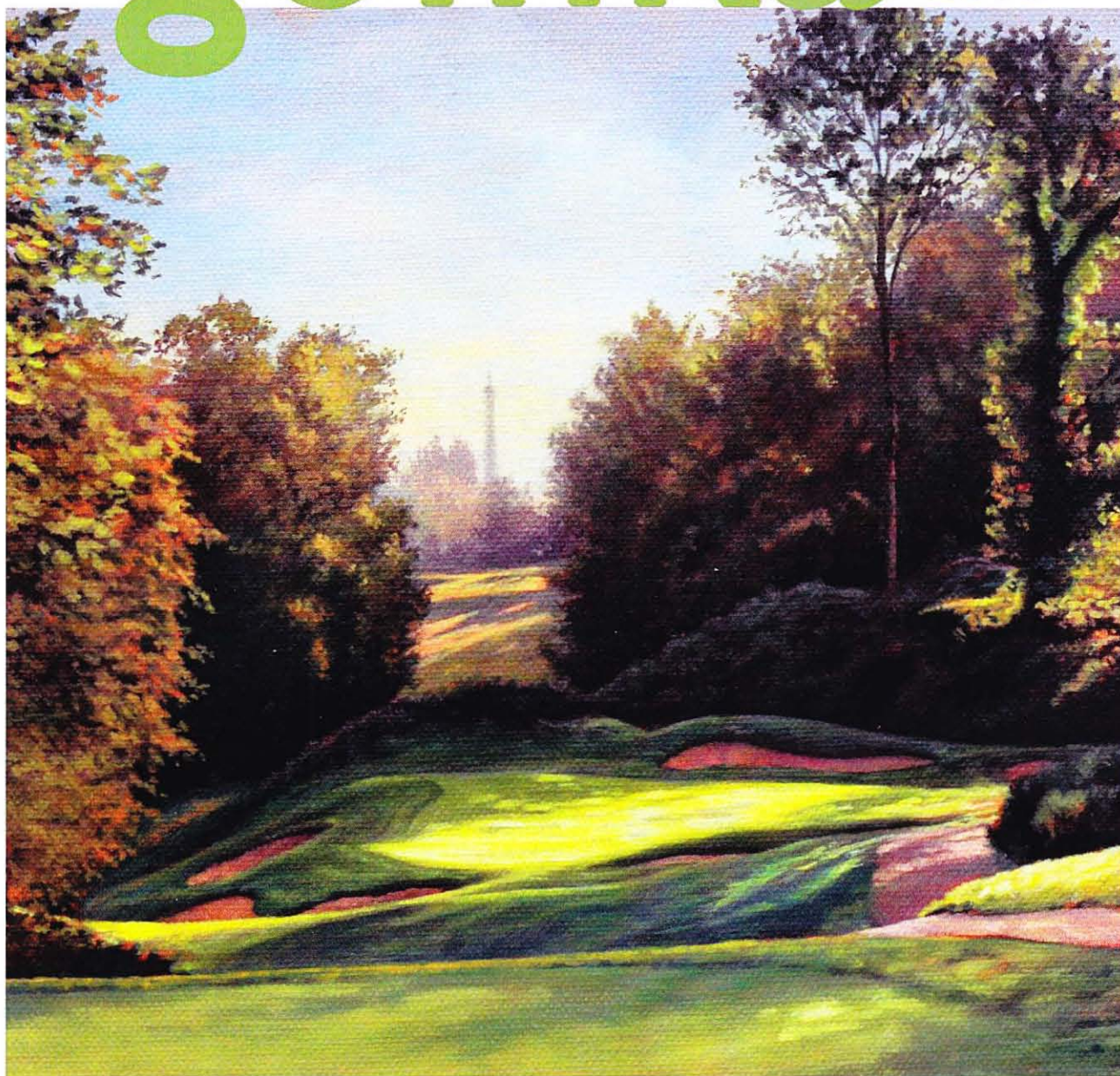


# golfiga

no.12  
summer  
2013



the magazine of the european association  
of golf historians & collectors







**THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL FOURSOME—ENGLAND V. SCOTLAND**  
 Played on Leith Links, 1682, Leith, Scotland. From the picture by Allan Stewart.

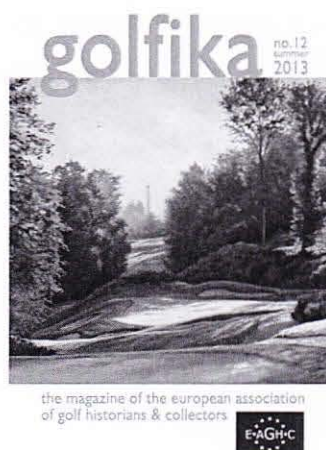
WHILE the Duke of York, afterwards James II., was in residence at Holyrood, a discussion arose between him and two English noblemen of his suite as to whether golf had not been played as long in England as in Scotland. James championed the claims of Scotland and quoted Acts of Scottish Parliament of 1457 with reference to the game. Similar evidence of antiquity not being forthcoming for England, they proposed to decide it by playing a game on Leith Links for stakes. James selected as his partner for

Scotland, the best golfer of his day, John Paterson, a shoemaker in Edinburgh. The game resulted in a win for James and the cobbler. The stakes were handed to Paterson, with which he built a house in the Canongate, Edinburgh—still standing and known as the Golfers' land.

He placed a tablet on the front of it bearing the Paterson arms with the crest of a hand holding a golf club, and the motto "Far and Sure."



# golfika



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The front cover of Golfika Magazine n°12 represents a view of the Eiffel Tower in Paris from the Saint-Cloud Golf Club which just celebrated its 100 years. This view has been painted by our friend and member Viktor Cleve who is so kindly and so regularly designing the cover of our magazine. A very warm thankful. You can see more of Viktor's work on [www.cleve-golfart.com](http://www.cleve-golfart.com)

**Illustration credit:** Authors' collections & Golfika.

## Imprint and disclaimer

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## President's Letter

Leif Einarsson



Dear Fellow EAGHC Members

July has so far been a very hot and dry month. Golf courses and gardens have been watered every day but have almost dried out so we have got real links feelings. One could almost get a feeling how well Phil Michelson mastered the difficult links of Muirfield.

I am also very proud of having a Swedish Runner Up. Henrik Stensson is back in business again after a couple of struggling years.

Talking of The Open the prize money is astonishingly high nowadays and scores as remarkable low. I was reminded on the subject the other day, in the bottom of an old canvas bag I found a scottish newspaper "*Daily Record and Mail*" June 30 1934. Head line "How Cotton killed U.S Hoodoo" The Greatest "Open" golf champion.

T. H. Cotton, Waterloo, Belgium  
67 65 72 79 – 283

S.F. Brews, South Africa  
76 71 70 71 – 288

A.H. Padgham, Sundridge Park  
71 70 75 74 – 290

Cotton's aggregate of 283 tied with record aggregate of Gene Sarazen two years earlier at Sandwich.

Bobby Jones said: "I also know the St George's course, and his 67 and 65 in the first two rounds are almost beyond belief"

Scores where almost the same but the prizes amounted to £ 500 and the winner got £100.

Here was the round where the famous Dunlop 65 golf ball was born.

This Newspaper is a real find of Golf Memorabilia.

Last week when I looked for golf books at a Swedish site [www.antikvariat.net](http://www.antikvariat.net) I found a beautiful leather bound copy of *Golf Illustrated* 1899. They wanted 2000 €! It is the inaugural year but it even lacked some ads pages. Is there anyone who wants to pay that much?

The 3rd and 4th of August we played The 16<sup>th</sup> Swedish Hickory Championship at Landskrona GC. The town celebrated its 600 anniversary. The prizegiving dinner was partly sponsored by the town. 140 players participated. I think there is no bigger hickory competition anywhere is there?

The former European Tour player Magnus Persson Atlevi defended his title with a score of 146 Runner Up was Per G Nyman 149.

Eva Adermark defeated last years winner Monica Andersson in playoff both had 81. Chris Homer from England won the seniors (+ 65 ) with 80 two strokes better than our host last year in Gothenburg Claes Olsson .

Now we all look forward to go to Brussels in the end of September. I know that Patrick and Virginie are very well prepared. See You all there.





## Editor's Corner

Stéphan Filanovitch



Welcome to this summer issue of *Golfika Magazine*.

After a rainy and flooding spring, the summer let us enjoy our game. May be it is too hot now but, golfers are always complaining about something, such as the weather or the golf course where greens are too slow or too fast!

By the way, the Royal and Ancient (The R&A) and the United States Golf Association (USGA) both adopted an important decision on 28 November 2012, to amend the Rules of golf, effective 1 January 2016, to prohibit anchoring the club when playing a stroke.

It concerns especially the method of putting, with the three points of anchor. The R&A and the USGA have concluded that freely swinging the entire club is integral to maintaining the traditions of the game and preserving golf as an enjoyable game of skill and challenge. The essence of the traditional method of golf stroke involves the player swinging the club with both the club and the gripping hands being held away from the body.

This traditional form of golf stroke has prevailed throughout the centuries since the game began !

It is clear that this decision will continue to be widely discussed into clubhouses and elsewhere.

Now, let's go inside this issue of *Golfika Magazine*.

You will find fascinating articles such as this one about Arcachon, a funny book from Sam Torrance, the first French rules of golf and much more. Many thanks to all the authors for their contribution.

In 2011, our annual meeting was in Saint-Cloud. This year, 2013, is the centenary of this famous golf club. Our member Georges Jeanneau wrote a marvelous book about this event. Unfortunately, it is reserved only to Saint-Cloud members.

Some of the book "Arnaud Massy – A chronicle" are still available. To order a copy, please contact [editor@golfika.com](mailto:editor@golfika.com). Price is 15 euros + p&s.

Finally, it will be a pleasure to meet you in Brussels. Virginie and Patrick are preparing a great meeting to welcome us in a great golfclub, wich is already centenary, the Royal Golf Club of Belgium.

See you on 26 and 27 September!





## Golf History for Golf Historians & Collectors

by  
John Scarth



Whilst many authors write about golfing history, often causing controversy, discord and even dissension, golf historians deal with factual documentation. This paper seeks to disclose details on golf history, its worldwide spread, its earliest courses, its earliest golf societies or clubs and such documentation.

### History

Documentation is the golf historian's bible and the earliest references to the game dates to 1452 when a golf ball sold for ten Scottish shillings.

James II of Scotland (1430-1460) in his Fourteenth Parliament enacted a decree on 6<sup>th</sup> March 1457, that 'Fut ball and Golfe must be utterly cryit dune'.

James IV of Scotland (1473-1513) in his 1491 Parliament enacted a decree that 'It is statute and ordained that in a place of the realme there be used Fute-ball, Golf or other sik unprofitable sports' contrary to 'the common good of the realme and defense thereof'.

The lord High Treasurer's accounts for 1502 show the entry: 'The XXI day of September, to the Bowar of Sanct Johnestown for Clubbs'. XIIIJS

And in 1524: 'The third day of Februar, to the King to play of the golf with Erle of Bothuice, IJJ French Crowns.' Sumena, XLIJS. 'For golf clubbis and ballis to the King that he playit with.' LXS.

When he played the game of golf with the Earl of Bothwell, the King was not breaking his own law as same was redundant.

Henry VIII of England (1491-1547) had married Catherine of Aragon (1485-1536) and

she wrote to Cardinal Wolsey in 1513: 'And all his subjects be very glad, Master Almoner, I thank God, to be busy with the golf, for they take it for pastime.'

James V (1512-1542) played frequently at Gosford, in East Lothian, where he set up a private links, and his daughter, Mary Queen of Scots (1542-1587) was charged with being seen 'playing golf and pall-mall in the fields beside Seton'. This being shortly after her husband Lord Darnley had been murdered in February 1567 (*see picture on second cover*).

James VI of Scotland (1566-1625) ascended the throne of England, as James I, in 1603 and he brought the game to England. That year, he appointed William Mayne, Bowyer and Burgess of Edinburgh, 'maker of bow, arrows, spears and clubs to the King.'

In 1608, a 7 hole course was established at Blackheath, near London.

James Melvill (also spelled Melleville) was appointed by the King as Golf Ball Maker in 1618 on a 21 year licence and placed an embargo on balls being brought over from Holland.

Charles I (1600-1649) was playing golf on the links at Leith when he received news in 1641 of the Irish Rebellion.



James II (1633-1701) played golf throughout his confinement from 1687. He actually played in what was probably the first international golf match when he, as Duke of York, took part in a challenge against two Englishmen. He chose as his partner the Edinburgh cobbler, John Patersone (also spelled Paterson), a renowned local golfer. James II and John won the match and a considerable amount of money as John was able to build a house in Edinburgh's Cannongate with his share of the proceeds. He called his house Golfer's Land and a plaque on the front wall bore 'Far and Sure' (*see also picture on second cover*).

Melvill's licence on golf ball making expired in 1639 and John Dickson of Aberdeen was licenced in 1642 to make golf balls.

Thus golf was certainly played prior to 1450.

### Courses.

It may never be ascertained where the first golf course was established, either it be a 5 hole, 7 hole, 12 hole, 22 hole or even a 25 hole course, however it is documented that the fishing and trading villages along the East coast of Scotland had such courses on tracts of land between the coastline and the inland arable land. These villages which totalled over 50, included Aberdeen circa 1780, Berwick and Crail circa 1785, Cruden Bay, Dornoch – with the 13<sup>th</sup> Earl of Sutherland's household accounts dated 1616 showing the expenditure of money on golf clubs and balls, Dunbar, Earlsferry – with a 1589 Charter of 'the right of golf', Inverness, Leith and its 5 hole course, Leven, Montrose and its 25 hole course, Nairn, North Inch – Perth with the Kirk Session of 19<sup>th</sup> November 1599 documenting four men playing golf on the Sabbath, Spey Bay, Musselburgh and its 7 hole course of 1672 and St. Andrews and its 22 hole (although actually only 18 holes) course.

In England, the reference to golf at Blackheath in 1608 is contained in Royal files, however the present Royal Blackheath Golf Club have on display a silver club on which is inscribed '16<sup>th</sup> August 1766 to the Honourable Company of Golfers at Blackheath, a Gift from Henry Foot.' Originally known as the Society of Golfers at Blackheath, the club has altered its name four times.

### Golf Clubs.

It is generally considered that the first golf clubs, as we know them today, are:

- + The Gentlemen Golfers of Leith, which became the Company of Gentlemen Golfers of Edinburgh, 1744.
- + Society of St. Andrews Golfers, 1754.
- + Brunstfield Links Golfing Society, 1761.
- + Society of Blackheath Golfers, which became The Honourable Company of Golfers at Blackheath, 1766.
- + Edinburg Burgess Golfing Society, 1773
- + Musselburgh Golf Club, 1774
- + Society of Aberdeen Golfers, 1780
- + Crail Golfing Society, 1786
- + Glasgow Golf Club, 1787
- + Dunbar Golfing Society, 1794

The Edinburgh Burgess Golfing Society which became the Royal Burgess Golfing Society refers to an item in the 1835 Edinburgh Almanac giving credit to this Society being formed in 1735. This would make this Society the oldest in the world. However, no name is mentioned, only Golfing Society.

Manchester Golf Club, in England, was formed in 1818 followed by Royal North Devon Golf Club, 1864, London Scottish Golf Club, 1865, Alnmouth (Village) Golf Club, 1869 and Royal Liverpool Golf Club, 1869.

