



*Mac Nab crossing the Jordan at Pau GC, by Sealy*



*Three engravings after the Sealy paintings*

# golfika



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The front cover of Golfika Magazine n°17 is again after a painting of one of our EAGHC members, Viktor Cleve, Germany's leading golf painter. As a former art director he kindly designed the title page and donated it to us. His painting is inspired from a postcard featuring caddies at the "Golf de Fontainebleau".

Covers – Second page: Pau painting & engravings  
Third page: Vagliano Trophy, The French team & autographs  
Back: "Babe" Didrikson-Zaharias

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## Presidents' words

Poul-Erik Jensen



Dear Fellow EAGHC Members,

At the EAGHC meeting at Saint-Raphael Valescure in October 2015, I was elected as member of the EAGHC board and later during the meeting elected President. It is a great honour for me to take over the great work done by JBK and the previous presidents and I promise to do my best to carry out and continue the job.

I will also take the opportunity of thanking JBK for his great efforts and I hope that the EAGHC, in the future, can benefit from his great ability as a writer and researcher. This already seems to become a reality with the coming establishment of a golf library in cooperation with *Musée National du Sport* in Nice.

This establishment is a result of a donation from John Lovell, mainly consisting of newer golf books.

The donation was unknown to me when I was elected and at the moment EAGHC has not the full view of the donation. However the members of the board agreed that the idea with establishing an exhibition of the books together with *Musée National du Sport* would be a good solution.

The basis of this agreement was a mail from John Hanna, who in his usual precise way pointed out the advantages of the location in Nice which are:

- The museum already has a high reputation.
- The museum already has agreed to house the library.
- The library will have the prospect of longevity.
- The museum will have the best storage facilities.

- Nice, on the French Riviera, is reasonably accessible from most of Europe
- It seems that there is not going to be great costs involved.
- There would be room to expand into a fully established Golf Museum
- Initially we have a top class member on hand to oversee the start-up.

I have discussed the matter with JBK, who has promised to help and keep us informed of the development.

At the meeting in Valescure, it was decided that next meeting would take place in Denmark. The meeting will be held at Munkebjerg Hotel, Vejle, from Thursday September 1<sup>st</sup> 2016, noon (lectures and AGM) till Friday September 2<sup>nd</sup> (visit of the Golf Museum, trading and lectures). It will be followed by the Danish Hickory (Saturday – accounting as 1<sup>st</sup> round for the EAGHC Invitational) and then the final round of the EAGHC Hickory Invitational (Sunday).

Also an important change from the previous meetings: after the AGM proper, we shall have a get-together dinner hosted by the Munkebjerg Hotel and The Danish Golf Museum. The Gala dinner is planned on Friday evening, the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September.

The Danish Golf Museum is situated in the hotel and will of course be open to the participants throughout both days. The program is summarised on page 30 of this magazine.

All members are very welcome. I really look forward to welcoming you to Denmark and especially to The Danish Golf Museum.

## Editor's Corner

Stéphan Filanovitch



Dear EAGHC members

A new issue – now and for the first time in full colour – a new president, a new Olympic year, another Ryder Cup, 2016 should be a wonderful year for us.

First, thanks to JBK for his two-year actions as president, and a great final in Valescure. The meeting was really fabulous, there was many exchanges and communications. One small exception, the weather was not 100% perfect, but JBK couldn't control it!

So, welcome to Poul-Erik! Sure, he will be a great president. And he starts with a meeting in Denmark. It will be a pleasure to see you again.

About the Golf Library (Museum), I totally agree with my President, everything just come together so that Nice is the best place to install the Library. Thanks again to John Lowell for his donation. And somebody told me that other members could also give additional golf books to the Musée National du Sport.

As it is an Olympic year, you should appreciate the article about Babe Zaharias, a fabulous athlete passed away too soon.

It will be the first time golf has been played at the Olympics since the 1904 Summer Olympics, and I sincerely hope that this return will be a success.

Then it will be the Ryder Cup, and John Hanna's article about Irish golfers is very interesting. Go Europe, Go!

With the mystery of the 4th Sealy's painting, you should like this exciting investigation, thanks to JBK, Yves and Robin.

Caddies, by Sara and Geert, is a nice article about an unknow part of the game golf – inspiring Viktor Cleve for the cover painting.

Finally, thanks to all contributors, with their precious help!



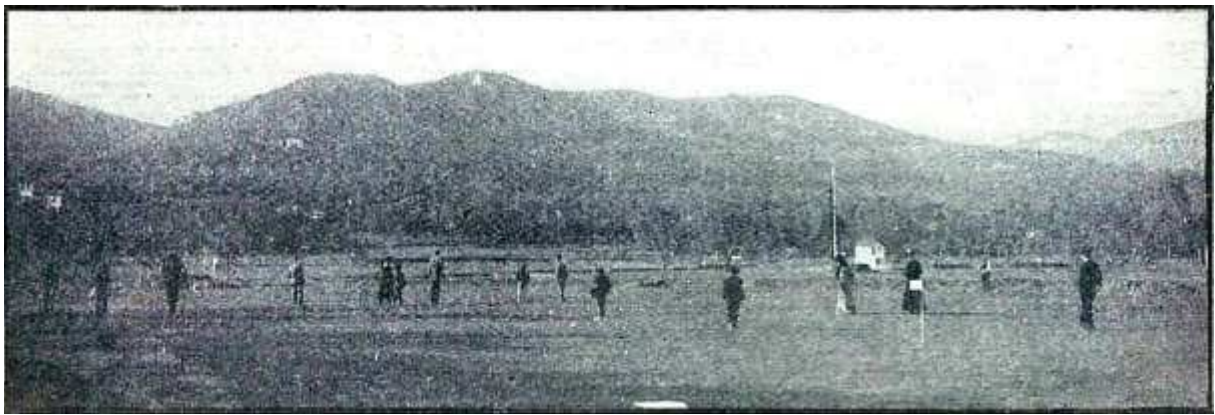


## Playing golf at San Remo

By JBK (Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak)



In Golfika Magazine #12, Christoph Meister wrote an excellent article on Golf in Italy. He was presenting the earliest clubs in the peninsula, including San Remo. By chance, I was able to find some complementary information on this club which I'm presenting here.



*A rare picture featuring the first San Remo golf course located at Arma di Taggia (1904 or 1905).*

The Italian Riviera (as well as the French one) was an appealing resort for the Russian nobles since the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. And San Remo was a preferred place after the tsarina Maria Alexandrovna spent a full winter there. Also, it was in this city that the Grand Duke Michael of Russia, who founded the Cannes Golf Club in 1891, married, the same year to Sophie de Torby. This might be the first link between San Remo and golf ...

But there is often some misunderstanding when speaking with golfers in Italy about San Remo which Christoph started to clarify. Our complements are confirming the date 1905 and provide a few additional lights.

In the *Morning Post*, dated November 8<sup>th</sup>, 1900, the "Bank San Remo" is advertising under the title "Exchange, Remittance and all Banking Business Transacted": "Intending visitors to the

Italian Riviera may obtain full information concerning San Remo, Ospedaletti and Bordighera villas to be let and properties to be sold. A Golf Club *is in course of formation* at San Remo. All letters addressed to the Bank, San Remo, or to its London Office, 24 Great Winchester street, E.C. will receive prompt attention".

Christoph found additional information in the *Golfing Annual* 1901-02 which we are reprinting here: "of nine holes, is about five minutes walking from Sagia<sup>1</sup> 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".

So, as soon as 1900, there was a project for creating a golf club at San Remo. It is most probably that this club was inaugurated between

<sup>1</sup> It is clearly Taggia and not Sagia!

1902 and 1907. The date 1905 seems the most likely – as we can read below. In addition, Christoph Meister quotes that Nisbet1905 gave the precise date 21 Jan. 1905.

In the magazine *C B Fry's magazine of Sport and Outdoor life* dated September 1905 (from which the image above is extracted) it is possible to read:

*“Golf courses on the Continent seem to increase by magic. No sooner is a new resort “discovered” than visitors are requested to test the merits of the neighbouring links, famous for comfort and natural beauties. San Remo is one of the latest Mediterranean pleasure spots to add thus to its attractions.*

*The first season of the club proved a great success, and that it “filled a long-felt want” on the western section of the Italian Riviera was shown by the large number of subscribers and of transient players who kept the links animated, and the excellent clubhouse filled with visitors through the long season that forms one of the special attractions of San Remo. The golf club was organised by a small number of gentlemen who visit San Remo every year, without any intention that it should become a paying, but only a self-supporting, institution. That this object should have been practically realised during the first season speaks highly for the ability of the managing committee. The links are not large, but they are well laid out, and with the growing success of the club their dimensions will be increased. They are at present the only golf links between Nice on the west and Rome on the east, and during the last season they were largely patronised by visitors from Ventimiglia, Bordighera, and Ospedaletti, on the one side of San Remo, and from Alassio and Porto Maurizio, on the other.*

*The location of the links is excellent. They are about three miles from San Remo, and are reached by a good train service, by special brakes running at fixed hours, and by the Corniche Road, that follows the sea for the whole distance. They are situated at a small place called Arma di Taggia, famous for its fertile market gardens, which are protected from the northerly winds by a magnificent range of encircling hills. The links will be reopened about the middle of November next, and the resident English professional will take up his duties at the same date. Detailed information may be*

*obtained from the honorary secretary, whose address is: The Anglo-American Agency, San Remo.”*

This text is extremely interesting as it helps to make a fair guess on the creation of the links. As the magazine is the September 1905 edition, and the author is writing “reopened about November next” the course was already open the previous (and first season) – which means that the opening could be dated somewhere between November 1904 and May 1905.

The *Leeds Mercury*, on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1907 was dedicating some space on the Italian Riviera:

*“The golf links are near the quaint old Ligurian hamlet of Taggia, a few miles easterly of San Remo town, and easily reached by rail, cycle, or carriage. Their location is one of much beauty; and, apart from its golf, it is also a favourite sketching ground for artists. Good fishing is likewise found up the streams. Some enterprising hotel proprietors of San Remo have during the past summer erected on the links a very cosy club pavilion, where well-cooked luncheons, daintily-served teas, and, if desired, recherché dinners are procurable. During the pleasant spring evenings it will become “quite the thing” to dine at the Taggia Links, and drive home merrily afterwards along the winding shore-road to San Remo.*

*A capital Sports Club has, just westward of San Remo, good grounds for hockey, tennis, croquet, and other outdoor amusements. Of excellent hotel and pension accommodation there is no lack at San Remo. Its large hotels can “offer odds” to most winter resorts, as they contain the latest modern luxuries and most scientific hygienic arrangements; and the smaller establishments are equally well conducted, reasonable, even “during the high season,” in prices, and many of them “most homelike.””*

Thanks to the *London Standard*, we were able to find some very valuable information, mainly for the 1907 and 1908 seasons:

On 29 Nov. 1907, we can learn that “the golf links will reopen shortly, and Mr H. K. Brodie, the popular hon. secretary, reports that they are in splendid condition. It is a 9-hole course, well laid out, with clubhouse and every convenience. A further attraction is the Sports Club, which is

*a favourite rendezvous for English and American visitors.”*

More information on the organisation is provided some days later. On 9 December we read that *“the president of the San Remo golf links will not be with us this season. Lord and Lady Waleran having the intention of spending their winter on the West Coast of Africa. There will be no club fixtures until January, when the monthly medal and other competitions will begin. Mr H. K. Brodie, who owns a large villa in the Berige quartier has just been appointed vice-consul of R[illegible]”*.

