

De Weledelgeboren Heer
P.L.M. Wellhuner,
Bureau Public Relations,
K.L.M.,
Amsterdamseweg 55,
Amstelveen.

tel. 491780

19 oktober 1972

Zeer geachte Heer Wellhuner,

Ten vervolge op ons telefoongesprek van gisteren doe ik U hierbij één exemplaar van het manuscript van "Early Golf" toekomen ten gerieve van Uw kantoor te Tokio.

Wij kwamen overeen, dat hieruit niets zal worden gepubliceerd zonder dat dit vooraf door mij is gezien en goedgekeurd.

Het manuscript ontvang ik te zijner tijd gaarne van U terug.

Met de meeste hoogachting,



Bijlage.

SvH/vb

STEVEN J. H. VAN HENGEL - SAXENRODEWEG 30 - AERDENHOUT

De Weledelgeboren Heer
P.L.M. Wellhuner,
Bureau Public Relations K.L.M.,
Amsterdamseweg 55,
Amstelveen.

16 Januari 1973

Zeer geachte Heer Wellhuner,

Ter bevestiging van mijn toezegging van gisteren (per telefoon), doe ik U
hierbij een exemplaar van "Vroeg Golf" alsmede een vertaling van de
onderschriften bij de illustraties in de engelse taal toekomen.

Op deze bijlagen zijn de bepalingen van toepassing als vermeld in mijn
brief aan U van 19 oktober j.l.

Het U daarbij toegezonden exemplaar van "Early Golf" heb ik overigens
nog niet terugontvangen !

Met de meeste hoogachting,



Bijlagen: 2.

Royal Dutch Airlines



De Weledelgeboren Heer
S.J.H. van Hengel
Saxenrodeweg 30
A e r d e n h o u t

Uw referte
Uw brief d.d.

Onze referte AMS/DR.904
Doorkiesnummer 020-49.1780
Onderwerp

Amstelveen, 25 januari 1973
Amsterdamseweg 55

Zeer geachte Heer van Hengel,

Hartelijk dank voor Uw schrijven d.d. 16 januari j.l.

Na ons telefoongesprek dienaangaande hebben wij contact opgenomen met onze vestiging in Tokyo. Deze vestiging zond ons toen het bijgaande artikel toe, waarvan wij U verzoeken te willen bekijken of dit volgens U in deze vorm in de Japanse pers gepubliceerd kan worden.

Tevens zenden wij U het eerste door U gezonden boekje toe, dat abusievelijk toch nog niet aan U geretourneerd bleek te zijn.

Het tweede door U gezonden boekje hebben wij inmiddels naar Tokyo gezonden met net verzoek te bekijken of bij publikatie van het "golf" artikel enige van de in dit boekje gepubliceerde foto's zouden kunnen worden afgedrukt.

U dankend voor Uw spontane medewerking en gaarne Uw commentaar op het bijgezonden artikel afwachtend, verblijven wij,

hoogachtend,

BUREAU PUBLIC RELATIONS

P.L.M. Wellhüner
Afdeling Perszaken

Bijl:

PW/Sv

beantw. 29/1 met 2 correcties

ANOTHER "BOOM" IN JAPAN

J. Crince Le Roy

General Manager for Japan and Korea
KLM Royal Dutch Airlines

Much has been written about the booming economy of Japan, but there has been another startling phenomenon of continuing interest in recent years. We can say that this is the "leisure boom", which includes increased travel to foreign countries, widespread interest in various sports and therefore greater emphasis on off-time activities.

Last year, more than a million Japanese travelled abroad for business or pleasure. Bowling alleys have mushroomed all over Japan. Special ski trains, jammed with young people willing to endure the crowded night train, take thousands to the distant ski slopes. Boating is beginning to gain numerous enthusiasts.

Last but not least, one of the most popular post-war sports is golf, the interest for which is still continuing to grow at a tremendous pace.

Although it would seem more logical for me when writing about "leisure boom" to tell something about travel, being in that business myself, I intend this time, however, to tell something about golf, which in Japan has gradually become an "industry". I like to do this not only because I am fond of the game but particularly since there may be reasons to believe that this game was developed in my native country Holland even before it was known in Scotland (the country from which, according to popular belief, golf has originated).

There are more than 10 publications about early golf in Holland. My information, however, comes from Mr. S.J.H. van Hengel's "Early Golf" which is just published in Holland after extensive research in archives, art galleries, private collections of maps, prints, literature, etc. Van Hengel a.o. draws the attention to the fact that old paintings, tiles and scrolls in Holland show information about golf. He feels that British authors in the past have never done an intensive research on the subject of golf in Holland, probably due to a lack of knowledge of the Dutch language. Medieval Dutch, so different from the present language, is very difficult to master even for a Dutchman.

After reading early accounts of golf in both British and Dutch books, van Hengel feels that the best explanation for the term "golf" comes from the Dutch "spel metten colve", meaning "play with colve". The Dutch word "colve", later "colf" or "kolf", means a wooden club, which is thicker at one end than the other.

On some specific occasion, the Holland House in Nagasaki was presented a few years ago with one of these "colf" clubs, which may then well be the oldest golf club in Japan!

Dutch documents indicate that the first recorded game of golf took place around the year 1300 on a course of some 5,000 yards, with 4 holes located at the Kronenburg Castle. It appears that the game was played by two teams of 4 players each. The winning side was treated to beer by the Lord of the Castle, whereas the losers were given apples. Then van Hengel goes on by explaining from further records that this game was already a popular Dutch sport and that it was a Dutch combination of two older French games known as "mail à la chicane" and "chole". "Mail" was a game in which a wooden beechwood ball was struck with a metal mallet head attached to a flexible shaft. One form of "mail" was to see how far two or more players can drive the ball on the same number of strokes.

