

25 July 1982

30, Saxonrodeweg  
2116 VA Bentveld  
Holland

Derek Martin-Sperry Esq  
Managing Director  
Sporting Exhibitions Ltd  
Europa House  
St. Matthew Street  
London SW1P 2JL

*Dear Derek,*

It was very nice to meet you at Troon at last and also to meet your Chairman. As agreed I am sending to you by separate mail an extra copy of the Catalogue Colf-Kolf-Golf as well as a copy of the proofs of 'Early Golf'. Please excuse the printing errors yet in it.

May I suggest that you and your Chairman read the latter by which you will gather an impression of the possibilities. We can then get together when next you are here to consider what and how we can achieve.

I am also enclosing a small list of the very attractive paintings which are in the U.K. and which would be viable exhibits at an exhibition.

With kind regards I am

*Sincerely yours*  
*Steven*

Steven J.H. van Hengel

Enclosure

List of paintings etc on the game of COLF in Great Britain

The National Gallery  
Trafalgar Square  
London WC2N 5DN

No.1346 Hendrick Avercamp, Winter Landscape, oil on round panel  
diameter 39 cms

No.1479 " " Winter Landscape, oil on panel 56 x 88 cms

No.6962 Esaias van de Velde, Winterlandscape 1668 (The Spaarne river  
South of Spaarndam looking towards Haarlem)  
oil on panel, 30.3 x 36.4 cms

The British Museum  
Great Russell Street  
London WC1B 3DG

MSS 2291 Book of Hours of about 1500, folio 27

Master 'AP' Woodcut of 1537

Allart van Everdingen, Winter Landscape of about 1660  
pen & sepia on paper, 17.6 x 27.7 cms

The Wallace Collection

London

No. P 217 Aert van der Neer, A Skating Scene, oil on canvas, 55 x 69 cms

Polesden Lacey

Great Bookham, Surrey

Pieter de Hooch, 2 young golf players, oil on canvas

H.M. The Queens Collection  
Buckingham Palace  
London

Royal Library No.6470, Windsor Castle  
Hendrick Avercamp, Colf Players on the Ice  
aquatint, 17.8 x 23.8 cms

The National Gallery of Scotland  
The Mount  
Edinburgh

No.647 Hendrick Avercamp, Winter Landscape, oil on copperm 28.3 x 42.4 cms

No. R-1122 Hendrick Avercamp, Colf Players on the Ice, pen drawing  
with water colours, 11.2 x 19.2 cms

West Dean Park

Chichester

Albert Cuyp, Portrait of a young Colf Player 1650, oil on canvas  
(this picture may have been sold to the U.S.A.)

Mr. John Ritblad, Chairman  
The British Land Company  
10, Cornwall Terrace  
London NW1 4QP

Wybrand Simonsz de Geest, Portrait of a 4½ year old boy colf player  
in 1613, oil on panel 110 x 80 cms

D.G.Garnett M.D.  
Halfacre  
Maresfield  
Uckfield, Sussex

17th century copy of a portrait of Maurits de Héraugières at  
the age of 2 in 1595, by Adriaen van der Linde  
oil on canvas, 36 x 51 cms

Mr. John Smith  
Shottesbrook Park  
White Waltham, Berkshire

Adriaen van der Linde, portrait of a young boy aged 2 in 1596  
oil on panel, 96½ x 67 cms



# GOLFEX (UK)

EUROPA HOUSE,  
ST. MATTHEW STREET,  
LONDON, SW1P 2JT  
TELEPHONE: 01-222 9341

30th July 1982

S J H van Hengel  
30 Saxenrodeweg  
2116VA Bentveld  
Holland

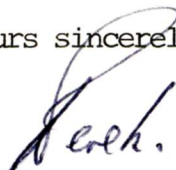


I am in receipt of your letter dated 25th July and would also say how nice it was to meet you at Troon at last and note that you are sending by separate mail an extra copy of the Catalogue "Colf-Kolf-Golf" as well as a copy of the proofs of "Early Golf".

Thank you also for enclosing a small list of all those paintings which are in the United Kingdom and which would be viable for exhibits at an exhibition.