In the January 14<sup>th</sup> 1908 issue, we learn that, finally, the competitions for the season started with the monthly medal, on the week of Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>, as the course was considered being in splendid conditions, after the recent rains. It is also announced that *“Mr H. C. Rew, one of our most enthusiastic golfer, has offered to present a handsome cup to the golf club, to be competed on for the same conditions as the Apraxine Challenge Cup”*.

It seems that many prizes were competed for, proving that the club was pretty lively. A second monthly medal was played on February 5<sup>th</sup> (reported the 11<sup>th</sup>). The medal was won by the captain, Mr A. B. Schofield (scratch), with the score of 79. And, to give an idea of the level of the different players, we are reproducing here the results: *“Mr Kitchen, 85 less 5 – 80; Mr Brodie 99 less 18 – 81; Mr H. C. Rew, 88 less 6 – 82; Mr Roosevelt, 97 less 12 – 85; Mr Bicker-Caarten, 104 less 18 – 86; Mr E. B. Rew, 102 less 12 – 90; Countess Apraxine, 115 less 24 – 91; Mr Barlow, 99 less 6 – 93; Mrs Rew, 123 less 20 – 103; Mr Beekman 134 less 24 – 110; Mrs Schofield, 158 less 24 – 134. The competition for the Philips Challenge Cup will be held tomorrow and the following days”*.

It is interesting to read in the list that two ladies are named among all the gentlemen results! It seems that they were all competing together for the monthly medal.

Still in the London Standard, on March 10<sup>th</sup>, 1908, we get some additional information on the cup presented by Mr H. C. Rew and which was announced two months earlier: *“The golf competition for the American Challenge Cup, presented by Mr H. C. Rew, of Buffalo, New York, took place last week, Mr A. Schofield*

*beating Dr Hunt in the semi-final, and Mr A. Kitchen beating Mr E. B. Rew. Mr A. Kitchen then beat Mr Schofield over 36 holes by 4 up and 3 to play. The match caused considerable excitement amongst the numerous visitors present.”*

And the following week (20<sup>th</sup> March edition): *“The competition at the Golf Club for the gold medal presented by the Captain, Mr A. Schofield, was decided on Wednesday, the 11<sup>th</sup> inst. In the first round, Mr H. K. Brodie beat Mr H. C. Rew by one up; Mr G. E. Hewett beat Mr W. O. Roosevelt, two up; Mr A. Kitchen beat Mr E. B. Rew, three up; and Mr C. S. Cruddas beat Dr Hunt, two up. In the semi-finals, Mr Hewett beat Mr Brodie, one up; and Mr Kitchen beat Mr Cruddas, three up and one to play. The medal was finally easily secured by Mr Kitchen, after playing 36 holes with Mr Hewett. Mr C. S. Cruddas won the weekly medal with a score of 98, less 20, equals 78”*.

The last competition of the season was reported on 14 April 1908 and was for the Marshall Roberts gold and silver medals. It is interesting to note that this “gold medal” (picture below) is in fact in bronze!



This competition, played on several days, terminated on Friday 10<sup>th</sup>. Mr C. S. Cruddas, A. B. Schofield, H. K. Brodie, and Dr G. Hunt qualified for the semi-final, which consisted on one round of 18 holes, match play. In this competition, Mr Schofield beat Mr Cruddas by one up, and Mr Brodie beat Dr. Hunt by 6 and 5. The final was over 36 holes, match play, and in this, Mr Schofield was the winner by 8 and 7, the gold medal being this awarded to him and the silver one falling to Mr Brodie. This is the last competition of the season, and though, the attendance was not so large as usual, great interest was shown by those who were present.



This competition was important enough to be also reported in the *Dundee Courier* (Monday April 20, 1908). This newspaper is even adding that “*after this competition, the finalists (Schofield and Brodie) played their best ball against J. Bacon, the local professional and during this match, Mr Schofield lowered the amateur record for the course by going out in 35 and coming home in 36 for a total of 71. Finally, the match ended all square.*”

After this date, it seems that the articles in newspapers are unfrequent. We were able to find only a short notice in the *London Standard* of February 10<sup>th</sup>, 1909: “*The competition of the Apraxine Challenge Cup presented by the Countess Apraxine, took place at the San Remo Golf Club, the winner being Mr H. C. Rew. There were twelve entries, and the competition was very keen all through. The return of the Messrs Rew and Mr Schofield to the Hotel Savoy has done much to stimulate the game here.*”

This first San Remo golf club was still in existence in 1914 as the *American Golfer*, dated February 12, 1914 wrote that “an increasing number of visitors now turn their attention to the only course that exists on the Italian Riviera, this being at Taggia, which is reached by a few minutes railway journey from San Remo and is a very beautifully situated little place for golf. The tramway lines have now been extended to Taggia, and the new service will shortly be available to golfers, which will be a considerable gain in convenience.”

In the Spalding Official Guide 1915 (Red Cover Series of Athletic Handbooks, American Sport Publishing Co.) the golf club is still indicated as a nine hole-course and the contact for information (secretary) is Edward A. Cousins, Villa Rocca, San Remo.

A short reference to this club is provided in the edition of May 1917 of the *American Golfer*. It could have been its swan song as in the Guide Plumon first edition (1925) there is no reference to this golf club in Italy.

In his book *The Riviera Coast*, Captain Lesmie Richardson, name the different golf clubs on the Riviera, but no reference is provided to golf when he describes San Remo or Taggia. This is confirming the absence of a golf course in the region in 1928.

The *Ente Nazionale Industrie Turistiche* (ENIT) printed in the 30s for the Italian Railway (*Ferrovie dello Stato*) indicates that the San Remo Golf Club is situated about 4 kilometres [north] from the center of San Remo and about 600 feet above sea level – which means much closer than the first club as Arma di Taggia is distant about 13 kilometres (east) from the city center.

The same booklet gives the information that the club opened in summer 1931.

On the club website, Marco Mascardi, a Honorary Member of Club, provides some interesting information:

“On 1st december 1931 four players teed off for the first game ever played in San Remo golf course: two of whom were the famous professionals Luigi Prette and Francesco Pasquali (winner of the first italian open in 1925) the other two were Peter Gannon – the planner and architect of the course – and Major Blandford.”



*Above: the ENIT booklet (25 pages plus 10 non-numbered pages map courses). It is far more difficult to find than the similar folding leaflet.*

“From 1 December 1931 to 20 February 1932 golfing enthusiasts played 1925 matches consisting mostly Italian (142), 73 British, 11



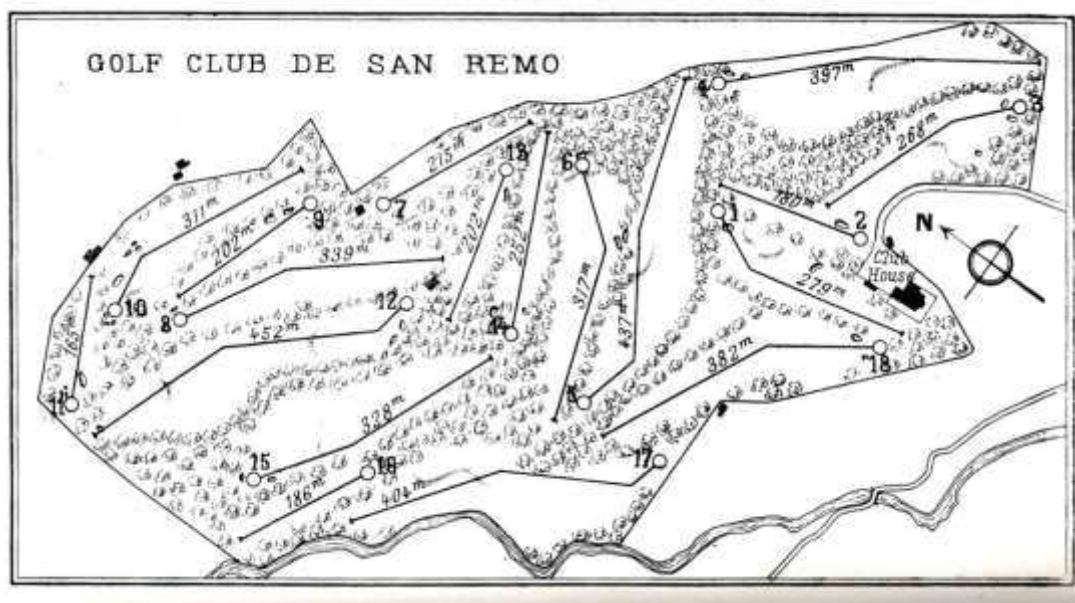
American, 18 German, 2 Swedish, 3 Dutch, 3 Spaniard, 2 French and 2 Swiss.”

From the Plumon guides for Continental Golf, we get a similar story. A first notice could be found in the 1930 Plumon edition with the indication “18 holes, 5000 yards” and open all the year.

The following year (1931) it is possible to find a routing map.

The length of the course is now announced to be 4900 meters (about 5400 yards). Its opening should be at end February 1931. No administrative names are given.

The next year (1932) there is still no names provided. The length is still 4900 meters ... but the routing map as slightly changed. Adding up the length of each hole, we found 5316 ... certainly yards and not meters as indicated on the map.



*On this 1932 map (Plumon), the distances are certainly yards, even if the symbol for meters is used. This map is slightly different from the one announced in the 1931 edition.*

In the 1933 edition, the total length is 5300 yards, which confirms our guess. We have now the names of the first committee: Messrs. Cav. Ing.<sup>2</sup>. S. Canepa, Colonel C. de Ambrosio, Cav. Uff.<sup>3</sup> P. Marini. The Honorary Secretary is Mr P. (Peter) Gannon<sup>4</sup> and the Secretary is G. Rubino.

The professional is Louis Prette and the greenkeeper Callegaris.

It is announced that the total number of permanent members is 785 – an important number! There is also a club-house (see picture below).

The course record is 69 for the amateur and 66 for the professional. This record will be later broken by Auguste Boyer and Percy Allis, playing 63 (between 1934 and 1937).



In the following year (1934), we read that H.R.H. Adalberto de Savoie, Duke of Bergamo is the Honorary President; Dr Gianni Guidi, Podestat di San Remo being the President.

It is strange to read in the 1938 edition that there are now two professionals: Louis Prette being seconded by A. Casera, and during the same

<sup>2</sup> Cavaliere Ingegnere.

<sup>3</sup> Cavaliere Ufficiale.

<sup>4</sup> Peter Gannon is the designer of the course.

time, the total number of permanent members dropped down to only 60.

During WWII the club was closed, and reopened in 1947. After WWII, the Plumon editor has disappeared and was replaced by the Paris-Vendome editions. In 1950 the San Remo Golf Club is presented under the name we know nowadays “*Golf and Country Club Degli Ulivi.*”

The professionals are still Louis Prette and A. Casera, but the Committee has changed. The President is now Commendatore Manolo Belloni and the Vice-President Duca Michele Borea d’Olmo. The number of permanent members stays at the same level as before the war.

The club remained unchanged until the 60s when a motorway was to be constructed. Only a nine-hole course could be initially completed. The golfers had to wait until 1972 to get back a eighteen-hole course which is finally not that different from the original (1931) one.

