

# golfika

no.4  
summer  
2009



the magazine of the european association  
of golf historians & collectors



## Golf - An Olympic Sport in 2016?

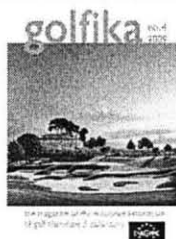


# golfika

Images Left hand side:

**Golf and the Olympic Games** is one of the main subjects of **golfika** issue No.4

(1900 medals are shown with kind permission of Bill Anderson - other medals with kind permission of Deutsches Golf Archiv, Cologne) -



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The title of **golfika** No.4 is after a painting of one of our EAGHC members, Viktor Cleve, Germany's leading artist of Golf Courses. As a former art director he kindly designed the title page and donated it to us. His painting shows the 15TH Green of Golf Son Gual Mallorca (Spain). You can contact Viktor Cleve through [info@cleve-golfart.com](mailto:info@cleve-golfart.com) or find more information about his works on <http://www.cleve-golfart.com>.

## Imprint

**golfika** is the magazine of the European Association of Golf Historians & Collectors (EAGHC).

The views and opinions printed within are those of the contributors or Editor and are not intended to represent an official EAGHC viewpoint unless specifically stated.

The magazine (two issues per year) is included in the EAGHC annual membership fee of EUR 25,00 p.a. The magazine is sold to non-members of the EAGHC at €10.00 plus postage & packing.

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The aims of the EAGHC are to encourage and promote an interest in the history of golf and the collecting of items connected with that history.



We welcome new members—you will find all necessary information on how to join our association on: <http://www.golfika.com/>

The European Association of Golf Historians & Collectors (also: Association Européenne des Historiens et Collectionneurs de Golf) is an officially registered association at the Sous-Préfecture de Mantes-La-Jolie according to the French Law from July 1st, 1901.



### President's foreword

#### Dear EAGHC members!

Again it my pleasure to write a few lines to all of you as an introduction to this fourth issue of *golfika*, which as I feel contains some terrific articles covering the history of golf and related games. Thank you to all of you who handed in articles - these articles are the key to the success of our magazine which effectively is **your** magazine. As I am finishing these lines we are already preparing for the 4th annual EAGHC meeting at Malone and we all are very much looking forward to that. For most of us it will be the first trip to Ireland respectively Northern Ireland where we will surely enjoy not only the friendly Irish people but also some beautiful Irish landscape and golf courses.

With the summer almost over now I would like to let you know that I did a good amount of travelling this year enjoying hickory golf and talking golf history. It all started with the Hickory Grail & the Swedish Hickory Championship in Falsterbo, where both events were part of the clubs centenary celebrations. I was most impressed to see and play a hickory tournament with almost 200 competitors. After finishing my round I carried the bag of 8-time National Hickory Champion (U.S.) Randy Jensen who was playing with former Swedish Ryder Cup Player Pierre Fulke - I can tell you this was one of my greatest golf experiences ever - these two guys play better golf with pre-1935 hickory shafted clubs than most of us (with the exception of Iain & Perry) will ever do with modern clubs! It was also great to see the large number of younger players in this event. Kuno Schuch, who was travelling with me, took the opportunity to meet his "colleague" Jörgen Martensson, curator of the Swedish Golf Museum.

We then carried on to Bad Wildungen where the first German Hickory Championship (35 players from 7 nations) was won by our EAGHC member Iain Forrester playing a round of 73. On our way to Chantilly we took a four hours break stopping 50 km north of our final destination and Randy Jensen and Perry Somers played a round of hickory golf with me at Compiègne, one of only two golf courses world wide to have hosted an Olympic Golf tournament. It seems that not much has changed on this course during the last 109 years, but you will learn more about Compiègne and Olympic Golf tournaments in one of the main articles of this issue kindly brought to us by Stephan Wassong, one of Germany's leading Sport Historians.

We then travelled to Chantilly, where not only the first EAGHC meeting took place in 2007, but where also our EAGHC member Jean-Louis Panigel organized the first French Hickory Championship which was won by Australian-born EAGHC-member Perry Somers, who played a round of 74 strokes (hickory Par 75!). This event was followed by a most exciting Jeu de Crosse match at Baudour (see also page 7). Last but not least another hickory golf event was organized by the Czech Section of the EAGHC in mid-August 2009 - a hickory tournament at Jiri Martinka's Hostivar Golf was followed by the Czech Hickory Championship 2009 in Lisnice where long-time hickory golfer and EAGHC member Prokop Sedlak became Czech Hickory Champion 2009! The Hamiltons from St. Andrews and myself specifically enjoyed the Czech Hospitality! Thank you for that guys! I wish you all a nice remaining summer and hope to meeting you again soon.

*Christoph N. Meister*



Republika Hrvatska  
Republic of Croatia

Istarska županija  
Istrian County

Ured župana  
Governor's Office

Istrian County is seeking historical items regarding the Old golf course Brioni and old Golf Club Brioni (1922.-1947.). We are interested to buy in objects such as golf clubs, golf cups, golf balls etc. as well as collecting documents regarding the old course and old club such as maps, photos, cards, letters or personal information. Valuation proposals will be appointed by experts of the Istrian archaeological museum. Contact:

Mr. Damir Ritoša  
Sibenska 8, 52100 Pula, Croatia  
tel/fax: +385 52 506 632  
gsm: +385 52 738 254  
email: damir.ritosa@gmail.com

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## GOLFIKA – QUIZ

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Proposed by JBK who is offering a prize for the person who will provide the best answers in the shortest time period (Huguette is not allowed to compete☺). Question must be send by e-mail to [jbk@orange.fr](mailto:jbk@orange.fr). The prize is a book golf French golf book "Physiologie du Golf" written by Paul Mousset and published in 1949 is a limited edition of 2200. This well illustrated book is in good condition.

The Biarritz Golf Club opened in 1888. The first competition was offering a "Duffer Prize". It was won by Chevalier von Cittern, with a score of 316! This price can still be seen in the club. A similar price was later in another sport.

*Question 1. What this "duffer price" is?*

*Question 2. What other sport is offering a similar price?*

King Leopold of the Belgians was a very good golfer. In 1939, he took part in the Blackner Cup played on the Nice GC (at Cagnes sur Mer) and in the Belgian Amateur Championship at Le Zoute, being the only monarch ever played in a golf championship. After his exile, he continued to play regularly and, in 1949, using a pseudonym, he reached a pretty good position in the French Amateur Championship.

*Question 3. What was the pseudo he used?*

*Question 4. What level did he reach?*

Before World War I, the largest golf prize fund (£500) was offered outside UK.

*Question 5. In which contest (country and year)?*

Mlle Genevieve le Derff was a French woman playing at Fourqueux and Paris La Boulie. She was the very first woman ever competed in a National Open Championship.

*Question 6. When did this happen (month and year)?*

Golf was an Olympic game twice: 1900 in Paris and 1904 in Saint Louis. In 1908 it was planned to be played in London. The medals were struck, nevertheless golf was not an Olympic game since 1908 onwards. At the moment, it is question that golf would be back again.

*Question 7. In Paris, for the first time in the Olympic Games, there was a Ladies competition. Who was the winner in Golf Women Individual?*

Arnaud Massy was married with Janet Punton, a Scottish lady and their first daughter was born during Arnaud's victory in the Open in 1907. To commemorate this fact, they christened her Hoylake. But Massy had a second daughter; she passed away in 2005, donating a burse for girl's golf.

*Question 8. What was her name and surname?*

## 'WORLD FIRST' IN ANCIENT CHOULE/JEU DE CROSSE

By Geert Nijs

On the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> August golf historians from all over the world met in Belgium to experience, after reading the book 'CHOULE – The Non-Royal but most Ancient Game of Crosse', the real thing on the crosse fields of the Society 'Les Amis du Pic et du Plat' at Baudour, near the beautiful city of Mons (Bergen) in Belgium. For the first time in the almost 1.000 years history of 'choule' (for the Anglophones) or 'jeu de crosse' or 'crossage' (for the Francophones), golf players from Australia, Belgium, France, Germany, The Netherlands and Scotland came to the Belgian crosse fields to get to know in practice this remarkable very ancient continental golf game.

The golf historical societies of Australia, Britain and Europe were well represented by their respective captains: Michael Sheret, David Hamilton and Christoph Meister.



*Michael Sheret, overjoyed at hitting the planchette –  
Photo by courtesy of Johann de Boer*

Under the guidance of Marius Hallez, president of the Baudour crosse society, the very proud and friendly crosseurs showed the participants with infinite patience how to play the game, how to handle the crosse clubs (reversed baseball grip), how and when to choose one the many different ellipsoid balls, from small, heavy and extreme rigid nylon balls to very large light cork balls (bouchons). They explained when and how to 'chouler' and 'déchouler', etc.



*Christoph Meister and Geert Nijs being taught how to proceed from here to the next planchette*

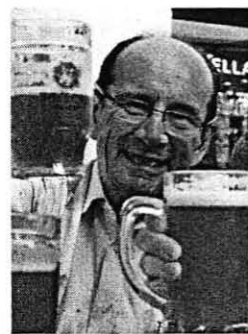
The crosse clubs and choulettes are produced by the players themselves. There are no pro-shops or Nevada Bob's where you can buy choule equipment.

There is no coordinating 'Saint Andrews'-like organisation to set general accepted rules. Contradictory to the French crosseurs who have fixed rules, the Belgians are free to produce equipment as they like. You see therefore golf drivers with reinforced (5 mm) strike faces, original crosse clubs with metal shafts, and grips made of insulation tapes. Balls are hand made from nylon, pressed wood, cork, willow, boxwood, etc.

There are just a few basic rules for the game. Players decide among themselves on how to go about special situations in the field.

The difference between the 'progressive' Belgian game and the 'traditional' French game has become so big, that at this moment, it is hardly possible to have cross-border tournaments between them.

The foreign players were flabbergasted about the ingenuity of the sport, about the surprising likeness between the royal game and the common game.



*After the outstanding perseverance on the crosse field, David Hamilton deserved a pint of outstanding Belgian beer*

The teaching and the playing on the field were regularly paused with a glass of famous Belgian beer, traditional crosseur meals, medieval music with ancient 'cornemuses' (Belgian bagpipes) and accordion instruments and by singing the very ancient song of Saint Anthony, since more than 600 years the patron saint of all crosseurs (and of all golfers).

Sara Nijs, co-author of the 'Choule book' and organiser of this unforgettable event, offered in the name of all golfers a statue of Saint Anthony to the Pic et Plat society, with the plea that the patron saint may help to preserve this wonderful game for many years to come.

For more detailed information about choule/jeu de crosse see [www.ancientgolf.dse.nl](http://www.ancientgolf.dse.nl)

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## JEU DE MAIL/PALL MALL/ MALIËN

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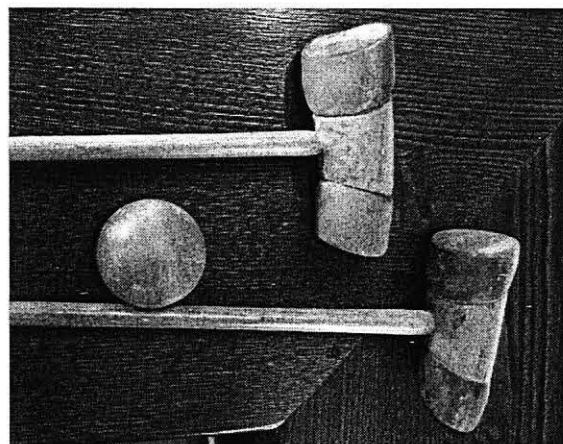
Last year at the annual meeting at Bad Ischl, we had the opportunity to present our research on the ancient game of choule/jeu de crosse. You can imagine that we are very proud that golf history interested people from several parts of the world have asked to acquire a copy of our publication 'CHOULE – The Non-Royal but most Ancient Game of Crosse'.

We have found so much pleasure in researching this ancient game that we are planning, analogous to the choule study, to start new research on the history of jeu de mail (pall mall in English, maliën



in Dutch, etc.). This game is so well known by its name but hardly by its contents.

Jeu de mail was not only played by 'Le Roi Soleil' at Paris, by the Duke of York on the Mall in London or by the commoners on the tracks around Montpellier, but also in various other countries in Europe.

