your most devoted author and faithful "starter" Nicolas Popoff. (La Napoule 22.I.1928)

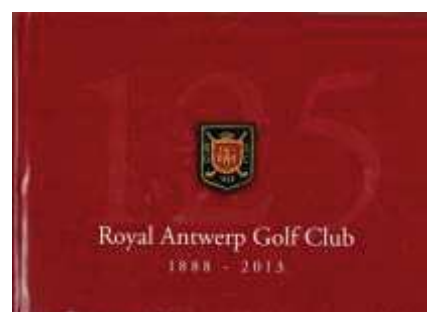


Reading on Golf



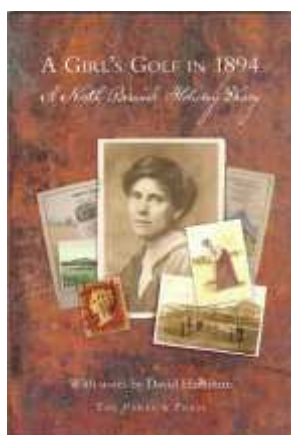
Cecilia Lyon has just written a book (in French, profusely illustrated with many rare documents) on the history of the Valescure GC. The book will be available at the time our 10th EAGHC meeting is opening at the related place. Cecilia

spent more than three years to dig into lots of unearthed documents to bring a fully new vision. If you thought to know the history of the club, you'll change your mind after reading the book. *Remarquable* !



We are a bit late to announce this extremely well documented book published for the 125 years of the Royal Antwerp Golf Club. The

President Emmanuel Rombouts and Guy van Doosselaere, historian of the club, are offering us an history of the RAGC especially well written and with a precise documentation. The illustrations very numerous and also rarely seen.



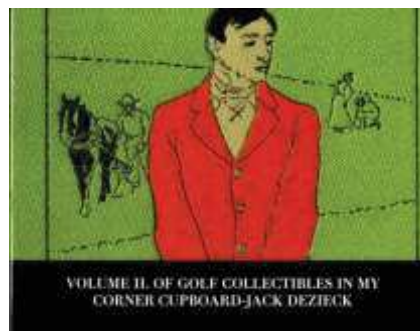
David Hamilton made an infidelity to his own habits and, for technical reasons, couldn't print this booklet in his usual Partick Press letterpress style and preferred to go through Amazon selfpublishing.

It is a very exceptional booklet by its contents as it reprints (in a kind of *fac simile*) a diary of a golfing girl at North Berwick in 1894. Ben Sayers and David Grant are, of course, very present among other characters. The vision of a young golfing girl in 1894 is sufficiently rare to make this booklet a must to read. David Hamilton enriched the text with many useful comments. You can buy the book through Amazon or writing to David.

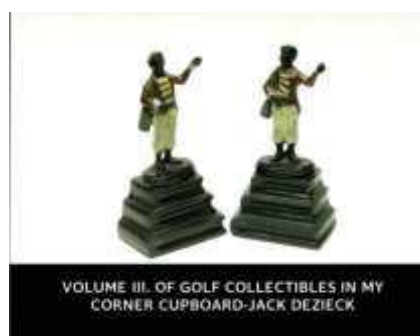


Earlier this year, it was a fantastic surprise receiving a parcel from the USA. Jack Dezieck a golf collector and knowledgeable historian printed on his own expenses three luxury books on his collection – each one being edited only in ten copies. Volume I is dedicated to books and displays some niceties rarely seen and many are bearing exceptional dedications.

The second volume is continuing on books, but what make them interesting are the dedications and signatures (Bobby Jones, Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, Gene Sarazen ...).



Several are inscribed to Clifford Robers. Also, a rare copy of "*Le noble jeu de mail de la ville de Montpellier*" (1772) is displayed.



The third book we find more varied artifacts (autographs, photos, medals, trophies ...). Also rules booklets are given a significant space.

A few months later, another mail arrived. Jack edited a new book "Golfing Postcards from Saint-Andrews" (20 copies printed).



We have here a real reference on golfing postcards at Saint-Andrews. All the exceptional cards (Flecher & sons, James Patrick, Wrench series, Valentines, Grano series, etc.) are here. Many variants of Tom Morris are featured and compared. An exceptional book.

GOLF'S MISSING LINKS

Defunct Golf clubs and courses

Christoph Meister



My first interest in defunct golf courses began when I visited the USGA Museum at Far Hills during the early 1990's. A most friendly librarian gave me access to some of the early European golf guides from the USGA library. The Berlin Wall had just fallen a mere two years before and there were many rumours about former golf courses that once existed in Eastern Germany before it became a socialist state. While at Far Hills I found routing maps and additional information which then later made it quite easy for me to locate the sites of former golf courses in what used to be the so-called "German Democratic Republic".

Together with my grandmother who also used to be a golfer we visited the site of the former Golf-Club Gaschwitz, foundation member of the German Golf Federation in 1907. My grandmother taught me to look out for older people and it didn't take long to find an old lady, who told us that her mother used to butter the rolls for the golfers and she showed us where the golf course once was. Much to our despair nothing was left of what once used to be one of Germany's first golf courses as lignite open-cast mining had taken all traces of golf away.