Below, we are presenting a few postcards featuring the San Remo Golf Club. All pictures are circa 1935. The blue one was mailed in 1939. The editor of the blue card is Brunner & C. The others are from Manzotti / Cav. Gianni Moreschi. The captions are those written on the back of the postcards.



Green N. 1



Green N. 1



Green N. 2



Green N. 5



Green N. 6



## A Brief History of Finnish Golf

By Lassi Tilander



*A picture showing Mr Grönlund on the first tee at Aulanko Golf Club (c. 1960). Courtesy of Aulanko Club archives.*

Before golf started in Finland some Finnish people got acquainted with the game while abroad. Finland was part of Russia until 1917. During the first decades of 20<sup>th</sup> century Russian Tsar Nikolai II spent some summers in Finland where he had a summer place at Virolahti which is in South East Finland close to present Russian border. The Tsar was interested in golf and he had a small course or practice area built at the estate 1912. The Romanov family also had some golfers with the Tsar's uncle: Grand Duke Michael of Russia was the founder on Cannes-Mandelieu golf course in France.

In the 1920's the Finnish General Mannerheim travelled all over the world and often visited Karlsbad (now Karlovy Vary). His clubs from that time are in a museum dedicated to him, however he is not known to have ever played golf in Finland. Also some other notable Finnish people are known to have played golf in 1920's whilst abroad, among them Finnish diplomat and Foreign Minister Eljas Erkko.



*A 1932 picture: Helsinki Golf Club, Charles Jensen putting while Eric Salingren is watching. In the rear caddies Pentti Nurminen and Totte Rönnqvist. Picture from Suuri Golfkirja 1, 1995, archives.*

The first time golf was played publicly in Finland was during the summers 1930 and 1931 when Deputy Mayor of City of Helsinki, Erik von Frenckell, had arranged for his golfing friends possibility to play golf in and around a football park in the center of Helsinki. Among these friends were USA ambassador Edward E. Brodie, Danish businessman Charles R. Jensen and Eljas Erkko. The park was in their use during the daytime but by four in the afternoon they had



to leave since that was the time when footballers arrived.

Early 1932 Deputy Mayor Frenckell told his golfing friends that Helsinki had acquired a few houses a little outside Helsinki and he could rent one of those, Tali Manor, for golfers. However, he only could rent it to a society thus Helsinki Golf Club was founded June 2<sup>nd</sup> 1932. Deputy Mayor Erik von Frenckell was elected as first club President. His presidency lasted only one year as important tasks demanded his efforts to acquiring the Olympic Games to Helsinki.



*The Tali course from a 1952 score-card.*

The Tali course started as a 9-hole course and towards the end of 1930's it was expanded to 13 holes. After the Second World War the course had for a while only 8 holes, then for the coming 1952 Olympics, the course was expanded to 18 holes. The opening of the 18-hole course was actually the same day, July 19<sup>th</sup> 1952, as the opening of the Olympics. The latest routing was made in 1968 by designer Lauri Arkkola.

The second club in Finland, a small par-3 course, was founded 1938 in Viipuri. In the autumn 1939 they opened a new 9-hole course. Then came the war and with the peace Viipuri became part of Soviet Union. When leaving Viipuri the club secretary Väinö Pelkonen took with him the

hundred or so golf clubs they owned and went to Lappeenranta where Viipurin Golf still continues to be played, now on their fifth course.

Towards the end of 1930's Finland got its third club when, in summer 1939, a group of keen men at Pori started playing golf with self made clubs. They continued after the war in two other places before moving to their present course in Kalafornia, some five kilometers outside Pori city center.

The 1940 Olympic Games, which for obvious reasons didn't happen, were supposed to be held in Finland. A beautiful 9-hole course was built for visitors at Aulanko National Park in Hämeenlinna, some 100 kilometres north from Helsinki. Opening competition was held in autumn of 1940. All the players and their caddies came from Helsinki since there were no golfers in the area. However, the course was turned into a potato field during the war and rebuilt in 1959.

The fourth golf club was founded 1957 in Kokkola, with these four clubs founding the Finnish Golf Union in 1957 and elected Eljas Erkko as first President. The first Finnish golf championships were held the same year and the first champions were Jalo Grönlund and Ebba Hirn.

Golf stayed a relatively small sport in Finland for a long time until the 1980's. The second 18-hole course was opened in 1982 in Espoo. In the crazy years, late 1980's, the golf boom started with yearly increases in membership of almost 50% annually. By 1990 there were 60 courses and some 30 thousand golfers; now there are some 150 courses and over 140000 golfers in Finland.



*First Finnish Hickory Championship, 2007 played at Helsingin Golfklubi. (Picture by Antti Paatola).*

## Mildred “Babe” Didrikson-Zaharias From Olympics to golf

Georges Jeanneau



Georges Jeanneau initially published this text in French in June 2003. It was later published in an English version entitled “Golf and the Olympic Games”. Both editions were edited under the auspices of the *Fédération Française de Golf* (FFGolf). As 2016 is an Olympic year, we asked Georges the authorisation to reprint one chapter of his book in Golfika Magazine, which he kindly accepted.



On September 27th 1956, a bustle ran through press rooms all around the world: “*Mrs. Mildred Didrikson Zaharias, famed woman athlete, died of cancer in John Sealy hospital this morning. She was 45 years old. A funeral service is sheluded for tomorrow afternoon at the Bethlehem Lutheran church in Beaumont, Texas.*”

America was in mourning and cried for the loss of her champion. Since 1932, Mildred “Babe” Didrikson-Zaharias’ name had not left the front pages of sport publications.

When voting for the maintaining of women’s track and field events in 1931, the IOC made “Babe” the great star of the Los Angeles Games. In 1932, at the age of 21, she won the javelin

event, the 80-meter-hurdles event and landed herself a silver medal in the high jump. Although she had achieved the same jump as her compatriot Jean Shiley, some finicky officials judged her last try “*on the edge of regularity*” and put her in second place. A few decades later, the IOC rectified this injustice and regraded the two athletes as tied. As a result, two gold medals and two silver medals were officially awarded in the 1932 high jump event, which is a unique fact in the history of the summer Olympic Games.

At a young age, Mildred Didrikson already excelled in many sports: running, swimming, tennis, gymnastics, baseball (she owed her nickname to the style of the famous baseball player, Babe Ruth), basketball, pool, lacrosse...When a journalist asked her about this eclecticism and her schedule, she coldly replied: “*I have no time to waste playing with dolls.*”

Her triumph in Los Angeles echoed round the world, and back in Texas she was welcomed as a hero. Babe started a new basketball season with her team, The Golden Cyclones but the Amateur Athletic Union stroke her off the track and field events “*because her name was used for advertising an automobile brand.*”

Babe, who was of humble origin, was the sixth of seven children and the daughter of a marine carpenter who immigrated from Norway. Since she was forced to become professional, she decided to capitalise on her athletic fame and

took part in exhibitions which were popular with the American public. Babe played the harmonica, ran, organised horse races, set up a mixed basketball team, took up a few challenges in baseball, toured with pool players... Although these shows might have been in doubtful taste, her exuberance proved to be profitable.

In 1931, she discovered golf and showed great concentration and speed. With diligence and courage, she hit up to a thousand balls a day and quickly drove over 240 yards.

The first tournament she participated in was in Fort Worth in 1932, a few weeks after the Olympic Games. But it was only three years later that she won her first victory in the Texas Women's Amateur Championship.

The USGA's authorities watched the exhibitions of this multidisciplinary and undisciplined athlete. The verdict was returned in 1935, following the athletic authorities' decision, Babe Zaharias was suspended for professionalism. History repeated itself and she started touring her shows again.

During a golf tournament in Los Angeles, she met a professional wrestler, George Zaharias, who also occasionally organised sport events. They married in December 1938. Zaharias, the "screaming Greek", gave up his career to devote himself to his wife and golf became their common goal.

Babe was considered amateur again in 1943, and she won seven consecutive tournaments. She was the first American woman to win the British Ladies' amateur, becoming professional again in 1947 and then took part in the creation of the Ladies' Professional Golf Association (LPGA). *See illustration on cover.*

By the end of 1950, she had her name engraved on every trophy and had won the three major women's tournaments (which Catherine Lacoste also achieved between 1967 and 1969). Moreover, Babe Zaharias was voted "athlete of the half century" by journalists of the Associated Press. When an editor asked her if she was considering retiring after so many victories, she answered with her famous pride: "As long as I

can improve myself, I will go on. There's too much money in the business to quit."

However, in 1953, as cancer forced her to fight for her life, a new competition was imposed on her. After having surgery in April, she got back to fairways in July and enjoyed renewed victory in Miami, only ten months after her serious operation.

In 1954, she won the US Open for the third time. Thinking she was cured, she left the press room declaring: "*I will show a lot of people that they need not be afraid of an operation and can go on and live a normal life.*"

For coming back and winning five victories in the year 1954, she was awarded the Ben Hogan Trophy.

However, the illness was still spreading and in 1955, she was continuously going back and forth to the hospital. With her characteristic coldness, she confessed to her husband: "I am still on the green but at the edge of the hole." She drew on her courage to create a foundation aimed at supporting cancerology centres and to institute the Babe Didrikson Trophy awarded every year to an amateur American female athlete. Throughout her exceptional career, Babe Didrikson won eighty-two golf tournaments: thirty-one as a professional and fifty-one as an amateur, including an amazing series of seventeen consecutive tournaments in 1946-1947.



Member of the LPGA Hall of Fame and of the Helms Athletic Foundation Hall of Fame, she received the Bobby Jones Award in 1957 and entered the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1976.



## A Ryder Cup Record?

By John Hanna



It is a well-known fact that a number of Irish golfers have played a vital part in securing victory in the Ryder Cup matches of recent years culminating this year in Ulsterman Darren Clarke being appointed Captain of the European team which is to play the United States of America this coming Autumn.

In the early days of the matches, prior to 1949, no golfers from the Republic of Ireland had been selected for the Great Britain and Ireland team. This was because professional golfers there, prior to this date were registered with the PGA as 'overseas members which precluded them from being selected. The Open Champion of 1947 Fred Daly had been born in Portrush and after winning the 1947 Open he was an automatic choice for the 1947 side. Despite losing in the play-off in the 1949 Open Championship to Bobby Locke Harry Bradshaw was still excluded from the team. It was another four years with the change in the rules that he was the first professional from the South of Ireland to be picked. He set the pattern for one particular Irish golf club. It is a record which, probably will not be matched, never mind beaten. The Delgany Golf Club situated in the rolling hills just outside Dublin has produced four players who played in the Ryder Cup.

*Harry Bradshaw* was born and bred right on the Delgany links where his father Ned was the professional from 1913 until his death in 1952. Harry was both a caddie and assistant to his father until he joined the Kilcronee club in 1941. The Kilcronee Golf Club became Kilcronee Golf and Country Club the first such club in Ireland but sadly it did not last long closing in the early 1960s.

Harry, now aged 40, made his debut in the match played at Wentworth in 1953. The team was captained by Henry Cotton who brought a much more disciplined approach to the match.

He placed the two Irishmen together and at lunch and in the foursomes they were three up.