In Wales, the first golf club to be formed was the Pontnewydd Golf Club in 1875 and in Ireland, the Royal Belfast Golf Club was established in what is now Northern Ireland in 1881, and the Curragh Golf Club in what is now Eire was established in 1883.

Documentation exists that the first golf clubs / courses were established in the following countries:

|           |                   |       |
|-----------|-------------------|-------|
| Argentina | San Martin GC     | 1892  |
| Australia | Point Hunter GC   | 1834  |
| Austria   | Wien              | 1901  |
| Belgium   | Royal Antwerp GC  | 1888  |
| Brazil    | San Paulo GC      | 1901  |
| Canada    | Royal Montreal GC | 1873  |
| Chile     | Playa Ancha GC    | 1897- |
| Denmark   | Copenhagen GC     | 1898  |
| France    | Pau GC            | 1856  |
| Germany   | Wiesbadener       | 1893  |



|              |                           |       |
|--------------|---------------------------|-------|
| India        | Dum Dum GS                | 1829  |
| Indonesia    | Batavia GC                | 1872  |
| Malaysia     | New Club Taiping          | 1893- |
| Malta        | Royal Malta GC            | 1888  |
| Mauritius    | Gymkhana GC               | 1844  |
| Mexico       | San Pedro GC              | 1900  |
| Myanmar      | Yangoon GC                | 1900- |
| Netherlands  | Koninklijke-Haagsche G&CC | 1893  |
| New Zealand  | Dunedin GC                | 1871  |
| Philippines  | Sta. Barbara GC           | 1907  |
| Portugal     | Oporto                    | 1890  |
| Singapore    | Royal Singapore GC        | 1891  |
| South Africa | Royal Cape GC             | 1885  |
| Spain        | Real Golf Las Palmas      | 1891  |
| Sri Lanka    | Royal Colombo GC          | 1880  |
| Sweden       | Hovas Goteborg            | 1902  |
| Switzerland  | Engadin                   | 1893  |
| Thailand     | Royal Bangkok Sports Club | 1900- |
| Uruguay      | GC del Uruguay            | 1895  |
| USA          | Oakhurst Links            | 1884  |
| Zimbabwe     | Bulawayo GC               | 1895  |

The Royal Hong Kong Golf Club was formed in 1889 however some historians consider that courses existed in China prior to this date at Amoy, Chefoo, Dairen, Foochow, Guangzhou, Hangchow, Pakhoi, Shanghai and Swatoo.

It is also known that the first golf courses were laid out in the following countries :

Bahamas (Nassau), Bolivia (La Paz), Botswana (Gaborone), Czech (Karlory Vary), Ecuador (Quito), Fiji (Suva), Finland (Helsingin, 1932), Iceland (Reykjavikur, 1934), Italy (Roma), Japan (Kobe), Kenya (Royal Nairobi), Luxembourg (Grand-Ducal de Luxembourg), Norway (Oslo), Paraguay (Ascuncion), Peru (Lima), Slovenia (Bled), Taiwan (Taiwan).

In the Caribbean, the Manchester GC at Mandeville, Jamaica, is the oldest.

European Union member (or candidates to enter) countries that have not been researched include:

Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Greece (thought Glyfada, established 1962), Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Croatia, Macedonia, Turkey.

For the United Kingdom (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales) see the R and A Yearbook.

The EAGHC web-site includes: Golf History in Germany, France and Belgium, could have one theme endorsed.

### Golf sticks.

The Royal Sydney Golf Club in Australia has on display in their clubhouse 'The Robertson Collection'. The collection includes twenty six feathery golf balls, two gutta percha golf balls and twenty sticks including an Alexander Neilson putter considered to be one of the oldest in the world, dating from the 16<sup>th</sup> Century. Well worth a visit.

### Afterwords.

Dick McDonough, a Golf Collectors Society member is presently having published a book on Golf Clubhouse Collections/Displays which will include the Royal Sydney Golf Clubs wonderful display.

Tom Simpson (1877-1964), had three books published:

'Modern Etchings and Their Collectors' – 1919.

'The Architectural Side of Golf' – 1929, with W. H. Wethered.

'The Game of Golf' - 1931.

The second book was repinted as 'Design for Golf' in 1952 and is less expensive for collectors.



Two of the oldest continental courses (Pau and Antwerpen)



## Early golf in Arcachon

by

JBK (Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak)



DEUXIÈME ANNÉE. — N° 43.

Le Numéro: 10 Centimes

SAMEDI 14 AVRIL 1894.

# Arcachon-Journal

Paraissant le Samedi

ORGANE DES INTÉRÊTS BALNÉAIRES, MARITIMES ET OSTRÉICOLES DU LITTORAL

| ABONNEMENTS  |        |        |       | Bureaux : ARCACHON, 234, Boulevard de la Plage, 234  |  | ANNONCES   |          |
|--|--------|--------|-------|--|--|--|----------|
| Circule et déport. Inter.  | 3 mois | 6 mois | un an | Directeur-Gérant : Paul BOISSERIE  |  | annonces (en 4 <sup>e</sup> page)  | Le jour. |
| Autres départements  | 3.50   | 6.50   | 12.00 |  |  | Réclames (en 3 <sup>e</sup> page)  | 20 c.    |
| Etranger   | 3.50   | 6.50   | 12.00 | Tout ce qui concerne la Rédaction et l'Administration doit être adressé au Directeur-Gérant, à l'adresse indiquée. |  | L'Administration traite à forfait  | 30 c.    |
| On s'abonne sans dégrader le Journal et sans avoir des Bureaux de Poste. |        |        |       | Les Abonnements et les Annonces se paient d'avance   |  | Les annonces sont reçues aux Bureaux du Journal et dans toutes les Agences de Publicité. |          |

Arcachon-Journal dated April 14<sup>th</sup>, 1894, with 1<sup>st</sup> precise reference known to golf in Arcachon.

### First references<sup>1</sup> to golf in Arcachon

We can read in the *Pall Mall Gazette* dated 27<sup>th</sup> of January 1894 that "there are rumors of golf in Arcachon" confirming a note in "Golf" date 5<sup>th</sup> January 1894, by H.G. Hutchinson writing that "Arcachon is to have a golf links". In the edition of *Arcachon-Journal*, dated Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> of April 1894, a letter from Samuel Radcliff<sup>2</sup> was providing more information and emphasizing on the good progress in the acquisition of land to establish a golf course. As the expenses are foreseen pretty high, organisers are calling for subscriptions which to be received by Messrs F. Audap (English bank), Exshaw and Radcliff.

<sup>1</sup> Many thanks to Philippe Martin, past President of the French Golf Federation, who kindly share his information.

<sup>2</sup> Reverend Samuel Radcliff, was living in Arcachon since 1866. When the first Anglican Church was built there, in 1878, he became its first chaplain.

The author is referring to a previous letter he sent<sup>3</sup> to *Arcachon-Saison* where he was writing that the landlords of the Biarritz Golf-Links might not renew the lease. Such a misfortune for Biarritz was a good opportunity for Arcachon. But negotiations in the Basque city went well for the club and their lease for golf grounds were renewed, forcing Arcachon to rely only upon its own efforts.

Radcliff was then urging that any person interested in golf would contribute as soon as possible to open the course before the winter season.

At the moment the letter was published, the total money collected was of 1800 francs.

The same year, on May 5<sup>th</sup>, the same journal was informing its readers of a meeting attended by the founders of the Golf-Club, in order to set

<sup>3</sup> This should then be an earlier reference but we were unable to find it.



up the board; were nominated: Mr W. Exshaw as president; Mr L. Escarraguel, vice-president. Other board members were: Mssrs. H. Exshaw, Dr Festal, Johnston, Habasque, Dr Lalesque, baron de Portal, Rev. S. Radcliff, Segrestaa, Thurneysen and E. de Trincaud-Latour.

A sub-committee has been appointed to set up the statutes and to list next works to be carried out. It has been also decided that a lawn-tennis court will be added on the golf grounds and that the name of the club will be now "Arcachon-Golf and Tennis-Club".

One week later, the newspaper reported that a General Meeting was called on the previous Saturday (then, May 5<sup>th</sup> – a very few days after the board was nominated). Held in the Grand-Hotel, the Assembly adopted the project of statutes proposed by the sub-committee.

The financial report was emphasizing on the difficulties to design a golf course on a sandy ground (*sic*). Mr L. Escarraguel estimated that the cost for the greens would be of one thousand francs by hole. The total of 9000 francs added to the expenses for establishing a tennis court, building a pavilion, and including the operating costs for the first year, would fetch, at least, 15.000 francs.



Rev. Samuel Radcliff driving on Tee #1 at Arcachon  
(most certainly the "new" course)

A tentative to reduce the budget was proposed: by replacing the grass on the greens by gravel

from Gazinet<sup>4</sup>, the cost would be lowered at least by one third. A reference to Horace Hutchinson was made as he wrote that gravel was used in India and also in Canary islands.

The meeting ended at midnight and was followed by drinks offered by Mr J.H. Exshaw and Champagne toasts were hoisted to the success of the society.

At that time, the subscription was of 2635 francs – still far from the objective.

Almost one year later, in a letter dated April 9<sup>th</sup>, 1895 and published the 13<sup>th</sup>, Samuel Radcliff, still in the *Arcachon-Journal*, is informing of the slow progress made. Even if some holes were laid out on the moor of Meyran, offering the possibility of playing, it is not yet possible to set up an official inauguration – especially as Mr Exshaw was absent.

But for those subscribers who would like to start the game, Mr Radcliff was offering to show them how to play golf. An appointment was given on Easter Monday and Wednesday, early afternoon. Clubs and balls, ordered in London, would be available, to rent or buy.

One month later, in the May 18<sup>th</sup> edition, was announced that the official inaugural of the golf course was made, last Tuesday<sup>5</sup>, by Messrs Exshaw and Radcliff.

Although an "official inauguration" was clearly announced, the same paper that a "final inauguration" will be set up later in the year, with the coming winter!

We did not find any additional reference in this newspaper in 1895 except in the 29<sup>th</sup> of September edition. A short notice, in English, was published which we are reprinting here:

"Golfers, visiting Arcachon and wishing to play, are requested to communicate with the Reverend Samuel Radcliff, villa Elisabeth, rue du Casino, who will have much pleasure in showing them over the Links, which, thanks to the generosity of W. Exshaw Esq., are open free to all players during the ensuing winter season."

<sup>4</sup> A place few miles south-west of Bordeaux known for its fine gravels.

<sup>5</sup> Then Tuesday May 14th



We have to wait two years more to find in the *Arcachon-Journal*, from October 17<sup>th</sup>, 1897, a short paper with a surprising title “Inauguration of the Game of Golf”!

So, after an informal opening in April 1895 and the first inaugural meeting in May the same year, followed by a “final inauguration” planned a few months later, we discover now, in the same newspaper, a fourth inauguration announced by Mr Samuel Radcliff.

The date was planned on All Saints’ Day, Monday November 1<sup>st</sup>, 1897; the meeting point being the second kilometric stone, on the road going to Sanguinet. The administrative authorities of the township as well as the journalists from the local press were invited and the public welcomed, without any formal invitation.

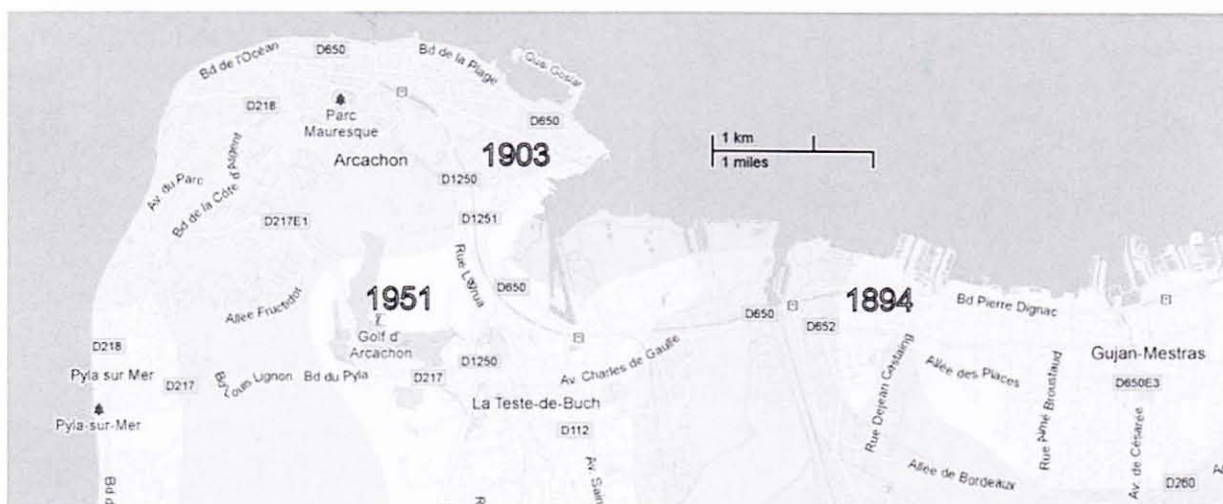
Donald Cameron sent us a reference he found in the magazine *Golf*, October 29<sup>th</sup>, 1897, which gives the same date:

*“The formal opening of the Arcachon Golf Links will take place on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, after which date a small subscription will be demanded of players. In consideration of their distance from Arcachon, and the rough state of the links, the subscriptions will be very much lower than those of the existing Golf clubs in France. There will not be a Golf club properly so called, and no election will be required; but the sec. of the lawn tennis club will receive the subs. of players, and apply them to the up-keep of the links, which has hitherto been carried on at the sole charge of Mr William Exshaw.*

*The sub. is: One week 5 frs.; one month, 10 frs.; two months, 15 frs.; three months, 20 frs.; one year 25 frs. Family tickets for one year will be given for 50 frs”*

According to Francis Gonzalez (in *“Naissance des Sports en Gironde”*, recently published, it was Mrs Exshaw who opened the course.

From all those documents, we can imagine that the “Arcachon-Golf and Tennis-Club”, established in May 1894, was, at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, nothing but a quite rustic one.



Map of Arcachon (after Google Maps) – Various locations of the golf course.

### Locating the first Arcachon Golf-Club.

If we didn’t find any significant paper between September 1895 and October 1897, we were able to read, in *Arcachon-Journal*, 8 March 1896, an indirect reference to the golf-club. The paper was in fact reporting on a fox hunting – but provides important information on the possible location of the golf course. The paper says: “Attacked at La Cabane, the fox jumps over the Canal de Cazeaux, crosses the road to

Sanguinet and the golf ground, goes to Meyran ...”

The “Canal de Cazeaux” was located mid-distance between Arcachon and Gujan-Mestras (where the mark “D650” is on the map) and it is called nowadays “Canal des Landes”.

Nowadays, two hundred meters west of the mouth of the canal, there is a restaurant called “Le Cabanon” which certainly kept the name of the place (a small “Cabane” – i.e. shed).



So the fox was attacked at this place, jumped over the canal then crossed the road to Sanguinet, which is now the D652 located 300 meters east of the canal

Here we should have found the first golf ground ... confirmed by the fact that the street, 500 meters from there, is now called "Avenue de Meyran" – and where the "moor of Meyran" should have been located at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

All this is re-confirmed by the fact that the meeting point for the "inaugural" meeting was at the second kilometre stone from Arcachon and this also fits with the comments in "Golf Magazine" which wrote "*in consideration of their distance from Arcachon*".