During the following years I more and more spent hours walking over East German meadows that many moons ago were used as golf courses. In the meantime my wife and other relatives only shook their heads wondering what I was trying to find.

But interestingly I was not alone. During the turn of the century I got hold of a book by Daniel Wexler published in the US and called "Missing Links". Wondering how the author became interested in defunct golf courses I found his following reply:

"The concept for Missing Links was sparked by a conversation that I had in 1998 with the late

Dave Marr. We were discussing various classic courses and when the Lido's name was mentioned, he became very enthusiastic, saying that Claude Harmon had once told him that it was 'the greatest golf course ever.' That set me to thinking and pretty soon I was compiling a list of deceased courses built by the great Golden Age architects. I wasn't familiar with very many of these layouts but when the list quickly grew beyond 100, I began thinking in terms of a book..."

His first book was such a success and enjoyment to read that Daniel Wexler soon published a second volume called "Lost Links": "I had not originally planned a second book on lost courses, figuring, if anything, that maybe we'd do a revised edition of The Missing Links at some point. But the more research I did, the more I began to realize just how many really strong courses had disappeared over the years – far, far more than had been covered in The Missing Links. So for Lost Links, I ended up highlighting 12 more courses in a manner similar to the first book, then mapping and describing 62 others, plus a number of lost holes from famous courses (Pinehurst, Quaker Ridge, Merion, etc.). In the end, there was so much material that we actually had to drop a few courses." – DW

As these books concentrated on defunct golf courses in the US it didn't take me long to get into contact with Daniel to see if he was planning another volume on defunct golf courses in Europe, but he said that with all the different languages we have it would be too much of a task for him to go through archives holding documents in all different lingos.

My research results in Eastern Germany were included in the centenary book of the German Golf Federation published in 2007, at the same time I had more ideas in my head concerning lost and missing links in Continental Europe.



Oberhof from and old postcard (above) and a similar view taken nowadays (below).



And then one day, not too long ago, I found out that someone had taken up the idea and created a most interesting web-site about defunct golf courses in Great Britain and Ireland. I contacted John Llewellyn to find out more about his web-site and research. And who else then himself could better explain how he got hooked on defunct golf courses:

"I've always been interested in golf and my wife is fascinated by history. This was a perfect combination for our journey into the research of

defunct golf clubs and courses in Great Britain, a journey that started nearly thirty years ago.

Our adventure began whilst holidaying in Wales, which we used to do most years. The first club we discovered was the Towyn-on-Sea Golf Club, close to where we now live in Wales.

We decided to carry out research into the Towyn-on-Sea Golf Club and found that it had started in 1904. It closed during WW2 when the land was requisitioned for the war effort. A group of enthusiasts attempted to re-establish the club following the war but their efforts failed and Towyn Golf Club was lost forever.

Following the discovery of the closure of the Towyn club we decided to try and trace more clubs and courses that had disappeared. How many had actually been lost in Great Britain? We thought that maybe someone had written a book or even produced a list but we could find nothing of substance. We did not think at the time that we had undertaken such a massive project which would occupy a great deal of our time.

At the last count we had found; approaching 900 in England, nearly 120 in Wales, nearly 300 in Scotland and over 90 in Ireland. Unfortunately, mainly due to many recent closures, the numbers are still growing in each region. “

Around the turn of the twentieth century, travel was becoming popular and was made easier with the improvement of road and rail networks. Golf courses were laid out near many wayside railway halts and country beauty spots. Many of the original courses were laid out haphazardly rather than constructed to a plan; with few artificial bunkers they relied on “natural hazards” The greenkeepers had a thankless task, with hand mowers and rollers for the greens and fairway cutting machinery hauled by horses fitted with special shoes to avoid damage to the course - at least there was plenty of fertiliser supplied free of charge.

Unfortunately some of the courses enjoyed only brief success, tragically curtailed in many cases by the two World Wars. Clubs which began with such optimism and commitment on the part of their founding members were forced to

close when those members went to war, or when the land itself was needed for the war effort. Many of the courses were never going to be “Championship” standard, but each brought the game of golf to those communities. “..For instance, at Barry, in South Wales, a Power Station was built over a once thriving course; it was here that a young Dai Rees played his early golf. The University of East Anglia in Norwich now stands on land once occupied by the Earlham Park Golf Club. One of the recent courses closed in the north of England is to be used as training facility and academy for a leading football club.

At the outset we only intended to include Golf Clubs and Courses that had completely disappeared. However, we received many requests to include the courses of clubs that continue to exist but have moved location – we record the history of the clubs previous course(s).”

In some cases remnants of these courses can still be seen, sadly overgrown, neglected, and barely recognisable. In other places motorways, airports, power stations, schools or housing estates now dominate a once green and pleasant landscape. It is still possible, however, to reflect and catch the echoes of a different way of life and to learn something of those “missing links”. Just as now, clubs had members who were a driving force, without whose efforts those now defunct clubs would never have existed. There were problems to overcome, mostly financial, similar to those faced by many golf clubs today, and, just as today there were “characters” who made the clubs unique, most of them sadly lost in the mist of time. Perhaps the saddest fact is that some of these courses disappeared so quickly. The planning, fund raising and layout can be obliterated and forgotten in an amazingly

short time. Once thriving and successful clubs quietly sank into oblivion, in some cases in the space of a year or two, and can now only be remembered by a handful of people, if at all.