*HB finds his ball in a broken bottle (Guinness?) at the 5th hole of the Open Championship, 1949*

They regained this advantage with nine holes to go and only just held on to win by one hole. In the singles Harry was again a winner defeating Fred Haas by 3 and 2. If only the two English players, Weetman and Alliss, had managed to hold on and win the Ryder Cup would have been back in GB and Ireland. After his great success it was no surprise to see Harry travelling to Palm Springs in 1955. This time he partnered Dai Rees in the foursomes against Sam Snead and Cary Middlecoff losing by 3 and 2. In the singles Harry had a very mixed match against Jackie Burke Sr. At times he was brilliant but was three down after ten holes in the morning and then scored six consecutive 3s for a round of 66. Harry could not find the same Irish magic in the

afternoon and lost by 3 and 2. Harry played on the Ryder Cup team on three occasions from 1953 – 1957.

In his last appearance in 1957 Harry had what was then a rare privilege, to be part of a winning GB and I team at Lindrick. Harry was not selected for the foursomes when the Americans won three out of the four matches. In the singles, even in the morning, the home team seemed to have the advantage and were in a strong position. In the singles Harry had a difficult opponent, Dick Mayer, the US Open Champion. Their match was the only one to go all the way to the 36th hole. The home team won by seven matches to four with one halved.



The second Delgany player to represent Ireland in the Ryder Cup was *Jimmy Martin*, who although he was not a professional at the club played most of his golf at Delgany and was a caddy there. He made only one Ryder Cup appearance in 1965 when the match was played at Royal Birkdale. He was partnered in the foursomes by Jimmy Hitchcock against Julius Boros and Tony Lema. In the afternoon the home pair was out in 36 with two birdies.

Unfortunately, they also had three bogeys. The Americans on the other hand were out in 32 and four up. Both pairs played level par to the 13th but when Hitchcock and Martin dropped a shot at the 14th it was all over. Despite having a heavy cold Christy O'Connor was selected ahead of Martin for the singles and so Jimmy had only one Ryder Cup match.



*Eamon Darcy* was a native of Delgany and was attached to the club as a touring professional from 1988 until 1996. Eamon's grand-uncle, Pat Doyle, was the first professional at the club if only for two years from 1908 until 1909. He later followed other Irish professional to the United States of America where he became renowned as a great teacher of the game. Among his famous pupils were the two heavyweight champion boxers, Joe Louis and Jack Dempsey, as well as President Taft. Eamon's Ryder Cup career spanned a period of twelve years despite having a rather unique swing, during which time he made four appearances. His debut was in Laurel Valley in Pennsylvania. In the afternoon fourballs he partnered by another Irishman Christy O'Connor Jnr. They lost to Tom Wieskopf and Lou Graham by 3 and 2. Eamon partnered by Guy Hunt in the afternoon foursomes and had a great halved match with Al Geiberger and Ray Floyd. In the singles the morning he lost by 3 and 2 to Billy Casper by 3 and 2, no shame in that result. He was not selected for the last singles matches.

The next was in 1977 when strangely Eamon was the only Irishman on the team at Lytham and St. Annes. At this time there were only five fourball matches followed by five foursome matches and then ten singles on the third day. In both the pairs Eamonn was partnered by Tony Jacklin and in the first match they played Ed Snead and Don January. They only halved the match despite being two up with three to play. In the fourballs they had to play a very strong pair of Dave Hill and Dave Stockton and lost by 5 and 3.

Despite the fact that the former Open Champion was dropped for the singles Eamon was selected losing to Hubert Green on the last green.

He missed the 1979 matches but returned to play at Walton Heath in 1981 joining another Irish golfer Des Smyth on the team. Unfortunately Harry was not able to enhance his reputation losing both matches. Selected alongside Bernard Gallacher for the afternoon fourballs they lost 2 and 1 against Hale Irwin and Raymond Floyd. Eamon was not picked for the next day but he had to play Jack Nicklaus in the singles losing by 5 and 3. After missing out again in 1983 and 1985 Darcy returned to the team in 1987 when the matches were played at Muirfield Village in Columbus, the hometown of the US captain, Jack Nicklaus. Bearing in mind that Eamon had previously not had a victory in all his attempts it was his only win against Ben Crenshaw that immortalised him in Ryder Cup history. Partly as a result that the captain Tony Jacklin had no faith in the Irish player he was given just one match in the first two days. He played with Gordon Brand Jnr losing by 3 and 2 to Andy Bean and Payne Stewart. Fortunately for him the rules now meant that all twelve players had to play in the singles. He was drawn against Ben Crenshaw and Eamon had something to prove. After the 11th hole he was three up and Crenshaw in a fit of pique had broken his putter at the 6th hole. By the time they came to the 18th hole Eamon had lost his lead and they were level. They were both in the greenside bunker. Eamon had the advantage as he had only played two shots whereas Ben had played three. They both played excellent bunkers shots. Ben was six feet below the hole but the Irishman had a slippery curving downhill putt from five feet above the hole. Crenshaw holed his with his 3 iron and, yes, Eamon holed the putt of his life to win but more importantly virtually guarantee that Great Britain and Ireland would win the Ryder Cup for the first time on American soil. Great celebrations followed.

*John O'Leary* the youngest of this quartet was a member of Delgany Golf Club in his late teens. His only Ryder Cup appearance was at Laurel Valley in 1975.. He was on one of many teams since to consist of three Irish players alongside Eamon and Christy. John met strong opposition in all his matches and sadly did not record a victory. The foursomes were first and he was partnered by Tommy Horton against Lee

Trevino and J C Snead losing by just 2 and 1. It was the same pairings in the fourball match and the opposition was Lee Trevino who this time was partnered Hale Irwin. The result was the same narrow victory for the USA. In the afternoon foursomes the following day John partnered Christy O'Connor Jnr. They were no match for the US partnership of Tom Weiskopf and Johnny Miller who ran out easy winners by 5 and 4. In the singles the next morning John was rested but he played well in the afternoon only losing narrowly by 2 and 1 to Hale Irwin.



In the intervening years there have been many Irish professionals who have been selected for the Ryder Cup. Probably the best known of the early Irish players was the legendary Christy O'Connor. Christy, whose record number of eleven consecutive appearances from 1955 to 1975 was only exceeded by Nick Faldo.

It is strange the way many of the modern victories have been as a result of a shot played by an Irish golfer following in Eamon Darcy's sensational putt. Who will ever forget the 2 iron shot that Christy O'Connor Jnr played into the 18th green at the Belfry. Recent Ryder Cup Captain Paul McGinley also holed a crucial putt at the Belfry only to be thrown into the lake. Then there was Graeme McDowell's putt on the 17th green to win the cup at Celtic Manor. Let's hope that some of this Irish magic rubs off on Captain Darren Clarke.

**Good Luck to the European team!**



## Mystery of the 4<sup>th</sup> Sealy's painting

Following a letter by Gérard Beaufranc  
Comments by JBK & Yves Caillé



A few months ago, we received a letter from Mr Gérard Beaufranc. He was a Pau GC Committee member between 1957 and 1982 (member of the club since 1942), vice-president for 10 years and Games's Captain for 15 years. In this letter M. Beaufranc is shared some of his views on the disappearance of one of the PGC Sealy's paintings. We wanted here to share his information with our readers adding our own comments. Following this introductory comments, Robin has added a more comprehensive development on the Sealy's painting.

In his letter Mr Beaufranc reminded us that Dr Yves Caillé (a member of the EAGHC) was the first one who pointed out, in 1989, when he was preparing his book on the PGC history<sup>5</sup> that one of the four paintings was missing. The exact date of the disappearance was not known.

Mr Beaufranc wrote that this date could be around 1980, and he was adding that: *"The important clue [...] comes from our Spanish friends, members of the marvelous Neguri GC (Bilbao). They confirmed taking pictures of the four paintings in the sixties."*

But this date sounds quite dubious as, on our side, we made some research and the disappearance of this painting seems being much earlier. Robin Bargmann (see next paper) has the same position.

In 1956, there was a Centenary Exhibition in Pau and a catalogue was published. In this catalogue we were able to find only a reference to three paintings by Sealy. These items are quoted under #34, 35 and 36; resp. "Un coup d'approche au 10° trou", "Un drive de M. Platt au 9° trou" et "Un putt de M. L. Hornor". These are the three paintings which can be seen nowadays in the club. It is fair to guess that the 4<sup>th</sup> painting was

already missing in 1956. Next column is an extract from the exhibition catalogue.

So, certainly, the painting disappeared before 1956.

— 16 —

Allen C. SEALY (fin du XIX<sup>e</sup> siècle).

### 34. UN COUP D'APPROCHE AU 10<sup>e</sup> TROU.

Signé en bas à gauche : Allen C. Sealy 1894.  
Huile sur toile. - H. 0 = 505 × L. 0 = 760.  
Hist. : Coll. du Breil.

### 35. UN DRIVE DE M. PLATT AU 9<sup>e</sup> TROU.

Signé en bas à droite : Allen C. Sealy 1893.  
Huile sur toile. - H. 0 = 515 × L. 0 = 760.  
Hist. : Coll. du Breil.

### 36. UN PUTT DE M. L. HORNOR.

Signé en bas à gauche : Allen C. Sealy 1893.  
Huile sur toile. - H. 0 = 505 × L. 0 = 760.

Les personnages représentés sont, de gauche à droite : Col. Mc Laren, Major Pontifex, H.G. Ross, D.M. Murnab, Miss Newall, Miss Pontifex, L. Hornor, Lord Kilmaine, Miss Newall, Mrs Hornor.

*Cut from the 1956 Exhibition Catalogue*

It is not the place here to discuss about the legal aspects ; especially as we are not legal experts. Nevertheless, we would like to draw attention to the fact that – at least in France – *"en matière de meubles, possession vaut titre"*, which means that for movables, possession means ownership.

<sup>5</sup> Yves Caillé, *"Pau Golf Club. Le St Andrews du Continent"*, J&D Editions, Pau, 1990

The one who possesses an art work in good faith, is supposed to be the owner.

If – an hypothesis – the art work was stolen and in case the new possessor can prove his good faith (e.g. that he bought the stolen item from a dealer and get an invoice) then the initial owner can claim back for the item ... but only during a period of three years.

In case the good faith cannot be proved, then this period is extended to 30 years. After this period there is no longer any legal suit possible.

For that reason, we must urge the clubs to protect their treasures as efficiently as possible. And in case a theft is committed, to start an action as urgently as possible. Waiting too long can ruin all hopes.

#### **Some additional notes on Allan C. Sealy.**

**As a player.** Browsing the British Newspaper Archives, we were able to find two references to Sealy and the PGC proving that he was also a

pretty good golf player and a competitor. On 14 January 1910, the Aberdeen Journal reports “*the fifth annual bogey of the above club for the prize given by the English was won last week by Mr A. C. Sealy, who, handicap of 5, finished 3 holes up*” and The Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser three weeks later wrote “[...] *In the mixed foursome competition against bogey, Miss G. Thomson and Mr. A. Sealy finished six up and won the first prizes. Mr. S. Jameson and Mr. Charles Hutchings (Royal Liverpool), British amateur champion 1902, finished four up on bogey.*”

**As a painter.** The prices of Allen Culpepper Sealy work can fetch several thousands to a few tenths of thousands of euros for oil on canvas representing horses, horsemen or hunting scenes. As there are only a few examples of golfing art by Sealy and sold at auctions, it is difficult to make a fair estimation but the upper range of the interval sounds realistic.