The first golf-club of Arcachon was then located between Arcachon and Gujan-Mestras. The distance from the city was greater than for the golf-club we can see nowadays (south of the city).

#### A new golf course in Arcachon.



*A postcard indicating the address of the club.*

As Arcachon was becoming an important touristic city, it was clear that a more proper place should be found for a golf-club.

On 14 February 1902, the mayor of the city, Jean-Baptiste James Veyrier-Montagnères, bought the golf grounds from Mr William Exshaw. On 1<sup>st</sup> November 1903 a new golf club was opened, called "Golf et Country Club d'Arcachon" ... But in a different place!

As we can read it on a poster published for the opening of the club, it was located Boulevard Déganne – which could be considered as "in" the city. Postcards from the period are indicating "at the corner of Boulevards Déganne

and Mestrezat". East of the Arcachon cape on the map we published above – on the same level where "Arcachon" is printed.

The *New York Times* in its edition of *Sunday 30th August, 1903* is providing some light: "*New French Sporting Centre. A society has just been formed for making a race course at Le Becquet, about five miles from Arcachon, on the road from La Teste to Cazeaux*". Adding "*For some years past the site of the race course has been used as a training ground*" but without specifying what kind of training it was.



*A general view of the Golf and Country Club*

So, with a reasonable probability, it is fair to assume that the city bought, from Mr Exshaw, the land where was established the first golf course in order to build a race course; the golf course being then rebuilt closer to the city centre of Arcachon.

Accordingly to Francis Gonzalez (*op. cit.*), and confirmed by the "Golfer's Year Book" in 1905, Paul Roussely, the Deauville pro, moved to Arcachon. A club-house was erected in 1909 with all the modern comfort: meeting room and reading room, separate locker-rooms for ladies and gents, hot and cold water washbasins ...

At the creation, this new golf course was a nine holes one. In 1925, there was a project to extend it to a full eighteen.

But the crises will disrupt these plans and the magazine "Le Golf et les Golfers" #280 (15 April 1938) wrote that "the Golf Club of Arcachon has ceased its existence on October 1<sup>st</sup> after the decision taken in General Meeting on September 14<sup>th</sup>".

We shall wait until 1951 before seeing a renewal of golf in Arcachon. On August 31<sup>st</sup>, the City Council gave a sign off for creating the new course.



# GOLF et COUNTRY CLUB D'ARCACHON

BOULEVARD DEGANNE

## Société Anonyme par Actions

*Organisée dans le but d'offrir aux familles et personnes de la bonne société un centre de réunions de jeux de plein air, et sports divers.*

Les abonnements se feront sur la présentation de deux actionnaires de la Société.

Les nom, prénoms et domicile de l'abonné ainsi que les noms des actionnaires le présentant seront inscrits sur un registre spécial.

Les abonnements courront à partir du jour où ils auront été délivrés.

## ABONNEMENTS

*Jouissance de toutes les attractions offertes par le Golf et Country-Club, les Concours Hippique exceptés.*

Pour une famille se composant d'un ménage, du père, de la mère et des enfants non mariés, ou de frères et sœurs non mariés.

|            |           |         |
|------------|-----------|---------|
| A l'année. | . . . . . | 120 fr. |
| 4 mois     | . . . . . | 100 »   |
| 1 mois     | . . . . . | 50 »    |

Pour une personne :

|            |           |         |
|------------|-----------|---------|
| A l'année. | . . . . . | 100 fr. |
| 4 mois     | . . . . . | 80 »    |
| 1 mois.    | . . . . . | 40 »    |

## GOLF SEUL AVEC USAGE DU PAVILLON

Pour une famille se composant d'un ménage, du père, de la mère et des enfants non mariés, ou de frères et sœurs non mariés.

|           |           |        |
|-----------|-----------|--------|
| A l'année | . . . . . | 80 fr. |
| 4 mois.   | . . . . . | 60 »   |
| 1 mois    | . . . . . | 40 »   |

Pour une personne :

|           |           |      |
|-----------|-----------|------|
| A l'année | . . . . . | 50 » |
| 4 mois    | . . . . . | 40 » |
| 1 mois    | . . . . . | 20 » |

Les membres du Golf-Club Bordelais résidant à Bordeaux, sont admis à la suite de conventions spéciales et réciproques moyennant une cotisation annuelle de 25 fr. pour le Golf seul, avec usage du Pavillon.

Tickets par personne et par jour deux francs.

Le Conseil d'Administration se réserve d'apporter au présent règlement ainsi qu'au tarif des abonnements, toutes les modifications qu'il jugera nécessaires.

Arcachon. 1<sup>er</sup> Novembre 1903.

*Poster announcing the opening of Arcachon golf club November 1st 1903*



## Appendix – Original French papers

*Arcachon-Journal, samedi 14 avril 1894.*

Nous recevons la lettre suivante :

Monsieur le Rédacteur,

J'ai l'honneur de vous informer que les négociations pour l'acquisition du terrain sur la coupe marchent bien, et l'on espère qu'elles aboutiront sous peu.

Les frais de confection du jeu de Golf sur ce terrain seront très élevés, et les organisateurs sollicitent avec empressement les souscriptions des propriétaires d'Arcachon.

Dans ma lettre à ce sujet à Arcachon-Saison j'ai dit que les propriétaires des Golf-Links, à Biarritz, ne voulaient pas renouveler le bail ; et qu'il était à espérer que, si nous avions des Links aussi rapprochés que l'est la coupe, bon nombre de joueurs, qui maintenant se rendent à Biarritz, viendraient à Arcachon. J'apprends aujourd'hui que le bail a été renouvelé ces jours-ci, et que nous ne pouvons pas compter sur le malheur de notre rivale.

Pourtant, il est de la plus haute importance que notre jeu soit établi pour l'hiver prochain, et nous prions instamment les intéressés de souscrire au plus tôt.

Pour faciliter les versements, M. F. Audap (English Bank) est chargé de recevoir des souscriptions qui seront également perçues par MM. Exshaw et par moi.

Souscriptions :

|                         |        |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Mme Alger               | 50 fr. |
| MM. Webber              | 100 »  |
| H.-S. Johnston          | 100 »  |
| Faure                   | 50 »   |
| De Tricaud-Latour, père | 100 »  |
| Listes précédentes      | 1400 » |
| Total                   | 1800 » |



*A view on the Golf course*

*Arcachon-Journal, samedi 5 mai 1894*

Une réunion des fondateurs du Golf-Club a eu lieu ces jours derniers, dans le but de constituer un bureau.

Ont été nommés : Président, M. W. Exshaw ; Vice-Président, M. L. Escarraguel ; membres du Comité MM. H. Exshaw, Docteur Festal, Johnston, Habasque, Docteur Lalesque, baron de Portal, Rev. S. Radcliff, Segrestaa, Thurneyssen, E. de Trincaud-Latour.

Un sous-comité a été désigné pour établir des statuts et les projets des travaux à exécuter.

Il a été décidé qu'un jeu de lawn-tennis serait installé dans le terrain du Golf et que le titre du Club serait désormais : Arcachon-Golf et Tennis-Club.

*Arcachon-Journal, Samedi 12 Mai 1894*

Samedi dernier, une assemblée générale de cette société a eu lieu au Grand-Hôtel pour approuver les statuts et écouter le rapport du sous-comité. Le rapport faisait ressortir les grandes difficultés de la confection d'une piste de Golf sur un terrain aussi aride que les sables des dunes. M. L. Escarraguel a établi des chiffres qui montrent que faire des gazons autour des trous coûterait à peu près mille francs par trou, c'est-à-dire 9.000, qui, ajoutés aux frais de l'établissement du Lawn-Tennis, à ceux de l'érection d'un Pavillon-abri et ceux de l'exploitation feraient arriver le budget de la première année à 15.000 francs au moins. S'il pouvait être permis de remplacer le gazon par le gravier de Gazinet, ces frais seraient réduits d'un tiers ou peut-être davantage. Une enquête à ce sujet se fait par le sous-comité. M. Horace Hutchinson a écrit que, quoiqu'il n'en ait pas eu l'expérience, il sait que le gravier s'emploie aux Indes et aux îles Canaries.

On a ensuite discuté les statuts élaborés par le sous-comité, la plupart ont été adoptés à la majorité. Quelques-uns, notamment celui qui définit les fonctions de trésorier-secrétaire, ont subi des corrections. La séance a été levée vers minuit, puis le champagne a été offert par M. J. H. Exshaw et on a bu à la prospérité de la société.

Souscriptions

|                        |        |
|------------------------|--------|
| MM. Fynje Van Salverda | 30 fr. |
| Balaresque             | 100    |



|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Comte de Canclaux                       | 30        |
| E. S. White                             | 50        |
| Adam                                    | 50        |
| Leys                                    | 25        |
| A. Escarraguel                          | 25        |
| Dupuch                                  | 25        |
| Maison universelle                      | 25        |
| Grand Hôtel de la Forêt et d'Angleterre | 50        |
| Listes précédentes                      | 2,225     |
| Total                                   | 2,635 fr. |

*Arcachon-Journal, Samedi 13 avril 1895*

Arcachon, le 9 avril 1895.

A Monsieur le Rédacteur d'Arcachon-Journal.

Monsieur,

J'ai l'honneur de vous informer que les trous provisoires ont été creusés dans le jeu de Golf, et qu'à partir d'aujourd'hui il est possible, quoique très difficile, de jouer sur la lande de Meyran.

Vu la rugosité du terrain, on ne peut pas songer à faire une inauguration même la moins prétentieuse ; du reste, l'absence de notre président nous empêche d'y penser.

Mais s'il y a des souscripteurs qui veulent apprendre un peu le jeu avant l'inauguration, je me ferai un plaisir de les rencontrer sur le terrain et de leur montrer comment on joue.

J'ai l'intention d'y aller le lundi et le mercredi de Pâques par le train de 1 h. 45 et je serai très content si quelques-uns de nos souscripteurs veulent bien m'accompagner.

Nous avons fait venir de Londres quelques assortiments de crosses et des balles que nous mettrons à la disposition des joueurs, en vente ou en location.

Veuillez agréer, etc.

S. Radclif.



*A postcard featuring a match at Arcachon Golf Club*

*Arcachon-Journal, Samedi 18 mai 1895*

Tout près de la ville, le Jeu de golf, la passion extensive des Français et des Anglais et disposant les amateurs de ce jeu salubre à la santé du corps et de l'esprit, a été, mardi dernier, inauguré officiellement, dans une plaine voisine, par MM. Exshaw et Radcliff, les généreux pionniers de ces intéressantes et utiles réunions.

Dès la première heure, ce jeu entraînant a pris droit de cité à Arcachon et d'après le succès obtenu par cette première journée, toute privée et de goût parfait, il est permis d'affirmer que, durant l'été, l'on se donnera rendez-vous en ce lieu de bonne compagnie, et que lorsque, à l'approche de l'hiver 1896, l'inauguration définitive du golf aura lieu, toute la population de la ville (étrangers ou arcachonnais) se donnera rendez-vous pour saluer l'intronisation parmi nous, d'un jeu qui était réclamé de longue date et qui donnait à Biarritz une suprématie de bien-être et de goût que déjà tant d'autres stations nous envient.

*Arcachon-Journal, Dimanche 8 mars 1896*

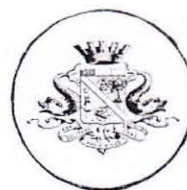
Attaqué à la Cabane, près de La Teste, le renard saute le canal de Cazeaux, traverse la route de Sanguinet et le terrain du Golf, va à Meyran, revient sur son contre-pied, double ses voies, met les chiens en défaut impossible à relever, le terrain étant très mauvais...

*Arcachon-Journal, Dimanche 17 octobre 1897*

Inauguration du Jeu de Golf.

M. Samuel Radcliff secrétaire du Golf-Club, nous prie d'informer nos lecteurs que l'inauguration officielle du Jeu de Golf, installé dans la lande de Meyran, aura lieu le 1er novembre à 3 heures. On se réunira près de la deuxième borne kilométrique, sur la route de Sanguinet.

Le public sera admis sans carte, les autorités du canton et les représentants de la presse étant seuls invités.





## Golf in Italy – Getting some dates right

by  
Christoph N. Meister



During research work for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary book of the European Golf Association last year it became more and more evident to me that in many continental golf countries there is still some mix-up about when and where golf really started in the relevant country. The exact foundation dates of early golf clubs often remain in the mist and are somehow not clear. Where archives are missing and golf historians not available dates used by former generations are simply repeated and repeated again. Today I take the opportunity trying to eliminate some of the haze surrounding early golf in Italy.

### EUROPE.

#### DERVIO.

##### LAKE COMO GOLF CLUB.

Inst. 1905. Members—37. Station—Dervio, 5 minutes. Nearest Large Town—Milan, 2½ hours. Hon. Sec.—Dr. F. M. Bishop, Royal Hotel, Varese, and Lady Margaret Hamilton-Russell, 3, Cambridge Gate, London, N.W. Entrance Fee—Nil. Subs.—100 frs.; Ladies, 80 frs. Holes—9. Pro.—J. Oligati. Amateur Record—H. L. Gaw, 73. Visitors—2 frs. per day, 10 frs. per week, 35 frs. per month. Sunday play, with caddies.

"This course is fortunate in possessing a light sandy soil and excellent greens. Though comparatively short, 2,320 yards, each hole is made interesting by sand bunkers or natural hazards, chief among the latter being the river Varone, which lies obliquely across the course in front of the 9th tee, and adds to the interest of one or two other holes. The course has recently been lengthened and much improved."

MARGARET R. HAMILTON-RUSSELL.

#### FLORENCE.

##### FLORENCE GOLF CLUB. (Season—October to June 15th.)

Inst. 1899. Members—100. Florence, 1½ miles. Hon. Sec.—A. Mayrogovato, 5, Via Alberi. Entrance Fee—Nil. Subs.—Annual, 100 frs.; Ladies, 50 frs. Visitors—3 frs. per day, 15 frs. per week, 40 frs. per month, 60 frs. per two months. No introduction required. Holes—9. Pro.—Louis Prette. Sunday play, with caddies.

The course is situated about 250 yards outside the barrier of Ponte Alle Mose, and can be reached by electric tram in quarter of an hour from the Duomo. The course is flat, with natural hazards, roads, and pollarded trees, and artificial bunkers have been added. Buggy 36.

#### MENAGGIO.

##### MENAGGIO AND CADENABIA GOLF CLUB.

Inst. 1907. Members—105. Holes—9. Station—Grandola, 10 minutes' walk. Hon. Sec.—C. Mylius, La Bargesia. Entrance Fee—Nil. Subs.—50 frs. Pro.—W. S. Hill. Visitors—2 frs. daily, 10 frs. weekly. Season—March 1st to June 10th and August 27th to December 1st. Sunday play, with caddies.

#### ROME.

##### THE ROME GOLF CLUB.

Inst. 1898. Members—80. Situated within 200 yards of Acqua Santa Station, and 2½ miles from Rome. Entrance Fee—Nil. Subs.—100 lire. Holes—9. Visitors who are members of recognised golf clubs are admitted as temporary members on payment of green fees, 35 lire per month; Ladies, 25 lire.