This is an attempt to preserve and record something of some of those clubs and courses, so that they may be remembered for their part in the history of the sport, before they are forgotten forever. “Our aim is to provide a reference point for golf historians, where information from as many sources as possible is held in one place.”

John has now included a section on defunct continental golf courses and anyone researching or interested in the subject should have a look or follow <http://www.golfsmissinglinks.co.uk/> as more and more missing links from continental Europe are entered constantly. Of course any EAGHC member holding interesting information on one of the defunct golf course is thoroughly invited to contact John through: johnllewellyn4@gmail.com

Recommended reading:

The Missing Links: America's Greatest Lost Golf Courses and Holes (222 pp, Sleeping Bear Press/John Wiley & Sons, 2000)

Lost Links: Forgotten Treasures From Golf's Golden Age (240 pp, Clock Tower Press/John Wiley & Sons, 2003)

Both books are authored by Daniel Wexler

J-B Kazmierczak, Defunct Golf Courses in France, Part I (South of France) in *Golfika-Magazine* #1, pp 15-20 and Part II (Going North) in *Golfika-Magazine* #2, pp.18-31



Oberhoff. Two other views: left, from an early postcard and right as it could be viewed nowadays.

Mark McCormack (1930 – 2003)

A sport Icon

Albert Bloemendaal



It is already some years that the story of Tiger Woods and his rather loose opinion of the marital bonds found the front pages of not only the sports press. Once you have reached a certain level in the world of sports advertising, you are more or less under control of publicity managers. In fact sport idols become a product managed by sports promotion bureaus.

Foreword

Of course they do receive very interesting remunerations, in the case of Tiger they amounted to up to a billion dollars, but there's also another side to that.

Their "value" demands that they must act and behave within the limits of their contract. *"...For so much kudo's you may print you logo on his or hers cap or shirt or whatever."* Interviews are monitored and microphone and camera training form part of the deal.

Once a sportsperson gets into that frame, he or she better live and behave according to the details specified in the contract.

Sports advertising companies are inclined to watch over the general behaviour of their "clients". They invested big money and took risks with young and yet unknown sportspersons, and want to see positive results translated into money.

One of the biggest of those promotion companies is IMG once founded by Mark McCormack. Let's have a short look at his career.

Builder of an Empire

Mark McCormack (Chicago 1930) was six years old when he became involved in a car

accident in which he suffered from serious damage that would forever keep him away from contact sports. His father was an enthusiastic golfer and would take his son with him to the golf course. The boy was quick to learn the game himself. Even to the extent that later at College the young Mark belonged to the top national amateur ranks. In one of these matches he would meet Arnold Palmer, still a College student yet.

Mark graduated from Harvard University and later at Yale where he received his degree in Law. He found a position in an office in Cleveland Ohio as a legal assistant. Among other activities the office looked also after the interests of professional sportspeople.

Different from most of his other legal colleagues who preferred looking into damage claims, he took interest in another field. It had already raised McCormack's curiosity that, whereas sports manifestations brought millions to the owners of the stadiums, the sportsmen themselves only saw small money for their endeavours. At the same time Mark noticed that the enormous publicity sportspeople generated, failed to be exploited. Popularity of the major sportspeople failed to be seen as a means to create money.

With this in mind he left the legal business and founded his own enterprise: The *International Management Group* IMG. A company which

put the notion in the market that sports heroes were an excellent “vehicle” for product promotion. His initiative would turn out to develop into a worldwide imperium.

His first initiative developed into the foundation of a new enterprise. He succeeded in contracting Arnold Palmer. Till that moment TV stations had shown little interest in golf; not very surprising, as golf is tough to get on television since it demands large investments. To follow more than a hundred players over an area of about sixty hectares demands many people with cameras. In those early days, those cameras were heavy and cumbersome. The fact that per camera position you needed at least two people made heavy investments unavoidable.

In first instance, taking Palmer in was mostly because of that crowd known as “Arnie’s Army”. That band of enthusiastic followers which followed their champ everywhere he went. Though more for the man himself than for their love of golf; McCormack however, saw possibilities to improve on that attention and bring it to prospective sponsors.



He offered Palmer to have IMG handle his financial affairs. Palmer saw that his interests could be improved that way and agreed. Palmer and McCormack closed the deal with a simple handshake which actually never was officialised with a written contract. That was in 1960 and in the following fifty years nothing was ever changed.

From five thousand to fifty million

McCormack’s first success was a \$5000 contract with Wilson Sporting Goods. He must have had feeling for judging the right moment as little afterwards he succeeded in contracting another number of young but promising players: Gary Player and Jack Nicklaus!

It was a golden inspiration: with those three players under contract with whom he would dominate the world of golf in publicity. He was also the man who saw the power TV could exercise and suggested to have a film made of Arnold Palmer and his band of loyal followers: “Arnie’s Army”. When the film was shown on a number of local TV stations, it created a proper sensation even on the nationwide networks. Now the players profited just as the TV stations and McCormack himself of course.