*One of the earliest painted artworks depicting the Pau golf course: a pen and watercolour drawing. It is inscribed Biliere (sic), 1888 (about 6 years before the Sealy paintings). Unsigned. It was clearly painted close to the 9<sup>th</sup> green (place #4, see next article by Robin Bargmann). The small house on the top of the Collines du Jurançon can be easily identified.*

## **Pau Golf Club 1856 and the Sealy paintings**

**By Robin K. Bargmann**



During my preparatory work for the centenary book ‘Serendipity of Early Golf’ for the Kennemer Golf & Country Club published in 2010 I established a close working relationship with Pau Golf Club 1856, being the first golf club to be formally instituted on the European continent. This relationship developed into a continuing personal friendship with the then reigning President of the club, Raphaël Rossoni, who has always taken an interest in the historical heritage of the club and its 19<sup>th</sup> century British roots, together with his ‘patrimoine’ associates Jacques (Kaki) Çarçarbal and André d’Artiguepeyrou, who were both responsible for producing the wonderfully illustrated book on the occasion of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pau GC. I was quite honoured to have been invited to occasionally act as a ‘guest historian’ and to work on certain ad hoc projects for the club. Earlier the golf historian and club member Yves Caillé, also a member of EAGHC, had proficiently written up the club’s history in his excellent and informative book published in 1990.

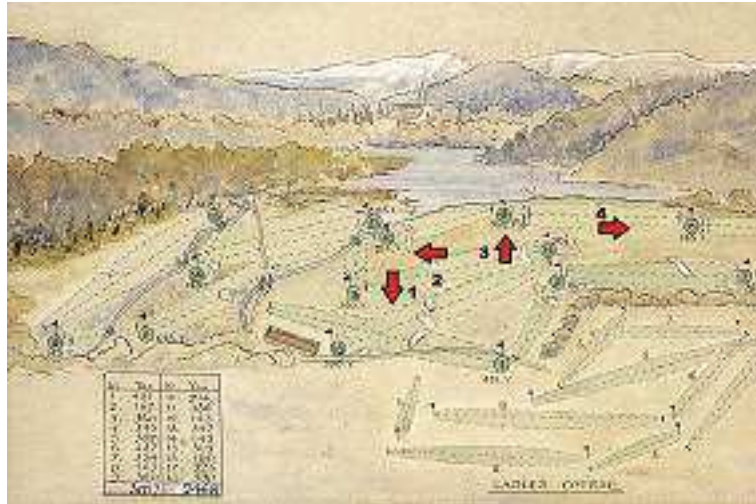
The club possesses a wonderful collection of historical artefacts pertaining to its rich history and British heritage. Especially its impressive collection of paintings, permanently on display in the clubhouses, gives an excellent insight into the club’s past, starting with the large-sized group portrait painted in 1884 by the renowned golfing artist Major Francis Powell ‘Shortspoon’ Hopkins (1830-1913) in the manner of his painting commissioned by Royal Blackheath GC. Because all of the names of the twenty-four prominent members of Pau GC portrayed by Hopkins are known this work gives great insight in the club’s rich history of British connections

and helps identifying these in other iconographic material.

There are also three group portrait paintings by Allan Culpepper Sealy (1850-1927); all are signed and dated by the artist. Together the paintings form a 180 degrees panoramic view of the area east, south and west of the clubhouse and course across the Gave de Pau river, and the spectacular Pyrenees as a backdrop. To the east the city of Pau and castle is visible, to the south the Ste Marie church of Jurançon against the backdrop over the snowy tops of the Pyrenees, and to the west the Pau river bending towards Biarritz on the Atlantic coast.

The three paintings all have similar compositions with a central figure playing a golf shot – either a fairway drive, a pitch or a putt. The central figure is surrounded by a number of onlookers, being a mix of lady and gentlemen golfers, mostly holding a golf club in the hand. The paintings are wonderfully detailed in the miniaturist manner Sealy is known for in his other works of art, mostly horses with jockeys and bystanders. Therefore the portrayed persons in his paintings are easily recognisable. Unfortunately there is no record available at Pau GC who the persons actually are in the three Sealy paintings on display in the clubhouse. However, according to club tradition two of the three paintings do relate to the names of the main character in the paintings, being Mr. Sidney Platt (driving) and Mr. Lewis Hornor (putting). Based on photographic records in the club and other circumstantial evidence the main character in the third painting is believed to be Horace Hutchinson (pitching), whose uncle and golf tutor was a founding member of the Pau GC.





A detail of the map of the Pau GC course made by E.H. Green in 1875 with numbered arrows marking the location and direction of the four panoramic Sealy paintings. E.H. Green – Pau Club Course (1875) – detail

1. *Lord Levan teeing off on the 17th hole.* View in north-eastern direction with the clubhouse in the centre-background, passing steam locomotive and the city of Pau with castle and bridge to the right.
2. *Horace Hutchinson pitching to the 10th green.* Left of the green the red wooden shed opposite the 1st tee, and the Jordan burn beyond. View in eastern direction with the castle and stone bridge to the left, and Notre-Dame du Bout du Pont church behind the river to the right with the foot of the Pyrenees-Atlantiques mountains in the background.
3. *Lewis Hornor putting to the 9th hole.* View in southern direction with the Ste Marie church in Jurançon to the left, the Pau river and the snowy Pyrenees mountain peaks as backdrop.
4. *Sidney Platt driving on the 9th fairway.* View in south-western direction with large estates on the hills of the Pyrenees-Atlantiques region and the river flowing downstream towards the western coast.

It can be established that the other persons surrounding the main figure in the Sealy compositions are other prominent club members of Pau GC at the time, being past or present captains (presidents) or honorary secretaries of the club. The accompanying ladies in the group portraits are most probably the spouses of the gentlemen. Both male and female persons portrayed mostly hold a golf club in their hands, supposing that all are active golfing members of Pau GC. The portrayed persons in the paintings look rather staged and were painted in groups from individual photographs made previously. Again based on records of the club most of the gentlemen can now be provisionally identified, although this needs to be reconfirmed by further research. The ladies have not yet been identified.

In the anniversary book of Pau Golf Club 1856-2006 there is mention of a fourth Sealy painting belonging to this series and painted at the same time, but is recorded as missing from the club collection. However, there is a picture in the book of this missing Sealy painting, being an

incorrectly coloured reproduction of a black and white photograph produced by Mr. Jacques Loustalet, a club member of Pau. This image is referred to as Lord St Levan (teeing off) and depicts James St Aubyn, 1st Baron St Levan and at the time, in 1893, captain of Pau GC.

Doing some internet research into the biography of the painter Allan C. Sealy I quite accidentally came across a photo posted on Flickr by a Dutch amateur photographer Paulus Veltman made during his visit to St Michaels Mount in Cornwall in 2011 as 'Golf painting (1893) by Allen Culpepper Sealy, St Michael's Mount'. St Michaels Mount is the main residence of Baron St Levan. It also appeared that the German researcher Dr. Heiner Gillmeister had also seen and photographed this painting there, although not realising the link to Pau GC yet, and had later spoken to Raphaël Rossoni of Pau GC as part of his biographical research into the life of Lewis Hornor as a founding member of GC Bad Homburg as well as a prominent Pau GC member, as honorary secretary during the captaincy of John St Aubyn (Lord St Levan). It

was quickly established that the missing Sealy painting was now actually in the possession of the St Aubyn family and is on public show in a room with other family portraits in the castle of St Michaels Mount near Marazion in Cornwall, museum and residence of Baron St Levan.

How this Sealy painting ended up in the family home is quite uncertain (see also JBK-Caillé paper, following a letter from Mr Beaufranc). Some unofficial records state that the painting was taken by the family from the clubhouse of Pau GC as their personal property before the German invasion of France before WW II. Another remembers the painting still hanging in the clubhouse after WW II, backed up with a photograph of the painting and a family member in the clubhouse of Pau GC. Pau GC itself states that there is no record whatsoever that the club at any time consented to the transfer of possession of this painting to the St Aubyn family. Whatever the case may be regarding the legal ownership of this missing Sealy painting it is abundantly clear that it is part of the heritage of Pau GC and that all four of these Sealy paintings were simultaneously commissioned by the club (represented by one or more of its members) to depict a panoramic view of Pau GC in a series of four paintings and to portray a large number of prominent members of the club. In panoramic order Sealy painted the portraits of four principal characters: John St Aubyn, 1st Baron St Levan – teeing off, Horace Hutchinson – pitching to the green, Lewis Hornor, putting to the hole, and Sidney Platt – driving through the fairway. In total there are 9 spectators on each of the four paintings except the last (Platt) which has only 6 spectators. Only the first (St Levan) and the last (Platt) painting have each 1 caddie depicted. All four paintings are signed in the left-hand corner as Allen C. Sealy, except the last (Platt) which is similarly signed but in the right-hand corner. All four are dated 1893, except the second (Hutchinson) which is dated 1892.

It is known that from period articles in *Golf Weekly* that Allen Sealy was a golfer and regularly visited Pau to play and socialize with members. He is known to have made a large group portrait for Royal St George too – more than fifty gentlemen depicted. Normally a portraitist would charge per head depicted in a group portrait. Who paid for the paintings made by Sealy is not known but it is not improbable that each character painted would pay his share –

including his spouse – of the cost of the group portrait. The club has a record of two of its members having paid Sealy for the commissioned paintings being Mr. Prince and Mr. Ridgway.

During one of my recent visits to Rye I was invited by Tim Smartt to view his collection of Pau GC related artworks. I was gladly surprised to see that he had three of the four Sealy paintings as photogravure reproductions – only the fourth (Platt) was missing in the collection – and were signed in pencil by Allen C. Sealy. These photogravures were most probably made in series for the individual members of the group portraits as the original oil paintings were intended for the clubhouse of Pau GC. This again is reason to re-affirm that the four paintings were part and one of the same series and form an unbreakable unity. Hopefully one day the four paintings will be reunited at their proper home.

Tim Smartt surprised me with another oil painting of a Pau GC scene – Mr D. MacNab, a past president of the club, crossing the Jordan – also by Allen C. Sealy. This painting is in similar fashion signed and dated 1893. But there are differences in composition and style of painting. The painting depicts only one main character (MacNab) crossing a bridge followed by a single caddie, and he is not in the act of executing a golf shot. He is also the sole figure in the painting without any spectating co-members surrounding him (except for the inconspicuous caddie and a few customary small red-blazered figurants in the background). Moreover, the painting has a cruder technique with less miniaturist detail that characterizes the other four Sealy group portraits. This painting seems almost to be a study but is nevertheless very attractive and lively with the impressive backdrop of Pau city and bridge and a passing steam locomotive. The primitively constructed wooden bridged used by the unmistakable red-bearded figure of MacNab is an interesting contrast indeed.

Below are copies of the four Pau GC Sealy paintings, including the three photogravure copies. The names of the persons recognised have been added. All names need to be reconfirmed. Not yet identified persons are listed as Mr X or Mrs Y. To make the survey complete the additional fifth (MacNab) Sealy painting has been added.