The course is over 3,000 yards in length, the shortest hole being 121 yards, the longest 475 yards. The country is undulating, with light soil and no trees. There are many natural hazards, consisting of steep banks, ditches and streams. The lies through the green are good but pulled and sliced balls are severely punished.

### ITALY.

### ITALY.

### EUROPE.

#### SAN

#### SAN REMO.

##### SAN REMO GOLF CLUB (ARMA DI TAGGIA).

Inst. 1905. Members—60. Station—Taggia, 15 minutes by rail from San Remo. Entrance Fee—Nil. Subs.—100 lire = £4; Ladies, 50 lire. Visitors are admitted on introduction by a member on payment of 40 lire per month, 25 lire per fortnight, 5 lire per day. Holes—9. Sunday play, with caddies.

The course is beautifully situated at Arma di Taggia in a valley surrounded by olive-clad hills. Good sporting links and the only course on the Italian Riviera.

#### VARESE.

##### VARESE GOLF CLUB. (Season—March to November.)

Inst. 1908. Holes—9. Visitors—3 frs. per day, 10 frs. per week, 25 frs. per month. Hon. Sec.—C. R. Blandford, Hotel Excelsior.

Varese is the centre for the Italian lakes.

### PORTUGAL.

#### ESPINHO (OPORTO).

##### OPORTO GOLF CLUB.

Members—100. Station—Espinho. Nearest Large Town—11 miles from Oporto by train. Hon. Sec.—F. P. S. Yeatman, Rue do Choupello 42, Villa Nova de Gaya, Portugal. Holes—9. Sunday play, with caddies. Visitors—2s. a day.

Seaside resort.

### RUSSIA.

#### ST. PETERSBURG.

##### MOURINO GOLF CLUB. (Season—April 15th to October 15th.)

Inst. 1895. Members—About 30. Nearest Large Town—St. Petersburg, about 18 versts (12 miles) to drive (bad roads). Hon. Sec.—F. H. Cattley, 11, Nicholas Quay, V.O., St. Petersburg. Entrance Fee—R. 5. Subs.—R. 25. Holes—9. Visitors—R. 1 per day; R. 3 per week; R. 10 per month on introduction by a member. Sunday play, with caddies.

The course is on the short side and rough through the green. The putting greens are small, but of fair quality considering the climatic conditions. The hazards are natural sand bunkers. The club is in its sixteenth year.

From Nisbet's Golf Year Book 1912:

### The first clubs

According to the first edition of the *Golf Year Book 1905* (from 1906 on called: *Nisbet's Golf Year Book*) there were four golf clubs in existence in Italy by then: Rome (1898), Varese (1898) Florence (1899) and San Remo (1905). Dervio (1905) and Cadenabbia (1907) followed bringing up the number of pre-war golf courses in Italy to 6, all of them of course 9-hole courses. Interestingly today the official web-

site of the Italian Golf Federation states that Golf came to Italy in 1903 with the foundation of a golf club in Rome. In 2003 an official Italian postage stamp was published celebrating the centenary of Rome Golf Club in 2003.

As indicated before early British Golf guides seem to tell a different story. *The Golfing Annual 1894/95* mentions a Sorrento GC "The first golf links in Italy have recently been established on the ridge of hills separating the



Bay of Naples from the Gulf of Sorrento. They were laid out recently by an Anglo-Indian golfer, Mr. J B Fuller. Of the Bengal Civil Service, with the aid of the resident physician, Dr Dunbar-Brunton, and one or two other golfing enthusiasts....”

Even though this course is also mentioned in later issues of the *The Golfing Annual* it remains unclear if and how long it existed.

There are 6 early Italian Golf Clubs that are mentioned by different sources and where there is strong evidence they existed, let's go through them one by one and see what we know about them today.

## Florence, 1889 or 1899?

According to the different editions of the *Nisbet's Golfing Guides* the Florence Golf Club was founded in 1899. This date is also confirmed by the *Golfing Annual 1901-02* which bears the first mentioning of Florence GC giving the following description: “The course, of nine holes, is in the old Demdoff Park at San Donato. The turf is good, and the hazards consist of hedges, trees, a dyke, etc. There is a good clubhouse on the ground, which is within easy reach of Florence (about a mile and a half distant).”

## RULES OF THE FLORENCE GOLF CLUB FOUNDED 1889 Reconstructed 1909

1. The club shall be called the Florence Golf Club, and shall consist of all persons, who shall be resident in Florence, who shall be recommended by the Committee.
2. The annual meeting shall be held on the 1st of January.
3. The club shall be divided into four classes, to-wit: (a) Gentlemen, (b) Ladies, (c) Juniors, and (d) Seniors.
4. The club shall be divided into four classes, to-wit: (a) Gentlemen, (b) Ladies, (c) Juniors, and (d) Seniors.
5. The club shall be divided into four classes, to-wit: (a) Gentlemen, (b) Ladies, (c) Juniors, and (d) Seniors.
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The only known historic document which makes reference to the foundation of the Florence Golf Club in 1889

In 1905 the first Italian Amateur Open Championship was played in Florence and

A.W. Butchart, brother of C.S. Butchart, who later was professional in Berlin-Wannsee, employed as club professional.

## Rome, 1898 or 1903?



Official Italian stamp issued 2003 to celebrate centenary of Circolo Golf Roma at Acquasanta

Golf in Rome is first mentioned in the *Golfing Annual 1899-00* indicating the existence of a private golf course of Prince Doria on the grounds of Villa Pamphili Doria, just outside the city walls.

Another early source, *Nisbet's Golfing Guide*, give 1898 as a foundation year in every edition from 1905 to 1914. In 1953 the yearbook of the Italian Golf Federation gives the year 1900 as foundation year of *Circolo Golf di Roma*. The club itself says that the first document which certifies the existence of the Rome Golf Club dates back to January 12<sup>th</sup> 1903. “However, the club had already been founded a few years before with a statute and committee”

The course was laid out on land belonging to Prince Torlonia and thanks to a milkman living nearby transportation was obtained cheap. The setting of the golf course, slightly hilly, allowed the view of the Claudian aqueduct, the Roman castles, the Appia Antica's crest and the Mausoleum of Cecilia Metella. An atmosphere that is still present today.

## Varese, 1898

The *Golf Year Book 1905* indicates that Mr Hetley and Lady Margaret Hamilton Russell, winner of the first three British Ladies Amateur Championships in 1893, 1894 and 1895, are holding the amateur course records with 70 respectively 92 strokes. It also confirms that the club was instituted in 1898 and also well before 1908:



"The course, of nine holes, varying from 90 to 270 yards (par 30), is laid out on some fields adjoining the Hotel Excelsior. The hazards are hedges, hurdles, ditches, furze bushes, and trees. The course is kept in excellent order." (from *Golfing Annual* 1901-02)



54 GOLF ILLUSTRATED. JANUARY 20, 1912

**Continental Golf Resorts.**  
Club Secretaries are requested to send additions and corrections to this list.

| ITALY.      | Course           | Holes | Notes  |
|-------------|------------------|-------|--|
| Dervio      | Lake Como G.C.   | 9     | Hon. Sec. Hotel Royal, Varese, and Lady Margaret Russell |
| Florence    | Florence G.C.    | 9     | 1. Cambridge Gate, Regent's Park, London.                |
| Lake Como   | Lake Como G.C.   | 9     | 2. Monteviale, E. Via Altare, Florence.                  |
| Montecatini | Montecatini G.C. | 9     | Super Tennis Ground                                      |
| Porto Cervo | Porto Cervo G.C. | 9     | 3. Nervi, Mirafiori                                      |
| Saint Remo  | Saint Remo G.C.  | 9     | 4. Vercelli, Grange House                                |
| Varese      | Varese G.C.      | 9     | 5. Edward A. Cassone, The Golf Club, San Remo.           |
|             |                  |       | 6. E. B. Hamilton, Hotel Excelsior.                      |

The course was situated one mile from central Varese. It remains unclear whether this course was set up in the park of Grand Hotel Excelsior (Villa Recalcati) as some sources are indicating. This building and the adjacent park are today used as the prefecture of Varese province.

On January 30, 1908 the following article was published in *The Prealpina*: "For several months, the tireless Eugenio Brunelli, owner of the Hotel Excelsior in Casbeno (Varese), is building in Valganna - precisely between the delle Miniera bridge and the Inverso bridge - a "Golf Links", which will become yet another great attraction for foreigners."

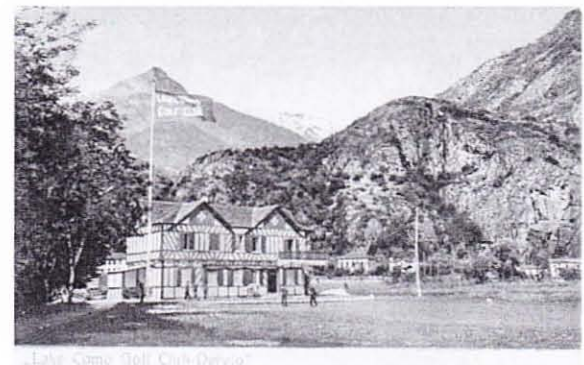
Another article published by the *"Journal of the hotels"* states that "A new Golf Links, owned by the Hotel Excelsior, was prepared in Valganna near Varese (30 minutes with electric tram from the hotel) and will be in perfect condition for the game on May 5th, 1908. It will be inaugurated by a tournament. The course extends over 40 acres, for the most part heath with undulations and hills, offering a variety to the game. The meadows form the most unique characters of the course. There is a large and

comfortable Club House with a beautiful garden all around. Valganna, also called the "Switzerland of Italy", is advantageously situated for golf: the surrounding hills give shelter from the heat and therefore will also find the game enjoyable during summer."

"A new course of nine holes, varying from 92 to 528 yards (par 33), has been laid out by the Hotel Excelsior on 40 acres of moorland at Valganna, thirty minutes by electric car from the hotel. The greens are excellent, and the hazards are thickets, mounds, heather, walls, and streams. There is a large clubhouse, with putting course around it. A professional is engaged for the season, March 15<sup>th</sup> to November 30<sup>th</sup>. Visitors, 2francs a day, 10 francs a week, or 20 francs a month; ladies 2 francs, 8 francs, or 15 francs. Sunday play. The hotel caters for golfers at 12s a day, including lunch at the clubhouse." (GA 1907-08)

Since 1934 the medieval monastery of Luvinate makes the premise for Varese Golf Clubs clubhouse where Peter Gannon designed a 9-holer that was later extended to 18-holes

## Dervio 1905



Different editions of *Nisbet's Golfing Guide* are indicating that the Lake Como Golf Club at Dervio was founded 1905. The golf course is also mentioned in the *Golfing Annual* 1907-08

It seems was improved and lengthened shortly after its construction as local sources from the village indicate that February 1908 permission was granted to the local golf club "of Englishmen" to divert the local river Varrone in order to extent the golf course, work that was finished in March 1909. Another local source from 1914 mentions that the land of the golf course was allocated to Frederick Hamilton



Russell, the husband of Lady Margaret, mentioned earlier in this article.

## EUROPE.

### DERVIO.

### ITALY.

#### LAKE COMO GOLF CLUB.

Inst. 1905. Members—37. Station—Dervio, 5 minutes. Nearest Large Town—Milan, 2½ hours. Hon. Secs.—Dr. F. M. Bishop, Royal Hotel, Varenna, and Lady Margaret Hamilton-Russell, 5, Cambridge Gate, London, N.W. Entrance Fee—Nil. Subs.—100 frs.; Ladies, 80 frs. Holes—9. Pro.—J. Olgiati. Amateur Record—H. L. Gaw, 73. Visitors—2 frs. per day, 10 frs. per week, 35 frs. per month. Sunday play, with caddies.

"This course is fortunate in possessing a light sandy soil and excellent greens. Though comparatively short, 2,320 yards, each hole is made interesting by sand bunkers or natural hazards, chief among the latter being the river Varone, which lies obliquely across the course in front of the 9th tee, and adds to the interest of one or two other holes. The course has recently been lengthened and much improved."

MARGARET R. HAMILTON-RUSSELL.

Lady Margaret Hamilton Russell Honorary Secretary at Lago Como Golf Club according to Nisbet's Golfing Guide 1912

## San Remo, 1905

Today many people think that golf in San Remo started in December 1931 when the Peter Gannon designed golf course *Circolo Golf degli Ulivi* opened. Early editions of the *British Golf Illustrated* from 1908-1910 clearly state that a golf course was in existence at San Remo, or to be more precise at Arma di Taggia in a valley surrounded by olive trees.



San Remo GC Medal, won April 1908 by A.B. Schofield (Marshall Roberts Golf Medal – First Prize) – Bronze!

The then only golf course on the Italian Riviera "of nine holes, is about five minutes walk from Sagia Station, which is five miles from San Remo. An excellent clubhouse has been secured. Visitors, 50 francs, ladies, one half. For full particulars apply to The Bank, San Remo, Italy" (from *Golfing Annual* 1901-02)

## Menaggio e Cadenabbia, 1907

There seems to be little confusion about the foundation of Menaggio & Cadenabbia Golf Club on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 1907, at the hotel Victoria in Menaggio where four Englishmen met and formed a committee with the intention of founding a golf club as they found it inconvenient to traverse the lake to reach the Lake Como Golf Club at Dervio on the opposite

side of Lake Como each time they wanted to play golf.

After some searching the ideal solution, a hilly area in Grandola ed Uniti near Menaggio was found most importantly near the homes of two of the founding members and a 9-hole course was laid out and opened for play in spring 1907.



Still today the club is considered to be the most British of all golf clubs in Italy, not only because of its prestigious library, second only to the one R&A Collection in St. Andrews, Scotland. In all probability the greater part of the books to be found at Menaggio are those missing from the famous collection of Harry B. Wood, given away or sold by his son after his father's death in 1913?

## Villa d'Este, 1909

According to *Nisbet's Golf Year Book* 1912 but also confirmed by other sources a third golf club was founded on the shores of Lake Como at Cernobbio. There is not much other information available as today's Villa d'Este golf course was only constructed during the second half of the 1920's

## Conclusion

Compared to other continental countries, especially France and Switzerland, Italy had a slow start with golf. Today only Rome CC as well as Menaggio & Cadenabbia GC have not moved courses since.

After the great war and not unlike in other continental countries it took some time again until the mid-1920 before golf redeveloped in Italy. Today the existing classic golf courses such as Stresa, Villa d'Este, Varese (Luvinata), San Remo and Milano-Monza are remaining credentials of how golf redeveloped in Italy between the two wars.



## Golf History for Golf Historians & Collectors

by  
Sara and Geert Nijs



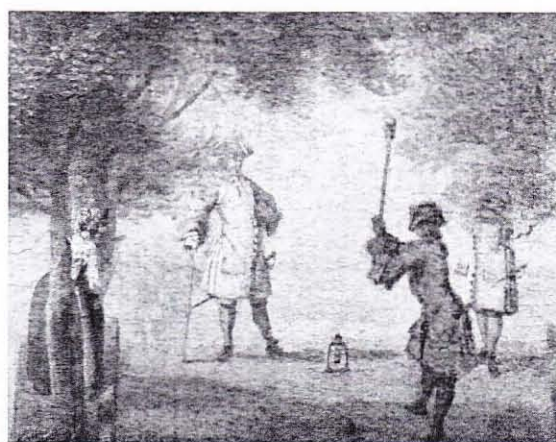
It happened on a Saturday morning, a dozen years ago, in our then hometown Eindhoven in The Netherlands. When we came back from the market for buying some fresh fruit and vegetables, we passed a small 'brocante' (antique and curiosity) shop. In the shop window we saw an old rusty 'wooden' golf club. Because at that time we were looking for a birthday present for a golf-addicted friend we thought that such a club would be a nice gift. We entered the shop and after some bargaining we left the shop with that rusty club under the arms.