McCormack did not wait long to capitalize on this success. He realized that TV and live sports in the USA would not be limited to the US Continent but would create interest internationally. So he created a new advertising company Trans World International. He now had managing interest in TV sports sponsoring.

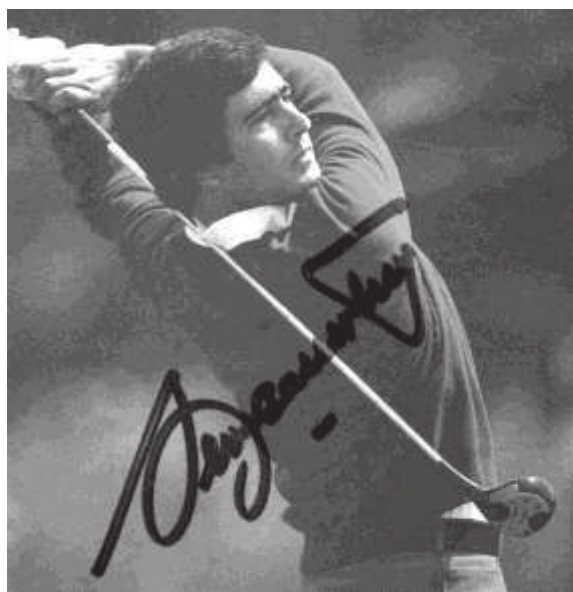
From there it was a small step to expand to other sports. First tennis. There were Björn Borg and Ivan Lendl, Martina Navratilova to new name. Soon when it came to TV exposure there was no going around McCormack any longer. For getting the ultimate out of a presentation of whatever sport, one had to see IMG.

In fact it had turned out the other way, IMG negotiated where and when tournaments would be played, sometimes even to the extent that he’d suggest who would play and where. His first and foremost interest was the value of the publicity that could be created: To him, the measure for financial results.

His business expanded more and more into other fields. Motor racing, baseball and basketball, there seemed to be no field in sports where IMG did not set up the rules. For professional sportspeople there was simply no getting around IMG if they wanted financially the maximum out of their career. After all, sport careers may last only a limited period out of which sporters must assure the maximum financial gains.

He then took to tennis deploying his business further with contracting Jennifer Capriati and later the Williams sisters; with the men, Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi. In golf again, he found Seve Ballesteros, Colin Montgomerie Sergio Garcia, but also Nancy Lopez and Annika Sörenstam. Meanwhile we may safely assume a large share of the world top of professional sports is under contract with IMG.

Then, the true sensation of the golfing world developed when Tiger Woods began his career when IMG demanded a 40 million dollars professional contract for this still only 18 years old boy. And got it!



Then, some years later IMG succeeded in concluding another contract with Nike for 100 million dollars. And as we meanwhile know, it did not end there.

The other side of globalizing by IMG

The power which IMG is capable of exercising includes other sides with which, history shows, the true sports enthusiasts do not always agree. As always, where too much power is concentrated in one place, less agreeable developments may occur.

Literally every detail is being specified. Rules of the game of tournaments are being adjusted to optimize maximum advertising effect. Sport itself no longer being the first objective, or so it seems. It has developed into a means to create revenues. With the effect that rules of sport and, if needed, also tournament rules, must be adjusted to improve on maximum financial effect.

An example may be ladies tennis. It never drew much attention on TV. A bit dull, their play and dress as well as way the girl players performed. Not attractive enough so USA sponsors thought. So IMG started to recommend how to dress and possibly how to play. And what may we notice now? Flashy girls in flashy dresses playing

tough dynamic tennis. It may not always be to the taste of the more conservative Europeans, but it worked. And what had been the objective? Creating maximum attention and that worked excellently.

Something else though was that IMG also turned to the way the game was played. The value of a TV commercial station exists from sponsor messages in moments in between the show. So in tennis a break was introduced after two games: time for the commercial.

In golf there no longer was a place for match-play though aficionados considered that as the very foundation of the game. The unpredictability of the length of the game or the place where a match could end would create chaos in the position of the camera towers. The heavy sponsored favourite might drop out after the first match; while on the last day only two players on the course. Too dull found IMG: So one predictable eighteen holes stroke-play game per day played over four days. The time when contenders played two matches per day through three of four days, was no longer considered of interesting.

Players and lady players in every sport must contractually watch their way of dressing and behaviour. They are receiving training in contacts with press and TV. Fashion houses are under contract to permanently update dress and sportswear.

Though it must be admitted, that in the last so many years, indeed the kind of sloppy wear players used to be satisfied with, are no longer accepted. They all look smart and fit for which no doubt a host of advisers and trainers have been contracted.

IMG did not see anything in Ryder Cup matches: much too unpredictable. For years it also had been played for just the honour of participation and representing your side of the Atlantic Ocean. That was no longer acceptable. Though there was something to say for that. In earlier days, when players still had to cross the ocean by ship, they might be out of income for weeks.

