



26th October 1981

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Sir,

Guinness Book of Records, Chapter 12 - GOLF

I regret to say that I had never looked at your book yet, but last week I did. I am afraid, much as it may dismay the Scots, that one statement in your book is not quite correct. In the paragraph on the Origin of Golf it says that the earliest mentioning of golf occurs in the Scottish Parliament of March 1457.

I am enclosing with this letter a photostat of a record in the City Record Office of the City of Brussels in Belgium with Ordinances of that city in 1360 A.D. The marked one reads:

'Item. Wie met colven tsolt es om

'twintich scell' oft op haer overste cleet.'

(Furthermore. Whoever plays ball with clubs that is at 20 shillings or their overcoat).

The reference number in the City Record Office of Brussels is: A.V.B., A.A., Cart. II, fol. 215vso.

This is the first of many ordinances in Flemish and Dutch cities against playing golf. Of these the following are older than your reference:

Date:	Record Office:	Reference Number:
4th Dec. 1387	C.R.O. City of Brielle	charter 1387
20th Feb. 1390	C.R.O. City of Haarlem Holland	Mr. A.J.E. I-41
1401	C.R.O. City of Dordrecht Holland	Kb. 1, Art. 204
1401	C.R.O. City of Utrecht Holland	I-16
1429	C.R.O. City of Zierikzee Holland	Keurboek 1429, fol. 2vso
1431	C.R.O. City of Rotterdam Holland	492-fol. 126
1436	C.R.O. City of Amersfoort Holland	Raets Dagb. Boek
1455	C.R.O. City of Leyden	343-fol. 63

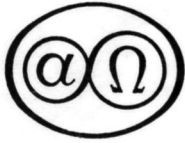
The first traceable game of golf was played on Boxing Day of 1297. It covered 4 holes with a total length of about 5000 yards around the village of Loenen aan de Vecht. It was an eightsome with wooden clubs and balls. Since there is no specific evidence for that date it is safer to keep to 1360.

Trusting that the above may be of use, I am
yours faithfully

van Hengel
Steven J.H. van Hengel

Enclosure

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Steven J H van Hengel
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Dear Mr van Hengel

Thank you very much for your most interesting letter.

We are most grateful to you for taking the trouble to write to us with this information.

With all good wishes.

Yours sincerely

MRS B WAITES
Assistant Sports Editor