At home we noticed, after some polishing and under skimming light (the club had to look a bit decent as a present), different marks, signs and characters on the back of the club head and on the shaft. Our interest was aroused. We jumped onto the Internet and found a 'mer à boire' of information about ancient golf clubs, golf balls, etc. When a few days later I told my golf mates about that rusty club, one of them gave me a booklet, called 'Early Golf' from a certain Steven van Hengel, written in 1982.

After reading a few pages in this book about the Flemish/North-Netherlandish game of colf, we were hooked forever on the history of Scottish golf and its 'look-alike' colf, once played in the Low Countries. Studying on the Internet we learnt that in Western Europe there happened to be two other, more or less, golf-like games: jeu de mail in France and jeu de crosse in Southern Belgium and Northern France.

We found out that the so-called 'Noble Jeu de Mail' died already hundreds of years ago, after an existence of a few hundred years.



Also the game of colf, as we learnt from the book of Steven van Hengel, died more than 300 years ago. When this game ceased to exist around 1700 after more than 400 years of existence a new game became popular, the indoor game of 'kolf' in which hardly the original colf game could be recognised.

The third game, the so-called game of choules, appeared to be still alive, somewhere around the city of Mons in Belgium and the city of Maubeuge in France. The choules region was only a few hours' drive from our hometown. So why didn't we have a look? Well, that was easier said than done. It took quite a while to find out that in Belgium the game was played around the small town of Baudour, in the old mining district of the Borinage. In Baudour, nobody had ever heard of the game. We asked the post office, the bakery, people in the street.

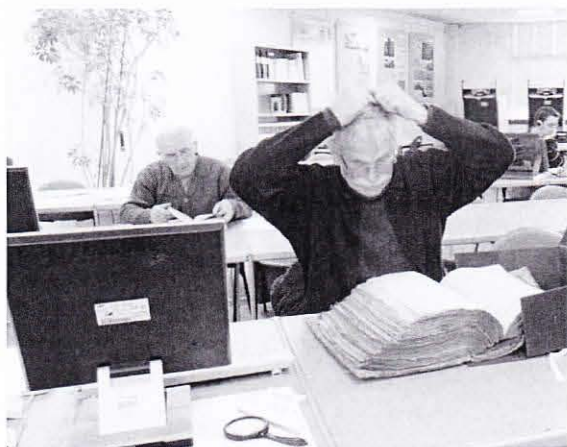


In vain. At last at the butchers, after a lot of discussions with customers in the shop, the butcher thought that some elderly people played a peculiar game somewhere at the other side of the canal behind the industrial estate.



It still took us more than an hour to locate the field, where we indeed saw some people playing a golf-like game. We parked the car, entered the clubhouse, explained who we were and why we were there, and we were given a very hearty welcome.

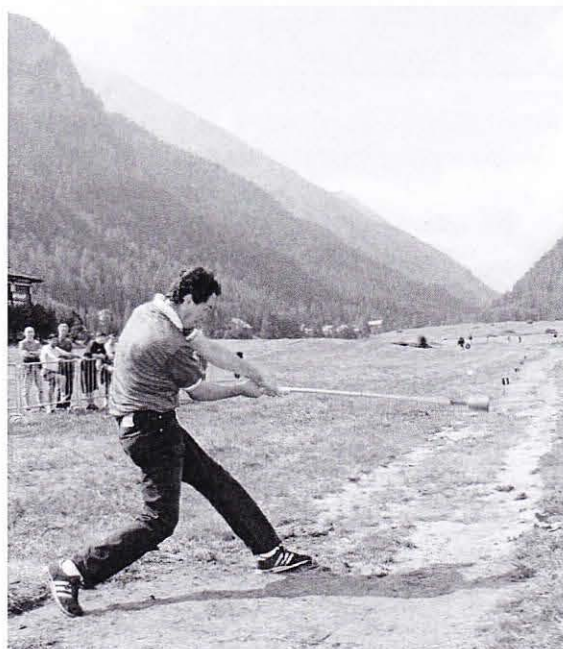
We were absolutely thrilled with seeing men playing with very peculiar sticks and wooden, 'egg-shaped' balls. We were invited to hold such a 'crosse' as they called the club and even to hit a few of these funny elliptical balls, which they called 'choulettes'. In the meantime, we were informed with great enthusiasm about the way in which the game was played. From that moment on, we fell in love with this wonderful but almost forgotten game which they called jeu de crosse or 'golf of the poor'.



We had to go deep into the archives, museums, antique bookshops and to talk to local historians, crosse players, etc. to get a fairly good image of this sport. While doing all this research, we started to wonder what could be found out about the game of mail and if there was more to say about the game of colf other than published by Steven van Hengel.

The moment we published our research about the 'Non-Royal but most Ancient Game of Crosse' in 2008 (and in 2012, its adaptation 'Jeu de Crosse – Crossage' in the French language) we could not wait to go into the history of these two games too. The more we found, the more similarities (and specific dissimilarities) we discovered between colf, crosse, mail and the history of Scottish golf.

The last hundred years much has been written about the 'modern history' of golf. Only a few historians have gone beyond the first Edinburgh golf rules, the gutta percha balls, Tom Morris and for the Americans beyond Bobby Jones. Our interest starts at the 'ancient' beginnings of the game and stops there where modern history starts. So after crosse, mail and colf we also put ancient golf in our research 'rucksack' and published our first findings in the book 'Games for Kings & Commoners' (2011).



Finally, while researching, we found several non-related club and ball games of which the existence and the history could be of value to find out more about the history of 'our own' games.

So our personal history developed in the course of a dozen years from buying just an old rusty golf club into a comprehensive history research program that has even taken us away from actual playing golf on the beautiful courses in Burgundy.



However, going into the archives of this world takes you to all kind of interesting places where you can enjoy the good things of life in the open.



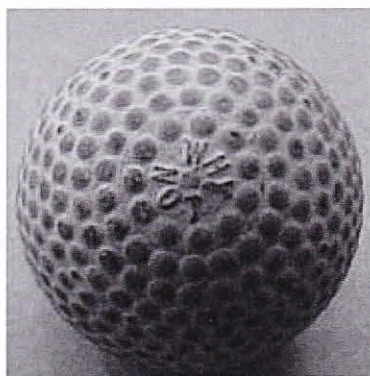
### Can You Help?

Please write to [editor@golfika.com](mailto:editor@golfika.com)



### Stéphan Filanovitch

In the last issue of *Golfika Magazine*, I wrote an article about golf booklets. By a happy coincidence, I just bought the "Why Not" golf-ball which was featured in one of the booklets! Is anyone knows more about this ball?



### JBK (Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak)

Here is one postcard from my collection which I'm unable to locate. May be one of our readers could help. This is a RPPC (real photographic postcard) so the back of it cannot provide any additional hint.

To save space, we cut the top of the postcard, so it's looking here panoramic.



Below, we are providing a magnified detail of the postcard: the smart player – British looking which is in the center of the card.





## Sam Torrance "Out of Bounds" Legendary tales from the 19<sup>th</sup> hole

by  
Albert Bloemendaal, MSc



Recently I found a very welcome book (edited by Simon & Schuster, London 2012) on the life of a well-known and much admired tour-professional Sam Torrance. The book gives an impression of the life of a tour professional in the period from 1970 till 2000.



## SAM TORRANCE OUT OF BOUNDS

*Legendary tales from the 19<sup>th</sup> hole*

### Introduction

In recent years whenever the BBC has a direct programme on a major golf Tournament, Sam Torrance is in the commentary box together with the absolute authority on that subject: Peter

Alliss. Every time a joy to listen to as both gentlemen have that typical deep sonorous voice together with that very British understatement: humour. The way Sam Torrance comments on what happens on – and off! – the golf course reveals he is a great story teller. The book which is the subject of this review, confirms that in more than one way.

In first instance Sam had no desire at all to have his life as a tour professional made into a kind of biography. However, people around him pointed out he would turn sixty in 2013, so it was time that all those lovely stories that had been around him and his fellow professionals should become known to a greater public. He was persuaded but made the condition that persons he would talk about, would give their own impression of the period he was their friend and competitor

The book that way turned into a storytelling publication of the life of tour-professionals in a period when they were on their way up in the world of golf. That life may be hard to believe by a newer generation of golfers; accustomed as they are now to hearing that the winner of a major tournament may go home with a purse of a million pounds, dollars or even Euros; or reading about the first golf *billionaire*. All right, in dollars of which a major share has gone since then to a pretty Swedish lady, but still, golf millionaires are a common appearance on the major golf tournaments.



Another aspect that is common to read about now is the presence of a fully-fledged muscle exercise specialist in an enormous van they call the torture bus. No more "fat bellies" as that other notorious character from that early period, Lee Trevino, called them. But only "flat bellies". Wiry muscle loaded characters, for whose demon-like driver shots, golf courses had to be extended so as to prevent players from hitting Par fives for a hole-in-one. Par fours have already been subject for a hole in one on more than one occasion.

No such thing in Sam Torrance's life as a professional. Though he had to reduce on a lot of life's more pleasant things, the torture chambers of the fitness studios did not see him inside. Sam's tales in this book tell of that other professional's life when after a round of golf they went to the bar for a beer, not to the muscle stretcher cabin.

### **Life on Tour. Sam's earlier years**

Sam Torrance MBE OBE, was born in 1953 in Largs – Scotland; son of Bob Torrance a well-known golf professional. Sam was a much talented youngster who already at the early age of sixteen years would turn professional. Seventeen years old he joined the Professionals Tour and made his first tour win already two years later, not even twenty years old. Coming into the professional's world presented him with much astonishment as having spent his life so far in Scotland he was not quite at home with that sophisticated outside world that goes along with the life of a tour professional. Just twenty years old and placed for a match near London, he drove his newly sponsored car that way only to spend eight hours at a motorway filling station. He had filled his petrol tank with diesel! He still had to learn a lot, not only on the golf courses.

It was the beginning of a career that would control his whole existence. He only settled to the life of a married man when he was 35 years old. That was when he met the ravishing Suzanne Danielle a prominent English actress. They met on a Concord flight to the USA, Sam for the US Open, she for a role in a TV play. Sam did not dally in proposing to her and they have lived together since that day. Though they got three children, they only came to a formal marriage in 1995. "In our kind of life, there

never seemed time for a proper marriage ceremony" Sam said.

Basically life on the Tour has not changed all that much since those earlier days, though the general public might see this differently, given the millions of dollars and euro's that are now spent on tournament winnings. The great army of "journey men"<sup>6</sup> is full of talented golfers trying to make a living out of playing golf just as it was in the earlier years. Some are making it to the top and their names appear in the money list. In the period Sam Torrance is referring to roughly from 1970 till 2000 almost all the "Greats" had started living in mediocre hotels sharing rooms with one or even two fellow golfers on tour. Travel in the earlier period was often by car sharing with one or two others. They might well be their main competitors in the following days but they never made much out of that as long as the bills were shared.

In Sam's book those first twenty he is referring to, are full of tales just about that phenomenon. Close friendships hardly suffered from having to share room and transport. It was a factor that simply belonged to professional sport in those days. No wonder that, Sam's tales are loaded with stories about what happened during and after matches. Those who may remember Sam's appearances in the years till 1990 when he would show up in TV recorded matches, can still picture him with distinct "embonpoint" and a self-rolled cigarette behind the ear. Life on the tour was decidedly different then.

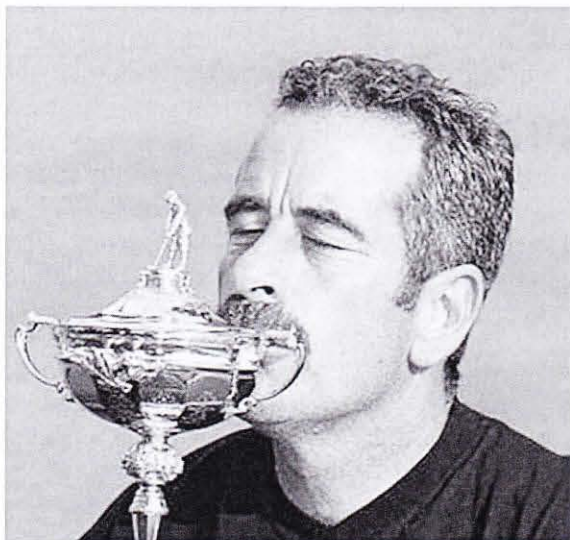
The memories of his friends from those days, tell stories that would have sent sponsors, if they would have known, rushing off to their lawyers to prevent damage to their high reputation. Sam and his friends of those days did not care. They had their own view of a tour professional's life and lived by the old adage: All work and no play make a dull fellow. And though Sam was – and many a time IS – in the forefront of the fun, his highly successful career proves that he truly lived for his profession. Maybe the most significant fact being, that after

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<sup>6</sup> "Journeyman is an old term for the roving apprentices who had to pass two to five years roaming through the country proving their skills in order to become a recognized "master". In German "Wandergesell" The term is now taken for the professional going from tournament to tournament.



having been part of the EU Ryder Cup team from 1981 till 1999 he was the successful captain of the 2002 Ryder Cup team which once more retained that prestigious prize in the EU.



#### **Tales of life on tour by his tour fellows.**

Though there are still quite some interesting characters on the tour, in Europe as well as in the USA, reading the stories told by Sam's comrades in the profession, one might be inclined to sigh: those were the days. Sportspersons men and women, are so crowded with obligations to their much needed sponsors that they can hardly afford to be allowed even the tiniest step out of line. It might hurt the reputation of a sponsor's product with negative effects on sales. It is therefore so amusing to read what other characters, be it officials, caddies or fellow competitors remember from those days. Much of it may be regarded as highly impossible nowadays; which makes it all the more amusing.

But to first sketch a picture what life on tour in the earlier days might involve, an impression Sam gives of one of his matches on the then well reputed "Safari Tour".

There was that time when a tournament in Nigeria coincided with a military coup. Sam and his fellow participants were met at the airport by an expat family, their host for the days as hotels were impossible for the lack of clean water and an overdose of uninvited flying objects like aggressive spiders and mosquito's. The next day when driving to the 'course, they were stopped at gunpoint, had to hand over the

keys to the car and were then left at the roadside. Car and golf-bag gone and so was the tournament. They took it all in their stride.

Still there was fun, loads of fun when Sam starts on his clearly favourite subject: the nineteenth hole. "Golf is a very social game" he assures us and goes on telling about it in a very convincing way assuring us of that truth. "The nineteenth hole accommodates players straight from the course who prefer to shower and change shoes later..." gives the proper impression of what he and his friends feel like when it's over for the day.