1. Allen C. Sealy (1893) – Lord St Levan teeing off at the 17th hole. From left to right: Mrs Y (probably Lord St Levan’s wife), Mr F.C. Laurence (president PGC 1887, 1888, 1900), Mr J. Morris Post (hon. secretary 1891,1892), young master Lionel St Aubyn (son of John St Aubyn), caddie (teeing the ball), John St Aubyn, 1st Baron St Levan (president PGC 1893), Mr X (probably John Townshend St Aubyn tbc, 2nd Baron St Levan (1857–1940), Mrs Y (probably the latter’s wife), Mrs Y (probably Lord St Levan’s daughter), Arthur James Dudley Stuart St Aubyn (1867–1897), second son of Lord St Levan), and Colonel Hegan Kennard.



2. Allen C. Sealy (1892) – Horace Hutchinson pitching to the 10th green  
 From left to right: Mrs Y 1 (possibly Mrs H. Hutchinson), Mr X 1, Mr J. Stewart, Mr Charles Hutchings (captain 1902), Mrs Y 2 (possibly Mrs Ch. Hutchings), Mr Horace G. Hutchinson (Amateur champion 1886-87), Mr A.H. Foster Barham (captain 1892, hon. secretary 1878-81, 84-90, 95), Mr X 2, Mrs Y 3 and Mr X 3.





3. Allen C. Sealy (1893) – Lewis Hornor putting on the 9th green.

From left to right: Joe Lloyd (professional Pau GC and US Open Champion 1872), Major W. Pontifex (co-founder 1856 and captain 1894), Mr H. Ross (captain 1898, hon. secretary 1896-97), Mr D.M. Macnab (president 1889, 1890), Mrs Y1, Mrs Y2, Mr Lewis Hornor (hon. secretary), Mr X, Mrs Y3 and Mrs Y4.



4. Allan C. Sealy (1893) – Sidney Platt driving on the 9<sup>th</sup> green

From left to right: Mr X 1, Mr S. Platt (Captain 1895-97), A.H. Foster Barham (captain 1892, hon. secretary 1879-81), Mrs Y 1 (probably Mrs Foster-Barnham), Mr X 2, Mrs Y 2, Mr J. Mellor (Captain 1896) and caddie.

[See also the “Nac Nab” painting and the photogravures on p.2 – Cover]

## Who needs an 'aide' to play the game?

By Geert & Sara Nijs



In golf and its continental cousins players frequently made use of a sort of assistant for all kinds of jobs to make the game for the players more relaxing and comfortable.

With the exception of the golf assistants not much is written about the servants in the other games; however such servants did exist on the continent.

### Golf: caddies

The word caddie, also written as cadie, caddy or cady, was not used in Scotland before half-way through the 18<sup>th</sup> century. According to David Hamilton ('GOLF – Scotland's Game', 1998), such caddies were hired by the bourgeois golf players to carry their clubs from home in Edinburgh to Leith Links. It is obvious that they were hired as well to continue carrying clubs on the links for their 'masters'.



*The caddie, known as an unnamed Greenwich Hospital Naval pensioner and well-dressed in a sort of uniform, carries several wooden golf clubs and balls for his master. – Lemuel Francis Abbott, 1790 – [www.royalblackheath.com](http://www.royalblackheath.com)*

The earliest documented use of a servant on a golf course was from 1628 when the Duke of Montrose paid a boy for carrying his clubs.

In the famous poem 'The Goff' by Thomas Matheson, 1743, some of the duties of a caddie are described:

- carrying his masters clubs
- making a wet sandy 'tee' to place the ball of his master on
- warning the people on the links or in the field that his master was going to tee-off
- going into the field to see where the ball had landed
- warning the people in the field that a group of players is advancing
- preventing the expensive feathery balls from being stolen
- retrieving the feathery ball as soon as possible from water and moist areas
- cleaning balls and clubs.

He probably carried spare balls in his pocket too and certainly a bottle of encouragement for his employer.

A caddie carried the clubs under his arm, having no golf bags yet. It is not sure that each player had his own caddie. It could well be that in match play, the usual form of golf, the caddie carried the clubs of his 'team'.

It is suggested that the first caddie known by name was a certain Andrew Dickson who as a boy seems to have carried clubs for the Duke of York in 1681 on Leith Links, during the often



called ‘first international golf match’ between two English noblemen and the Duke of York and his partner John Paterson, a local Edinburgh cobbler.

Long before the Duke of Montrose paid a boy for carrying his clubs, there must have been assistants who were hired or ‘ordered’ to carry clubs for kings, aristocrats and the bourgeois. When King James IV played on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February 1503 with the Earl of Bothwell he played with different golf clubs or with one club and some spare ones. It is far-fetched to believe that he carried these clubs himself. The same goes for spare balls. He certainly must have had a servant to carry the golf equipment and to look to see where the king’s ball came to a stop. There were probably several other servants, such as a fore caddie and one for holding hats and coats of the players when they were going to hit the ball.



*When the lord of the castle went on a hunting party, he did not go on his own or with one or two friends and a servant but with the whole court who joined in the hunt, including the ladies and several other servants. Would King James have played golf with the Earl of Bothwell with only one servant? – Early 16<sup>th</sup> century wall painting, ‘Salle des Chasses’ in Château Rochechouart, Limousin, France*

In the month of February when the king played against the earl, the parkland of North Inch must have been fairly wet, cold and windy. The game was not played on passable paths but cross country. On such terrains the going must have been fairly rough and it is difficult to imagine how the king and the earl were dressed. Could it be that the king and his partner made use of a horse-driven carriage during their match with a servant holding the reins and the players leaving the carriage to make a next stroke?

It could well be that when the king played golf he was not alone with his partner and some assistants on the golf court but was followed by his court from hole to hole.

### **Jeu de crosse: verseurs**

As far as documented information goes jeu de crosse has always been a game for commoners. These commoners played the game with only one ‘dual purpose’ crosse club, and sometimes the members of a team played together with only one club. They also carried some spare inexpensive wooden balls in their pocket. There was no need to have caddies to carry clubs and balls for the players or to perform other simple jobs on the field. Even if there would have been a need for assistance, players would not have had the money to pay young boys for whatever assistance.

The players wear simple, ‘mud-resistant’ clothes in the cross country game. The players made their own sandy tees to put the ball on, and there was no need to have someone to warn other people on the ‘unlimited’ playing field. If needed they could shout ‘Gardez!’ (Fore!) themselves.

The situation changed somewhat when players made their balls from pressed wood, celluloid and nylon, which were too ‘precious’ to lose during play in the fields. Therefore the players sometimes hired young boys, called ‘verseurs’, to look for these valuable crosse items during the game. These boys, often the children or grandchildren of the players, avid crosse players themselves, were rewarded for their assistance with wooden ‘chouettes’ (balls) and an all wooden ‘chambot’ (children’s crosse club) followed up by the real thing: the iron-headed ‘crocheton’ (crosse club).

(Edgard Hismans, mayor of Quaregnon, in ‘Mail Crosse Golf ou l’Histoire du crossage en plaine’ by André Auquier, 1983)

Because the crosse game was a game for the common people there was no interest in pictures of boys acting as verseurs. At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, verseurs sometimes fulfilled a very peculiar function unknown with the other games. Farmers went to the schools on Thursday to invite the schoolboys to come and to play on their lands on the afternoon when



they were free from school. The farmers liked the boys to play on their sown lands to stamp down the soil.

(‘En Avesnois...au fil des saisons 1919-1939’, Robert Leclercq, 1985)



*In this traditional school class photo from 1934 in the French Avesnois region, there are certainly several young boys who played crosse on their free Thursday afternoon and no doubt acted as 'verseurs' for their fathers or grandfathers on the Sunday afternoon. – From 'En Avesnois... au fil des saisons 1919-1939', Robert Leclercq*

### **Mail: porte-lèves or porte-mails**

Jeu de mail was a game popular with kings and commoners. Contrary to golf and crosse, the mail game was not a cross-country game but played on flat, beaten earth courts on private lands or in or just outside the city walls and in the streets of the town and on the sandy paths in the countryside. The game was played with one dual-purpose (mail) club. The people who played in the streets or in the countryside did not make use of assistants to carry the one club and perhaps one spare mail ball. No documents have been found referring to such caddie-like assistants. When players hit the ball off-line, they searched to find the ball themselves. Breaking a club might mean the end of the game.

The ‘assistant’ situation on the mail alley is a bit different. When players went to play a ‘round’ of mail there, they probably hired clubs and balls. The manager of the mail court, the ‘palemardier’ (club and ball maker), employed several assistants for all sorts of odd jobs on the court and in the workshop but also to accompany the players as ‘commercial’ assistants. They would carry spare clubs and balls to sell or loan them in case the player would break one. Furthermore they probably would look for ‘out of bounds’ balls or retrieve balls from water or other hazards.



*Detail of a painting (1624) from the South Netherlandish painter Paul Bril with a boy on the right, a porte main, carrying a spare club in his hand and several balls in a sack over his shoulder. The long stick was used for retrieving balls from unplayable lies. – Minneapolis Institute of Arts, The William Hood Dunwoody Fund*

The oldest reference we could consult about a caddie in the mail game dates from 1696, in ‘Divertissements innocens, contenant les règles du jeu des eschets, du billiard, de la paume, du palle-mail, et du trictrac’. Under the heading ‘Regles du Royal Jeu de Palle-Mail’ one can read under rule 70:

“Les Porte-leves & les Laquais qui suivent la boule de leurs Maîtres, doivent être hors du Mail, afin qu’ils n’avancent ou reculent les boules.”

*(The porte-lèves [literally translated into ‘carrier of the lifter’]& the lackeys following the ball of their master have to stay off the course in order not to move the balls forward or backwards.)*

In the booklet ‘Nouvelles règles pour le jeu de mail’ (New rules for the game of mail), 1717, Joseph Lauthier already gives a ‘job description’; under the rules for the ‘maître du mail’ (mail master), or his ‘commis’ (assistant) or the ‘porte-lèves’ the last rule is dedicated to the porte-lèves:

“Les Porte-Leves doivent aller toujours devant le coup, autant qu’il est possible, pour crier gare, prendre garde aux Boules, empêcher qu’on ne les change ni qu’on ne les perde, et les remettre dans le Jeu quand elles sont sorties, vis-à-vis l’endroit où elles se trouvent.”

*(The porte-lèves always have to be ahead of the players if possible, to shout 'gare' [fore], to look after the balls and to make sure the balls are not changed or lost and to put them back in play when they are out of bounds and this alongside where they are found.)*

Lauthier does not use the name 'laquais' anymore.

In 'Le noble jeu de mail de la Ville de Montpellier' from J. Sudre (1772), the responsibilities of the porte-lèves are still the same but Sudre changed their name into 'porte-mails'.



*A German aristocrat, playing 'baille maille' on his private court in Schleißheim. In the background two lackeys, as the mail caddies were still called in Germany ('Das Golfspiel.', Ph. Heineken, 1898). – Detail of a painting from an unknown painter, displayed in Schlossanlage Schleißheim, Oberschleißheim, Bavaria, Germany – By courtesy of Michael C. Lang, alias Carl Ludwig, Freiherr von Poellnitz.*

The king and the aristocrats employed their own palemardiers and some porte-mails to accompany them or their guests on the court in their private gardens. Of course they were not deployed for assisting the mail players only.

The French royal family counted several officers as 'porte-mail and billard', a situation that lasted up to and including the reign of Louis XV which ended in 1774 ('Jouer autrefois', Elisabeth Belmas, 2006).