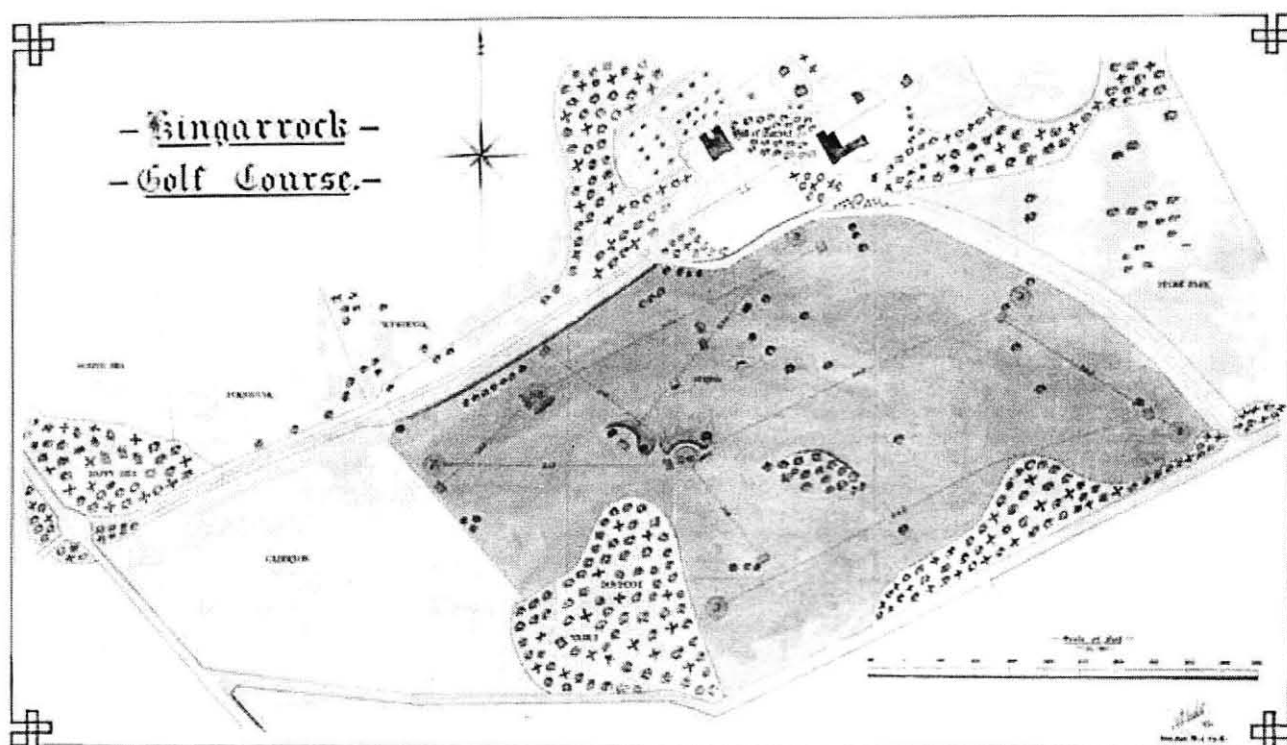


We wonder if readers of our Golfika magazine have information available about where, when, by whom and how this game was played. It would help Sara and me very much in directing our research. Thank you very much for your kind help. Geert Nijs - [ancientgolf@wanadoo.fr](mailto:ancientgolf@wanadoo.fr)



# KINGARROCK GOLF COURSE

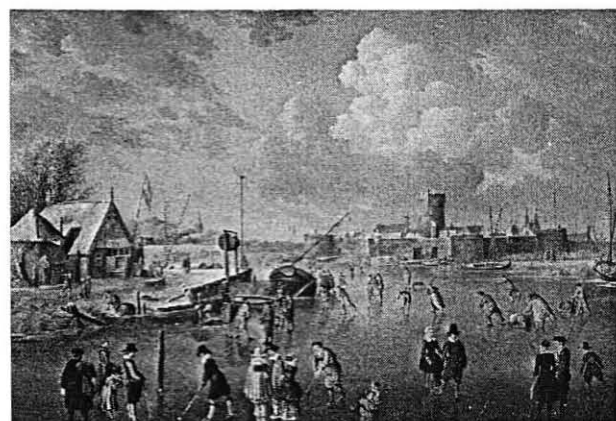
By Michelle Thissen



Kingarrock was built around 1920 by Frederick Sharp, a Dundee jute Baron. He moved to Hill of Tarvit from Dundee to be nearer St Andrews where he was a member of the Royal & Ancient Golf Club and a member of the Handicapping and General Committee. The 9-hole course, in those days, was used by some Professionals as a practice course before playing the Open at St Andrews.

His son, Hugh, was also a gifted sportsman and committee member with the R & A but, tragically died in a railway disaster in 1937. The course was then ploughed up and returned to agricultural use.

In 2002, when visiting the mansion house, which had been donated to the National Trust for Scotland, David Anderson noticed some beautiful old 17<sup>th</sup> century Dutch paintings featuring somewhere in the background someone playing KOLF.



He then was shown the old plan of the Kingarrock golf course dating from 1924.

After talking with some of his golfing friends he decided to rebuild the golf course. Peter McEvoy OBE, the amateur golf champion, redesigned the 9 holes as near as possible to the design of the old plan. A two hundred year old underground cundy, which ran through the course, was opened to create a water hazard and assist the drainage of the course.



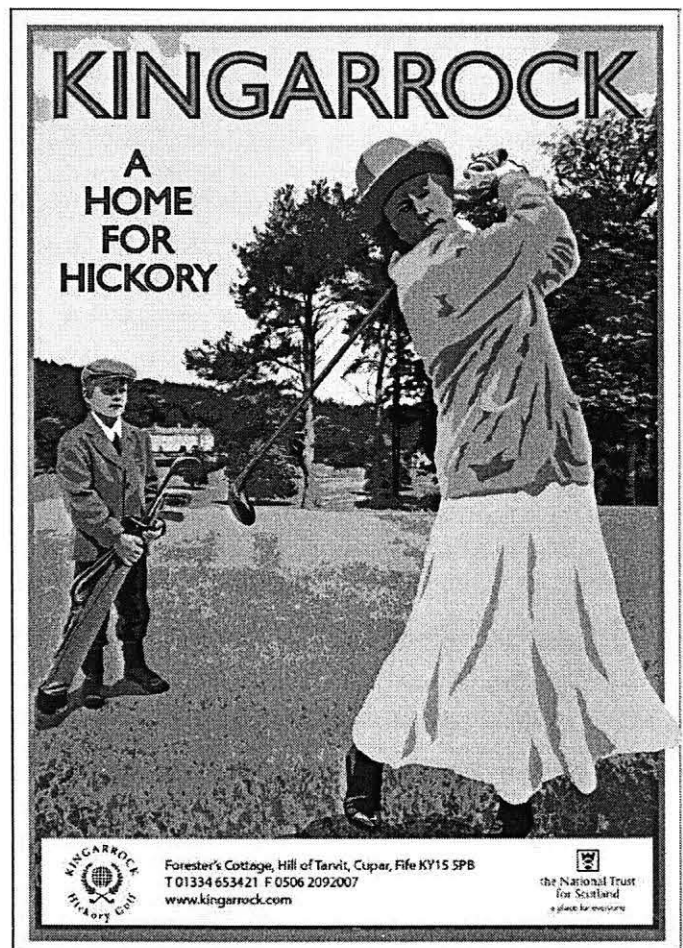
The old trees were kept and are growing better now without the cattle and sheep damaging them. Some trees (hickories and others) and bushes were planted to give some privacy at some tees and greens.



Only HICKORY shafted clubs are played on Kingarrock in keeping with the 1924 map before steel shafts were accepted by the R&A in 1929. This makes Kingarrock a very special golf course and unique in Europe.



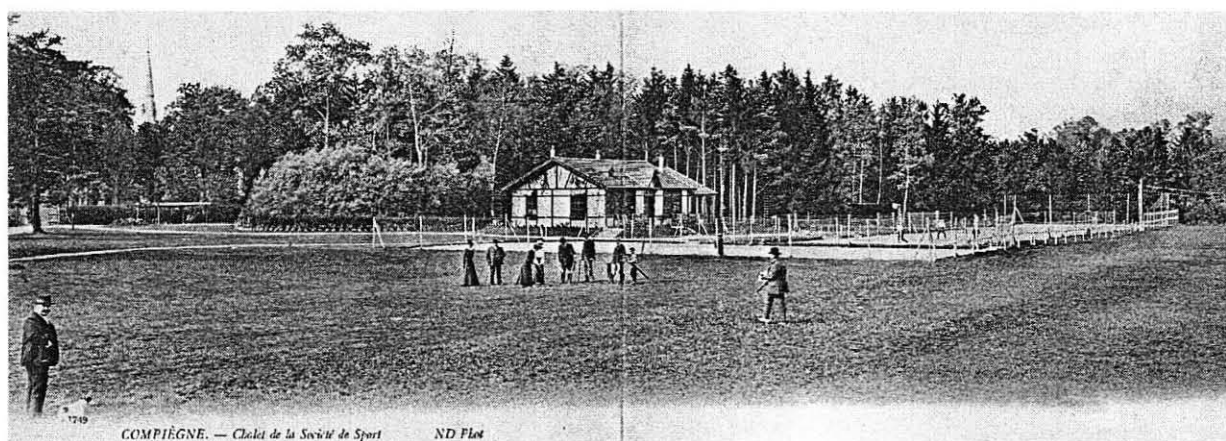
In the summer of 2008 the course was opened quietly to the public but without any marketing or advertising. Locals and visitors to St Andrews who heard about the project came along and played. The very first golfer from the USA wrote in the visitor's book: "Old Course in the morning and Kingarrock in the afternoon, golf cannot get any better" And many more enjoyed the experience!



*This year Kingarrock launched a 1920's railway style poster to start promoting the course for the first time.*

# GOLF – SILVER – BRONZE: WILL GOLF BE AN OLYMPIC SPORT IN 2016?

Stephan Wassong, Liverpool Hope University



Collection J.-B. Kazmierczak, Paris

## Introduction

The article is based on a presentation which I gave for a lecture series entitled “Golf Talks.” These were initiated by Prof. Dr. Dietrich Quanz and have for many years been organized by the German Golf Archive of the German Sport University Cologne. My presentation was made in March 2009 at the Maritim Hotel in Cologne.

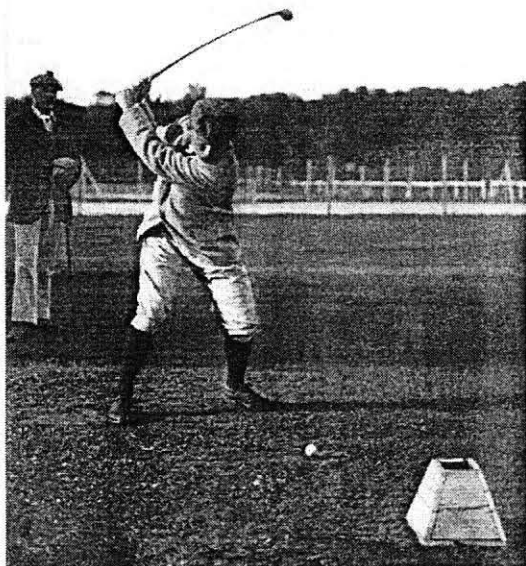
This was challenging as I was speaking to an audience who were clearly golf experts and certainly knew more about the game of golf than me. Of course, this was not ideal but I tried to make up for this by linking the golf topic with my research expertise on the history and development of the modern Olympic Movement. The article will follow the following structure: After some historical information on the success and failure of golf as an Olympic Sport I will examine why golf has not been included in the Olympic Programme for 2012. This will be done by focusing on the session of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in Singapore in 2005. The 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter will be an evaluation of the strategy of the International Golf Federation (IGF) as they seek admission as an Olympic sport at the IOC

Session in Copenhagen in October 2009. At this session the IOC members will vote on the sports programme for the 2016 Olympic Games. The host city has not yet been decided but the four cities in contention are Madrid, Rio de Janeiro, Tokyo and Chicago.

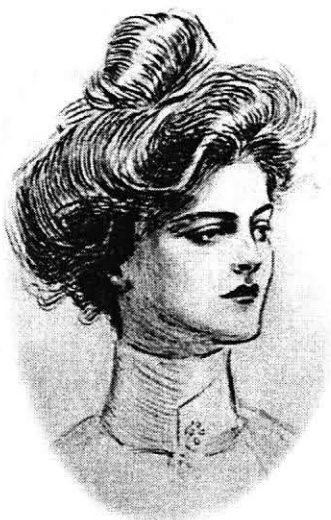
## A brief History of Golf as an Olympic Sport: more failure than success

Sport history teaches us that golf is not a new Olympic Sport. As early as the 1900 Paris Olympic Games which were organized as part of the World's Fair, competitions in golf took place. The Americans **Charles E. Sands** and **Margaret Abbott** were the respective winners in the men's and women's tournaments. Abbott an American exchange student at the Sorbonne only heard about the Olympic golf event by chance. She never thought of herself as an Olympic winner because it was only later that the golf competitions were recognised as Olympic.

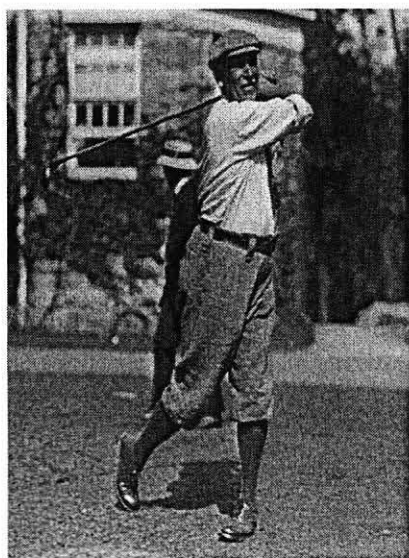
Golf was also included in the programme of the 1904 St. Louis Olympic Games which were again part of the World's Fair.



Charles E. Sands



Margaret Abott



George Lyon

The Canadian player George Lyon became Olympic champion. He was 46 years old and by this twice as old as his rival competitor Chandler Egan who was American Amateur champion at that time. Unlike in Paris, no women's tournament was organized in St. Louis. Apparently Lyon's golf style and technique caused controversy for many golfers. One newspaper columnist wrote that Lyon swings the club like a farmer his scythe. Another commented that the Olympic champion uses his clubs like a miner his pick. Of course, Lyon, for whom the Olympic title must have been a welcome, was nonetheless disappointed about these remarks and decided to write a letter to the United States Golf Association. In this letter he wrote that although he was not really proud of his style, he was still trying his best. Without doubt Lyon demonstrated real Olympic spirit.

But Lyon owed his prominence not to his technique. Rather he remains the most recent Olympic golf champion to the present day. Golf was also included in the programme of the 1908 London Olympic Games. Of course, Lyon travelled to London to defend his title. But unfortunately, no golf tournament took place as there were no other competitors. This awkward situation was caused by a lack of communication between the British Olympic Association and the Royal Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews. It is not unreasonable to suggest that this unfortunate confusion was the time at which Golf missed the chance to establish itself on the Olympic Programme.