I would hope to meet you in Europe shortly, but will be advising you when I am there and should you find yourself in this country I would be most happy if you would care to stay with us as I have many antiques and fine arts that could be of interest.

Yours sincerely



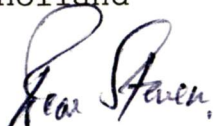
Derek Martin-Sperry  
Managing Director

# GOLFEX (UK)

EUROPA HOUSE,  
ST. MATTHEW STREET,  
LONDON, SW1P 2JT  
TELEPHONE: 01-222 9341

18th August 1982

S van Hengel Esq  
30 Saxenrodeweg  
2116va Bentveld  
Holland



It was kind of you to not only entertain me in your apartment but also your golf club and we much enjoyed not only your company but seeing your incredible collection.

I have today just looked into the office which is enabling me to reply to you, but I am again on holiday until the middle of the first week of September.

At the moment my mind is working in this direction! - As the British Open Golf Championship achieves a gate of approximately 135,000 people all madly interested in the game, it may well be that especially as we have not done this before, that we could stage a certain type of exhibition within the British Open Exhibition itself.

I would therefore respectfully suggest that as your documentation is so vast and you have many albums of photographs of very real interest that we could possibly mount your own exhibition out of what you have. I have only cursorily scratched the surface with your good self in your apartment on your enormous documentation.

I would envisage it as an area where people would have to pay a small charge to enter within the British Open Exhibition itself and it would be mounted in sectional bays like an art gallery and it would tell the history of golf from your own personal researches.

For instance, many of the photographs which you showed me could be mounted in sectors and even photographs of paintings and the way that ancient balls were put together, all of which would be of considerable interest to those enormous international crowds that visit the British Open.

S van Hengel Esq

18th August 1982

It may well be that the sale of your book could coincide with this exhibition of your personal collection and as I mentioned before in the letter it would have its own separate entry and exit which would be governed by entry ticket payment and the amount charged would govern staging and all costs in mounting such a show and include also the security arrangements.

I would be grateful if you could let me have your own point of view on the suggestion as I would have to progress this here in view of the allocation of space within the British Open Exhibition for such a project.

Kindest regards,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Derek', with a stylized flourish above the name.

Derek Martin-Sperry  
Managing Director



10th September 1982

30, Saxenrodeweg  
2116 VA Bentveld  
HollandD.Martin-Sperry Esq  
Managing DirectorGOLFEX(UK)  
Europa House  
St.Matthew Street  
LONDON SW1P 2JT  
England*Dear Derek,*

This is to thank you for your letter of the 18th August. Indeed, it was a pleasure to see you both here, be it that as usual - the time available was too short! Coming to your thoughts on an exhibition: it would indeed be possible to stage some form of exhibition on the basis of what I have available here. If it is to be the sort of thing which would interest the visitors to the open it seems to me that it should be composed of two parts i.e. the development of golf from the beginning to 1840 (end of the featherie-period) and the period from 1840 to 1900 gutta and gutty ball to Haskell and the present day golf balls. In fact the type of balls available had always governed - quite logically - the design of clubs. It is thus at the basis of the whole development of golf. My collection is chiefly concerned with the former period. In fact I have never gone out of my way to collect items from the 1840-1900 period. I know however one who has! The thing would be to get in touch with Archie Baird, Greyfriars, Aberlady, East Lothian Scotland who runs a private golf-museum at Gullane and has an impressive collection of material pertaining to the 1800-1900 period. If we could enlist his help to produce some late featherie balls and clubs and some gutta's and gutties and clubs to match (and whatever else he thinks suitable) an exhibition could be staged with material emanating from only two sources. This would of course simplify matters in no mean way and a comprehensive exhibition of interest to the visitors of an Open could be put together. It then remains to decide how much space is available and how the exhibition should be itemized. Once the principles are established that should not be too difficult. You must be a better expert than I as to the financial implications of such an exhibition. It also seems to me that there should be some sort of a man who knows as to how to display things properly. Fairly secure showcases will be needed to protect the objects on view from overzealous collectors of that material who are always within the crowds coming to the Opens!