## **Colf: ballemerkers**

In the course of the centuries not much has been written about the game of colf other than an endless series of ordinances and decrees, mainly concerning banning the game from the towns. Fortunately we dispose of an even endless series of illuminations, drawings and paintings, telling us almost as much as words can do.

Before the Little Ice Age (roughly between 1550 and 1700), from the 14<sup>th</sup> century onwards no pictures have been found showing this type of assistant. Furthermore, the game of colf was played with only one club. There was no need to have a servant to carry (spare) clubs, while players could easily carry some spare balls in their own pockets. Moreover colf players were mainly common people who could not afford hiring boys to make sand tees, or to warn other people of approaching balls, or to look for lost balls.

This changed when during the Little Ice Age more than ever before, colvers moved to the frozen surfaces of the canals, lakes, ponds and rivers to play their game. The many paintings and drawings of colf on the ice made during that period show that sometimes assistants, so-called ballemerkers (ball pointers), were hired to help players to find their way on the crowded ice fields.

Most of these pictures show men standing near a stake in the ice to indicate to the player the position of the target.



*Colf player on a frozen lake. In the background at the right a 'ballemerker' shows the player the position of the target. – Detail of 'Ijsvermaak', drawing by Hendrick Avercamp, c.1620 – Teylers Museum, Haarlem, The Netherlands.*

We suppose that these colf caddies kept an eye on where the ball was going and warned other people to step aside when a ball was coming, and of course looked for lost balls.

When looking somewhat closer at the pictures it looks as if people of a somewhat higher echelon had entered the (ice) colf scene. They seem to play with more expensive leathery balls, sometimes even filled with feathers. These players could afford to engage caddies to be of service to them during play.

(Extracts from the chapter ‘Who needs an ‘aide’ to play the game?’ from ‘Games for Kings & Commoners PART TWO’, published summer 2014)



*This painting shows a young boy standing near the colf player, probably holding the overcoat when the player in the ‘freezing cold’ is going to strike the ball. – Detail of ‘Winter Games on the frozen river IJssel’, c.1626, Hendrick Avercamp – National Gallery of Art, Washington, Woodner Collection, Gift of Andrea Woodner.*



## The European Association of Golf Historians & Collectors

### 2016 Annual General Meeting at

The Danish Golf Museum,  
Vejle, Denmark

1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup>

12:00 Lunch  
14:00 Lectures      17:00 AGM  
19:00 Get together dinner

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup>

09:30 Group Photo  
10:00 Museum visit followed by Trading  
12:00 Lunch      14:00 Lectures  
19:00 Gala Dinner

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup>

Danish Hickory Championship and  
1<sup>st</sup> round of EAGHC Invitational (Fano)

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>

EAGHC Hickory invitational  
2<sup>nd</sup> round at Kolding





## Reading on Golf



### **Hearty Greetings. A Golfing Christmas.**

By *Jack Dezieck*.

After three books published last year which we presented here, Jack is continuing his series on postcard books. And it is just before Christmas that I received his last book dedicated on ... Christmas Greetings cards and postcards! Here again, the quality of editing is at its highest and the number of copies is very low (25 copies).

If some items are classical, most of them are rarities. All are very well printed and described, with key information provided, especially on printers and editors.

*Reviewed by JBK*

### **Games for Kings & Commoners. Part Three**

by *Sara and Geert Nijs*

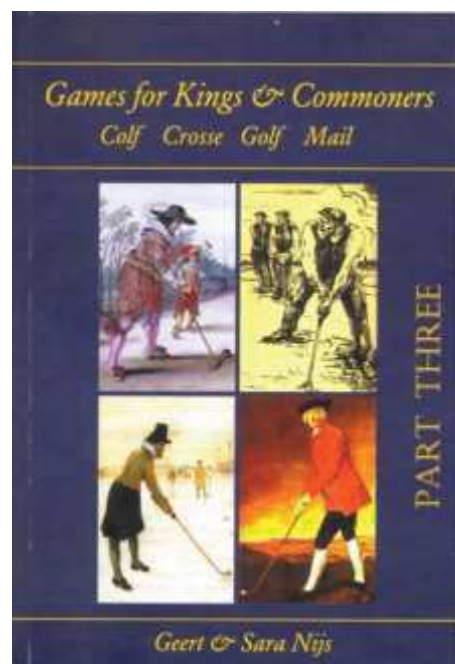
With the publication of this Part Three in the series 'Games for Kings & Commoners' and the separate publication about the game of crosse/choules, the authors have covered more than thousand pages on the history of the continental golf-like games colf/kolf, crosse/choules, jeu de mail/pall-mall and their relation to the ancient history of Scottish golf.

For more than hundred and fifty years of golf history publications, we had to do with some superficial information on these games in the

margin of the many golf books. In the trilogy 'Games for Kings & Commoners' the authors have been able to explain in depth what kind of games the 'continentals' played and how they compare with each other. Regularly golf is used as benchmark. The authors must have spent numerous hours in archives, museums, libraries, etc. in the different countries to retrieve information which regularly surpasses the knowledge on specific aspects of golf history.

The 'Tee-off' chapter 'All Roads lead to Scotland' tells us about the many golf-like games which seem to have travelled from all over the world to show the Scots how to make fun out of hitting a ball with a crooked stick and how improbable these assumptions are.

The use of the word 'Schotse klik' (Scottish cleek) in a Netherlandish poem from 1656 could arouse discussions about the mutual influences between golf and colf. Did the Scots export golf clubs to the Netherlands as the Netherlanders have exported colf balls to Scotland in the 16th century?



It is interesting to see the development of the crooked sticks in the games from the early

beginnings. It is rather surprising that so much is known about the ancient colf and crosse clubs while so little is known about the ancient Scottish clubs other than 'rough clubs' and 'sophisticated clubs'.

It always has surprised us that so many 16th and 17th centuries' pictures of colvers exist while the first 'golf painting' dates from mid-18th century. The explanation of this phenomenon is a real eye-opener.

When you have read the above explanation you probably wonder where the Scottish golfers were during the 'Little Ice Age' in the 17th century. Several pictures are shown with skaters and curling players on the frozen lochs and firths but no golfers can be distinguished.

Colf club heads can still be found in the fields and in the towns of the Netherlands. However some time ago nautical archaeologists discovered colf clubs and heads from the 17th century in ships wrecked near the Shetlands. It is amazing what prices some of these club heads made at auctions.

When such stunning prices were made for club heads, many collectors would be eager to obtain such an artefact especially when it is offered at an absolute 'bargain' price. The chapter on criminality in the city of Haarlem is a warning that you should prepare yourself before responding to such offers.

The history of the town of Haarlem is closely linked to colf-kolf and golf. From the first ever official colf course from 1389 to the first Netherlandish 'links' golf course from 1915, the town's history is interwoven with the games.

The authors assume that the four games all started as street games and changed eventually into a long game in the open fields. Did the players went voluntary or were they forced by the councils?

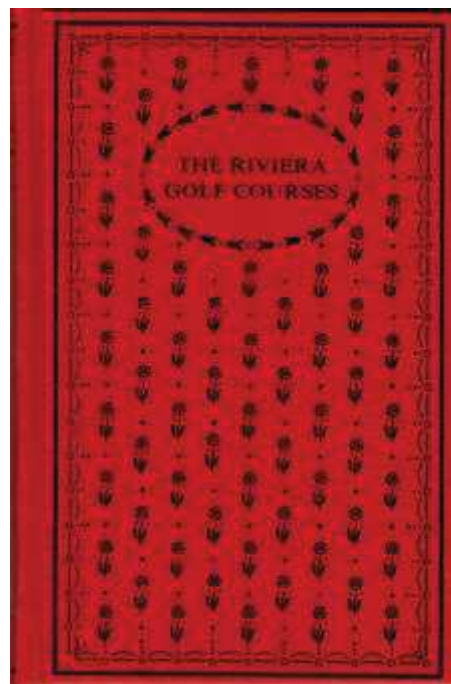
So far many words are spent on the 'names for the games'; Geert and Sara Nijs make a rather simple and clear contribution to these discussions.

These and several other aspects of the four games are dealt with in 280 pages, interlarded with hundreds of pictures, maps and documents in full colour and black & white. The publication is the final continuation of the trilogy 'Games for

Kings & Commoners'. The three books can be read independently.

The publication is available direct from the authors via [ancientgolf@wanadoo.fr](mailto:ancientgolf@wanadoo.fr)  
The price is €25 or £20 or \$30, including postage and packaging.

*Reviewed by Johann de Boer; Nuenen, The Netherlands*



### **The Riviera Golf Courses,**

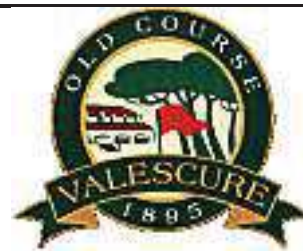
By Bernard Darwin

In 1913, *The Times* newspaper ordered to Bernard Darwin a series of papers on the golf courses of the French Riviera; the publication started on 19<sup>th</sup> February 1913. As for many others series of papers, *The Times* decided to publish a compilation of the Darwin's papers in a small book which was announced for 1914. For obvious reasons, this book was never printed. Neil Crafter (editor) and Dick Verinder (publisher) issued in December 2015 this missing book. Knowing the writing style of Darwin, there is no need to say that you'll enjoy the reading. Order you copy as soon as possible as this edition is limited to 200 copies. This is a must for every person interested in the history of golf in Europe, in France or on the Riviera.

*Reviewed by JBK*

## Oct. 2015 – The 10<sup>th</sup> EAGHC Meeting

### At the Valescure GC



This year was a special year for our Association. We were celebrating our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This special event was hosted by The Valescure Golf Club on the French Riviera – organized with the help of our members Cecilia and Geoffrey Lyon and the kind invitation of the Club represented by its President M. François Naumann and the support of its Director M. Jean-Philippe Fernez.



*A partial group photo at Valescure GC.*

On the Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> of September, the Club was officially celebrating its official 120 years. For this special date, Cécilia Lyon was presenting her book on the history of Valescure which we reviewed in the previous issue of Golfika Magazine (#16). We must remind here that Cécilia just published an excellent book on the history of the club. It is in French, but the quality is so high and the illustrations so numerous and so rarely seen that it's worth to buy it – even if you do not read fluently French.

On the evening before the official starting date, already many members were present for an informal dinner at the Golf-Hotel. If, in the past, the Golf Hotel was slightly more distant from the club house, nowadays it is fully adjacent and it is possible to go from your room to the club-house without going outside – not to avoid the rain, but rather to protect yourself from the sun!

M. Sébastien Meslin, directeur of the hotel, was perfect in his organisation and all the members, who spent a few days there, were “enchantés”.



On Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> of October, as usually on the first morning, there was a place with eight tables in the “Trophies Room” of the Club, full of excellent material, where our members were trading or bartering items.



From clubs to books, from postcards to medals, everybody was able to find an interesting piece. The success of this moment is increasing over the years.

After the lunch, we started the proper meeting. After a warm welcome from M. Naumann, President of the Valescure GC, JBK, the then President of the EAGHC, opened the meeting with a presentation of the first clubs on the French Riviera, from 1891 (Cannes-Mandelieu) to 1931 (Antibes-Biot); with a few questions such as Grasse and Nice at Villa Arson.

This presentation was immediately followed by Cécilia Lyon on the history of Valescure. Her lecture was split into two parts: (1) myths and legends – of course, the date of 1895 was highly discussed) – and (2) Harry Colt and Valescure.