Although no golf tournament was organized at the 1912 Olympic Games in Stockholm golf was to have been part of the 1916 Berlin Olympic Games. But these were cancelled because of World War One. An attempt to stage an Olympic golf tournament was made for the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games. The sport leader of the National Socialists, Hans von Tschammer und Osten, started lobbying to that end at the IOC in 1934/1935. His contacts persons were the IOC members in Germany Duke Adolf Friedrich of Mecklenburg and



Theodor Lewald who later became president of the organising committee for the Berlin Olympic Games. But Tschammer und Osten was not successful. The reason for this must not be seen in the often repeated argument that the IOC did not want golf. It is simply the fact that the IOC decided on the Olympic Programme long before 1934. The IOC stuck to its plan and remained unswayed by National Socialism's leaders, including Tschammer und Osten. By this the IOC preserved its autonomy. The only link between golf and the Olympic Games in Berlin was that the cross country race of modern pentathlon and the medal ceremony which followed took place at the golf course in Berlin-Wannsee. Officials, athletes, foreign noblemen and IOC members were given the opportunity to visit the golf club and its course:



In the decades following World War II discussion on an inclusion of golf in the Olympic Programme was a minor topic for both golf officials and the IOC. At the IOC other topics were of higher priority, including recognition of National Olympic Committees, boycotts, threat of boycotts, terrorism and the growing problem of doping. Even golf officials seemed to have lost interest in any Olympic ambitions in the 1960s and 1970s. At the general assembly of the World Amateur Golf Council in 1964 in Rome the proposal to submit an official motion for an inclusion of golf in the Olympic Programme was unanimously rejected. It was argued that the crowded tournament calendar would not make it possible to take part in the Olympic Games. In addition to this they added haughtily that

some hosting cities or bidding cities for the Olympic Games would not be able to provide golfers with adequate golf courses. The fact that the relationship between the IOC and the golfers was tense could be seen in the following statement by IOC president Lord Killanin in 1976: "If golfers ever want to be part of the Games they will have to be prepared for a long, hard fight and they have to take the initiative."

Golf officials took this advice to heart and became proactive in the 1980s. They decided on a low key strategy. The aim was to apply for the status of demonstration sport at the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games. The IOC had introduced demonstration sports in various disciplines since the twenties. Although the status of demonstration sport did not automatically guarantee future inclusion in the full Olympic Programme there were enough examples of success. For example: tennis had been a demonstration sport at the 1972 Munich and 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games before it became an official Olympic Sport in 1988. But the golfers were not successful with their strategy. Their motion was turned down as the IOC had already decided in 1989 to discontinue demonstration sports after Barcelona and in any case not to add further events to those already selected for Barcelona.

After this unsuccessful approach the golfers decided to apply for full Olympic status for the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games. This time they enjoyed the support of William Porter "Billy" Payne, one of the most important driving forces behind Atlanta's successful bid to host the Olympic Games. He became President of the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG). But there would be no Olympic golf tournament in 1996. In 1991 the newspaper USA Today revealed that that Robert Helmick accepted up to \$50,000 for lobbying the Olympic movement on behalf of Golf. At that time Helmick was president of the United States Olympic Committee (USOC), member of the IOC and President of the Atlanta Olympic Bidding Committee. On 18 September, 1991



Helmick stepped down as President of the USOC and as a member of the IOC. But the official reason for rejecting the application of the golfers for 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games was a different one. The venue for the Olympic golf tournament was to have been the Augusta National. The club was known for its restrictive membership policies – no women or blacks were allowed. Politically this was much too sensitive for the IOC. It was more convenient to turn down the overtures of the golfers. Also in 1991 the World Amateur Golf Council (WAGC) was recognized by the IOC as an IF. In 2003 the WAGC changed its name to International Golf Federation (IGF).

The IGF made another attempt to be become an Olympic Sport for the Olympic Games in London in 2012. The IOC decided the sporting composition of those games at its Session in Singapore in 1995. Why the IGF failed again is analysed in the following chapter.

#### **A missed chance at the 117<sup>th</sup> IOC Session in Singapore**

The decision process of the IOC when they include a sport on the Olympic Programme is a complex one. In a general way one has answer the following two basic questions in order to prepare the ground for the IOC's decisions in Singapore. 1. Why is it important for a sport to be included in the Olympic Programme? 2. What are the basic preconditions for a sport to be recognized as an Olympic Sport?

##### **1. Why is it important for a sport to be included in the Olympic Programme?**

Inclusion in the Olympic Programme means an increase of publicity for the respective sport. This is particular true for those sports in which competitions do not enjoy high media coverage. In addition to this, International Federations (IFs) included in the Olympic Programme are

financially supported by the IOC. To be more specific: the IOC allocates some of its income which it generates from the broadcasting rights and the The Olympic Partner Programme (TOP) to the Olympic IFs. The TOP – Programme guarantees companies, including amongst others McDonalds, Coca Cola, Visa and Kodak the rights to advertise their products with the Olympic rings and to call themselves Official Olympic Sponsor. Of course, these privileges are sold by the IOC for millions of US Dollars. The livelihood of some IFs strongly depends on this financial support by the IOC. For example: 71% of the overall budget of the Union Internationale De Pentathlon Moderne (UPIM) is financed by this revenue.

##### **2. What are the basic preconditions for a sport to be recognized as an Olympic Sport?**

A precondition for a sport to be included in the Olympic Programme is that this sport has an IF as a governing body which, amongst others, coordinates international competitions and safeguards the rules of the sport. The foundation of IFs was not necessarily stimulated by the re establishment of the modern Olympic Games by Pierre de Coubertin in 1894. Even before the first modern Olympic Games were held in Athens in 1896 some IFs had been established, including the Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique (FIG) in 1881 and the Federation Internationale des Societies d'Aviron (FISA) in 1892 (Rowing). The gradual establishment of the Olympic Movement led to the foundation of other IFs like the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) in 1900, Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) in 1904, Fédération Internationale de Natation (FINA) in 1908 and the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) in 1912. But the existence of an IF is no guarantee of inclusion on the Olympic Programme. The IOC is selective and

demanding in its requirements of the IFs. These include

1. According to the Olympic Charter the sport of an IF must be practised on at least four continents for summer sports and three continents for winter sports.
2. The IFs must acknowledge the Olympic Charter and must sign the World Anti Doping Code (WADC). But even the acceptance of these criteria does not automatically lead to inclusion on to the Olympic Programme. At first, the respective IF will receive the status of Olympic Recognized International Federation. At the moment there are 60 IFs with this Olympic status of which 28 were represented at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games and of which 7 will be represented at the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympic Games. These IFs are known collectively as the International Olympic Summer Federation International Olympic Winter Federation respectively. The IGF which is an Olympic Recognized International Federation has tried and will try hard to be promoted to International Olympic Summer Federation. It will be not the Executive Committee of the IOC which decides on the motion of the IGF but the members of the IOC Session.

Normally, IOC Sessions will be held annually. But every four years the session decides on modifications of the Olympic Programme. It is interesting to know that the decision of the IOC Session on including or excluding a sport from the Olympic Programme does not affect the Olympic Games which immediately follow. At the moment there is a period of seven years until the decision of the IOC Session becomes effective. A main topic of the agenda of the IOC Session in Singapore 2005 was the Olympic Programme for the Olympic Games in 2012 which were awarded to London at that IOC Session. As early

as 2002 the IOC had decided not to expand the sports programme and to limit it to a maximum of 28 sports which are represented by the IFs. This was the case in Athens 2004 and Beijing 2008.

The 117<sup>th</sup> IOC Session has some historical relevance as it was at this session when the whole Olympic Programme was evaluated. Each sport had to prove its attractiveness and relevance for the Olympic Programme in London 2012. IOC members voted to decide which of the sports represented in Athens and Beijing would be considered for the London Olympic Games. The decision was made on information which had been gathered by the IOC Programme Commission on all International Olympic Summer Federations since 2002. The file for the IOC members contained detailed material on each International Olympic Summer Federation, including information, amongst others, on the Olympic history of the sport, the structure of the IF, the universality of the sport, on infrastructural requirements of the sport in the Olympic tournament, the relevance of the Olympic Games for the athletes and on the IF's doping policies.

The result was that a) 26 of the 28 sports which were represented at the 2004 Athens Olympic Games retained their status for the 2012 Olympic Games and b) that baseball and softball were dropped from the Olympic Programme for London. Therefore, two slots were available to be filled by the inclusion of two new sports. At the invitation of the IOC Executive Committee five Olympic Recognized Olympic Federations applied for these two slots: the International Golf Federation, the International Rugby Board, the World Karate Federation, the World Squash Federation and the International Roller Sports Federation. In the complicated election process the following results were achieved

## 1st Election

1 <sup>st</sup> Round	2 <sup>nd</sup> Round	3 <sup>rd</sup> Round	4 <sup>th</sup> Round
Karate: 23	Karate: 27	Karate: 33	Squash: 40
Roller Sport: 20	Rugby: 22	Squash: 29	Karate: 39
Rugby: 17	Squash: 16	Rugby: 25	
Squash: 16	Roller Sport: 20		
Golf: 12			



Result: Squash was nominated as a possible Olympic sport

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Election

1 <sup>st</sup> Round	2 <sup>nd</sup> Round	3 <sup>rd</sup> Round
Karate: 32	Karate: 35	Karate: 54
Rugby: 23	Rugby: 33	Rugby: 28
Roller Sport: 22	Roller Sport: 28	
Golf: 15		



Result: Karate was nominated as a possible Olympic sport

But despite these election results for karate and squash neither of the two sports will be in the Olympic Programme for London. Why was this? According to the Olympic Charter and its article 46 which had been effective in 2002 sports which are nominated for an inclusion in the Olympic Programme must receive a two third majority of the members of the IOC Session in a final election. But neither squash nor karate achieved this majority and as a result only 26 sports will be represented in the London Olympic Games in 2012. The IOC can do this as a representation of 28 sports in the Olympic Programme is not mandatory. The Olympic Charter only stipulates that the number of sports must not fall below 15. But why did golf fall short in the election processes. An analysis of this would focus on the following three problems:

1. Structure of the IGF: In 1991 the IGF was recognized by the IOC as an Olympic Recognized Federation. According to IOC vice president Thomas Bach the IGF is a difficult and complicated IF for the IOC.

Despite its promising name "International Golf Federation" the federation occupies only the amateur section in the world of golf. Although the IGF is the only global federation in golf it does not have supreme authority over the professional game, here the Professional Golfer's Association and the PGA European Tour hold sway. In terms of structure there was not even an official link between the professionals and the IGF until 2002.

2. Relevance of the Olympic Games for golfers: This was one of most crucial points for the IGF at the session in Singapore. It heavily reduced the chances of golf becoming an Olympic Sport. This needs some explanation from a historical perspective. In the 1980s under the IOC presidency of Juan Antonio Samaranch Olympic rules on amateurism were first relaxed and then removed to open the Olympic Games to the best athletes of the world. The 1988 Seoul Olympic Games were the first open Olympic Games. A highlight of the new eligibility rules was the entry of the US Basketball "Dream Team" with its highly paid NBA stars at the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games. The opening of the Olympic Games for professionals made life easier for many IFs, but not for the IGF. In Singapore the IGF could not demonstrate that its Olympic ambitions were supported and welcomed by professionals. In the report of the IOC's Programme Commission it is said "that there remains no certainty that the best players would participate in the Olympic Games". It is far from speculation to say that this statement must have strongly influenced many IOC members in their voting strategies. In addition to this it is no secret that many golf professionals were not in favour of taking part in the Olympic Games and regarded them

merely as another tournament in their highly busy competition calendar. On top of that they referred to the Ryder Cup and Presidents Cup which were and are still regarded as something like the Olympic Games in the world of golf.

3. Doping: Without doubt, doping is the most sensitive issue discussed in the Olympic world and beyond. The IOC has forced its Olympic Federations to sign the World Anti Doping Code. To safeguard against any non-acceptance by the IFs the IOC took a clear position and threatened those who did not comply with exclusion from the Olympic Movement and the Olympic Games. It is an accepted fact that sports which want to be included in the Olympic Programme must prove a high commitment to anti-doping policies. Of course, golf does not have a long and problematic doping history. But even so the IOC expects clear and effective policies which the IGF could not demonstrate in Singapore. Again and again golf professionals stated (but did not provide any evidence) that their sport is clean. The WADC which was been ratified in 2002 was simply ignored. This was not very diplomatic and has shown the lack of sensibility of the golf professionals towards IOC anti-doping policies.

#### **A new structure and new points of view**

The IGF was frustrated about the result it achieved at the session in Singapore. Wolfgang Scheuer, president of the German Golf Association, made the point that it was above all the top players of tomorrow who were hoping for the inclusion of golf in the Olympic Programme. Similar statements were made by officials of the IGF. But at the same it was said that one has to concentrate on a more successful application for the

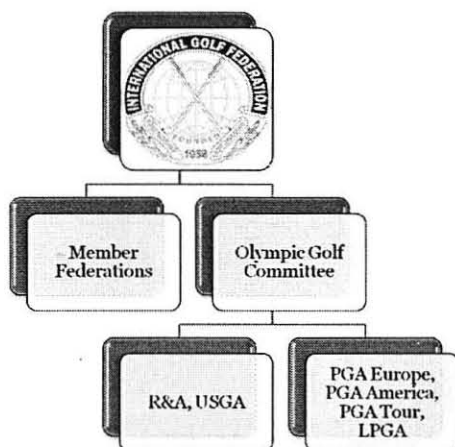
Olympic Games that will be held in 2016. The IOC has not yet decided on the host city the finalists are Madrid, Chicago, Tokyo and Rio de Janeiro. After the IGF had made its statement on its latest attempt to join the circle of Olympic Sports in 2005 attention was drawn to the existing narrow time frame. Although there were 11 years to go to the Olympic Games in 2016 the IGF were aware that in fact it takes 7 years for a new sport to be included on the Olympic Programme. The target year therefore is 2009. This year the IOC Session will gather in Copenhagen to decide on the Olympic Programme for 2016.

