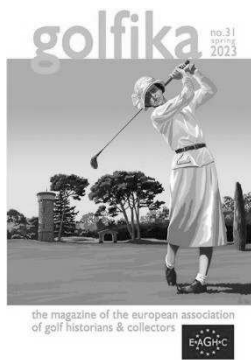


Count Geza Andrassy
Richard Adam Benno 1876-1937, painted in 1910 – 1911
(Slovak National Museum, Betliar)

golfika



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The front cover of *Golfika* magazine N°31 shows an illustration by Viktor Cleve; a freely interpreted vision of the Cannes-Mougins golf course combining an elegant woman from the 1920s with the club's signature pigeoncote. Viktor Cleve is a EAGHC honorary member and a leading golf painter from Germany. As a former art director, Viktor kindly designed the cover page for *Golfika* magazine.

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A Few Words from the President and Editor

By JBK (*Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak*)



This issue of *Golfika* magazine is arriving later than usual, and we apologize. But this spring issue is still published before the summer! The autumn issue should be available in early November.

The good news is that this edition has 40 pages instead of the usual 36 pages.

We are extremely happy to present here a paper by Douglas MacKenzie on the history of golf in Hungary and, from Erik Madsen an article about a little-known defunct golf course in Sweden! In addition, we are considering publishing a third special issue of *Golfika* covering the history of golf on the European Continent. Since the previous special issue, we already have articles on Norway, Romania, Poland and now Hungary and Sweden again! We'll keep you informed.

My second remark is related to the content of the articles: personal memories. Pehr Thermaenius writes about his father's clubs and Huguette Kazmierczak reports the memoirs of a girl caddy: Françoise Autiero.

Regarding this last article, we would like to remind you that the history of golf is being written today. We urge our members not to overlook this aspect. How many times have we postponed an interview with a key figure in golf from the 1950s, only to find that by the time we were ready to do so, our champion had passed away. Let's not wait until it's too late.

Curiously, at the same time we received these articles on golf memories, our friend Leif posted on Facebook a photograph of himself when he was a small boy. We asked him for the authorisation to reprint this charming photo here.



Leif was only three years old when he first tried golf. His parents were looking on.

We are all expecting to see Leif, with his charming wife Elsa, during our next AGM, which will be held at the Cannes-Mougins Golf and Country Club on the French Riviera in early October.

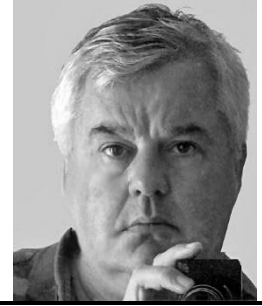
We initially thought to hold the 2023 AGM in Le Touquet, this is why you'll find here an article with could have been entitled "Le Touquet before Le Touquet".

But this year, Cannes-Mougins is celebrating its centenary and we are proud to be part of the celebrations. The program for our annual meeting is by now established, and we present it here in detail. You'll find it at the end of this magazine – with a few pictures of the club, which, we hope, will make you want to join us even more. And please note that the lectures will be very interesting.

We hope to see you soon in Cannes-Mougins at the beginning of October. In the meantime, enjoy reading *Golfika*.

Golf in Hungary- The Leven Connection

By Douglas MacKenzie



IT SHOULD COME AS NO SURPRISE that golf was adopted relatively early in Hungary. Throughout the 19th century, and particularly after the influence of Stephen Széchenyi, “anglomania” gripped the country influencing, among other things architecture, gardens, literature, sports and fashion¹. George Cecil, writing in *Golf* noted that “from speaking English and wearing clothes with the stamp of Savile Row upon them, to golf was but a skip²”.

The first demonstration of golf in Hungary was given on the Budapest horse racing course on 13 December 1902³. The man to swing the clubs was Count Géza Andrásy, a good friend of the Duke of Windsor, and whose penchant for British sports and pastimes is evident from the 1910 painting⁴ of him by Richard Adam Benno. A lawyer who had studied in Budapest, Geneva and the United States, and owner of the Andrásy Ironworks, he was a supporter of many sports and served as President of the Hungarian Athletic Club. He was also the President of the Hungarian Olympic Committee between 1905 and 1927 and a member of the International Olympic Committee.