Maybe an example of their life on the nineteenth hole may provide the best picture of a story Sam tells us about of Christy O'Connor senior when after a binge night together, he proceeded to the first tee with a monumental hangover. "Could you get me some black coffee" he asked a journalist hanging around for a "story". The man however pointed out to him that staggering to the tee with a cup of black coffee in the hand, might give a poor impression. "Well, can you then fetch some very black coffee, head to the 200 yards marker, pace off sixty-five paces further and wait in the woods for me.." O'Connor pleaded. The journalist could not refuse that plea smelling a good story, so he did what O'Connor had specified and waited under the trees. Some moments later he heard the crack of a ball penetrating the branches and saw the ball dropping only a few yards away from him and the coffee. It is tales like that which give an impression of the life on tour then of which Sam, judging from his tales, was an enthusiastic participant.

For the admirer of great stories from the days Sam is referring to, a story in the book told by Brian Barnes cannot be left out. Brian Barnes still is a legend from the earlier days of the professional tour. He was such a character that, wherever in the golf world one might mention his name, a smile will definitely appear. One example – not in the book but told by Sam at another opportunity – may illustrate that. Barnes once played in a tournament on one of those very traditional English courses when he went from the course straight for the clubhouse bar. Only to be stopped by a very severe official who pointed to the sign at the entrance: Ties Only. Barnes turned away and came back a few



moments later pushing his way into the bar ...dressed in *only his tie* ....

Barnes used to wear shirts with large breast pockets and on occasions when the temperature was high, he might be seen with a beer can stuffed in one of those pockets. "That was before the days of medics insisting of having just bottled water," he smirked. He even marked his ball on the green with a beer can! On one occasion, he was almost taken out of the tournament for that, as making promotion for a sponsor's product was strictly forbidden. However walking from the 18th green he was approached by a man who asked him if he had liked the beer. Barnes made a compliment about it, only to be surprised the next morning at the first tee by two very attractive young ladies providing him with a buggy full of that beer. It may seem here that my review of Sam's book turns into a tale of less desirable things happening, but the way Sam tells us about those days on the tour, things simply developed that way. No doubt, life on the tour still is no joke; it is hard work with for the majority little more than a mediocre life in mediocre hotels and standard food.

Meanwhile Sam's career went on successfully however without succeeding in winning a major. His scores were nevertheless impressive. Twenty one tour winnings and 43 winnings in a total of more than eight hundred matches. He played in the Ryder Cup team from 1981 till 1999.

However, when not being selected for the 1997 team, he took the decision to change his habits. He was now forty four years old and life as he had known it till then apparently could not go on that way. He stopped smoking and "went on the wagon for two years" as he called it. He further started training in the gym, took thirteen kilo's of his weight and got fit. But successes did not come the way he had expected. Then a year later he had to pull out of The Open with a back injury. He phoned his wife Suzanne. "I'm not elected for the Ryder Cup, I pulled out of the Open my career may be over and I'll be forty six next month". "Sam", Suzanne said, "I think you should have a drink !" He agreed and took a plane home. There, after a bottle of wine and a beer together, the two years of abstinence were over. When the world got out Sam was back on the road, his friends on the Tour gave

him a fitting celebration. "I was legless for week" he states in his book.

Getting this far with the reviewing of Sam's book, I do realise that it's almost impossible to sketch a picture of what life on tour was like in those days, without sketching the life at the nineteenth hole. At the same time, the book displays that that kind of life on tour hardly exists any longer. If only as travel then took a great deal more time than now. And the fact that there are many more countries that are providing golf tournaments offering very decent prizes. Tour players now may elect to play just the matches that are within easier reach; though it's true that the still existing "journeymen" must travel far and wide to collect an agreeable income from their trade. Life on the tour *has* changed. As a famous other character of those earlier days said when asked what to think now of Sam's 19th hole reminiscences as compared to life on tour now: "Those younger guys don't drink. They eat bananas and drink fruit juices, and then go to bed..."

One more difference that cannot be overlooked: The picture as given in Sam's book depicts almost exclusively the habits and customs of British players in that period. British society was and for a great deal still is, dominated by a male population, definitely different from a continental life style... "No lady members" as an example. In the period of his book European players hardly took a place. There were one or two Scandinavians, one German and an Italian and a few Spaniards in the total of hundreds of tour players. The Ryder Cup team is only since 1979 not marked "GB&I" any longer, but as the "European team"<sup>7</sup>. The naughty: "boys will be boys" habits are less apparent now Continentals have taken a major share in the Tour. Indeed, as mentioned earlier, soda water, banana's and a severe fitness programme have taken their place together with the influx of continental players. In that sense, Sam's book is telling of a period that might be over for the most part.

Still, reading the tales of the then naughty boys, does provide a wee bit of nostalgia for the days when *fun* took such a very important share of the life of the Tour Professional..

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<sup>7</sup> It is still customary in Great Britain to distinguish "British" from "European" as though separate!

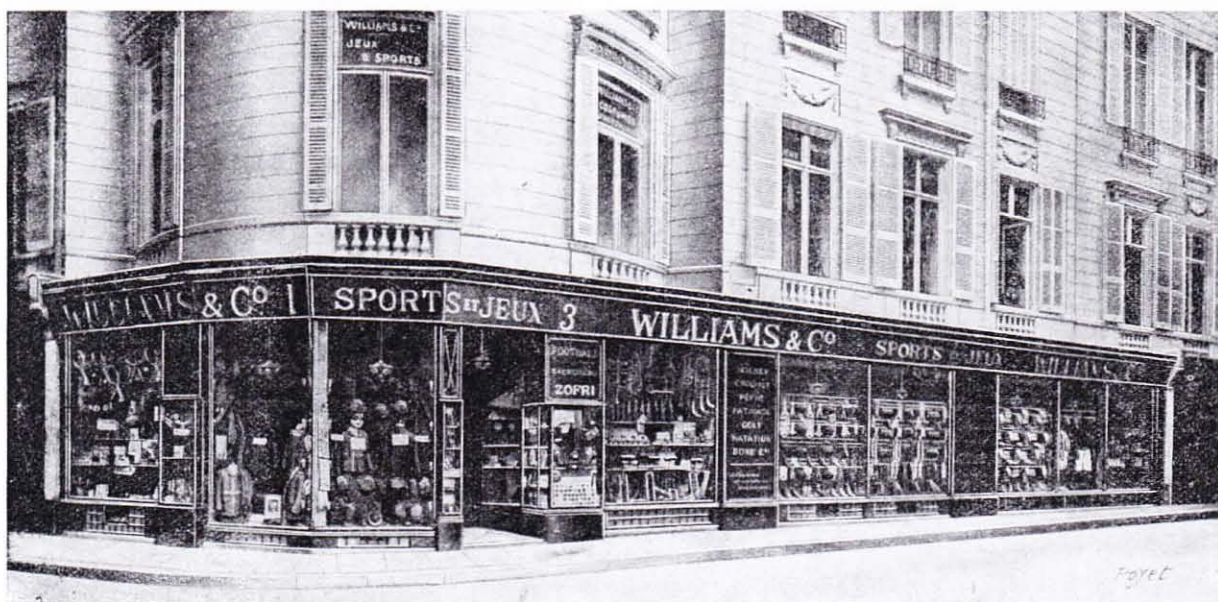


## Williams & Co and the first rules of golf in French – 1893

by  
JBK (Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak)



It is often stated that the very first translation of the Rules in French was initially made in 1902, by Pierre Deschamps for the opening of the Société du Golf de Paris. Recently, we were able to find a document, distributed by Williams & Co, dated May 1893 which set up a new record for earliest golf rules published in France.



### Williams & Co, Paris.

As it can be read on a business letter (dated 22 February 1885, but not reproduced here) the Williams Compagny, successor of Shepherd, was established in Paris certainly as early as 1876. At the origins they were located 1, rue Caumartin, in the center of Paris but later, they extended their store size and the address was the indicating 1 & 3 rue Caumartin.

A few years later, in 1887, we can get the confirmation on the invoice (next column) , and also see that Mr G.H. Shepherd, most possibly the one from whom Williams was the

successor, was still employed by the Company as it is him who signed the invoice.

Initially, they were trading “Machines Anglaises et Américaines” such as writing machines, washing and wringing machines, churns, cooling machines ... and already with games but only Lawn-Tennis is specified.





As early as October 1890, the magazine "Les Sports Athlétiques" was featuring an advertisement for Williams & Co, still located 1, rue Caumartin, in Paris. This must indicate that at that time, the company was becoming strongly interested in sports.

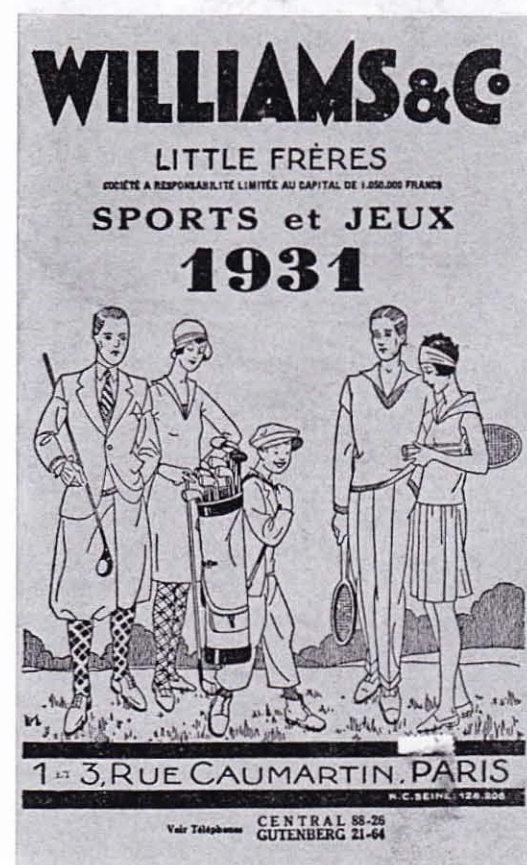
Before WWI, we can guess that the Williams business was mainly in sports as they started to publish sporting catalogues. The first catalogue we know is dated 1906 (see below). The business was growing well as now, the address is 1 and 3, rue Caumartin.



And to illustrate the cover, tennis and football were chosen. But soon after, the company decided to modify the cover illustration and, no later than in 1912, the cover was the one which we'll see until the very late 20s.

The 1912 catalogue did not bear the date on the cover (but it is printed on the back of the cover). The cover picture will remain the same, until 1928, but the year indication will be printed on the cover page.

In 1927, under the main name "Williams & Co" will appear "Little Frères" (an associate or a successor – this is not yet clear) and in 1929, the cover will change to focus on golf (mainly) and tennis.



One can see that now, golf is clearly and very aesthetically featured on the cover: a lady swinging on the top and a golf bag at the bottom left side.



## A few words on golf from the catalogues.

The 1906 catalogue only two and half pages to golf. 12 different clubs for men, 4 for women and 2 for kids were featured. The Haskell was sold 32,50 francs for a dozen and the Springvale Kite at 16,50. Gutta balls were much cheaper and a dozen of Agrippa was offered at 11 francs. It should be noted that a document on rules and explanations of the game, in French was sold at 0.25 francs.

48 WILLIAMS & Co. 1 et 3, rue Châteauneuf - PARIS

**Golf (Suite)**

**CLUBS - PRACTICE - Hommes ou Femmes** - Fabrication anglaise.  
Pour DÉBUTANTS - Drivers, Brandoes, Clubs, Machines, Niblicks, Irons et Putters ..... 6 50

**Clubs pour Jeunes gens**  
Drivers et Brandoes en bois ..... 6 25  
Clubs, Machines, Putters, Niblicks et Pliers ..... 6 25

**Clubs pour Enfants**  
Drivers et Brandoes en bois ..... 5  
Clubs, Irons, Machines et Putters ..... 5

**BALLES DE GOLF**  
Intérieur caoutchouc caoutchoué  
TAILLE ORDINAIRE

|                            | à 1/2 pouce | à 1 pouce |
|----------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| "White Colonel" (dessin)   | 20          | 39        |
| "Brandoe" (dessin)         | 20          | 39        |
| "Zodiaque" (dessin)        | 20          | 39        |
| "Zodiaque" simple (dessin) | 20          | 39        |
| "Patent Colonel" (dessin)  | 16          | 31        |
| "Brandoe" (dessin)         | 16          | 31        |
| "Challengeur" (dessin)     | 16          | 31        |
| "Dunlop" (dessin)          | 16          | 31        |
| "Dunlop" (dessin)          | 16          | 31        |
| "Regina" (dessin)          | 13          | 26        |
| "Nugget" (dessin)          | 12          | 23        |
| "Sporta" (dessin)          | 9           | 18        |

**PETITE TAILLE**

|                               |    |    |
|-------------------------------|----|----|
| "Zodiaque S" (dessin)         | 20 | 39 |
| "Zodiaque S" (dessin)         | 20 | 39 |
| "Mollet Double" (dessin)      | 18 | 36 |
| "Heavy Colonel" (dessin)      | 16 | 31 |
| "Brandoe" (dessin)            | 16 | 31 |
| "Challengeur 36 1/2" (dessin) | 16 | 31 |
| "Challengeur Minor" (dessin)  | 16 | 31 |
| "Dunlop Junior" (dessin)      | 16 | 31 |
| "Dunlop Junior" (dessin)      | 16 | 31 |
| "Dunlop Junior" (dessin)      | 16 | 31 |

Balles - Practice, intérieur en caoutchouc ..... 4 75 9

**NOTA.** - A tout acheteur de balles neuves ci-dessus, nous offrons les vieilles balles de ces marques, qui seront dévotées au profit des balles usées, dans les conditions suivantes :

|                           | la douzaine |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| "White Colonel"           | 5           |
| "Zodiaque" ou "Brandoe"   | 5           |
| "Challengeur" ou "Dunlop" | 5           |
| "Colonel"                 | 5           |
| "Regina"                  | 3           |
| "Nugget"                  | 2           |

**Dessins :** "ZODIAQUE", "BRANDOUE", "STAR".

In 1912, the number of pages grew up from 2 and half to almost 9 and the number of clubs from 18 to 56. The choice in balls also significantly improved as it can be seen above.

A sporting library was featuring a good number of books. For golf, only the Massy book was sold at 11 francs and the rules (either in French or in English) at 0,50. But the title no longer refers to the "explanations of the game"; only "rules".

## Williams & Co and golf.

We have seen than before WWI, Williams was already acting as a golf industry player. Not

only selling, but also manufacturing (at least branding golf material).

If in the 1906 catalogue we can find only branded clubs (Anderson & sons, J.-H. Taylor, R. Simpson, R. Forgan, Mill's) in the 1912 one, "own label" clubs are offered, 15% cheaper than the James Braid Clubs.

The picture we are giving here shows that this clubs were manufactured by Maxwell.



But it clearly appeared that in 1893 the company was betting on golf. The boom was already there in Great Britain and starting in the USA. France had already a few golf clubs: Pau, Biarritz, Cannes, Dinard and some new ones were in preparation such as Paramé, Sainte Barbe (Saint Jean-de-Luz) or Arcachon (see another article in this issue).

But the infrastructures were still rare and the game not really known. So we can imagine that to promote the game, the Company decide to publish a brief presentation of the game as well as the rules. A full detailed booklet would have been not realistic from an economic point of view. Note than in 1893, Mariassy had not yet published his book - which did not refer to the rules at all.

This is certainly the reason why, in May 1893, Williams printed a 9 pages document in a facsimile style (handwritten and lithographic printing) which we are reprinting here.

Today this document is the earliest printed reference to golf in France and the earliest edition of golf rules in the country.



In appendix, we give the original text as many of our readers would be able to get the flavour of this document.