As there will be only 26 sports represented in London 2012 two Olympic Recognized Olympic Federations have the opportunity to have their sports represented in the Olympic Programme in 2016. The fulfilment of this objective will be made easier in some ways but in other aspects it will be a more difficult task. It will be more difficult than it was in Singapore because not 5 but 7 Olympic Recognized Federations will be in the loop: the International Golf Federation, the International Rugby Board, the World Karate Federation, the World Squash Federation, the International Roller Sports Federation, the International Baseball Federation and the International Softball Federation. These seven candidates will be evaluated by the IOC's Programme Commission in May and June 2009. Then the Programme Commission will inform the IOC Executive Board about the results of the evaluation and the Executive Board will decide whether the IOC Session in Copenhagen has to vote on all or only a selection of these candidates. Admission will be made slightly easier to achieve because of a small but significant change in the Olympic charter. As already mentioned karate and squash were not included in the 2012 Olympic Programme as both sports failed to receive the two third majority of the members of the IOC Session in Singapore. In Copenhagen only an absolute majority will be needed.



The success of the IGF's application in the pre-evaluations and then hopefully at the IOC Session in Copenhagen will strongly depend on whether or not the IGF has learned from the experiences in Singapore 2005. But what has the IGF done to increase its Olympic chances since 2005 in terms of its structure, the attitude of the professionals towards the Olympic Games and its doping policies.

In July 2008 the IGF founded the Olympic Golf Committee (OGC) with the aim of being more successful at the IOC Session in Copenhagen. The OGC is composed strategically as it is made up of officials from both the IGF and professional golf associations.



The IGF is represented by board members of the Royal & Ancient Golf Club and the United States Golf Association, the professionals by officials from the PGA European Tour, PGA of America, PGA Tour, LPGA and Augusta National Golf Club. Ty Votaw has become executive director of the OGC. This is also a clever strategy as Votaw is a prominent official in the professional golf world. At the PGA Tour he occupies the position of Executive Vice President of Communications and International Affairs. Peter Dawson, the current Chief Executive of the R & A, has given Votaw his backing: "Having someone of Votaw's reputation and expertise certainly enhances our efforts to add golf as an Olympic Sport".

Immediately after his nomination Votaw has started with some lobbying work for the Olympic ambitions of the golfers. At press conferences and meetings at the IOC Votaw has consistently claimed that the inclusion of golf into the Olympic Programme would support the further global development of the sport, that golfers as Olympic role models can encourage youngsters to play golf, that the Olympic golf tournament is no longer regarded as a burden to the official golf competition calendar, but rather as a special event with a high reputation, and that the golf professionals show their support for having their sport in the Olympic Programme.

The OGC stresses the last point by publicising positive attitudes of professionals towards the inclusion of golf on the Olympic Programme. Among these golf professionals are Tiger Woods and Laurena Ochoa. In addition to this the OGC has nominated so called global ambassadors to promote the Olympic aims of the golfers and the sympathy of the professionals towards the Olympic Games. Amongst these global ambassadors are the Swedish golf star Annika Sorenstam and the golf legend Jack Nicklaus. Both have made their support very clear:

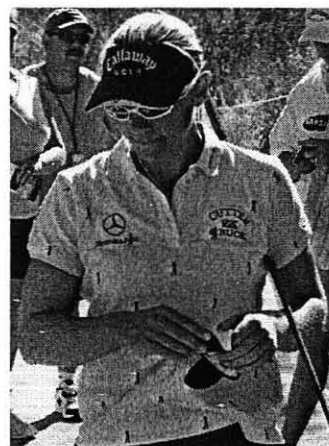


Photo: private collection

Annika Sorenstam:

*"It is an honour and privilege to take an active role in assisting golf's bid to become an Olympic sport. Now, as I step aside from competitive golf, a major objective of mine is to help grow the game around the world and I can think of no better way to grow it than through the Olympics."*



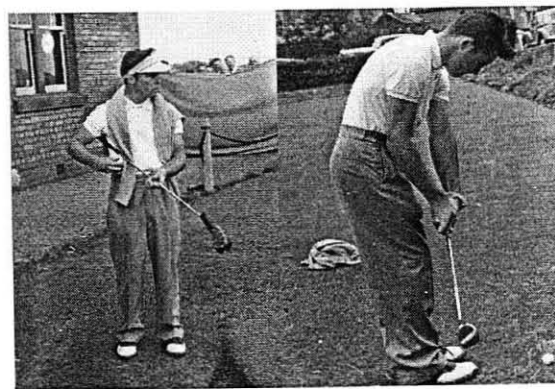
Photo: Deutsches Golf Archiv, Cologne

Jack Nicklaus:

*"Golf truly embodies the Olympic spirit with a foundation built on honour, integrity, dignity, and sportsmanship. I believe with its inclusion, golf can strengthen the Olympic Movement throughout the world. At the same time, it can have a tremendous impact on the growth of golf where it is a developing sport. I am pleased to lend my support to the cause."*

But what about the doping issue? Before Singapore 2005 doping did not seem to be an important issue for golfers. Statements like "Golf is a gentleman sport" or "doping does not make sense in golf" only stressed this attitude. It could be described as naive and reflected a lack of attention to a growing debate on doping in recent years.

In order to avoid the mistakes which were made in Singapore the OGC has to show that it takes the issue of doping seriously. Above all this is true for the structural attachment of the OGC with its representatives from the world of professional golf to the IGF which is the federation recognized by the IOC. It was the IGF and not the OGC which signed the WADC. It has to be made clear in Copenhagen that even the professional golf associations which are represented in the OGC but which do not belong to the IGF do nonetheless still officially accept the doping policies of the IGF. If there is a lack of transparency on this matter it will be another get out clause for the IOC to reject the sport again.



Gary Player - Photo: Private collection

The IGF, its OGC and associations for professional golfers have raised their awareness about doping. This was stimulated by South African golf legend **Gary Player** who raised the issue of doping in the professional golf world in July 2007. According to him there has been some evidence that there is a doping culture in golf. Player claimed that taking performance enhancing drugs, including creatin and steroids was not unusual on the big Pro Tours. In fact, Player has not come up with names but has mentioned that at least ten players were guilty of doping. According to Player the power and immense lengths of drives from some professionals is not only the result of improved techniques and making the best use of modern equipment. Even if some golf officials do not take Player's statement seriously and regard them merely negative opinions the fact remains that the world of golf is under general suspicion now – alongside with other sports. Unfortunately, this suspicion has been fed by rumours about some positive results in tests at golf tournaments in France and Italy in 2007.

Now the IGF and the professional golf associations have become proactive in the fight against doping. This has countered rumours of a laissez fair attitude of golfers and their associations towards doping. Since 2008 systematic doping controls have been in place, the acceptance of the WADC confirmed and player, amateurs and professionals alike, have been informed about WADA's list of forbidden substances and techniques. Tiger Woods and the Olympic Golf

Ambassadors support the increased campaign against doping in golf and they are demanding rigorous penalties against doping violations. Without doubt these are the proper signals for the IOC, its Programme Commission and for the forthcoming evaluation processes which can pave the way to the important IOC Session in Copenhagen.

Last but not least, history can be used to learn from the past. According to the analysis offered here, it seems to be that the IGF has learned from its experiences in Singapore 2005. The IGF seem to be better prepared this time. But nevertheless, the members of the IOC Session in Copenhagen will have to be convinced that the ideal of fair – play is an integral part of the game of golf. It is necessary to comply totally with the fundamental principles of Olympism. If golf officials need a further indication of this they need only refer to the last Olympic golf champion – George Lyon. As mentioned at the beginning of the article Lyon travelled to the Olympic Games in London in 1908. Unfortunately, no golf tournament took place as Lyon was the only player registered. The IOC offered him the gold medal but Lyon rejected this on the grounds that he did not want a medal which he had not deserved. Is this not a flavour of true Olympic spirit? The Olympic fate of the IGF is in the hands of the IOC members now. In October they will have to decide if golf is ready for the 2016 Olympic Games.

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For further information on this topic and on more references you might contact PD Dr. Stephan Wassong, Associate Professor at Liverpool Hope University ([wassons@hope.ac.uk](mailto:wassons@hope.ac.uk)).

**Important Note:** This article was written in March / April 2009 and therefore does not include the latest developments of the IOC decision-making.

# COMPARING THE ANCIENT GAMES OF SCOTTISH AND CONTINENTAL GOLF

By Geert & Sara Nijs

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> issue of 'Golfika' magazine, a very interesting study from Albert Bloemendaal was published. In this article, he explained the reasons why it took so much time before golf integrated in continental society. Several subjects were dealt with to find the reasons for the late introduction onto the continent.

Especially interested in the ancient continental golf games, we looked at some eye-catching similarities and dissimilarities between Scottish and continental golf. By comparing the different forms of golf, we learnt a lot about the importance of history, culture, economy and religion, etc. on the origin and development of sports in general and golf in particular.

## Origin

Various authors of books about the history of Scottish golf try to find the one and only original birthplace of golf and to explain how the game found its way from the cradle to Scotland. In the course of the years, 'historians' have put the cradle of golf in Japan, China, Thailand, Persia, from where it found its way, via Greece or Egypt to Italy, from where the Roman soldiers took the game by the name of 'paganica' to France, or even directly to England where the name changed in cambuca and worked its way up to Scotland. (Actually, contradictory to what is said in most books, paganica does not seem to be a stick and ball game at all, but a handball game.) Others see paganica changed into 'jeu de mail', which conquered Hainaut (jeu de crosse) and Flanders (colf), from where it crossed the Channel to England and from there to Scotland.

It is also said that the game went from Flanders to Holland, from where it crossed the North Sea to Scotland.



*Some historians are of the opinion that Flemish knights in the army of William the Bastard brought the game of choulet/jeu de crosse into England in 1066 (battle of Hastings) and later on to Scotland – Musée de la Tapisserie de Bayeux, France*

To prove their own thing, some historians even manipulate history by deciding in their wisdom, that for example all mentions made of colf and golf are mentions about ancient hockey. Others declare that the ancient games of jeu de crosse and

colf, which are called so for hundreds of years are not jeu de crosse or colf anymore, but jeu de mail, for the reason that in the games composite clubs are used.

Modern historians however are of the opinion that in many cases, games develop independently in different parts of the world. They do not exclude the possibility, that a game developed in one region, could be influenced by a comparable game elsewhere through trade, politics, wars, etc. An interesting example is the use of Netherlandish colf balls in Scottish golf and Scottish clubs in Netherlandish colf.

## Darwin

Studying some of the many books about Scottish golf, you might get the impression that the game of golf was an invention. Most authors put the day of birth between 1427 A.C. and 1457 A.C. and are of the opinion that the game became extremely popular within a few decades. Hardly any author has tried to find a Darwinistic evolutionary process of stick and ball games that developed step by step into what is now golf.

The same applies for the game of colf. Too many authors proclaim 1297 as the year of birth of colf and Loenen aan de Vecht as the 'cradle'. The Netherlandish historian Steven van Hengel considered the game of colf as a mix of 'jeu de mail' and 'jeu de crosse'. Unfortunately, he did not substantiate his claim.

Until 2008 the history of choulet/jeu de crosse was never researched. The way in which two teams play in turn 'to and fro' to reach a single target gives the impression that the game evolved from ancient hockey.

Many authors are of the opinion that jeu de mail developed from the Italian 'palio malio' club and ball game. So far we have not found any substantiation.



## Popularity

Many golf authors want us to believe that golf was very popular in Scotland, right from the start in 1457, and remained so for many years to come. It is admitted that there has been a decline in the popularity of the game by the commoners, due to the fact that 'leathery' balls, and later the 'feathery' balls were too vulnerable and too expensive for the common people. Also the continuous increase of the number of clubs used was too heavy a burden on the purse of the working man. Furthermore, the labourers could not play on prepared playing fields. Such fields were the property of the nobility and the bourgeois. That golf nevertheless survived, was because of the well-to-do, who could easily afford the cost of playing.

The question arises, why the commoners did not continue to play with the original wooden balls. These balls were less vulnerable and far less expensive than the 'leatheries'. Why didn't they continue to play with one club as they did before? Why didn't they play on uncultivated wasteland, links and commons, when they were driven out of the city streets? These lands were not the exclusive property of the rich.



*Even today most crosseurs play on unprepared 'crosse courses'. They enjoy themselves on wasteland, meadows, etc., only during the winter period. They still play with wooden balls and one or two crosse clubs. – A challenging pool at the crosse course of the society 'La Franco-Belge', Gognies-Chaussée, France*

We have the impression that crosseurs were a different kettle of fish. Like golfers, crosseurs played originally with wooden balls. They must have seen the leather balls from their 'jeu de paume' colleagues, but they did not see any reason to switch to these far more expensive balls. Crosseurs used only one club to play their game, a club with two faces. Until a few decades ago, they were never tempted to use more than one crosse.

When even one club was too expensive for the common players, they simply shared a club between them. Crosseurs never played on specially prepared 'courses'. They used meadows, wastelands and farm land. It still is one of the major features of the game.

Colf players too played and kept on playing with wooden balls till the game ceased to exist. The people who could afford to play with the leather ball, did so. Common people continued to play with wood. As can be seen on the many 'Golden Age' Netherlandish paintings and drawings, colfers used only one club for their game.

In southern France, jeu de mail was a game for the rich and the 'poor': mailers used wooden balls, one club, and they played everywhere where the town council had not chased them away yet.

Taking all the above into account, you might wonder if the game of golf was indeed so popular with the common people as historians want us to believe.

## Religion

Another reason for the decline in popularity of Scottish golf in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century was the Reformation, the overthrow of the Roman Catholic Church by the 'Protestant' religion in Scotland. The new religious puritans had a very fundamentalist attitude to sport in general, but specifically to sport on Sundays. The Sunday was for worship and not for leisure. So in most parts of Scotland, golf was prohibited on Sundays. Still today, the Old Course in Saint Andrews is closed for golf on Sundays. For the golf minded nobility and the bourgeois this rule was not too much of a problem. They could easily afford to play during the week. But what about the common people?