I have not found an eyewitness account of the event but according to the *Hegylakó* article the audience “really liked the show” and the British Military Attaché, Colonel Williams, was consulted on golf course design⁵. However, that article associates this with, and jumps immediately to, the construction of the Budapest golf course which was not to begin for another nine years. It (and the earlier Cecil article) ignores the building of the first golf

course in Hungary on the estate of Count Sándor Nákó at Tátralomnic in September 1907 and with which Colonel R Williams was indeed involved⁶.



The pivotal figure in this was another all-round sportsman and Hungarian Olympian, Dezső Lauber. Secretary of the Hungarian Olympic Committee, he represented Hungary at tennis in

¹“Anglomania” in Hungary, 1780-1900, László Ország, *Angol Filológiai Tanulmányok*; *Hungarian Studies in English*, Debrecen, 12 (1979), pp. 19-36

² Golf at Budapest, Cecil George, *Golf*, March 1922

³ *Golf Kincseskalendárium*, Budapest *Magyar Golf Szövetség*, 2005, p36

⁴ See picture on cover page 2.

⁵ *Hegylakó Magazin*, 6 November 2017

⁶ *Golf Kincseskalendárium*, loc cit. and <https://golf.eoldal.hu/cikkek/golf/a-magyar-golf-tortenete.html>

the 1908 Olympics. Apart from his golfing achievements described below, he also competed internationally in bobsleigh, skating and cycling. Conveniently he was also an architect (he won a silver medal for a stadium designed for the 1924 Olympics) and designed the Tátralomnic golf course⁷. He was also secretary of the club which held its first five day championship over the nine-hole course beginning on 11 August 1909⁸. Each day featured a different format, beginning with a stroke play handicap competition won by Barclay Rives of the US Embassy. Lauber himself triumphed in the stroke play competition on the second day and the competitions continued with match play, an open scratch competition and concluded with a fourball⁹.

The next Hungarian golfing venture was in the capital. Local sources suggest that as both Andrásy and Lauber were frequently in Budapest on national athletic or Olympic business they felt the need for a golf course there. George Cecil waxed rather more lyrically on the development.

(in 1911) the Budapest athletes sang the praises of the Royal and Ancient and during a certain supper party during which the tokays of the country flowed, plans for a club and links were drawn up... There arose the question of a site. "Our cooking arrangements," quote the host of the occasion, "are complete. None more so. But where will the hare be?

⁷ <https://olympics.com/en/athletes/dezso-lauber> and <https://golf.eoldal.hu> loc cit based on the *Magyar Sportévkönyv* (Hungarian Sports Annual) of 1941 claims the first generation of Hungarian golfers Lauber, Count István Széchenyi, Baron Ernő Plenner, Countess Géza Lipótzsi Zichy. and others were taught by a Viennese golf coach, Leopold Stag, who spent his summers in Lomnic. Lauber seemed already well on in his golfing education, but the gentleman did exist. He was, in fact, James Stagg, a Musselburgh man and a younger brother of Willie Park's son-in-law. Perhaps the name was a Viennese joke: put the cited forename and surname together and you get Leopoldstag, a holiday for the patron saint of Austria (and Vienna specifically). Or as Christian Arnolder suggests, the annual perhaps conflated him with an Austrian professional of the 1930s, Leopold Heran.

⁸ <https://hungolf.hu/szoveteg/magyar-golftortenet/magyar-golf-tortenete-1/>

The silence of the tomb followed to be broken by Arthur Kanitz, one of the most public-spirited of Hungarians, "At Istenhegy [Istenhegyi]," said he, "you will find space, the property is mine; now it is yours." Result: a golf course¹⁰.

The club was formed on 7 June 1911 with Andrásy as president and Lauber as secretary. Cecil's account, though, has missed out another step, the first "incarnation" of the Budapest course. Indeed, a course was formed on Széchenyihegy (also referred to as Svábhegy), designed once again by Dezső Lauber but on land leased from Albert Déczy. Competitions were played there in 1912, its articles of association were approved the following year and a Frenchman, Jean-Pierre Lafitte, employed as professional. He did not provide satisfaction and his stay was short. Baron Károly Hatvany personally enticed Malcolm Goodwillie, of whom much more later, to the club¹¹.

Some sources claim the Hungarian Championship was played there in 1912, won by Dr Laázló Magyar and in 1913 when it was won by Dezső Lauber though others treat these as "unofficial" championships.¹²

A third course was opened in Hungary in 1914 in the spa town Pöstyén and private courses were established by the rich beside their castles and manor houses at Martonvásár, Fót, Zichyújfalu and Alag¹³.