After a break, Christop Meister then gave a presentation on defunct golf courses (Missing

golf links). Many comparisons between old courses and recreated/rebuilt ones were offered.



*Books signatures (Sara & Geert Nijs and Cécilia Lyon during a break)*

Closing the lectures of the first day, the “Great Nijs Duo” (Sara and Geert) made a lecture entitled “All roads lead to Scotland” a summary of so many years of research ... leading to their last book (Games for Kings and Commoners, Part III).



*Mavis, Huguette, John and Poul-Erik*



*Georges, Annie, Edith, Henri, Huguette*



*David, Geoffrey, John L. and John H.*



*Viktor (behind), Patrick, Virginie, Martin*

Drinks before the Gala Dinner.

On the second day we enjoyed listening John Hanna trying to keep us on the safe side of the collection, while Henri Jakubowicz was sharing his passion for golf books – especially ladies golf and putting. Leif Einarsson closed the meeting with a pleasant report on his participation in the Hoakurst Hickory event. Between the two sets of lectures, we had our 10<sup>th</sup> AGM. The general

actions, the magazine edition (which quality is regularly increasing) and the accounting were strongly applauded. We also nominated as Honorary Member of our Association, Viktor Cleve, in recognition of his kindness and generosity, as he is designing an original work as a cover for our magazine. In addition, we offered Viktor the first EAGHC medal.



*Christoph presenting the medal to Viktor Cleve*



*Czeslaw Kruk and David Kirkwood*



*P.E. Jensen receiving the President's Putter from JBK, past president.*



K. Sasse, U. Lamm (Winner), M. Edin  
M. Martin, B. Nord (Winner), G. Lyon

The elections for the Board welcomed a new member: Poul-Erik Jensen. Later, following the tradition to nominate a new President every other year, the Board designed Poul-Erik to this position from January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2016 to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017.

The medal was designed by the Board and it was nicely engraved and struck by the Kirkwood workshop for the EAGHC.

Below is a picture of the medal.

We should add that, on Thursday evening, the gala dinner was a true pleasure with excellent meals. It was also and brilliantly animated by David Kirwood and Czeslaw Kruk – selling in auction a nice oil on canvas painted by Viktor Cleve and representing the Grand Duke Michel and Countess Sophie de Torby at Valescure in about 1910. This painting was used for the cover of Golfika-Magazine #16. The item fetched a nice price and the generous winners wanted to donate it to the Valescure Golf Club. A menu of the dinner, signed by all the participants, was also auctioned and won by John Lovell who donated it to the EAGHC.



If the practice round was cancelled due to unusual heavy raining, the European Hickory Invitational, played on Saturday, was a great success. The winners (Britta Nord, for Ladies and Ulli Lam for Gentlemen) won the Gold Medal of the EAGHC for their performance.

Next year, the meeting will be held at Vejle, in Denmark (see more about the program on page 30 of this magazine). We are all sure that this will be another great meeting and we hope to see you as many as possible.

## The Vagliano Trophy – The first years

By JBK (Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak)



Just before Christmas 2014, I received, from our dear friend Poul-Erik Jensen, a booklet with some autographs of French and British ladies golf-players. Quite rightly, Poul-Erik thought that they could be of some interest for my collection. Initially, the booklet included a Ryder Cup menu which he kept for the Danish Golf Museum, but gave me the other pages. As a counterpart, he just asked me if I could write the story of the first international matches between France and Great-Britain... It was a pleasure, indeed. Here is the result of the research.

*The cover page provides a picture of the autograph page as well as a press photo of the French team*

If some form of international matches started extremely early<sup>6</sup>, nothing was really regular. We had to wait until 1922 to see the first matches of the Walker Cup and to 1927 to see the real birth of the Ryder Cup – even if some preparatory matches started a bit earlier. These were men matches.

The ladies also wanted to establish some regular international matches played between Great Britain (and Ireland), USA and France. As a consequence, two different meetings were instituted. The first one started in 1931 and concerned GB&I and France: the Vagliano Trophy. The next one was followed in 1932 and was a competition between GB&I and USA: the Curtis Cup.

Note that the name “Vagliano Trophy” will only be used after WWII, but in 1931, the British newspapers<sup>7</sup> are announcing that “*the French team to meet England in a women's international golf match, the first of its kind, at Oxhey on October 10, will be: Mme Munier, the French champion; Mme Vagliano, who was runner-up to Mme Munier; Mme G. Decugis, Mme J. Elo, Mme R. de la Chaume<sup>8</sup>, and Mme Waddel. Next year's match will be held in France.*”



*The French team at Oxhey (“Le Golf et les golfeurs”, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 1931)*

Actually, Madame Elo will not appear in the competition, being replaced by Mlle Monique Pétin, who was only aged 16. Two other prominent French players, who could have been selected, were missing the competition: could not attend for maternity reasons.

The GB&I team was: Miss Joyce Wethered (captain), Miss Wanda Morgan – the English Champion – Miss Molly Gourlay, Miss Diana Fishwick, Miss J. M'Culloch and Miss E. Corlett.

<sup>6</sup> A USA v. France was played at La Boulie, near Versailles in 1913 – which was initially supposed to be followed by a return one.

<sup>7</sup> Aberdeen Journal - Friday 14 August 1931

<sup>8</sup> Who, as Mlle Thion de la Chaume, was the first non-British winner of the British Ladies in 1927.





*Above: Four players of the English team (same reference as above)*



*The club-house of the Oxhey Park Golf Club, hosting the first France v. GB&I matches. The place is close to Watford, located about 20 miles North-West of London*

Each team had two reserves: Mmes Monier and Aubin for France. Mrs Watson and Garon for Great Britain.

Mme Barbara Vagliano was the wife of André Vagliano<sup>9</sup>, who, at that time, was in charge of the “Commission des Sports” at the French Golf Union.

We sometimes read that Barbara Vagliano was the captain of the French team – as she will be, for sure, later. This is most probable, but we were unable to find any confirmation. Also, we don’t know when the cup was given by Mr and Mme Vagliano – which gave the name “Vagliano Cup” to the competition.

The order of play was decided as follow:  
Three foursome matches started at 10:30:

<sup>9</sup> And the mother of Lally Vagliano (also known as Vicomtesse de Saint-Sauveur) or Mme Lally Segard, our honorary president

Mme P. Munier and Mme A. M. Vagliano vs.  
Miss Joyce Wethered and Mrs Garon;  
Mme G. Decugis and Mme Waddel vs.  
Miss Wanda Morgan and Miss M. Gourlay;  
Mme H. Monier and Mlle M. Petin vs.  
Mrs J. B. Watson and Miss J. M’Culloch.

And six singles, at 3pm:  
Mme R. Lacoste<sup>10</sup> vs. Miss Joyce Wethered,  
Mme P. Munier vs. Miss W. Morgan,  
Mme A.M. Vagliano vs. Miss M. Gourlay,  
Mme G. Decugis vs. Miss D. Fishwick.  
Mme Waddel vs. Miss J. M’Culloch,  
Mlle M. Petin vs. Miss E. Corlett.

Joyce Wethered paired with Mrs Garon severely beat Mme Vagliano and Munier by 7 & 6.

One match was tied (Waddel – M’Culloch) all the others were won by Great Britain – dominating by a more powerful drive and a more accurate putting. Two other matches were very disputed as Misses Gorulay and Morgan won by 2 and 1 over Mmes Waddel and Decugis. The same score was recorded for Miss Elsie Corlett playing against the teenager Mlle Pétin.

“The biggest crowd<sup>11</sup> that has ever watched a women’s golf match in England”. About 5000 people, including most of the Ryder Cup players – who were present in England, was attending the event.



*A great atmosphere was observed on the course.*

When the meeting was instituted, the competition was an annual one. The following year, 1932, it took place at Saint-Germain-en-Laye, close to Paris.

<sup>10</sup> The initials, taken from the magazine, are referring to the husband first name.

<sup>11</sup> According to the Dundee Courier, 12 Oct. 1931

The British Team was initially planned to include: Miss Enid Wilson, the British champion, Miss Purvis-Russell-Montgomery, Mrs J. B. Watson, Miss Wanda Morgan, Miss Diana Fishwick, Mrs Percy Garon, Miss Molly Gourlay and Miss Pentony (the Irish title holder). Miss Joyce Wethered was unable to play. But Miss Wilson couldn't attend and was replaced by Miss Doris Park. The non-playing captain was Miss Hulcatt.

On the French side were present: Mme Lacoste, Mme Decugis, Mme P. Munier, Mlle Monique Petin, Mme Robert Thion de la Chaume, Mme A. M. Vagliano (captain), Mme de Vilmorin and Mme Waddel

The competition was played on July 2nd, 1932. The British victory was again without any discussion, even if slightly less severe, as two matches were halved: one foursome (Gourlay-Fishwick vs. Thion de la Chaume-Vilmorin) and one single (Morgan vs. Lacoste).

France had to wait the following year before winning at least two of the matches. It was at St George's Hill course, Weybridge, on June 30th, 1933. If the three foursomes were won by the British team, two singles went to France. Miss Diana Fishwick, a former British and English champion was defeated by Mme Munier, a former champion of France, by 2 and 1. Slightly later, Mlle Gunzburg won her match against Miss Plumpton 4 & 2.

Results:	Britain - France	
Foursomes	3	0
Singles	4	2
Total	7	2

In 1934, at Chantilly, France was close to make a sensation if Miss Diana Fishwick didn't hole out a three yards putt for the victory. For the first time, the results were very tight and the honours shared between the two nations.

Results:	Britain - France		
Foursome	2	1	
Single	2	3	/ one halved
Total	4	4	

France continued to cause some fear to the British team at Worpleston in 1935 after

winning two of the three foursomes. But in the afternoon, the British team won 4 matches to only 2 to France.

Results:	Britain - France	
Foursome	1	2
Single	4	2
Total	5	4

But in the following years, the success was again strongly on the British side – as we can see on the following tables.

1936	6	3
Saint-Cloud	Britain - France	
Foursome	1	2
Single	5	1

1937	6	2
Pulborough	Britain - France	
Foursome	2	0 / one halved
Single	4	2

1938	7	2
Morfontaine	Britain - France	
Foursome	2	1
Single	5	1

1939	6	2
Bramshot	Britain - France	
Foursome	2	1
Single	4	1 / one halved

The competition was interrupted with the war and resumed in 1947.

To reduce expenses, the Cup was played every other year after 1951. At the end of 1957, the LGU agreed with FFG to change the format and in 1959 the competition was played between GB&I and the European countries. It was at Wentworth, near London, Britain won again. Europe had to wait until 1965 to beat Britain. It was in Cologne. This success was followed by two additional victories for Europe, in 1967 (St Annes) and 1969 (Chantilly).

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The French team at Oxhey, just before the matches played on Saturday October 10<sup>th</sup>. From left to right: Mme Aublin, Mme Minier, Mme Waddel, Mme Lacoste, Mme Vagliano et Mme Decugis.

Below : signatures from some of the players during the first International Match: Jeanine P. Munier, Mme Waddel, Barbara Vagliano, Monique Petin, Nicole Decugis, M. Aublin, Molly Gourlay, Wanda Morgan, Joyce Wethered and Simone R. Lacoste







*Babe Zaharias after her victory in the British Ladies in Gullane, 1947*