*After the Reformation, the 'Sabbath' became the day only for worship and not for playing games. It deprived most common golfers the possibility of playing golf after a week hard work. –*

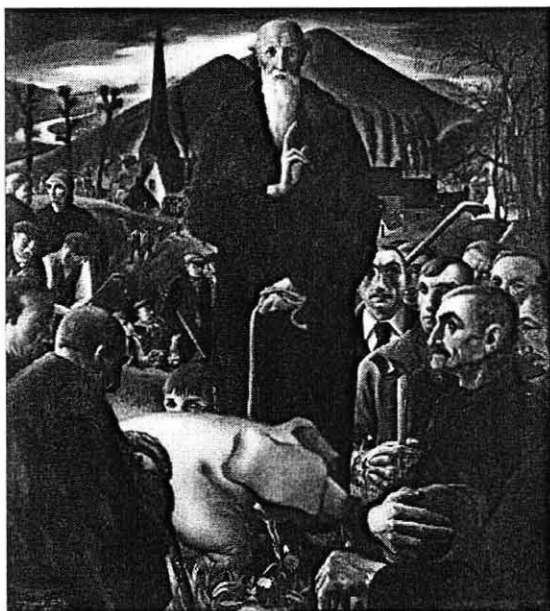
*J.C. Dollman, 'The Sabbath Breakers', 1896*

Practically all of them worked long hours during six days a week. The only day that they had free time to play was on Sunday, but on Sunday, the church forbade to play. This meant the end of playing golf for the working men.

According to Steven van Hengel in his book 'Early Golf', Scottish golf was kept alive by less than 500 well-to-do people, of which many Freemasons who used a 'round of golf' as an 'appetizer' for a copious meal afterwards.

How different it was at the other side of the Channel. In the Northern Netherlands, the new religion was far less fundamentalist as in Scotland. People continued to play golf on Sundays, all be it only after the long church services. In the Southern Netherlands and in France, people remained truthful to the Roman Catholic Church. The church authorities were never against people playing games, as long as these sports and the time of play did not interfere with the religious duties. Often the church included games like choulet/jeu de crosse in the religious calendar, combining religious duties with playing games. So most of the time, crosseurs could play on Sundays, on name days of specific saints, after pilgrimages, processions, at Easter Monday and Boxing Day. The clergy was of the opinion that the body had to or could play a role in prayer: "Playing is praying too."

Religion in Belgium and France kept jeu de crosse alive, while in Scotland it almost killed the game.

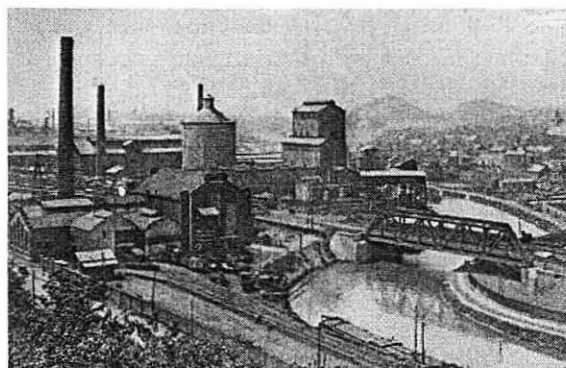


*In the Roman Catholic region of the ancient County of Hainaut, jeu de crosse was part of the religious calendar. Saint Anthony was even the patron saint of all crosseurs. –*

*'Saint Anthony blessing the crosseurs', Gilles Marcel, 1953, Musée des Beaux Arts, Mons, Belgium*

## Industrial Revolution

The industrial revolution took place in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, especially in England. Before the revolution almost 80% of the population in Western Europe worked in agriculture and lived in the countryside. People were accustomed to a life in accordance with a natural time scale. In summer, there was so much work to do on the land, that there was hardly any time left for playing games. The industrial revolution drew very many people to the cities to work in the factories, mines, etc. These people had to change their lives from a seasonal time controlled life to an industrial time controlled life. In his article Albert Bloemendaal explained the consequences of this change for the people playing golf.



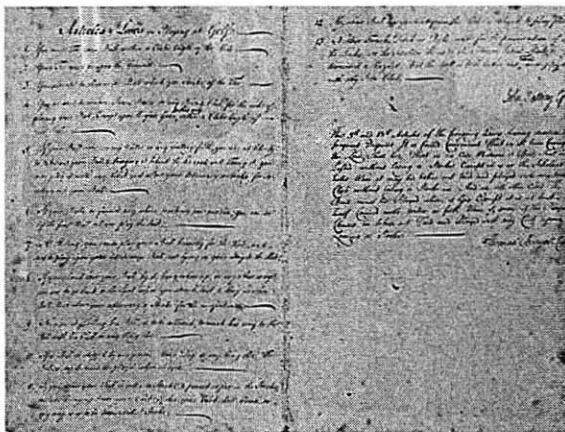
*The industrial revolution on the continent started in the coal and iron mine districts in Belgian Wallonia and the French border region. The many coalminers in the Borinage took up the game of choulet/jeu de crosse. The mine management even stimulated them to play on Sundays in the fresh air. – NELS, Thil, Bruxelles*

It is not very well known that Wallonia and the French border region, the cradle of choulet/jeu de crosse, were the birthplace of the continental industrial revolution, with the coal and iron mines and the related industries. Thousands of people moved from the agricultural countryside to the mines and the industries. We do not know about any sport related research being made in relation to the Walloon industrial revolution. We do know that many miners in the Walloon Borinage and the French neighbourhood became active crosse players. They were even encouraged by the mine management to play the game on Sundays, to get the much needed fresh air after a week working underground in the most dreadful circumstances. Also the church encouraged the miners to play, to prevent them spending their minimal salary in the cafés. The crosse playing miners were even allowed to produce clubs and balls in the mine workshops. Miners have given a tremendous

boost to the game of crosse in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Read for example the novel *Germinal* from Emile Zola.

## Rules

In 1744, 300 years after the 'birth' of golf, the first (hand) written rules of golf were laid down by the Gentlemen Golfers of Edinburgh. For many authors, this was the date that the game of golf became the sport of golf. However, these 13 rules were only meant for the gentlemen and for players outside the new founded society, who wanted to play in the Gentlemen's tournament. These rules existed in Leith already for probably a long time, but were now officially written down. These rules were officially accepted by other groups of regular golf players, although they probably adhere to the same (unwritten) rules as in Leith.



*The 1744 rules of the Gentlemen Golfers of Edinburgh were the first very local rules who in the course of the years, via Saint Andrews, developed into worldwide accepted 'decisions'.* –

[www.leith-rules-golf.co.uk/theoriginalrules.htm](http://www.leith-rules-golf.co.uk/theoriginalrules.htm)

When in 1754 the golfers in Saint Andrews founded a golf society, they adopted the 'Leith Code' (including the Leith local rule, number 13). The Saint Andrews Society wanted to organise a tournament that was open also for non members of their society. Therefore they needed rules to be known by all participants. Why they did not write their own set of rules, is not clear. These adopted rules were not meant for everybody in Scotland, but just for Saint Andrews, what happened to be a rather cosmopolitan golf society, much more than the Edinburgh Golf Society. Because Saint Andrews was a university town, many students from outside Saint Andrews were members of the society. When in the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Saint Andrews made major changes and additions to the rules, these were taken by the students and the players from outside Saint Andrews to their

own regions and they introduced them there: these rules became generally accepted in other parts of Scotland and later on in the whole of Great-Britain. This is the basic reason that Saint Andrews became the (rules) home of golf instead of Edinburgh.

As far as we know, jeu de crosse had never official rules until the foundation of the 'Groupement des Association Françaises de Crosse-Golf' and the 'Association des Amis du Pic et du Plat' in Baudour, Belgium, in the late 1960's. There must have been unofficial rules in the crosse region, in which the three choules to one déchoule were mentioned. This rule existed already in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The earliest document we know about, dates from 1901, being the announcement of a tournament in which competitors from all over the region would participate. Nothing was said about which rules would be applied. This means that at least basic rules were known by all contestants. Exceptional situations would be handled by the players themselves or by the organising committee. This was not very different from the way golf was 'ruled' in Scotland, before the generally accepted 'decisions' from Saint Andrews.

Written rules for the game of colf have so far not been found. The game was probably played in the same way as golf and crosse: basic rules, known to everybody and players decided among themselves in specific, not covered situations in the field.

Some of the unwritten rules of colf can be found in the 'Tyrocinium Linguae Latinæ' from 1552 A.C., a Netherlandish book to learn the Latin Language, written by Pieter van Afferden:

- you should not stand in the way of a player who is going to play the ball
- when you make an air shot, you loose a stroke
- you are not allowed to play the ball out of turn.

To say that colf had official rules in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, is too heavy a statement. The game of colf ceased to exist before players organised themselves in societies and developed written rules, as happened in Scotland.

Nearly 100 years before John Rattray wrote the first 13 rules of golf for the Gentlemen Golfers of Edinburgh, jeu de mail players in France played already under printed rules. These rules were much more detailed than the rules in the 'Leith Code'. The mail code was printed so that they could be known much more easily by all players.



The statement that golf was one of the first sports who used fixed rules, seems to be inaccurate.

The book 'La Maison académique', 1702, which we found at Montpellier, shows the rules of some twenty different in- and outdoor games, including jeu du piquet, jeu de la paume, jeu du billard and jeu du palle-mail. The oldest known rules on jeu de mail are from 1659 in the 'Académie des jeux' by De la Marinière: more than 80 rules, covering not only the rules of the game but also the regulations.

When in 1637 in Utrecht (Netherlands) the 'Maliebaan' (mail course) was constructed – according to King Louis XIV of France the most beautiful mail alley in the world – the town council of Utrecht issued a 'code of order'. In this code were also included some rules of play.



In 1637, at the opening of what would become the most beautiful mail alley in Europe, a code of order was written in which some rules of play were already included – *Ordonnance for the mail course at Utrecht, The Netherlands, 1637* – Do Smit, Utrecht, Netherlands

Jeu de mail knew also professionals, the so-called palemardiers, who taught people how to play. They produced balls and clubs and were also professional players. We do not know if these palemardiers were members of a guild or society and as such perhaps responsible for the rules of the game. Palemardiers like the Grasset Brothers and Coste can clearly be compared with the ancient professionals in Scotland, like the Morris's, the Park's, the Robertson's, etc.

In Montpellier, there existed also a mail society called 'Les Chevaliers du Bois Roulant' (Knights of the Rolling Wood). We do not know yet since when this society existed and if they had anything to do with setting, changing or extending the rules of the game, as is the case with the Saint Andrews Society in Scotland.

After reading the essay of Albert Bloemendaal and studying the relation of Scottish golf with the three main continental golf games, the question arises why golf in the end developed into one of the most popular games in the world, while choules/jeu de crosse is struggling to survive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and colf died already some 300 years ago and jeu de mail ceased to exist after 1939.

There is still some very interesting work to be done, on both sides of the North Sea and the Channel.

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## WHAT IS WRONG WITH 1297 AND 1457?

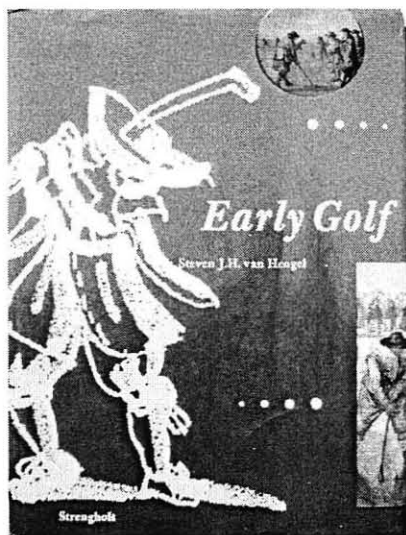
By Geert & Sara Nijs

The years 1297 and 1457 are very much related to the history of Scottish golf and their Netherlandish colleague colf. The year 1297 is seen by many as the 'starting' point of the game of colf, while 1457 is seen as the official beginning of the game of golf. Every book on the history of golf uses these dates unconditionally.

However, the last few years these dates are discredited by various 'historians'. What is the matter with these dates? Why aren't they taken for granted anymore?

### THE YEAR 1297

No other book has had such an impact on the historiography of Scottish golf as 'Early Golf' from the Netherlandish golf historian Steven J.H. van Hengel. From its publication in 1982, this book, dealing with the history of Netherlandish colf and kolf, received much attention in books, articles and websites about the history of Scottish golf. It is surprising that before nor after the publication of this book, no additional research has been done about the game of colf that showed so much likeness to Scottish golf, a game that was more popular in the Low Countries in the Middle Ages than football is today.



*The book 'Early Golf' from the Netherlandish amateur historian Steven van Hengel, published in 1982, in which he told the story about colf in Loenen aan de Vecht*

One of the subjects discussed in 'Early Golf' received tremendous attention in the endless series of publications about Scottish golf. Most of the attention was focussed on the year 1297. In that year, on Boxing day, a colf match was played in the village of Loenen aan de Vecht in the Netherlands. This game was played in that village

till 1830 to commemorate the murder on Floris V, count of Holland, and to celebrate the capture of his murderer Gerard van Velsen and his death in 1296. This all according to Steven van Hengel, the first Netherlandish golf historian.

Many (pseudo) historians concluded from this sporting event, that golf was played in the Netherlands already 200 years before the Scots made their first swing and so, that golf originates from the Netherlands and that it was exported from there to the links of Scotland. This to the displeasure and unbelief of many Scots.

In the last few years several authors, mainly from the continent, are questioning if this 'Loenen match' ever took place. Some of these sceptics have already made up their minds and call Steven van Hengel a fantasist, an impostor and a disgrace to the historical golf society, a man who did not double check his sources, who invented the story himself and gulled so many naive readers.