The translation we are providing here was not an easy task. First because of our lack of English facilities and also because the original text, in French, which was translated from the English, is sometimes a bit unclear.

Please also note that the document finishes with a translation of a few words. We omitted it in this English part.

### The rules – translated back in English!

#### *Le Jeu de Golf*

se joue généralement sur des terrains vagues tels que falaises, collines ou vallées. Il se compose d'une série de neuf trous, distancés de 100 à 400 mètres l'un de l'autre, selon les accidents du terrain ou au goût des joueurs. Chaque trou (au milieu) est muni d'un drapeau monté sur une tige de fer pour guider les joueurs.

On part d'un endroit fixé d'avance, habituellement plat, appelé en anglais "teeing ground".

Les joueurs se succèdent et le premier à jouer frappe sa balle dans la direction du 1<sup>er</sup> trou en la laissant à la place où elle arrive; les autres joueurs font la même chose en suivant leur ordre régulier. Quand tout le monde a joué, le joueur dont la balle est la plus éloignée du trou recommence, et cherche à faire rentrer sa balle dans le trou, et ainsi de suite pour les autres joueurs: celui qui arrive à la faire avec le moins de coups gagne le trou.

Une fois le premier trou gagné, chacun prend sa balle et l'envoie recommencer pour le trou suivant; ainsi de suite jusqu'à la fin. Après avoir passé le dernier trou l'on rentre dans le lieu ou point de départ ("Teeing Ground").

Celui des joueurs qui a gagné le plus de trous a gagné la partie.



### The Game of Golf

is usually played on wasteland, such as cliffs, hills and valleys. It consists of a series of nine holes, spaced 100 to 400 meters from each other, according to the site conditions or the players' preferences. Each hole (in its middle) has a flag mounted on a metal rod for guiding the players.

Starting from a place decided in advance, usually flat called in English "teeing ground."

The players define a ranking and the first to play hits his ball in direction of the first hole, leaving it at the place where it lands, the other players do the same, following their rank.

When everyone has played, the player whose ball is farthest from the hole plays again, and tries to get the ball into the hole, and so on for the other players: the one who managed to do so with the fewer strokes wins the hole.

Once the first hole is won, everyone takes his ball and goes playing again to the next hole, and so on to the end. After the last hole, one gets into the goal or starting point ("Teeing Ground").

The player who won most of the holes wins the game.

To the benefit of the players, we decided to drop some rules which are not necessary or felt into disuse, as, frankly speaking, the game of "Golf" has not one single code of laws, absolutely fixed and each Scottish or English Society has its own rules. As for us, we refer to the Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews (Scotland) just slightly shortened.

### Rules

Every golfer must repair any damage he made to the course.

#### 1<sup>er</sup> How to play and Order of play

How to play: The game of 'golf' is usually played by two sides each consisting of one or two people playing alternately. There may be three or even more parties, each one playing his own ball.

2<sup>ème</sup> Order: To start the game, each party plays his ball from the place called "teeing ground" on the way to the first hole.

In a match with two players each side, the partners will take place at the "tee" alternately with those of the opposite party and all must be named in succession before starting the game. They must then keep the place assigned to them, until the end of the game. The one who plays the first is chosen by the players and his side starts first until he loses the hole. By courtesy, the one who plays first is usually a captain or an older member of the club; otherwise a toss could decide.

3<sup>ème</sup> Counting: The hole is won by the side getting the smallest amount of shots to make it.



4<sup>ème</sup> Starting: ("Teeing ground") The party winning a hole will play first the next hole (except at the beginning of a new game). This right is called "honour".

5<sup>ème</sup> Match. A tour of the links is defined as a "match" unless otherwise agreed before starting the game. The "match" is won by the party who has taken at least one hole ahead of others, who had the same number of strokes.

6<sup>ème</sup> Out of turn. If in a dual match one player plays instead of his partner, his party loses the hole.

Place for « teeing » and the game.

Place for « teeing »

7<sup>ème</sup> The ball must be "teed" (hit) within the starting line. The ball should not be played ahead of these signs, nor more than two club lengths (stick) behind the signs.

8<sup>ème</sup> A ball played against the seventh rule can be recalled by the opposite party.

9<sup>ème</sup> A tour on the Links. When everyone has played the first hole, the farthest ball from the first hole should be played before the others.

Several parties may play the game on the same field at the same time, but a party should not play for a hole before the previous one had left it.

10<sup>ème</sup> Changing balls. Balls played from the "tee" should not be touched or changed, or moved, until all have finished playing the hole, except in cases specified in rules 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 13 and 16.

If the parties cannot recognize their ball one could touch it only with the consent of each party.

11<sup>ème</sup> Taking off « break club » (impediments which could break a club). Any troublesome impediment which does not exceed the length of a club (stick) in front of the ball can be removed unless it is a "bunker", or sand on the road.

12<sup>ème</sup> On the sand. When a ball is in a "bunker" or a mound of earth, one cannot

flatten the land or remove the sand or other impediments before hitting the ball.

13<sup>ème</sup> Sand on the course. A ball that is on the sand (placed on the lawn to protect the links) must be played as if it was on the grass.

14<sup>ème</sup> Flattening impediments. It is forbidden to flatten the bumps on the ground to get a better position for the ball.

15<sup>ème</sup> To see the ball. When the ball is hidden by the grass, one can set it aside but just enough to make it visible to the player to play.

16<sup>ème</sup> Living impediment. Nothing that has life can be bent, broken or removed, unless it happens while playing the ball and in the case indicated by Rule 15.

17<sup>ème</sup> Stopped ball. A ball caught in damp earth or sand can be released and slightly repositioned.

18<sup>ème</sup> Removing impediments on the « putting green ». One can remove all movable impediments on the putting green except the ball from the opponent.

19<sup>ème</sup> Lifting up the balls. When the balls are 15cm or less from each other (measuring the inner sides), those closest to the hole must be removed, the other is played, and then replaced.

20<sup>ème</sup> Ball in water. If a ball falls into water the player may remove it and change it for another one, if he wants; he must drop it on the ground behind the water. This privilege accounts for one shot.

21<sup>ème</sup> Ball touching a non-player. The ball touching someone else than players is considered good.

22<sup>ème</sup> Ball touching a party player. If the ball touches the ball, the "caddie", the club (stick) of the opposite side, or if it is moved by them, the opposite side loses the hole.

23<sup>ème</sup> A ball hitting the players. If the ball hits the player or his party, or hit his own "caddie" or stick, or is stopped by one of them, or if when he plays, he gives two strokes his ball, he loses the hole.



24<sup>ème</sup> Touching to the ball. If the one who plays, or his partner, touches his ball with his foot or another part of his body (except as already specified) or with anything other than his stick, his party loses once.

25<sup>ème</sup> Moving ball before being played. If a player is addressing his ball in any place except the "tee" and makes it move, no matter how, he loses one stroke.

26<sup>ème</sup> Playing competitor's ball. If a party is playing the opposite party's ball, his side loses the hole, if he plays it, believing it is his own and the other party does not notice and plays the other ball, the game must go on, with swapped balls. If, however, the opposing party notice the mistake and the one playing had not made it on purpose, the opposite party, before playing, will replace the ball as much as possible in the same place as it was before.

27<sup>ème</sup> A ball moved by someone out of the game or removed by anyone must be replaced by dropping it as close as possible to the initial place.

28<sup>ème</sup> Lost balls. Playing a "match," if a ball is lost, the party to whom it belongs, loses the hole. If the party cannot find it after ten minutes, the hole is rightfully won by the opposite party.

29<sup>ème</sup> Broken club (stick). If, when playing the ball, the club breaks, the shot must be counted if the remaining piece in hand has touched the ground or made the ball rolling.

30<sup>ème</sup> «Holing out» the ball (new starting). Leaving a hole, one should not have made a track or any other mark to point out the direction for the ball. The ball must be played directly into the hole, and not to disturb the opposite party's ball, even if the ball is on the line.

31<sup>ème</sup> Mounds on the «putting ground». Each player on his turn has the right to remove (but not to press) small mounds that are around the holes or the line of his "putt"; this must be done by the player or his caddy with his own hand only. - If the player wishes, the line to the hole may be indicated with a stick.

32<sup>ème</sup> The flag rod, Balls near the hole. If, "holing out" (playing for the hole) the ball hits

the rod flag, the player can remove it, and if the ball falls into the hole, it should be considered as good. One cannot remove the flag before approaching the hole.

When the player's ball is near the edge of the hole, one of the opposite party, after finishing the hole, is allowed to return back the ball.

Nobody should play before the last player ball has stopped rolling.

33<sup>ème</sup> Balls that should not be played. If a ball is found in an old hole, it can be removed, dropped on the hazard and then play, without losing a stroke.

34<sup>ème</sup> Dropping a ball. When it comes to drop a ball, the player must look in the direction of the hole to play and drop it behind him, over his head.

35<sup>ème</sup> Asking for an advice. A player is not allowed to ask for an advice about the game to his own caddie or partner's caddie or his associate himself, either verbally or by signs,

36<sup>ème</sup> Passing a party. In the event a party loses a ball or cannot find it or do not have the sufficient number of caddies, the following party may pass ahead.

37<sup>ème</sup> A two ball match. A match with only two balls can always pass ahead of anyone playing three balls or more.

38<sup>ème</sup> Incomplete round. Parties who do not play a full round on the links should always give way to players who do so.

39<sup>ème</sup> Broken balls. If a ball breaks into two or more pieces a new ball must be played from the place where the largest piece lies. If a ball is just split, the player can change it, informing the opposing party.

40<sup>ème</sup> Penalties. When there are no special agreements made regarding penalties, it is usually accepted that those who do not play according to the rule loses one hole for each violation.





## Appendix – Original text in French

*With initial spelling mistakes.*

### Le Jeu de Golf

Se joue généralement sur des terrains vagues tels que falaises, collines ou vallons. Il se compose d'une série de neuf trous, distancés de 100 à 400 mètres l'un de l'autre, selon les accidents du terrain ou au goût des joueurs. Chaque trou (au milieu) est muni d'un drapeau monté sur une tige de fer pour guider les joueurs.

On part d'un endroit fixé d'avance, habituellement plat, appelé en anglais « teeing ground ».

Les joueurs se numérotent et le premier à jouer frappe sa balle dans la direction du 1<sup>er</sup> trou en la laissant à la place où elle arrive ; les autres joueurs font la même chose en suivant leur ordre régulier. Quand tout le monde a joué, le joueur, dont la balle est la plus éloignée du trou, recommence, et cherche à faire rentrer sa balle dans le trou, et ainsi de suite pour les autres joueurs : celui qui arrive à le faire avec le moins de coups gagne le trou.

Une fois le premier trou gagné chacun prend sa balle et l'on recommence pour le trou suivant ; ainsi de suite jusqu'à la fin. Après avoir passé le dernier trou l'on rentre dans le but ou point de départ (« Teeing Ground »).

Celui des joueurs qui a gagné le plus de trous a gagné la partie.

Nous avons cru, dans l'intérêt des joueurs, devoir supprimer quelques règles inutiles ou tombées en désuétude, car à vrai dire, le jeu de « Golf » n'a pas un code de lois absolument fixe, chaque Société Ecossoise ou Anglaise ayant ses propres règles. Quant à nous, nous les empruntons au Royal & Ancien Club de Golf de St Andrews (Ecosse) seulement un peu abrégées.

### Règles

Tout golfer doit réparer une avarie fait par lui au terrain en jouant.

#### 1<sup>er</sup> Manière et Ordre du Jeu

La Manière : Le jeu de 'golf' est joué d'habitude par deux parties composée chacune d'une ou deux personnes qui jouent alternativement. Il peut y avoir aussi trois

parties ou même davantage, chaque partie jouant sa propre balle.

2<sup>ème</sup> Ordre : Pour commencer le jeu, chaque partie joue sa balle de l'endroit dit « teeing ground » en route pour le premier trou.

Dans un match où il y a deux parties à chaque côté, les associés prendront place au « Tee » alternativement avec ceux de la partie opposée et tous doivent être nommés successivement avant de commencer le jeu. Ils doivent garder la place qui leur serait ainsi assignée, jusqu'à la fin du jeu. Celui qui doit jouer le premier sera nommé par les joueurs et sa partie commencera première jusqu'à ce qu'il perde un trou. Par courtoisie celui qui joue premier est d'habitude un des capitaines ou un vieux membre du club ; autrement l'on peut décider par le sort.

3<sup>ème</sup> La manière de compter : Le trou est gagné par la partie qui donne le moins de coups pour y arriver.

4<sup>ème</sup> Le départ : (« Teeing Ground ») La partie gagnant un trou partira première pour le trou suivant (excepté au commencement d'un nouveau match). Ce droit est appelé « l'honneur ».

5<sup>ème</sup> Le Match. Un tour des links est compté un « match » à moins d'avoir décidé autrement avant de commencer le jeu. Le « match » est gagné par la partie qui a pris au moins un trou en avance des autres, ayant eu le même nombre de coups qu'elles.

6<sup>ème</sup> Jouer hors de place. Si dans un double match un des joueurs joue à la place de son associé, sa partie perd le trou.

L'endroit pour le « teeing » et jeu.

L'endroit du « teeing ».

7<sup>ème</sup> Il faut que la balle soit « teed » (frappée) en dedans la ligne de départ. Les balles ne doivent pas être jouées en avant de ces marques, ni plus de deux longueurs d'un « club » (baton) en arrière de la marque.

8<sup>ème</sup> Une balle jouée contre la règle 7<sup>ème</sup> peut être rappelée par la partie opposée.

9<sup>ème</sup> Le tour des Links. Quand tout le monde a joué le premier trou, la balle qui se trouve la plus éloignée du premier trou doit être jouée avant les autres.



Plusieurs parties de jeux peuvent jouer sur le même terrain, et en même temps, à condition qu'une partie ne joue pas pour un trou avant la partie précédente l'ait quitté.

10<sup>ème</sup> Changer les balles. Les balles jouées du « tee » ne doivent être touchées, ni changées, ni déplacées, avant que tous aient fini de jouer ce trou exception faite dans les cas spécifiés dans les règles 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 13 & 16.

Si les parties ne peuvent reconnaître leur balle l'on ne doit y toucher qu'avec le consentement de chaque partie.

11<sup>ème</sup> Pour enlever les « break club » (obstacles qui peuvent casser un club). Tout obstacle qui gêne et qui ne dépasse pas la longueur d'un club (baton) en avant la balle peut être ôtée à moins qu'il ne soit un « bunker », ou du sable sur la route.

12<sup>ème</sup> Marquer sur le sable. Quand une balle se trouve sur un « bunker » ou sur un monticule de terre, l'on ne doit aplatir la terre ni ôter la sable ou autre obstacle avant de frapper la balle.

13<sup>ème</sup> Sable sur la course. Une balle qui se trouve sur le sable (mis sur le gazon pour conserver les links) doit être jouée comme si c'était sur le gazon.

14<sup>ème</sup> Aplatir les obstacles. Il est défendu d'aplatir les bosses du terrain pour rendre plus avantageuse la position de la balle.

15<sup>ème</sup> Pour voir la balle. Quand la balle est cachée par l'herbe on doit la mettre de côté, seulement assez pour permettre au joueur de voir la balle en jouant.