"Chole", on the other hand, was played with clubs with rigid shafts and often mounted with iron, spoon-shaped heads. The players on two teams would select a distant target and would try to reach it with the least number of strokes. The assigned target could be anything, such as a tree, a house, a gateway, and could be as much as 10 to 12 miles away.

This Dutch "colve"ⁿ however was often played on narrow town streets and pedestrians and windows were struck by flying wooden balls, creating much irritation. Eventually this caused many Dutch towns to issue decrees banning golf as a public nuisance, since the players disregarded both pedestrians and traffic, resulting in injuries and accidents.

[Van Hengel found no such decree in the records of the old Dutch town of Haarlem, where well organized "colve" courses were located outside the city as far back as 1390. A Haarlem map of 1450 shows a strange sort of a quadrangle, which was one of the courses at that time.

[By the end of the 16th century, the beechwood balls were replaced by a brown and white leather ball, stuffed with uncombed wool. Thus, the Dutch were using clubs as early as the 14th century to strike wooden balls from one point to a distant target. At a relatively early stage, these clubs were given metal heads to provide great momentum. During the 16th century, the first holes and the first pegs (tees) were introduced into the Dutch sport.

[Another point of interest is how - if at all - the game reached Scotland. It is assumed by van Hengel that this could well have happened as a result of visits by Scotch traders and sailors to Holland, from where the Dutch style of golf, which was a sport amongst townsmen, was imported. At that time, trade between Scotland and Holland was very prosperous. For instance, St. Andrews was a wool export harbour to Holland. One of the oldest pictures of golf at St. Andrews, Oliphant's drawing in the clubhouse of the Royal and Ancient, shows golfers playing on the ramparts of St. Andrews and beyond. This seems a little more than coincidental, particularly if one remembers that St. Andrews was one of the wool ports in the days when we find the first mention of the game in Dordrecht and Brielle. (Both cities were Dutch harbours doing trade with Scotland.)

[We do not only have evidence of golf in Brielle at that time, but we have it of Dordrecht as well. On the 28th of September 1401, the magistrate of Dordrecht renewed and codified several old decrees. One of these was to bann the playing of golf in the great streets; inside as well as outside the gates; neither in churchyards, nor in churches, nor in the cloisters. Penalty: 1 Pound to be paid on the spot wherever anybody was found playing. Here too the game went to the ramparts.

[At the beginning of the 18th century, very suddenly Dutch golf lost its popularity in Holland and within 10 years all evidence of this game seemed to have disappeared. It is curious to note that when the end comes in Holland, golf in Scotland starts reaching much greater popularity. When the first clubs were founded there, modern golf was eventually shipped back from St. Andrews in the 19th century to Holland.

[It was 1893 when the first modern type golf club was formed in the Hague in Holland.

[Van Hengel's book is of course much more detailed and gives more facts. Nevertheless, the above may lead to some interesting speculation on the origin of golf. Whatever the case, however, fact remains that today many hundred thousands of people all over the world obtain great enjoyment from this game.

[If ever your participation in this "leisure boom" should bring you to Holland, then don't be afraid to play a game of golf, as it is now no longer banned!

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Article written by J. Crinice le Roy
Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce
in Tokyo
Japan
General Manager for Japan & Korea
KLM Royal Dutch Airlines

Royal Dutch Airlines



De heer S.J.H. van Hengel
Saxenrodeweg 30
A e r d e n h o u t

Uw referte
Uw brief d.d.

Onze referte AMS/DR.960
Doorkiesnummer 020-492471
Onderwerp

Amstelveen, 15 maart 1973
Amsterdamseweg 55

Zeer geachte heer Van Hengel,

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Hierbij hebben wij het genoegen u het artikel over het golfspel, zoals het verschenen is in de Yomiuri International, toe te sturen. Tevens doen wij u het door u gezonden boekje toekomen.

Inmiddels heeft onze vestiging in Japan geïnformeerd naar de mogelijkheid een 20-tal exemplaren van "Early Golf in The Netherlands" te bestellen, daar men deze als relatiegeschenk zou willen versturen. Zoudt u ons kunnen laten weten of die mogelijkheid er is?

Met zeer veel dank voor alle door u verleende medewerking, verblijven wij,

hoogachtend,
BUREAU PUBLIC RELATIONS
voor P.L.M. Wellhüner

Katinka M. Fransz
secr. Perszaken

Kf

Bijlagen

De Weledelgeboren Heer
P. L. M. Wellhüner,
Bureau Public Relations,
K. L. M.,
Amsterdamseweg 55,
Amstelveen.

22 maart 1973.

Uw ref.: AMS/DR.960

Zeer geachte Heer Wellhüner,

Hiermede moge ik U danken voor Uw brief van 15 maart jl.

Wat betreft Uw vraag naar een twintigtal exemplaren van "Early Golf" zij het volgende opgemerkt.

Het exemplaar hetwelk U ter hand werd gesteld is één van de weinige die indertijd op een geïmproviseerde basis zijn gemaakt. Hiervan is helaas geen grotere voorraad meer beschikbaar.

Wanneer de kosten hiervan door U zullen worden gedragen, zal ik gaarne voor U nagaan, of het mogelijk is de tekst hiervan te laten zetten op dezelfde wijze als met de nederlandse editie is gebeurd, uiteraard dan ook met de foto's, die daar instaan er tussenin.

Ik moge U verzoeken mij hierover nog op te bellen.

Meer exemplaren van de nederlandse tekst zijn zolang de voorraad strekt te bestellen bij: Uitgeverij Reflex, Mathenesserlaan 310, Rotterdam, à raison van f 2.50 per exemplaar.

Inmiddels ben ik,

met vriendelijke groeten,