### What is the Loenen match story?

Floris V was the count of Holland, a small but rather important county in the Low Countries.



*Floris V, the count of Holland, who changed partners from the King of England to the King of France. It meant his death.*

It was this count who claimed the Scottish crown, on the flimsy grounds that his grand-grandmother was the sister of King William I, the grandfather of the deceased King Alexander III. Floris was one of thirteen claimants.

Although he did not get any support for his claim from the English King Edward I, he remained an ally to the English king.

When for political reasons King Edward moved the total wool trade from Holland to Flanders in order to gain support from the Flemish count against France, Floris, in his anger, switched sides to France. Because Edward did not want to have disloyal 'neighbours', he conspired to eliminate the count. A nobleman called Gerard van Velsen killed Floris in December 1296. He in turn was killed by an angry peasant mob when his castle in Loenen aan de Vecht to which he had fled, was captured. Legend has it that Gerard was put in a 'spiky' barrel and rolled through the streets of Loenen till death. It is said that the routing of the colf match followed the routing of the barrel.

To commemorate the death of Floris and to celebrate the capture and death of the murderer, people started to play a colf match the following year and continued to do so every year till 1830, when the castle was demolished.



*Floris V was killed in December 1296 by Gerard van Velsen, probably at the instigation of King Edward I – Drawing by Johannes Jurrens, 1911*

### Early Golf

Already in 1972, Steven van Hengel wrote about the 'Loenen match' in the Netherlands magazine 'GOLF'. Because it was written in Dutch, it did not attract much attention in the Anglo-Saxon golf world.

In 1982, he told in his 'Early Golf', written in English, that in 1297 two teams of four players struck in turn a wooden ball with a wooden stick towards several consecutive targets.

The first 'hole' commenced at the Courthouse in Loenen and ran to the kitchen door of Kronenburg

castle. The winners of this first hole (or better: door) received a barrel of beer, while the spectators were showered with apples. The second hole went to the door of a mill, followed by a hole to the front door of the castle 'Huis te Velde', where again the winners received a barrel of beer and the spectators could pick up some more apples. The last hole went back to the Courthouse door and was followed by a big party in the tavern.

In 1997, when the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Loenen match was celebrated, nobody expressed in the open any doubts about the truthfulness of the story.

But in the 2002 December issue of the Netherlands golf magazine 'GOLFjournaal', the first article appeared about the truthfulness of the Loenen story. This article was written by the golf historian Ayolt J. Brongers. He wrote: "Van Hengel was not a historian, he was a very enthusiastic man. Perhaps in his hyper enthusiasm he handled the Loenen story to unquestioning."

Michael Flannery, the co-author of 'Golf through the Ages', expressed his anger about the, in his opinion, inaccuracy of the Loenen story: "Van Hengel made up the whole story. The bibliographical support he offers in his book did not exist. Gullible readers around the world who never took the time to verify the sources, I too, swallowed his history of the origins of golf. I was shocked and furious when I discovered that it was fiction. Golfers, writers and historians were hoodwinked by Van Hengel."

Dr. Heiner Gillmeister, linguist and sports historian characterises the Loenen story as: "Absolute nonsense, there is not one written piece of evidence. It is an anecdote, an oral tradition."

Renée Vink, an historical oriented author of detectives, is of the opinion that the Loenen story "is fiction, a 19<sup>th</sup> century addition to history, but historical myths are often more beautiful than the truth."

### The origin of the story

The Loenen golf match was certainly not invented by Steven van Hengel and he never used that story to claim that Scottish golf was of Dutch origin; the golfers did, the writers did, the historians did. He just told the story that colf (and not golf) was already played in 1297. Van Hengel found the story in a book called 'De Volksvermaken' (Public entertainment), written

by Jan ter Gouw in 1870, long before Steven van Hengel was even born. Van Hengel mentioned his source openly in the bibliography of his book 'Early Golf'.

A reprint of the book of Ter Gouw can be found in every public library in the Netherlands. The Loenen story does not need to be a secret for anybody who can read Netherlandish.

In 'De Volksvermaken', Jan ter Gouw stated clearly that he found this story in the magazine 'Nieuwe bijdragen ter bevordering van het Onderwijs en de Opvoeding' (New contributions for the promotion of education and upbringing) of March 1870, a much respected periodical from the Ministry of Education.

In this issue, a certain Hendrik Breuninghoff who was a headmaster at that time, mentioned that when he was an assistant teacher in 1836, he heard about the 'spiky barrel' which he judged as being unlikely, but he described the golf match on Boxing Day and mentioned that the match was played till 1830.



*The book 'De Volksvermaken', written by Jan ter Gouw in 1870, in which Steven van Hengel found the story about colf in 1297*

So, Jan ter Gouw was not the original source. So far it was Hendrik Breuninghoff. But where did he find the story? Or perhaps did he make up the story himself? No documents have been found or have been looked up to support the idea of the Loenen story. If Breuninghoff invented the story, one should wonder where he did find the information about how the game was played: with wooden balls and clubs, with targets, series of holes, etc. Colf was not played for more than 150 years. Over the centuries, historians have never

shown any interest in the history of 'unprofitable' games, even when they were very popular at that time. The question remains: why did he invent such a story or where did he find the original story?

Breuninghoff has a rival. There are unconfirmed stories, that the Loenen colf match was composed by Jacob van Lennep (1802-1868), a lawyer, politician and 'romantic' author. It is also said, that not Van Lennep, but a university friend, perhaps Dirk van Hogendorp, wrote the story. Here again you could wonder where they found the specific information or why they invented such a story. The original story from Jacob van Lennep or Dirk van Hogendorp has not been found or has never been looked up.



*Jacob van Lennep was a 'romantic' author who wrote several novels with a historic background—  
Portrayed by A.J. Ehnlé/P. Blommers*

## Conclusion

Steven van Hengel was not an impostor, although he did not double check his information sources. In the world of (amateur) historians this is not uncommon. He who is without sin, throw the first stone.

Van Hengel did not invent the story. What he did, was dressing up a wonderful story he found.

The observation that the name Boxing Day or 2<sup>nd</sup> Christmas day came only in use in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, is not relevant. Christmas day was a day of festive prayer and entertainment could be held the day after.

Also the improper inclusion of the 'spiky barrel' is not relevant to the colf match. One should consider that as a poetic licence, dressing up the story.

As long as the original story has not been found or looked up, if it exists at all, we better include the Loenen colf match in the list of 'legend has it'



... that Mary Queen of Scots played golf and pall mall on the grounds of Seton Palace in 1567;  
 ... that King James VII played with a cobbler, James Patterson, in 1680 (or 1682?);  
 ... that a Scottish or German or Flemish or French shepherd invented the game of golf (or colf or choule or chicane) when he was hitting pebbles into a rabbit hole with his shepherd's crook.



Legend has it that golf was invented by shepherds who hit for one reason or the other pebbles into rabbit holes – Detail of a tapestry in Hôtel Dieu, Beaune, France

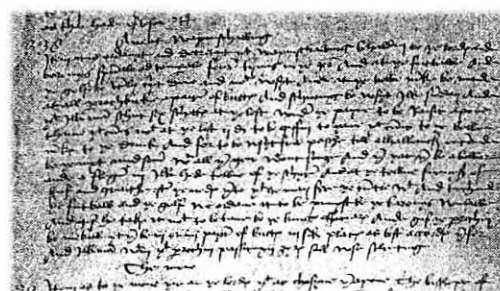
Sometimes, fiction is more beautiful than reality.

## THE YEAR 1457

The most important date mentioned in the many books about the history of Scottish golf is 1457. In that year, King James II of Scotland banned by a Royal Edict the game of football and golf. In an earlier Edict, in 1427, his predecessor, James I, banned football, but did not mention the game of golf. Scots concluded therefore that golf was 'born' between these two dates.

The last few years however, some (not Scottish) historians have expressed their doubts about the correctness of this conclusion. They question the meaning of the word 'golf', used in the Act of Parliament. In their opinion the word 'golf' meant a game in which two teams fight over one ball and try to put that ball into a beforehand decided target. A kind of hockey.

## The 'Golf' Acts of Parliament



Detail of the Act of Parliament, Edinburgh, 6 March 1457: Item it is ordanyt and decretyt ... (th)at ye futbawe and ye golf be utterly cryt done and not usyt and (th)at ye bowe markes be maid at all parochkirkes apair of buttes and schuting be usyt ilk sunday ... Item, it is ordained and decreed ... that football and golf be utterly condemned and stopped and that a pair of targets be made at all parish kirks and shooting be practised each Sunday ... – Olive M. Geddes, *A swing through time – Golf in Scotland 1457 – 1743*, 1992

In the late Middle Ages, the relationship between the kingdoms of England and Scotland was not very friendly, not to say hostile.

In the Hundred Years' War between England and France (1337–1453), the Scots took sides with the French and many Scottish soldiers fought together with the French army. Until the appearance of Jeanne d'Arc and the introduction of firearms (gunpowder), the big battles (Crécy-en-Ponthieu 1346, Poitiers 1356, Agincourt 1415) were won by the English. The superiority of their 'long bow' archers was responsible for these victories.

To prevent the English armies to invade Scotland, it was of paramount importance that the Scots would improve considerably their archery skills.



The various Franco-English battles in the Hundred Years' War prompted the Scottish kings to ban unprofitable games like golf to the advantage of practising archery – Bibliothèque nationale de France



It was therefore that King James I in an Act of Parliament banned the game of football and ordered the Scots to practise archery on Sunday's. No other games were banned. Football must have been by far the most popular game in Scotland.

How strong this ban was enforced upon the people, we do not know, but after 33 years it seemed to be necessary to point out to the Scots the importance of practising archery. In a new Act of Parliament in 1457, King James II banned football and golf in favour of archery practising. In this act, for the first time the game of golf was mentioned. Historians concluded that the game of golf must have been born between these two dates. It is surprising

... that none of these historians ever has wondered how a game like golf just can be invented and become very popular in just 30 years time;

... that they never wondered why in these Acts of Parliament the game of shinty was not mentioned, although this game was very popular, especially in the Highlands;



*Some historians consider golf as named in 1457 as being a kind of hockey game. Was it perhaps shinty, the centuries old Irish and Scottish 'to and fro' team game? – The Penny Magazine, 1835*

... that they never thought of golf being perhaps an umbrella name for different stick and ball games, as 'jeu de crosse' was on the continent;

... that they never wondered if a game like golf could have evolved out of other more ancient games. This to the contrary of the continent where the early medieval stick and ball games evolved in the course of the centuries into games like colf, crosse, mail and many other more 'modern' stick and ball games.

It was Professor Heinrich Gillmeister, teaching English at the University of Bonn in Germany and a renowned sports historian, specialised in the games of tennis and golf, who put question marks behind the published conclusions of previous historians about the relationship between the Acts

of Parliaments of 1427 and 1457 and the birth of the game of golf. As a philologist, he researched the meaning of the word golf as used in the act of 1457.

He found an answer in a book from a Scottish nobleman, Sir Gilbert Hay, from 1460. This book, 'Buik of King Alexander the Conqueror', is according to Gillmeister a translation of a French Alexander novel. He did not mention who was the French author.

In the English version Gilbert Hay used the word 'golf staff' for the French word 'crosse' what in Gillmeister's opinion means hockey club. Without a shadow of a doubt, Gillmeister explains that the English term 'golf' in that time meant hockey and not golf as we know it, a game in which a ball was played 'to and fro' (The International Journal of the History of Sport, Vol. 19, N° I, 2002).

The original book in the French language is called 'Li romans d'Alexandre' (Romans of Alexandre) written in the 12<sup>th</sup> century by the Norman poet Alexander of Bernay. It could be a translation (or adaptation) of a book about Alexander, by Julius Valerius (approximately 3<sup>rd</sup> century).

In the book 'CHOULE - The Non Royal but most Ancient Game of Crosse', one can read that in the Middle Ages a ball, to be struck with a stick, was called 'choulla' in the low Latin language, used by the educated French people (Glossarium Mediæ et Infimæ Latinitatis, Charles du Fresne, Sieur du Cange, 1678). From this word developed the northern French word 'choule' and the southern French word 'soule'.

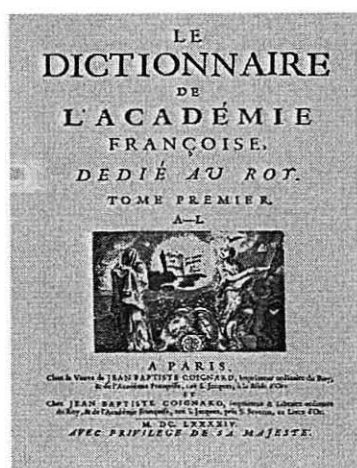
The Count of Hainaut bought in 1332, among others, balls to 'chôler'.



*Count William I from Hainaut is the earliest choule/jeu de crosse player known by name. He bought jeu de crosse equipment in 1332. – Bibliothèque municipale, Arras, France*

Because it is unlikely that the Count would use these balls for playing the violent, undisciplined game of hockey, we could conclude that the count probably played a more sophisticated, disciplined golf-like game, in which the ball could easily have been hit 'to an fro', as players in the ancient County of Hainaut in France and Belgium do already since time immemorial in their game 'jeu de crosse'.

In the first Dictionnaire de l'Académie Française (1694), all stick and ball games are called 'jeu de crosse' and not only the hockey-like games.



*In the first dictionary of the 'Académie Française', 1694, the words 'crosser', 'crosse' and 'crosseur' were already included*

The choule/déchoule game played in Northern France and Southern Belgium is called already for hundreds of years 'jeu de crosse' and not 'chole', and this game is certainly not hockey, although players hit the ball 'to and fro'.

In our opinion, the conclusion that golf in 1457 is not golf but hockey, based on one line in a book which is a 'translation' or better an 'adaptation' of an earlier French book, is rather flimsy, as flimsy as the conclusion that golf was 'born' between the two Acts of Parliament from 1427 and 1457.

