

Golfstrasse 2,
2057 Wentorf,
West Germany.
21. VI. 85

Dear Mr. van Hengel,

My name is Paul Turner, I'm English and a member of the G.C.S. I've been living here in Hamburg for almost ten years. For some time I have been very interested in the Dutch game of Kolf and from what you have written in your book 'early golf', the game of Kolf is still played today. Can you please help me and tell me how I can go about watching or possibly even playing this wonderful game. Maybe you know of a court somewhere in Holland where I can see this game being played. I hope you can advise me.

As mentioned earlier I'm also a G.C.S. member, my main interest being clubs. I have several long nosed woods, including a delightful McEwan Grassed Driver, I also have a grand early 14th century Rut Iron ca. 1830. My collection is not quite complete as I do not have a feathery, although I can boast a nice collection of various Gutta Percha balls ranging from a smooth Gutta, to hand hammered balls and of course moulded 'Gutties'.

Your book 'Early Golf' has always fascinated me and one day I would like very much to meet you. I also believe you know a good friend of mine David Stirk.

Once again please let me know if there is a chance of looking at a game of Kolf and thank you for writing such an interesting book.

Sincerely,
Paul Turner



Tel. 023 - 24 01 69

26th June 1985

30, Saxenrodeweg
2116 VA Bentveld
Holland

Mr. Paul Turner
Golfstrasse 2
2057 WENTORF
B.R.D.

Dear Mr. Turner,

This is to thank you for your letter of the 21st June.
Regarding Kolf. It is certainly possible to see a game of Kolf.
Kolfers being what they are they will even teach you how to play
and ask you to join them in their game (which I am sure you will
not find all that easy). Since they play on certain evenings only
I would suggest that you get in touch with them and find out when
and where to meet them. The two best ones to contact are:
Kolfclub Utrecht
St. Eloyengasthuis
Boterstraat 22
Utrecht (refer to Mr. P.C. Bosselaar Sr., Dr. A. van Hulzen or Mr. O. Backer Dirks)

Or:

Mr. Jan Klinkert
Dr. de Witstraat 12
1723 LA NOORD SCHARWOUDE (near Alkmaar)

The Utrecht club is the oldest in existence, being 255 years old.
Its court is lodged behind the St. Eloy's hospital of the much
older Smith's Guild in Utrecht from whom they originated.

Mr. Klinkert is the President of the Nederlandsche Kolf Bond,
who have just celebrated their centenary, and a most helpful
man.

If you travel from Hamburg to see them, let me know and
come to see me as well. I will be delighted to have you here
and show you what I have. I am not much in the way of a club
collector but I have some items that you might like to see.
My special interest in golf is anything prior to 1700 but these
are objects not so easily come by. There are only a couple of them
anyway. Nonetheless I also have some 19th century clubs etc.

(Did you know that there is a German edition of my book under
the title of: 'Wie der Golfball fliegen lernte'?)

With kind regards, and hoping to meet you,

yours sincerely,

Steven J.H. van Hengel

Tel: 040/72021441

Golfstrasse 2,
2057 Wentorf,
West Germany.
5. VII. 85

Dear Mr. van Hengel,

What a nice surprise it was to receive your letter of 26th June and it was an even greater surprise to read that it would be possible to watch or even play a game of Kolf. You see, I've always been interested in Kolf but have never really known how to go about getting to watch a game. Since your book came out my interest in Kolf has grown even more and I really am most grateful to you for sending me the address's of Kolfclubs. In the next day or two I shall be writing to the clubs inquiring when I could go there to see this fascinating game being played.

Also let me say a big thank you for offering me the chance to come and visit you. This offer I readily accept and I'm looking forward to meeting you. Maybe I should let you know a little more about myself. I'm 31 years old, started golf when I was 12 and have been a professional since I was 15. I've lived in Hamburg for almost 10 years, here I'm professional to the Wentorf Reinbeker Golf Club, vice chairman of the Hamburg P.G.A. and am official instructor to the Hamburg Golf Verband. I also write for the German Golf Magazin, the articles normally deal with history. Although compared to fellows like yourself and David Stirk I know very little about history, even so I do my best.

You say you collect anything prior to 1700, my word, I can believe it when you say these objects are not easy to come

by. I really would be most happy if I one day could see your collection.

My job as a professional is not too easy as I live very much in the last century. My favourite golfers are Allan Robertson, Bob Ferguson and J.H. Taylor, I play all the time with hickories including long nosed, scared headed woods (these were made for me by Mr. Edward Davies of Westward Ho!) and I dislike perfect playing conditions e.g. raked bunkers, short rough, perfect greens and fairways. If possible it should also be very windy with rain in the air!!

I get a little sad when I hear of the new balls, balls which fly so far and clubs with graphite heads etc. You know around the turn of the last century Thomas Hodge gave up golf because he said 'there's now real golf played nowadays, what would he say today?

Mr. van Hengel, before I close will you allow me to ask you a very personal question? The question is:- You are allowed to play just one more round of 18 holes and then you must give up golf. For this round you can choose your partner, this could be someone living e.g. Tom Watson or someone dead e.g. Horace Hutchinson. You can also choose where to play this game, it may be a course you know well or a may be a course you've never played but would like to play. Who would you play with and where would you play? Having answered this, you also have to say why the player and why the course. I'd be most grateful if you could let me know the answer.

Once again, Thank you for your help, I hope in the near future we can meet and discuss this most frustrating game.

Take care,
sincerely,
Turner. (Paul)



Tel. 023 - 24 01 69

10th July 1985

30, Saxonrodeweg
2116 VA Bentveld
Holland

Mr. Paul Turner
Golfstrasse 2
2057 WENTORF
B.R.D.

Dear Mr. Turner,

This is to thank you for your letter of the 5th of this month. You are certainly lucky in having some scared-head clubs of Edward Davies since he is one of the very few who still knows how to make them.

If your interest is in the time you describe it may amuse you to know that I have club models of Harry Vardon, J.H. Taylor and James Braid and equally of their somewhat later American counterpart as a triumvirate: Walter Hagen, Robert T. Jones and Tommy Armour.

Coming to your penetrating question of the 18 holes: where and with whom. I would certainly have liked to play a round with Willie Park Jr., the best putter ever (and that when greens were not what they are today). That round I would like to play on my own club here, the Kennemer at Zandvoort and there on the old Orange Course.

The reasons? Willie Park because I would hope to pick up a tip or two, which even he did not mention in his little book 'The Art of Putting', which I have here, and also because I would like to see if he, being the putter he was, could break the course record on the Orange Course (one of the masterpieces of Harry Colt). That record stands at 65 off the tiger tees since 1935! In that year Sid Brews established it and no player in the 10 Open Championships held over it since then, has managed to break it. The players did include guys like Bobby Locke, Flory van Donck, David Thomas, Gary Player, Peter Thomson, Ramon Sota, Severiano Ballesteros, Bernhard Langer and quite a few others of great quality. Practice has it that if you want to go for less than 68 strokes it all depends on your putting, so it would take an outstanding putter to do the trick. Hence the choice.

If the match could not be held on the Orange Course at Zandvoort my next choice would be Lundin Links in Fife, which you may or may not know but which I think to be one of the most beautiful links courses of Britain.

So there is an answer which may surprise you slightly.

If you come this way, give me a ring or drop a line in advance since I am away quite often.

With kind regards I am,

Yours sincerely
van Hengel

Steven J.H. van Hengel