And IMG did not stop just there. Also the Olympic Committee had to comply with the American, say IMG, desires. Matches of whatever nature played in say Korea or Japan

was all about and visited a number of matches in England.

He came back utterly astounded people were prepared to sit for hours and watch a game on which he commented: "I have been sitting there for hours watching and nothing happened. It was like watching the grass growing... At another occasion he gave as his opinion: "It's just as exciting as playing chess on a lawn". Still, he admitted, there are five hundred million people disagreeing with me and that's something I will always respect!

In his (IMG) opinion watching a match consists of a number of lively impulses. Put together that must produce a total impression the quality of which decides the “attention value”. Which of course decides the *value* of the TV seconds. Basketball is a typical example. Every so many seconds there’s a point to be scored.

So golf on TV will show as many putts as possible. It's there that winning or losing may be decided: "decisive attention moments" in IMG language. Walking after a 300 yards tee shot is not worth a frame on the TV recorder.

In 1984 he published his feelings in a book “What they do not teach you at Harvard”. It sold in millions.

When he died in 2002 he left a company which expanded the world. His family sold it for seven hundred fifty million dollars.



We know very few things about this first club in Hungary which was created in 1909 (according to the Guide Plumon).

Page 26

Collectors and auctioneers beware

Geert and Sara Nijs



Every now and again auction houses offer for sale clubs and balls once used in the continental golf-like games golf (or kolf), crosse (or chole or choule) and mail (or pall mall).

The way in which these rather exceptional collectables are named and described by the renowned auctioneers shows that there is limited knowledge of these games and the equipment used. The auctioneers probably use the information provided by their clients. It seems that sometimes these clients may be rather ignorant about what they have collected or found.



A well-known auctioneer offered 'Two Early Dutch Chloe golf clubs'. This is not correct. The clubs offered are 'crochetons', clubs used in the French-Belgian game of crosse (chole or choule).

This equipment offered occasionally could be called 'the odd man out' in the never-ending avalanche of golf clubs, balls, books, paintings, documents and memorabilia. Still golf collectors sometimes would like to have such an exceptional piece of historical equipment in their collection linked so closely to golf. For the serious collectors it is important to know what kind of game we are talking about, which are the clubs and balls used, when and where were

they used and whether they are rare or rather common.



Another well-respected auctioneer offered a 'chole club with seven chole balls and four other balls'. This is not correct. The seven balls are probably 'jeu de mail' or 'jeu de boule' balls. The other four balls are the real 'chole' (crosse) balls recognisable by their ellipsoid shape. Such balls are still used in Belgium.

As explained above most auctioneers are not (yet) able to provide such necessary information. Also antique dealers have insufficient knowledge of what they occasionally have to offer in this field.

A renowned museum explained that the two boys in the detail of the painting play 'kolf', a cross between modern-day hockey and golf'.

This is not correct. The game played is the Flemish-Netherlandish game of colf played since the 13th century until the beginning of the 18th century both on land and on ice.



In museums, sometimes paintings or drawings of the games are exhibited. Unfortunately the knowledge of most curators about the games shown is as restricted as that of the auctioneers.



On the website of a leading golf museum a club is shown which is called a 'jeu de mail club'. A tile shows the game of 'kolf or jeu de mail'. This is not correct. The club shown is a 'crocheton' (club) used in the game of crosse. The picture in the Delft Blue tile shows a game of 'beugelen', a Flemish-Netherlandish variant of lawn billiard.

Books about the history of golf with some minor references to the continental games are not quite as informative about the games and their equipment. Until recently research has never been undertaken to find out more about

the history of colf, crosse and mail. So it was difficult to find out more. Therefore looking in antique book shops, second-hand book shops and on the internet or even at 'boot sales' one is in vain in trying to enrich knowledge for the collectors.

It was in 1982 that for the first time Steven van Hengel in his book *'Early Golf'* explained some historical details about the game of colf and about the clubs and balls used.

It took until 2008 when a study was published about the past and present of the game of crosse. In this book *'CHOULE - The Non-Royal but most Ancient Game of Crosse'* extensive information is given about the clubs (crosses) and balls (choulettes). A French language edition was published in 2012.

In 2011 and 2014, the studies *'Games for Kings & Commoners' Part One* respectively *Part Two* were issued which included detailed information about clubs and balls used in the continental games and their development over the course of the centuries. These books should be of help to both auctioneers and collectors to find out more about the collectables offered.

Knowing that new information takes often a long time to arrive at the desk of the interested people, we would like to explain in a few words and pictures the quintessence of the clubs and balls used in these ancient 'golf-like' games.

Colf

Colf was played in Flanders and the Netherlands from the 13th century until the early 18th century. Players used wooden balls of different sizes and since the 17th century also hair-filled leather balls. One or two excavated specimens may be found only in museums. It is documented that already at the beginning of the 15th century clubs had metal heads made of lead, lead-tin alloy, bronze and brass. The shaft was made of ash. Complete clubs have never been on the market.



Complete colf clubs have so far only been found during the excavation of a 16th century cargo ship in the impoldered IJsselmeer. The clubs are preserved by the Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed at Lelystad, The Netherlands.