With kind regards I am,

*Sincerely yours Steven*

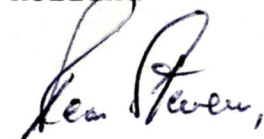
Steven J.H. van Hengel

# GOLFEX (UK)

EUROPA HOUSE,  
ST. MATTHEW STREET,  
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14th September 1982

S Van Hengel Esq  
30 Saxenrodeweg  
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Holland



I am now back from my holidays and I would be most interested to have your further viewpoint relative to the staging of a major Exhibition involving your researches within the fabric of the British Open Exhibition next year at Royal Birkdale.

Obviously a great deal of planning will have to go into presentation but you have shown me enough of your collection for me to realise that there could be something through the van Hengel collection alone which could be of incredible interest to those international crowds who have no idea whatsoever of the various histories and incredible information that you yourself have so painstakingly documented over the years on 600 years of golf artifacts.

I trust that you are keeping well and should look forward very much to further meetings with you and please let me know when you are next in England as I would very much like to entertain you.

Kindest regards,

Yours sincerely



Derek Martin-Sperry  
Managing Director



# GOLFEX (UK)

EUROPA HOUSE,  
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16th September 1982

S van Hengel Esq  
30 Saxenrodeweg  
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Many thanks for your letter dated 10 September which had obviously crossed mine of a later date.

I was most interested in what you had written and with the co-operation of Archie Baird it may well be that a comprehensive exhibition which would be of enormous interest to those large international crowds could be evolved.

You mention there should be some sort of a man who knows how to display things properly. My humble services may be useful here in so far as I was the Director of a leading international fine art gallery a number of years ago and have staged many exhibitions involving show cases and bays to show pictures. Anyhow, the latter could easily be resolved by us here.

In regard to financial implications - as this would be an exhibition within the British Open Golf Championship Exhibitions run by myself I have already mentioned to the R & A the possibility of staging something of this nature at Royal Birkdale and I would be obtaining their concurrence to charge for staging an exhibition in order to cover all operating and staging costs.

The more one looks at this particular matter, the more exciting the implications, and naturally, Steven, I will keep you in the picture as to progress here to enable you to think positively about this possible development.

In the meantime, my kindest regards,

Yours sincerely



Derek Martin-Sperry  
Managing Director

**GOLFEX (UK):** DIRECTORS D. MARTIN-SPERRY (MANAGING) A. G. WORSNUP.

A DIVISION OF ANGEX LIMITED. REG. OFFICE TEMPLE HOUSE, TEMPLE AVENUE, LONDON EC4Y 0JA. REG. NO. 1150306 ENGLAND

# GOLFEX (UK)

EUROPA HOUSE,  
ST. MATTHEW STREET,  
LONDON, SW1P 2JT  
TELEPHONE: 01-222 9341

15th November 1982

S van Hengel  
30 Saxenrodeweg  
2116VA Bentveld  
Holland



British Open Golf Championship Exhibitions, Royal Birkdale Golf Club  
Tuesday 12th July - Sunday 17th July 1983

First of all may I thank you very much for sending on a copy of your book and may I congratulate you on all the skill and great research that you have put into it. It is certainly a "tour de force".

In regard to the above at Royal Birkdale I have now achieved a measure of agreement that we can go ahead with a really fantastic exhibition embodying what you had originally suggested i.e. that it would be in 2 parts, i.e. the development of golf from the beginning to 1840 (end of the featherie period), and period from 1840 to 1900, gutta and gutty ball to Haskell and the present day golf balls. Your collection is chiefly concerned with the early period and no doubt with a dialogue with Archie Baird featuring the featherie balls and clubs and some gutta's and gutties and clubs to match and other suitable items we could stage a most comprehensive exhibition with material emanating from 2 valuable sources and which would be of enormous interest to the whole of the international crowd that visit the British Open.

Steven, there would also be the possibility perhaps of incorporating the Harry B Wood Collection which features as you know about 150 balls of every make from approximately 1830 - 1903. Nevertheless, this would be your baby and could be extremely exciting.