16<sup>ème</sup> Tout obstacle vivant. Rien qui a de la vie ne doit être courbé, cassé ou ôté, à moins que cela arrive en jouant la balle et dans le cas indiqué par la règle 15.

17<sup>ème</sup> Balle fixe. Une balle qui se trouve prise dans de la terre humide ou dans le sable peut être dégagée et remplacée légèrement.

18<sup>ème</sup> Pour ôter les obstacles sur le « putting green ». On peut ôter tous les obstacles mobiles sur le putting green excepté la balle de l'adversaire.

19<sup>ème</sup> Enlèvement des balles. Quand les balles se trouvent rapprochées de 15cm ou

moins l'une de l'autre (en mesurant les faces intérieures), celle la plus près du trou doit être enlevée jusqu'à l'autre soit jouée et ensuite remplacée.

20<sup>ème</sup> Une balle dans l'eau. Si une balle tombe dans l'eau, le joueur peut l'enlever et la changer pour une autre s'il le veut ; il doit la laisser tomber sur le terrain en arrière de l'eau. Ce privilège compte pour un coup.

21<sup>ème</sup> La balle qui touche un non-joueur. La balle qui touche quelqu'un autre que les joueurs est considérée bonne.

22<sup>ème</sup> Une balle qui touche quelqu'un de la partie. Si la balle touche la balle, le « caddie », le club (baton) de la partie opposée, ou si elle est déplacée par eux, la partie opposée perd le trou.

23<sup>ème</sup> Une balle qui frappe les joueurs. Si la balle frappe le joueur ou celui de la même partie que lui, ou frappe son propre « caddie », ou baton, ou est arrêté par l'un d'eux, ou si pendant qu'il joue, il donne deux coups à la balle, il perd son trou.

24<sup>ème</sup> Toucher à la balle. Si celui qui joue, ou son associé, touche leur balle avec le pied ou un autre membre du corps (excepté dans les cas déjà spécifiés) ou avec autre chose que son baton, sa partie perd un coup.

25<sup>ème</sup> Une balle qui bouge avant d'être jouée. Si un joueur en s'adressant à la balle en toute place excepté le « tee » la fait bouger n'importe comment, il perd un coup.

26<sup>ème</sup> Jouant la balle de la partie opposée. Si une partie joue la balle de la partie opposée, son côté perd un trou ; si elle la joue croyant jouer la sienne et la partie opposée ne s'en aperçoit pas et joue l'autre balle, le jeu doit continuer avec les balles changées. Si, au contraire, la partie opposée remarque l'erreur et celui qui a joué ne l'a pas fait exprès, la partie opposée avant de jouer son tour, fera replacer la balle autant que possible dans la même place qu'auparavant.

27<sup>ème</sup> Une balle dérangée par quelqu'un hors du jeu ou enlevée par quiconque doit être remise en la laissant tomber aussi près que possible de l'endroit d'où elle est partie.

28<sup>ème</sup> Balle perdue. En jouant un « match », si une balle est perdue, la partie à qui elle



appartient perd un trou. Si l'on ne la trouve pas après dix minutes le trou appartient de plein droit à la partie opposée.

29<sup>ème</sup> Un club (baton) cassé. Si en jouant la balle, le club se casse, le coup doit être compté si le morceau qui reste dans la main a touché par terre ou fait rouler la balle.

30<sup>ème</sup> « Holeing out » (nouveau départ) la balle. En quittant de nouveau un trou, l'on ne doit pas avoir un tracé ou autre marque pour guider la direction de la balle. La balle doit être jouée directement pour le trou, et non pour déranger la balle de la partie opposée même si cette balle est dans la ligne.

31<sup>ème</sup> Monticules sur le « putting ground ». Chaque joueur à son tour a le droit d'enlever (mais non d'enfoncer) les petits monticules de terre qui se trouvent autour des trous ou sur la ligne de son « putt » ; cela doit être fait par le joueur ou son cadet avec sa propre main seulement. – Si le joueur le désire, la ligne pour son trou peut lui être indiquée par un baton.

32<sup>ème</sup> Le support drapeau. La balle sur le bord du trou. Si, en « holeing out » (jouant pour le trou) la balle touche le support du drapeau, le joueur peut faire retirer le support, et si la balle tombe dans le trou, cela doit être considéré comme bon. On ne peut enlever le support avant d'approcher le trou.

Quand la balle du joueur est sur le bord d'un trou, un de la partie opposée, après avoir fait le trou, a le droit de renvoyer la balle se trouvant sur le bord.

Personne ne doit jouer avant que la balle du dernier joueur ait cessé de rouler.

33<sup>ème</sup> Les balles que l'on ne doit pas jouer. Si une balle est trouvée dans un ancien trou on peut l'ôter, la laisser tomber sur le hazard, ensuite la faire jouer sans perdre un coup.

34<sup>ème</sup> Manière de faire tomber une balle. Quand il s'agit de laisser tomber une balle, la personne doit regarder dans la direction du trou à jouer et la laisser tomber par-dessus sa tête derrière lui.

35<sup>ème</sup> Demander conseil. Un joueur ne doit pas demander conseil, soit verbalement ou par

des signes, à propos du jeu de son propre caddie ou le caddie de son associé ou son associé même.

36<sup>ème</sup> La partie qui se passe. Dans le cas où une des parties jouant perd une balle et ne la retrouve pas de suite, ou n'a pas le nombre de caddies suffisant, la partie qui la suit peut la passer.

37<sup>ème</sup> Un match de deux balles. Un match à deux balles seulement peut toujours passer une partie jouant trois balles ou plus.

38<sup>ème</sup> Parties qui ne font pas le tour des links. Les parties qui ne jouent pas le tour des links doivent toujours faire place aux joueurs qui le font.

39<sup>ème</sup> Les balles qui se cassent. Si une balle se casse en deux ou en plusieurs pièces une nouvelle balle doit être jouée de la place où se trouve le plus grand morceau de celle cassée. Si une balle est seulement fendue le joueur peut la changer en prévenant la partie opposée.

40<sup>ème</sup> Les amendes. Quand il n'y a pas de conventions spéciales faites concernant les amendes, il est habituellement entendu que celui qui ne joue pas en règle perd un trou pour chaque délit.

#### Explication des Mots

« Teeing Ground ». L'endroit d'où l'on commence le jeu.

« Links ». L'ensemble du terrain où l'on joue composé du « teeing ground » et des neuf trous.

« Putting Green ». La partie du terrain d'environ 8 mètres autour de chaque trou, généralement plat et bien entretenu.

« Holed out ». Quand on vient de faire son dernier coup et ayant mis sa balle dans un trou (ou ayant fait un trou).

« Break club ». Tout objet qui gêne ou pouvant casser un baton.

« Caddie ». Un garçon qui porte les batons et guette les balles.

« Bunker ». Quelque chose placée exprès pour rendre le jeu plus difficile.

« Hazzard ». Le terrain ordinaire entre les trous et en dehors les « putting greens ».

« Un putte ». Le coup d'essai pour entrer dans un trou.



## Reporting on hickory events - 2013

by  
**Christoph N. Meister**



As we are half way through with our continental hickory tournaments at the time I am writing this we are soon approaching our 2<sup>nd</sup> EAGHC European Hickory Championship at Royal Golf Club de Belgique in Ravenstein / Brussels on September 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> 2013 just following our annual EAGHC meeting.



*Brioni – May 2013*

After the tremendous success we had last with our first and inaugural EAGHC European Hickory Championship in Gothenburg our president and me are really looking forward to this year's event.

The tournament will be played over 27holes stroke play (cut after 18holes) with original pre 1935 hickory shafted golf clubs only. There will be a cut Friday evening after 18holes for the 15 best male and 3 best female players (+ those on equal gross score after 18holes.). The 9 finishing holes starting at hole No.10 will be played on Saturday morning. There is also a

country team competition with two players (male and/or female) forming a team where the aggregate gross scores after 18 holes will be taken into account.

### **Croatia – Brioni.**

On Saturday, May 4th 2013, we played our season opener, the first Brioni Open Hickory Championship on Brioni Old Course.

I wouldn't want to deprive you of Martin Panosch's report which describes so well the tournament (and which I'm translating here):



## *"Falling in Love*

*On May 4th, 2013 the first Brioni Hickory Championship was played near Pula, Croatia. Now that I have held the banner of the Austrian Hickory Golf Club there, here is a little report with a few photos:*

*The Brioni Islands just of the Istrian Coast were formerly sealed off land privately owned by Tito and became a National Park after his death. A beautiful 18-hole golf course from 1923 was reconstructed during the early 1990's and brought back to 18 holes in 2006 according to the original plans.*

*The sand greens make the course so special, as approach shots are almost impossible. You have to master the "Brioni-Shot", approach shots using a long iron so that the golf ball does not jump off the green. On the course itself you will encounter deer, wild sheep, rabbits, peacocks and sea gulls breeding right in the centre of the course.*

*Grass is not cut by human beings, but the animals have taken over that job, sometimes more, sometimes less. A golfer looking for a classic championship golf course should avoid Brioni.*

*This island is the true place for any golfer looking for paradise on earth. In the tournament there were players from Denmark, Germany, Poland and Croatia. I was the only Austrian.*

*Henrik West from Denmark won the gentlemen's gross, whereas for my standards I played a very good round winning the gentlemen's net and finishing 7<sup>th</sup> in the gross. Unfortunately there were prizes for the best net score.*

*Sofia Lelakowska won both the Ladies net and gross.*

*I can only recommend the tournament for all of you next year as it happened to be a true and unique experience. From Salzburg, Austria, you reach Fazana in 4.5 hours, from where the island is only a small ferry trip away. One should by all means stay and sleep in the Neptun Hotel. The hotel originates from the*

*time of the Austrian KuK Empire and was during Tito times furnished with so-called real socialistic charm.*

*Not much has been invested since then and there the hotel shows some real patina that goes well together with our hickory clubs. Also the hotel is good value for money. Anyone suffering from impertinent wealth might choose to rent a Villa on the island including a butler."*

## **Germany – Berlin**

Two weeks later our EAGHC-member Olaf Dudzus ([dudzus@olaf-dudzus.de](mailto:dudzus@olaf-dudzus.de)) invited us to play in the third **2013 Berlin Hickory Open Championship**. Again I would like to share with you Martin Panosch's enthusiastic and entertaining report:

*A short report from the Berlin Hickory Open played on May 18th, 2013 in Berlin: Some of you already know the Golf- und Land-Club Wannsee. It is the oldest continuously existing golf club in Germany founded 1895. The golf course at Wannsee was opened in 1926. We played the 9-hole course with original golf holes from 1926 well suited for hickory golf. Also the length of the holes adapted well with our historic hickory clubs. Modern courses with great lengths are not always the optimum for us just like some old course is often not well suited for modern golf clubs when it comes to fairway width, hitting areas, bunker alignment etc.*

*At Wannsee the gorgeous old tree population and excellent golf course maintenance made our visit very special. One notices that there are immense numbers of greenkeepers at work. Ever since this weekend I also know why so many of the hickory shafted golf clubs are so rusty. Never in my life did I get so wet during a round of golf.*

*The weather was quite tolerable when we started off hoping it would stay like this. In the mid of the second nine the rain arrived heavy and horizontal. Of course I did not put on rain gear as that would not have been authentic. Maybe this was the reason that even by underwear boxer shorts got wet. But as true gentlemen we have supported this with dignity and decency (remark CM: I can confirm that!) and of course with a lot of Single Highland*



*Malt until when my hip flask was empty.  
Nevertheless we had a lot of fun.*

*After golf four members of Max Raabe Palast  
Orchester rounded up our lunch. Fellow  
competitors came from Scotland, the  
Netherlands, Sweden, Norway und of Course  
Germany, all-in-all 39 players. The winners:  
Net Gentlemen Vincent Engelmann (68 net,  
GER), Net Ladies Roswitha Leucht (76 net,  
GER), Gross Gentlemen Claes Arma (74,  
SWE), Gross Ladies Diana Schraud (98, GER),  
Best professional Iain Forrester (73, SCO). I  
quarrelled a little with my swing and the rain  
finishing in the backmost midfield.*

(Again text with kind permission from Martin  
Panosch, translated by Christoph Meister)

## Poland

A few weeks later, on Saturday, June 8th 2013 to be more precise, Sofia Lelakowska had invited us to play in the **Polish Hickory Golf Championship** at Sobienie Golf & CC near Warszawa, Poland. Again this event was excellently organised by our charming Polish Hickory Lady with including a very attractive arrangement for green fee, accommodation and excellent Polish food. The weather was perfect, the golf course well suited for hickory golfer and therefore the players from Austria, Finland, Germany, Sweden and of course Poland did enjoy themselves very much. The titles were a family affair with Michael Edin winning the gentlemen title (84 strokes) and his wife Britta Nord (94 strokes) winning the ladies title adding a new national title to her vast collection.

Defending two-times champion Czeslaw Kruk (94 strokes) was this time beaten by Jorma Karlstedt (86, FIN), and Gottlieb Peer (89, AUT). But of course no one could beat him dress wise. Czeslaw, almost as always, was again voted best dressed hickory golfers. At least by Sofia and Christoph....

Talking about Czeslaw I can only tell you how much he was missed at this year's **German Hickory Championship** at Wentorf-Reinbeker GC near Hamburg on August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

Arriving at the starters hut on championship day, our starter, Hildegard Lübke, immediately told me how much she misses the well dressed Polish Gentlemen from Scotland. "And all my lady friends from the golf club feel the same!" Never mind, the 2013 German Hickory Championship, the 5<sup>th</sup> edition since its inception, was still a success with almost 30 players starting. And there was also some very good golf played given the excellent weather conditions, as always I tend to say. In the Gentlemen's category Perry Somers won the title for a fourth consecutive time with a round of 75 (compared to a 1929-Par of 75 and S.S.S. of 77) followed by Iain Forrester (76), who still holds the lowest championship round record with 72 strokes in 2009. Klaus Sasse is the German Amateur Hickory Champion with 90 strokes. Brit Gericke, a young local player, won the Ladies title for the second consecutive time (86 strokes) with three time championess Britta Nord finishing second.

Christian Juel (DEN) played an excellent net round of 70, whereas Roswitha Leucht from Berlin won the ladies net with also excellent 74 net strokes. And of course, like last year, a match play was played the following day Germany vs. Foreigners. Fortunately the match was halved unlike last year where we Germans suffered a frustrating defeat at Lübeck-Travemünde.

## Other events.

In the meantime I am looking forward to the following events:

**Austrian Amateur Hickory Championship 2013** – Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at Golfclub Salzkammergut, Bad Ischl, Austria during the clubs 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.

**International Dutch Hickory Open 2013** – Saturday, September 21st, 2013 at Ullerberg, Netherlands

**EAGHC European Hickory Championship 2013** – Friday / Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> 2013, at Royal Golf Club de Belgique, Ravenstein



## Pictures from Hickory Events & Championships –2013



*Sofia Lelakowska and Martin Panosch - Brioni*



*Sofia, Olaf, Klaus, Christoph - Brioni*



*Hamburg – German Hickory Championship 2013*



*Ian Forrester & Perry Sommers - Hamburg*



*Huguette Kazmierczak + Hans Weinbacher - Poland*



*Michael Edin, Britta Nord - Poland*



*A few attendees before the lectures (Poland)*



*C. Meister, C. Kruk and Mrs E. Krasnodebska*



# GOLF IN ITALY



HAK MINON