Club heads made of lead are regularly found during excavations and by metal detector hobbyists. Finds of bronze and especially brass club heads are very exceptional. Most finds date back to the 17th century. Earlier finds have never been on the market. The size of such club heads is less than 10 centimetres.



The 'pin' club head (left) is the oldest example of a colf head (15th or 16th century). Such heads have never been offered for sale by auctioneers or antique dealers. The club heads made of lead or lead-tin alloy (middle) are found regularly in the Netherlands. Such clubs mainly date back to the 17th century. They are sold mainly on E-Bay or the Netherlandish Marktplaats equivalent. Brass club heads (right) are fairly seldom. At an auction some years ago such copper club heads, found in a shipwreck near the Shetlands, were bought for several thousands of euros.

Kolf evolved from the outdoor and ice colf game at the end of the 17th century and is played as an indoor game in the Netherlands. Originally colf clubs were used. The size of such club head is larger than 10 centimetres. In the course of the centuries clubs grew in size and look different from the colf clubs. Such clubs are still produced.

Balls are considerably bigger in size and made of sagathy or rubber. Such balls are still produced.



Three examples of club heads used since the end of the 18th century in the successor of the field and ice colf game in the court kolf game played both in- and out-doors. Such clubs are still made today for the few players of this game.

Mail (pall mall)

Pallio maglio is originally an Italian game that entered France in the 16th century (jeu de mail) and spread all over western Europe under the names pall mall (English), maliën (Netherlandish), etc., from the early 17th century until the end of the 18th century. The game was played with wooden balls, varying in size, and wooden clubs consisting of a wooden (mostly ash) shaft and a cylindrical wooden club head. Such clubs and balls are sometimes for sale at auctions or on E-Bay.



The 'jeu de mail' (pall-mall) game was once very popular with kings and commoners, especially in France. Because the game lost the interest of most players at the end of the 18th century most clubs were eaten by the wood worms. Clubs in a good condition are sometimes offered at auctions. A club is more valuable when the name of a famous club maker (for instance, Coste, Grasse or Richard) is marked on the club head.

Crosse

Crosse (chole or choule in English) is played in the Belgian Borinage and the French Avesnois region since at least the 14th century.



Crosse balls (choulettes) are recognisable for their elliptical shape. From left to right you see a golf ball, an original boxwood ball, a modern official choulette made of horn beam, used in France, a nylon ball for teeing-off and a 'pressed wood' ball for in the field, used in Belgium. Such balls are made in different sizes, except for the boxwood ball; the other choulettes are used today.

The balls (choulettes) have an ovoid shape and are made of wood with knife-cut ‘dimples’, grooves or ridges. In the Belgian crosse region balls of different sizes, also made of nylon or pressed wood, are used.

The clubs (croses) have a wooden shaft and a metal club head with two faces. The original joint of shaft and head is the insertion of a bent ash stick straight into the opening at the rear end of the head. Such club is named a ‘crosse à brochon’ or a ‘crocheton’.

Half-way through the 20th century the straight end of the shaft entered into a socket which is welded onto the crosse head. This so-called ‘crosse à manchon’ is still made by private artisans.



The crocheton (left) is the ancient club in the game. Since mid-20th century such clubs are not made anymore because they are too vulnerable

when using the extreme hard nylon ball. These clubs are becoming quite rare. The successor, the manchon (right), is still made and used. Both clubs are regularly included in auction catalogues. The crocheton is rarer and therefore more valuable than the contemporary manchon.

Especially with these crosse clubs there is some confusion. This crosse game was never played in Flanders or the Netherlands but only in Belgian Wallonie and French Avesnois. These clubs are certainly not golf, nor mail, colf or kolf clubs.

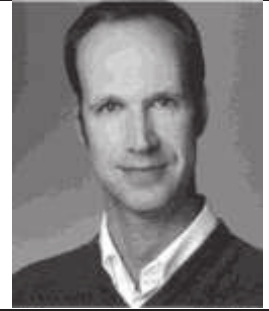
We are no collectors, so we have no knowledge about the guide prices for the clubs and balls. Over the last decades we amassed knowledge about these ancient continental golf-like games which we would like to share with you. For more detailed information about these games and their equipment, do not hesitate to contact us at ancientgolf@wanadoo.fr or have a look at our website www.ancientgolf.dse.nl.



We are happy to publish here a picture of the last Danish Hiskory Open Championship (2015). You'll recognize several of our EAGHC members including Czeslaw Kruk (middle with a cap) who finished third with 74 net – while the winner is Mr Johan Person (71 net).

West – East: 10 & 8 Unification of German Golf

Kuno Schuch



In these days, german golf can celebrate 25 years of unification – a couple of weeks before DDR and BRD has been re-united at the 3rd of October 1990. The german golf association /west (DGV) with Jan Brügelmann in charge (1921 – 2012); Bernd Rudolph from Dresden as elected president of “Golf-Sportverband der DDR”. End of august DGV – officials accept the bidding of the sport administration from east germany – representing around 60 ! members – and decide to let Mr. Rudolph and his fellow golf enthusiasts run the regional golfing activities in the “fünf neue Bundesländer”.