Although the R & A will not normally allow a charge on any aspect of the Tented Village I have suggested to them that we charge £1 for adults and 50p for children to visit this comprehensive show that you will be staging and there does not seem to be any objection to this.

By charging an entrance fee one would then hopefully cover staging and display costs and the expenses that you yourself might incur.

contd .../

**GOLFEX (UK): DIRECTORS D. MARTIN-SPERRY (MANAGING) A. G. WORSNUP**

A DIVISION OF ANGEX LIMITED. REG. OFFICE TEMPLE HOUSE, TEMPLE AVENUE, LONDON EC4Y 0JA. REG. NO. 1150306 ENGLAND

S van Hengel

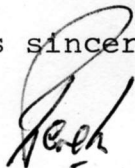
15th November 1982

I am increasing the total area of the British Open Exhibitions by as much as 10,000 sq ft and would respectfully suggest that perhaps 2,000 - 3,000 sq ft could be allocated to this development, with the judicious use of showing <sup>show</sup>beys as in an Art Gallery.

Other exciting aspects are coming our way and subject to contract we are going to be the Organisers of a major show at the American Ryder Cup next year at the new PGA National Golf club at West Palm Beach, Florida, and it therefore occurs to me that here again once we have achieved a great, in 1983 at Royal Birkdale that it would be a relatively easy permutation to stage it in the same manner on the other side of the Atlantic.

In ending may I send you my kindest regards and I look forward to hearing from you now that the intent is to go ahead.

Yours sincerely



Derek Martin-Sperry  
Managing Director



# GOLFEX (UK)

EUROPA HOUSE,  
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29th November 1982

S van Hengel Esq  
30 Saxenrodeweg  
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Holland



## MUSEUM OF GOLF ARTIFACTS

Following my recent letter, the R & A have discussed this with me further and it is the considered opinion that they would like to have this particular show for 1984 at St Andrews itself.

This therefore, Steven, gives you a little more time to prepare and the siting at Royal Birkdale did not obviate the best possible layout.

At St Andrews, with the support of the R & A on such a show the whole thing will be far more successful and they will also use it in their pre-publicity which will help the attendance.

Kindest regards,

Yours sincerely



Derek Martin-Sperry  
Managing Director



Tel. 023 - 24 01 69

3rd December 1982

30, Saxonrodeweg  
2116 VA Bentveld  
Holland

D.Martin-Sperry Esq., managing director  
Golfex(UK)  
Europa House  
St. Matthew Street  
London SW1P 2JT

Dear Derek,

This is to thank you for your letter of 15th and 29th November. Your second letter came just in time since I had the note-paper in the typewriter to reply to the first one!

Indeed it seems a good plan to have the exhibition at St. Andrews with the support of the R. & A. In fact it would be nice if they would make some of their collection pieces, otherwise not visible to the general public, available for the exhibition. It would save me bringing some of my pieces over since they have some of the things which I also have.

Some others they do not have. I would obviously supply those. Regarding the pictures I have been doing some thinking.

Some marvellous reproductions of paintings (in colour) can be obtained from the Rijksmuseum here. They would have to be framed to make a first class attraction.

Some of the old documents could be blown up to large photographs.

It seems to me that the next essential thing to be done is to make a draft of what is to be on show. Also, I think, there ought to be a simple sort of guide or catalogue. If not, one would have to have lengthy captions which usually make an exhibition somewhat boring and hold up the visitors.

I am thinking of a comprehensive story which refers the visitors to the objects on view. Let me know how you feel about it. If you agree to this idea then I shall try to make a draft inventory and a draft for the pamphlet.

I know the Harry B. Wood collection, which is indeed one of the best. However, I would suggest that we limit the contributors to the exhibition to the absolutely necessary minimum.

We do not have too much space. You don't want to cram the visitors. They don't like that. In my view there is nothing which, between Archie Baird, the R. & A. and yours truly, could not be provided.

Let me know how this appeals to you.

Kindest regards,

Yours Sincerely

Steven