But assume for a moment that in 1457 golf is hockey, what about the game of golf mentioned in a third Act of Parliament from 1471 in which King James III banned football and golf again in favour of archery practice. Is that golf still hockey or meant James III the game of golf as we know it today? In 1491, King James IV banned football, golf and other 'unprofitable' games. What game of golf was banned now, golf or hockey?

It is rather interesting to see that the same King James IV bought in Edinburgh in 1503 (Accounts of the Lord High Treasurer for Scotland, February



*In 1503, King James IV bought equipment to play golf. He seemed to be a keen golfer and not a hockey player. – National Library of Scotland*

1503), 12 years after the ban of golf (or hockey?), 'real' golf clubs and balls to play 'match play' with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Bothwell. He did buy already golf equipment in Perth in 1502 and later on in Saint Andrews in 1506. From these purchases, we could conclude that at least with royalty and nobility, golf had become rather popular in the area around the Forth of Fife.

Supposing that golf in 1457 was hockey, then golf in 1491 has to be real golf, otherwise that game could not have spread so far in just a decade.

When there are any doubts about 1457, there is certainty about 1491. In that case we talk about a difference of approximately 30 years.

You would not lose any sleep over it, would you?

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## NA ROG – NA RUH

### Traditional Stick (& Ball) games in Croatia – Part I

Damir Ritosa



#### Location and background

Istra (Istria) is a peninsula in the northern Adriatic, where Mediterranean plunged in the European soil and embraced *Mitteleuropa* (Central Europe). Today this small region not larger in size than Luxembourg lies mainly in Croatia. Smaller parts of Istria today belong to Slovenia and Italy. It was for centuries an area where three great groups of European people collided: Latin, German and Slavic. The old Romans in times of their first expansion called this land simply „the land on the borders“ - Histria. They gave name for its inhabitants - Histrians, historians still are not certain if these people were of Illyrian, Venetian or Celtic descent. In later times the history of this land was written by Romans, Croats, Franks, Venetians, Austrians, Italians & Slovenians..

Every nation and culture left something of theirs on this small but specific region. Although Istra is known for its Mediterranean shores it is in its mainland where its „magical“ treasure is hidden! Terra magica. Undulating landscape still offers „medieval“ sight: fertile land in valleys, vineyards and olives-groves on hills' slopes and old fortified towns on brow of hills. Calm land and docile people shelter old legends.

Many of those old towns are located in northern Istra: Roc – the very first Croatian printed book was prepared (*Misal* from 1483.), alongside the old, winding road that leads to – Hum – a number of monuments form the „glagolitic alley“, dedicated to the ancient glagolitic lettering (even today historians dispute about its roots). This area is widely cut by the river Mirna and its valley. In the valley below the town of Motovun there is a chestnut forest famous because is the home of the local delicacies: truffles (world's biggest truffle was found here). Similar to druid *Panoramix's* „magic potion“ beverage *Biska* is produced with mistletoe even today by few families mainly around the city of Buzet yet another town built on a hill dominating the Mirna valley. At the foot of its hill lies the village of Sveti Ivan (Saint John) home of the ancient game called *Na ruh* (in local, older Croatian dialect or *Na rog*, what means: „On the horn“).

Although *Na ruh* has only a very vague resemblance with today's golf we will still take it in consideration in front of three facts: after all it is a „stick game“ - played on open ground, it has old roots and there are few „organic“ similarities with the game of *Choule* or *Game of Crosse*.



Identification of those parallels was made possible thanks to the great work of Sara and Geert Nijs in their exciting journey of researching and revealing continental „stick and ball“ games.

In the second paper we will discuss about another ancient game similar to golf, played in waste parts of Croatia (and surrounding countries), a Sheppard's game – *Prascarenje*. A game with much more analogies to golf.

### Sources

Until now we have only few written sources of information. Actually just one article from *Buzetski zbornik* or *Buzet Preceedings* in his 20th issue, „Josip Turcinovic“ editor, 1995., Pazin (taken from Mikac, Jakov: *Istarska skrinjica*); then *The rules of the game* – in the local *Pusni glas* (*Voice of Carnival*), 2001. When attended this game in on Ash Wednesday 2009. author was generously offered a book about the local village (Jakovljevic, Bozo: *Sv. Ivan i okolica*, „Josip Turcinovic“ editor, Buzet, 1999.) with an article about this game.

All other information for this article comes from personal interviews with local people, kind ladies in the Buzet tourist office and indications from internet sources.

### How the game started?

For what we now at present, the game started around 1735. The game was (and is) played on the first day of *Lent* (*Korizma*), the *Ash Wednesday* (*Pepeelnica*). All local men gathered nearby the source of the *Mirna* (*Quiet*) river in the village *Ravnice* where at the time a water-mill stayed. Originally it was a game for millers! Ten water-mills were in that small region so they lived in a strong competitive market and usually „showed one's horns“ between them until once they all gathered in the carnival and cooked a ram. After a good dinner one of them threw rams horns as long as he could and demanded others not to „stick“ each other with horns any more. Others accepted that offer and in sign of reconciliation since then they started this game on the day after Shrove Tuesday – Ash Wednesday. But other locals joined also (from the villages of *Koracnjak*, *Cote*, *Blazinici*, *Korte*, *Prascari* and *Pintari*). They would started in front of the first mill but because the water-mill was not used any more after 1930. they gathered in front of tavern of Mr. *Dancic* (now in front *sv. Ivan* tavern). The millers aim was to gather the first day of Lent to „say to each other what they have to say“ and to forgive.

### How is played?

Every participant comes on the starting point with his „club“ or *batica* or *palica* (a relatively big wooden stick, not worked out, long about a meter with a „head“ on the end – slightly smaller then a fist). The „club“ is made from hornbeam, willow or elmwood. They all gather and one of the players brings a big bull's horn and blows the trumpet a few times. That means the game will start in a short time and that everyone must prepare. Before they start to „play“ a board with three members and a scorer who writes down the names of all players will be selected among themselves. The board then claims the number of „clubs“ that are in the game, appoints who will charge penalty points and other mistakes which can occur in the game and during the game records clubs that are farthest from the horn.

The game starts. All players stay in line and in the middle stands the one with the horn (usually the oldest). He shouts „I am throwing the horn!“ and then he throws it about 10-15 or even up to 40 meters in front, on the road and it's then that the strange part of this – „stick“ game begins...instead of using the „stick“ to hit the „ball“ here players are throwing „sticks“!!! Yes, the „horn-man“ first throws his „club“ as close to the horn as possible. Then he must call one of the players to throw next his „stick“ towards the horn, then the second one does the same until the last one who can't call anyone but must shout: „paga rosto!“.<sup>1</sup> If one of the payers forgets to call the next one or the last one forget to shout: „paga rosto!“ he would be given a negative point. It is very important that every player calls the next one with his nickname, preferably teasing one. The board approaches the horn after all „sticks“ were thrown and collects five or more (precisely half of all) „sticks“ – those that are farthest from the horn. Those „sticks“ are then brought to the scorer, their owners approach the scorer and he signs a negative point close to their name. The board gives to the „nearest to the horn“ the horn. All other players then gather on

<sup>1</sup> It is still not clear what should pagarosto means. Possible explanation could be found in an ancient folk game in northern Italy, Ponte nelle Alpi (Vich) - nearby Belluno which is actually called *Pagarosto*. Although this game is about playing bocchia on streets and open fields we found that the way of scoring is almost the same as in *Na ruh!* In fact, with the kind help of Mr. Angelo Levis we were informed that 'rosto' would mean 'pegno' or duty calculated on the base of 'negative' points and accounted for the common dinner after the game.



his left and right side in a line and the procedure starts again.

The game continues like that sometimes until night. In first sunset, if there is not enough light to measure precisely the distance from the horn to the „sticks“ the game is proclaimed over and all players go the tavern *Most (Bridge)*. Scorer counts all the negative points and the players pay them immediately. Scorer then orders food and drinks with the collected money. As for tradition they collect enough money but for two litres of wine and then the owner (by tradition) says he will offer them those two litres for free. All other people can join them after paying the amount for the dinner. They spend the evening in laughter and singing and people passing by the tavern say: „piju rogaci“ that means „the hormans are drinking“.

#### Similarities with Choule

First, *Na ruh* is compared with Jeu de Crosse - the *au rue (street Crosse)* version because the biggest resemblance is that they are both played – on the street(s). *Na ruh* is played only and always on the road that connects the old mill and the tavern passed the bridge over *Mirna* river.

Then, the finish (let's say in this case „the final target“) is a tavern.

And finally it is played on Ash Wednesday. An appropriate time to reconcile and start new, peaceful relations between them. As defined by Prof. Ivan Lozica who attended the game in 1996. and put it in his book *Hrvatski karnevali (Croatian carnivals)*, Zagreb, 1997. This game is actually a „verbal sport“. There are no final winners, it is played in true 'De Coubertin' way and the main goal is to use this specific time to openly say to others what 'it has to be said'. The called one must not be angry about that. They are using this carnival catharsis to conciliate for the future. Some players intentionally play poorly just to collect more negative points and in this indirect way feast others in the tavern.

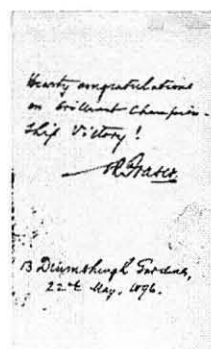
It is unclear why they must play with „sticks“ which have „heads“ and not using them to hit any kind of ball. Why's that „head“ there. I could think on two possibilities: first, that it's much easier to control the „club“ in flying (throwing), and second, that maybe, once they had a ball with which they were approaching (or hitting) the horn but that that part of the game was forgotten somehow?

#### Rules

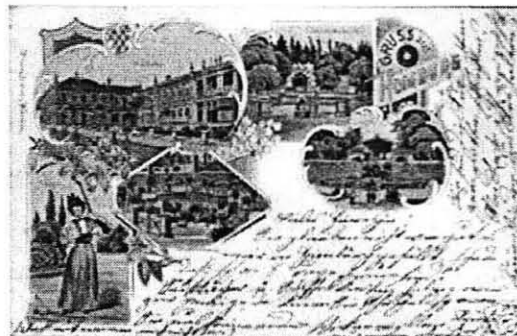
1. *Na ruh* is played on relation between sv.Ivan (st.John) and Most (Bridge)
2. The right to play have all people living in the st.Ivan village, long-term participants of the carnival of St. John and participants of the current carnival with the permission of the board of the game
3. The rules are implemented by a board of 3-5 members: scorer and 2-4 judges (number of judges depends of the number of players)
4. Every „stick“ is marked with a proper number
5. The oldest player has the right of throwing the „horn“ first
6. After throwing the horn he must call the next player and if he misses so he will be given one negative point, one mark
7. Players call other players with nicknames, real names or some other names that provoke laughter and enjoyment
8. The last player shouts „pagarosto“
9. Judges after every 'round' of throwing is finished, ask players to step aside and they take half of all „clubs“, and the scorer records negative points
10. Player which was nearest to the horn has the right, on next throwing to throw first the „stick“
11. In case of players disagreement with the referee decisions, holding back the game, insulting the scorer or peep into the record during recording negative points, scorer has the right to record another negative point to that player
12. On the last throwing (in front of the tavern *Most*) the „club“ nearest to the horn will not be recorded negative point but all to others will
13. During the game, other players can join the game, which have that right based on the rule number 2. The condition to enter the game is to choose the number of the „club“ which is in the game, and entering the game he takes the negative points with that „club“
14. In tavern on *Most*, after the game is finished, the company can be joined by other who pay the amount by the chosen „club“ and its negative points and enrolment fee. The taverns' owner chooses more then one „club“ and he is appointed the negative points from this „clubs“
15. The purpose of this game is in freedom of words and not in negative points.



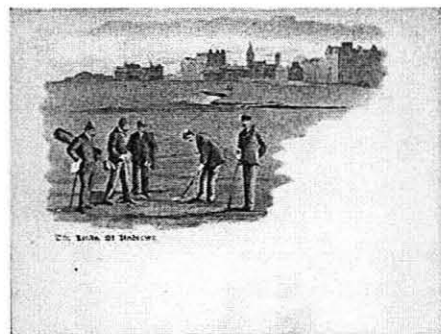
PC-1. An interesting early postcard sent on 22nd of May 1896 to Mrs Tait after Freddy's victory in the British Amateur (Size: 122 x 75)



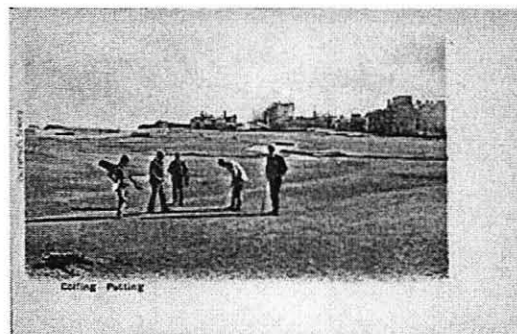
PC-2. – A very early (undivided back) illustrated postcard, possibly about 1892, from Costebelle, France.



PC- 3. – A "Gruss aus" postcard from Homburg – featuring a lady playing golf. This postcard was mailed in 1898.



PC-4. – A "court size" postcard, probably 1896 featuring Kirkaldy on the Old Course (by courtesy of Bill Anderson). Size 115 x 89



PC-5. – The same illustration, published later on a standard size postcard. (Undivided Back)



PC-6a – Early US card (c.1905) This one is much larger than the standard format. Size: 145 x 99.



PC-6b – A private Mailing Card from USA – Authorized by Act of Congress – May 19, 1898.

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## Golf Postcards – Part I – Introduction to the postcard collection.