Some famous golf clubs from the era before second world war had been turned down in the second half of the twentieth century, e.g. Dresden, Gaschwitz (near Leipzig) or Heiligendamm at the Baltic sea. The early years of development has been described by Christoph Meister in his travelling diaries. At Dresden Weisser Hirsch the former club house still exists and serves as a local pub, in Magdeburg the flood of the river Elbe constantly changes the lay out and Bad Saarow (east of Berlin) is again a golfing spot.



Some activities concentrate on Oberhof, situated in the hills near Gotha and a famous winter sport region.

Gerold Fischer, PGA of Germany-president during the 1980th, tried to revitalize the golf

course together with some celebrities. And D.R. Quanz failed only a few years ago, too, with another initiative. Oberhof can be compared with the Spa-town Marienbad: very fine climate during the summer because of the altitude, lovely forests around and enough water to maintain the green.

The Royal GC at Marienbad was visited permanently by a handful of DDR-citizen, Renate Graf and Bernd Rudolph from Dresden for example.

While opening the iron curtain and before the formal reunion, Marion Etzold and friends starts with the 1. GC Leipzig in April 1990. And with Bernhard von Limburger, the editor of the first german golf magazine, the city of Leipzig can look at a great tradition.

Around ten percent of club members in germany are active at the territory of the former german democratic republic; with nearly 50 % male and female golfers. Resorts like Fleesensee and Bad Saarow offer superb facilities and the Faldo Course of Sporting Club Berlin is the bidding choice for the Ryder Cup flight 2022.

Arosa Scharmützelsee supports some youth programs from former teacher Rainald Bierstedt successful and in 2000 the WAGC (now: IGF) World Amateur Championship proves the new international standard of golf on the ‘east side’.

Beside the historic change in mid-europe, re-birth of golfing tradition is done and can shape the future.

Learn more: 100 Years of Golf in Germany (2007), www.golf.de [statistic]

Caddies and their duties Cecil Leitch

After the “Golf Illustrated”, 4th February, 1927



In this article on caddies, the great champion Cecil Leitch is referring to the Fontainebleau Golf Club. Interestingly, this paper is illustrated with a picture which has been used in a series of ten postcards (Cliché Espacieux) featuring the golf-club and giving some clear identification on a few persons.



Cecil Leitch, playing in France (here La Boulie)

Every golfer will probably agree that a caddie can increase or ruin the pleasure of a round of golf according to the manner in which he, or she, carries out his, or her, duties. It has been said that the penalties which a caddie can incur to an employer by the breaking of rules make the servant play too important a part in a match or medal competition. But when the value of a good caddie is considered it is only fair that the employer who benefits by the good advice and help received from an efficient and experienced caddie should also have to suffer on the rare occasions that the servant transgresses. In "Decisions by the Rules of Golf Committee, 1909-1919", there are only two cases in which caddies are directly implicated, and as there are over three hundred cases dealt with in this volume it can be gathered that caddies do not often figure in these controversies. Apropos one of these decisions, in which it is pointed out that "The Rules of Golf are framed on the

supposition that a player has only one caddie", an incident which occurred at a big ladies' meeting is worth relating. One of the players took her bag to the caddie-master and asked to be supplied with a caddie. The caddie-master, who, by the way, possesses a fund of dry humour, glanced at the numerous contents of the bag and turned to the player with the enquiry, "Did you say one caddie, madam?" Whether or not the player took heed of the gentle hint and removed the many unnecessary implements history does not record!

Speaking generally, caddies are keenly interested in their job, and endeavour, in every possible manner, to be a help to those by whom they are temporarily engaged. A player should be able to judge early in a round to what extent the caddie's advice can be followed, and it is grossly unfair to blame a caddie when things do not go as well as was anticipated. Unless you agree with, a hint offered regarding the club to be used or the direction in which the shot should be played, do not act in accordance with the advice, but play the shot in your own way. The caddie who suits A may not suit B, and a servant who knows his duties will never try to make a player follow his advice, but will merely offer suggestions and never take offence when they are not followed. Golfers owe a great deal to caddies, as the game to the majority would be impossible without them. Have we not all had the tiring and unpleasant experience of carrying our own clubs when demand has exceeded the supply? In an ordinary friendly game under favourable conditions it is nothing to have to do this work for oneself, but wet ground or bad weather can convert the task into an ordeal guaranteed to have an adverse effect upon one's play. American golfers recognise the caddie

class much more than players in other countries. A caddie welfare movement, which in the United States is becoming national in scope, has as its chief object the improvement of the health, character and intelligence of growing boys engaged in this work. But while several clubs in Great Britain give consideration to a caddie boy's future, there are many Committees which allow youths to be so employed instead of encouraging them to learn a trade.

Caddying can only be regarded as a precarious method of earning a living, and no British club can afford to keep more than a certain number of regular caddies on a weekly wage, unless they assist the greenkeeper when not actually caddying. Although many players may consider the fee for a round excessive, it must be remembered that the majority of caddies can only reckon upon being employed on two days out of seven. When the subject of "tipping" arises, there are hundreds of players who sympathise with the enthusiast who remarked, "When I play badly I tip my caddie well, because I am so sorry he has had such a dull round, and when I play well I tip him generously because I consider him responsible for the good results!" Tipping may be a problem in its own way, but who will deny that a caddie, whose knowledge and moral support have aided a player to gain a big victory, is deserving of substantial monetary reward for the valuable services rendered? The type of caddie who mars one's pleasure is not the one who fails to be of assistance owing to ignorance of the game, but is he who considers he knows more than all the authorities of the game rolled into one ! An experience which befell a reigning lady Open champion when playing over a famous Scottish course for the first time will serve as an example of the "caddie terror." After playing several holes in a manner which left nothing to his desired, the visitor arrived on the teeing ground of a short hole of doubtful length. A spoon was thrust into her hand and the caddie proceeded to make a tee, the player expressed surprise that such powerful a club was necessary, but further expression of opinion would have been imprudent as the gruff voice of her caddie was heard to remark, "It's a spoon for you and, after a slight pause, "Good player take a mashie." At a subsequent hole when her ability had again been underestimated, she was told during the middle of her swing that the shot required was "only a three-quarter brassie."

The victim of these remarks decided that she would endeavour to obtain the services of a small boy on all future occasions!

Another type of caddie who severely handicaps a temperamental player is he who informs his employer at an early stage of an important match "that everyone is backing his opponent and so am I".



The Grand Old Lady of Fontainebleau
Madame Multignier, the woman caddie referred to in Miss Leitch's article, is seen at the left-hand side of the back row. On her left is her daughter, while the others marked by crosses are her grandchildren.

(Postcard #1 from a series of 10)

This actually happened to a certain player, and it is hardly necessary to add that the caddie's capital was increased in the result of his bet. The caddie question at the Fontainebleau Golf Club is very difficult, and children are only allowed to perform this work during school holidays and even then few seize these opportunities to earn money. The result is that the maternal parents undertake their duties, and in one case at least a grandmother finds the work enjoyable and profitable. During a recent visit to this club I found this fine old character, Madame Multignier, aged 67, awaiting me on the first teeing-ground. A suggestion that the bag was too heavy for her was received with disdainful laughter by one of the other women caddies, who turned out to be her daughter. At the end of two rounds I realised what a *faux pas* I had made, for my splendid old caddie refused to be relieved of any of her duties, never showed any signs of fatigue, and took the greatest interest in every shot played in the match. We were told that she sometimes caddies for three rounds in a day, and that several of the remaining caddies are her children or grandchildren! A caddie can be "a friend indeed," in the very truest sense of the term.

The President's Putter, by JBK



I was just starting my second term as president of the EAGHC, when, after a suggestion by John Lowell, our Association received a great gift from Ross Baker: a very high quality hand crafted putter, with the head, made of hawthorn, engraved "EAGHC President's Putter"; and a shaft made of eucalyptus regnans (mountain ash).

This club will be kept by the president of the EAGHC during his mandate and passed to the next president after his election.

Ross explains: *"This long-nose type putter is weighting 15 ozs and has a flat lie which was common in the early 1800's era. The head is glued to the shaft using a scare of spliced joint. During the sanding process, both the head and the shaft are rubbed with a cloth soaked in Turps and Lanolin oil, preventing from drying and cracking and, at the same time, hardening the wood."*

The head and shaft receive about 40 coats of "Shellac". Beteen coats, fine steel wood is used to rub the finish back. This is known as "French Polishing". Linen thread is used to bind the neck/shaft splice joint. This ensures a strong and secure joint. The thread is rubbed with Pitch for waterproofing. Strips of waste cloth "under-listings" are spirally wound onto the shaft and glued with pitch or shellac. Strips of leather approximately 1" wide and 36" long are cut from a full leather hide to make grips."

"The head is made from the natural curve of a tree limb. After being cut, the timber is stored for about 12 months allowing it to "season" naturally. Once seasoned, the head is cut to the

rough shape and then finished to completion, using rasps and files.

A piece of "ram's horn" called a "slip" is let into the sole/leading edge of the club using chisels, this is glued & doweled in place. Ram's horn is tough and durable and protects the leading edge of the club."

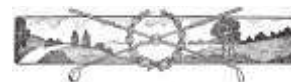
A few pictures could be seen on the next (cover) page.

Ross started as a trainee professional when he was 16 years of age. To understand the evolution of clubs, he got interested in the history of club making ... and started a collection of clubs which now exceeds 3 000 pieces. After 25 years of club making and repairing, he decided to "return to where it started: Traditional Club Making".

I must say that after receiving this putter I immediately ordered a personal one (engraved with my own initials) slightly more upright than the "President's Putter". The cost was in the range of AUSS\$ 400 ... which is an extremely affordable price with regards to the quality of the club. If any of you are interested, I'm providing here Ross's address: "Barnbogle, "Lost Farm" Golf Links, Bridport Tasmania, Australia." His e-mail address is:

rossgolfaus@gmail.com

Many thanks again Ross!





Ross Baker with one of his putter, during the Australian Open at the Royal Sydney in 2005 and the "EAGHC President's putter" he kindly presented to the Association.





Poster by Félix Jobbe-Duval – Popoff at the Cannes Meeting (1910)