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By Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak

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Golf on the Continent was booming during the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century ... Exactly at the same time an other craze was spreading all over the world: the postcard and its collection. Almost all places, all events have been pictured on postcards. This is why such a collection is so important for a golf historian: it is a fantastic testimonial of the early days of golf. But what is a postcard? Well, "everybody knows what a postcard is!" This is what we could guess nowadays, as postcards are so common. In fact, for the purist this is not as simple as that. The postcard collector (in the USA they are called deltiologists) would say that a "postcard is a support for writing, intended to be used uncovered through the postal mail, initially at a reduced price".

All the words are important. First, it is a support for writing, irrespective to the material – not only cardboard. In most of the cases, yes, it is – but not only. We shall see later that we can find other supports.

The second important point is that the postcard is intended to be used (mailed) through the regular postal service – not only privately delivered. Hence, it must fit with postal regulations, especially in terms of size, weight, shape and design. The word "intended" is used as most of the collectors consider that postcard which was not mailed is still collectable.

The postcard was designed to be used "as it is", without a cover. The correspondence could be seen by anybody! This means that a folded card – such as most of the today "greeting cards" which must be sent in an envelope – should not be considered as a postcard! Nevertheless, it does not mean that because a card is folded it is no longer a postcard. Again, we'll see later such an example.

We are using the word uncovered (without a cover or envelop); but, again, this is not as simple either! In the early 20th some countries allowed to use a perforated envelope: a hole being made in the upper right corner so the stamp affixed on the postcard can be still cancelled – but the

card was protected. This is why sometimes we can see incomplete cancellation marks.

Because of such limitations, the Postal Services offered a reduced price to deliver a postcard. We added "initially" as this preferred rate is no longer existent in most countries. As an example, this difference disappeared in France on January the 4th, 1971.

Well, this was just a trial for a definition of a postcard. I know people who will discuss for hours to decide either a specific postal cardboard is a postcard or not! Personally, as it is the case for many of my collecting friends, I'm not a purist and the historical aspects are far more important for me; and a postal card – which might not be a postcard – if it brings additional learning to the history of golf or just some pleasure to my mind, will be part of my collection. This would also be my recommendation, if you wish to start a postcard collection: the quality of the document, its condition, the beauty of the picture, the historical importance of the featured event ... all are the most important elements!

Nevertheless, a few words on the history of the postcard would help the collector to build a better collection.

### **USA and the Lipman card.**

In the USA, the story is very different. As it is not our purpose to go in details, we'll keep the long story short.

Before the creation of the postcard in 1869, as in many other countries, it was possible to see very rare documents which look like a postcard. In 1861, John P. Charlton, from Philadelphia, copyrighted a postal-card very similar to the future "official" postcard. But no example of postally used document is known – possibly because there was almost no additional appeal for such a document, as it has to be mailed at the same rate as a letter.

In 1873, Charlton transferred his rights to H.L. Lipman. About the same time, the US government issued the first US postcards (mailing rate one cent). Again, as the Lipman cards were less attractive than the new "official postcards", only a few examples used through the mail are known.

Other private postal cards were issued during the following years – some nicely illustrated. These cards looked like postcards, but, as they were privately printed, they could not wear the word "postcard" on the back and they could not be mailed using the reduced one cent rate. Only the government was allowed to put the word "postcard". Privately printed cards were called "mail cards" or "souvenir cards" or "correspondence cards".

In 1898, the regulation changed and private cards could be used at the one cent rate. American printers had to indicate "Private Mailing Postcards Authorized by Act of Congress – May 19th, 1898" (see PC-6). Eventually, in January 1910, the word "postcard" (or "post card", in two words) was granted to private publishers.

### **The divided back.**

The postcard was making strong progress and it must be said that, at the turn of the century, postcards collecting was booming. But the picture was still pretty small, which was a pity for the collectors.

The revolution, the word is not too strong, came from Great Britain. After having been late in changing their postcard regulations, authorities decided a major change. Starting January 1st of 1902, it was allowed to divide the back of a postcard with a vertical line: left part being allocated to the correspondence and the address had to be written on the right side. Thereafter, one full side of the postcard could be used for the illustration.

This idea was so innovative and appealing that soon, many countries adopted this regulation. France carried a similar resolution in November 1903, followed by Canada in December. Austria, Germany, Belgium switched into the divided back in 1905. In the USA, customers had to wait until March 1907 (PC7 is an illustration).

In 1906, the Rome Congress of the Universal Postal Union authorized divided-back postcards for international mail effective Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>, 1907, although some countries had accepted them on a bilateral basis as early as 1904.

### **The golden age era: 1900 - 1918**

The boom of postcard collecting stepped ahead and became a real craze after the divided-back regulation! It was possible to find an album in almost every single home. Even Victoria, the Queen, started her Royal Collection. Societies and Clubs were flourishing, where people could trade, send and receive postcards. Such a phenomenon may be surprising but is easy to explain: the post office was extremely efficient and cheap. With one cent, or half a penny, it was possible to mail a message which



would reach the recipient in a few hours within the city and no longer than the next day in any other part of a country; on any day of the week, including what we call now the bank holidays. From one country to the other it was also efficient. Recently Christoph Meister show me a postcard featuring the Wentorf-Reinbek Clubhouse clubhouse sent from Germany on July 15<sup>th</sup>, 1903 and received in London two days later (on the 17<sup>th</sup>). In Belgium, there were adhesive stamps with the notice "please do not deliver on Sunday"! Yes, you had to specify not to disturb the recipient on Sunday when mailing a card (see PC 8). Postcards with a cancellation mark on December 24<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup> or January the 1<sup>st</sup> are very common! Also common, messages announcing: "I shall arrive tomorrow by the 4pm train".

Another reason for the attractiveness of postcards is due to the fact that illustrations in magazines were not of a photographic quality. On the contrary, the postcard printing techniques were extremely efficient and cheap. At that time, with collotype printing (and variants such as albertype or phototype) it was possible to reach break even when publishing only a few hundreds of excellent quality postcards – and even less if editing RPPC (real photographic postcards), i.e. printing on a photographic paper, where the back was already imprinted with the word "Postcard" and the usual lines.

It is important to know that Germany was well ahead in printing techniques, especially chromolithography. Also many countries, including UK and USA where buying their postcards there. This is why it is so common to find the indication "printed in Germany" on the back of so many postcards. Nevertheless, in Great Britain, some important publishers were doing a great job. To name just a few of them: Tuck & Sons, Wrench, Valentine & Sons are certainly the most important –

even if Wrench had to close his business in 1906.

France also developed a great expertise in the phototype printing technique. This is why so many French postcards are so appealing. Among the well known publishers but we should list: Maurice Tesson from Limoges (MTIL), Neurdein (ND Phot) and Louis Levy (LL) – even if the later two might have outsourced some of their work in Germany (Europe before the European Union).

It is impossible to close this chapter without a word on Niels who was the major postcard editor in Belgium and Luxemburg.

#### **The purgatory period or Semi-Modern era (1918 – 1975).**

We can skip the WWI period as postcards were telling more about patriotic facts than illustrating rare golf events. After the war, people were no longer in the mood for collecting postcards! Also the situation was very different. Printing was no longer made in Germany – and the skills did not improve yet locally. The quality was not at its best. In addition, the economy was only slowly recovering: the quality of the paper was poor and the costs were increasing. Now, to reach the break-even point, an editor had to publish several thousands of postcards and needed to be very creative in order to lower the expenses. Reducing costs – not a new issue.

Mainly two ways were found and widely adopted. First, about 1930, the postcard was framed with a white border: the smaller the surface of the image, the lower need for ink, then the lower the costs. It may seem negligible, but 12 to 15% saving is not (see PC8, Biarritz).

A second way to reduce costs: sell the same postcard for a longer time. Publishers realised that a picture showing people or

specific details will soon become out of date: fashion was already changing fast. So, what we call a "nice picture" today, featuring people, their environment, and local events would sell only for a few months. To sell it several years, it must be as anonymous as possible, almost impossible to date! So, for many years, between the wars and also after, the postcard was losing more and more of its interest. And the wording "it is a postcard picture" became pretty negative!

This is why it is so difficult to find great postcards from this period. But, please, do not consider that only pre-WWI postcards are valuable. It is possible to find extremely fantastic postcards from this period. We are providing some illustrations in this paper (PC 9, 10 – see also the German Olympic postcard in another paper in this magazine).

In addition, many collectors are not paying enough attention to these postcards. They consider that they are not "old enough" and do not deserve to be looked after: a good opportunity for the knowledgeable amateur as he can often get them for a bargain.



PC 7a – An exceptional postcard featuring exceptional players: Tom Morris and Sandy Herd watching Harry Vardon ...

## The postcard revival – Modern era (1975 onwards).

At the end of the 60s, or early 70s, a new generation was unearthing the postcards albums forgotten in granaries, discovering appealing images. A new generation of postcard collectors was born.

In 1968, Phil & Dave Smith established the monthly IPM sales catalogue and in 1975 the first (yearly) IPM Catalogue. This same year, in France, Gérard Neudin published "*Le premier catalogue français des cartes postales de collection*". This publication continued, on a yearly base, until the death of the author in 2003.

Almost at the same time, big antique fairs were offering more and more space to old postcards dealers. Specialised fairs started as well, such as Cartexpo in France or the Bipex in England. During the last five years, Internet dramatically changed the picture and now, ebay is becoming the place to buy.

Do not miss the modern postcards, today extremely cheap, they will be the tomorrow collectables!



PC 7b – Send from Scotland to France in January 1903 when the divided back was already allowed in UK not yet in France!



PC-7. A postcard from Coq sur Mer GC (Clemskerke) mailed in 1918.



PC-8. – A postcard not mailed nor dated, but probably issued in the late 20s.



PC-9. – The German Crown princess Cecilie with a caddy girl and possibly the pro, Henkel, in Bad-Salzbrunn (nowadays Szczawno Zdroj, in Poland) in 1934.



PC-10 – Inaugural of the Luxemburg GC on June 13<sup>th</sup>, 1936 by Prince Felix. The man on the left, his hand on the tube, is M. Barbanson, first Captain of the club.



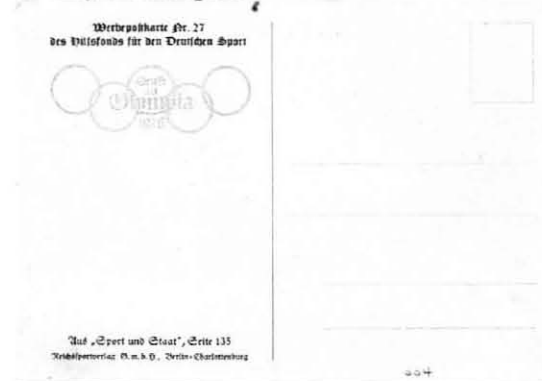
Glen Echo Golf Club, St. Louis

Copyrighted: GUNDEL PRINTERS OF ST. LOUIS

Glen Echo – site of the 1904 Olympic Golf tournament



PC-11 – A commemorative postcard (A6 format) issued for the Olympic games in Berlin (1936). Golf was only a side sport.



### **The birth of the postcard.**

The story starts in Austria, on January 1869 when Dr Emanuel Hermann, Minister of Commerce, wrote an article in a Vienna newspaper resurrecting an idea initiated by from Heinrich von Stephan in 1865. He was suggesting the creation of postal-cards for about the same size as an envelope, with a limited length for the correspondence, to be used uncovered and offered at half the price of the standard letter. After long discussions, on October 1<sup>st</sup> of 1869, "Correspondenz Kard" – which we call now the postcard – was born. It was made of light cardboard, 85 x 112 mm, with on side blank for the correspondence and the other side for the address, below the Imperial Eagle and the words "Correpondenz Karte".

This innovation was an extremely great success and three months later, Germany took a similar decision and issued its first postcard. In the next following years, all countries around the world copied this initiative: Switzerland and Great Britain in October 1870, Belgium, The Netherlands, Denmark, Norway and Sweden in the first half of 1871. France, Spain and the USA had to wait until 1873; Italy 1874 and Portugal 1878.

Initially, all postcards were just pieces of light cardboard with one side reserved for the address and the other side for the correspondence. No illustration could be seen. But because of the cheap price, this innovation was extremely appealing and widely used. Golf-clubs who had to mail information to members soon adopted the postcard. The earliest example known was published in *Golfika Magazine* #3. It was issued by the London Scottish Golf Club and even if not postally used, it is dated 23rd December 1880. It was announcing a change in the club Bye Laws. Another very early example – also reported in our previous issue – is from the Prestwick, mailed on 4th of March, 1884. Both

examples are from our fellow member Hans Medvejsek. We are showing here an example of a private usage (PC-1): In 1896, Mrs Tait received a postcard with "hearty congratulations on brilliant championship victory" (of Freddy) in the Amateur.

Soon, many countries authorised private printing of postcards which could be sent with a stamp affixed on it (instead of being imprinted – as on the official card). The editors immediately realised that, with a nice illustration on it, the postcards was more attractive and much easy to sell. But there was still a strong limitation: one side was reserved for the address and only one side was free for both illustration and correspondence. Then, the question was either using a very small but less attractive picture (such as PC-2, Costebelle), or providing a bigger illustration and then limiting the space for correspondence (see PC-3, Homburg).

In Great Britain, even if private printing of postcards was authorized since 1872, they had to look like as similar as possible to the official ones and the stamp was still embossed by the Post Office. Eventually, on 1st September 1894, the full production and usage of private postcard was allowed with the usage of adhesive stamps on them. The size of the card also changed and the first picture postcards in Great Britain were 115 mm long and 89 large – not as long as the standard format used in almost all other countries. For some reasons, not very clear, this format is called the "court size" (see PC4 – Courtesy of Bill Anderson).

But because these postcards were smaller than the continental ones, so were the pictures and people considering them less attractive. After long discussions, on 1<sup>st</sup> of November 1899, the Post Office in Great Britain finally accepted the use of the "standard size" as in all other countries: 140 x 90mm (see PC5 compared to PC4).