⁹ <https://golf.eoldal.hu> loc cit

¹⁰ George Cecil loc cit

¹¹ <https://golf.eoldal.hu> loc cit

¹² <https://hungolf.hu> loc cit Count Géza Lipót Zichy offered a cup for the Hungarian Championship in 1913 but it was not awarded until the 1920 event. These results were in the 'official' records of Hungarian golf though separate from those Open Championship records of 1920 onwards. A different situation pertains for the women: Countess Karácsonyi Memy won 13 national women's golf tournaments before 1920 but the competition conditions were later deemed to be insufficient.

¹³ *A golfturizmus rendszere, a nemzetközi és hazai keresletkinálat trendjei és területi vetületei, Robert Kiss*, PhD thesis, Pécsi Tudományegyetem, p90 The next Hungarian golfing Természettudományi Kar, 2013

Golf largely had to be put on hold during the First World War. The course at Tátralomnic was destroyed during the war and both it and Póstyén were on land given to Czechoslovakia on its independence in 1918. Déczy, the landowner of the Budapest club's course, died during the war and no agreement regarding the lease could be reached with his heirs. As a result the Budapest Golf Club was dissolved. A new club, the Magyar Golf Club, was formed, again with Andrásy and Lauber at the helm.¹⁴ This is when Artur Kánitz stepped in. He bought the land and gifted it to the golf club.

Lauber had to flee Budapest but returned after the war and reconstructed the Budapest course. It was in good enough shape to stage the Hungarian Championship in 1920.

George Cecil¹⁵ described the nine-hole 2500 yard course as “an extraordinarily sporting one, lying 1200 feet above sea level. From most parts of the links an extraordinarily fine view of the Danube may be had as it winds through woodland”.

Most of the fairways were tree-lined and the greens surrounded by groups of trees.

At the fifth green (280 yards, bogey 4) the drive is made from the tee over a traverse line of trees 80 yards in length. At the seventh green (140 yards, bogey 3) another wood intervenes while the 8th (400 yards, bogey 5) is as tricky as any.

“The course is an uncommonly puzzling one,” he concludes. Although on a hilltop plateau it was close to the centre of Budapest, twelve minutes by car, according to Cecil, or a fifteen minute walk from the station at Fogaskerekű and also served by a cog-wheel railway for the less energetic.

As was the case in neighbouring countries, Austria, Romania, and Czechoslovakia as it was then, early Hungarian golf was a pastime for the rich and titled and many club members were British and American expatriates¹⁶. Unlike its neighbours though, during the 1920s Hungary produced its own native players of international calibre.

¹⁴ <https://golf.eoldal.hu> loc cit

¹⁵ George Cecil loc cit

¹⁶ For example at the end of the 1920s, Lord Chilton, British ambassador and many of the ambassadorial staff were also members

The winner of that 1920 championship was Béla Gyurkovich and he and Lauber dominated the championship from then until 1941 with ten wins for Lauber and three for Gyurkovich with only János Hatvany and Dr Jenő Kovács of the native players interrupting these results. International success began as early as 1913 when Dezső Lauber went to Vienna and defeated all the Austrian golfers to capture the Joseph von Flesch trophy¹⁷. Both Dezső Lauber and Jenő Kovács won the Austrian Championship and Lauber won the Adriatic Championship at Brioni in 1929 and 1930¹⁸.



If this seems like domination on the male side it pales into insignificance when women players are considered. Erzsébet Hevesi won the first officially sanctioned ladies' championship in 1921. Under this, her maiden name, and then as Mrs Béla Gyurkovich and later Dr Béla Szilágyi she won another 17 national championships up to 1941 despite a brief retirement in 1929. Sometimes she faced only two competitors in the ladies' competition but in 1920, when there was no ladies' competition at all, she was

¹⁷ *uniQue magazin*, 10 February 2007, Budapest, LKG MÉDIA Kft, p47

¹⁸ *Tennisz és golf I*, évf 1 sz, 10 May 1929, p23 and 2, évf 8 sz, 26 April 1930, p138

allowed to enter the men's competition. She defeated Lauber in the matchplay and lost to Gyurkovich in the final. In 1922 she was again allowed to compete in the men's tournament and again lost to Gyurkovich in the final. In 1929 she played in the closed championship of Hungary, finishing second to Lauber and ahead of her by then ex-husband Gyurkovich¹⁹. Once more, in the absence of a ladies' championship, she competed in the open competition of 1937 and won.

She too demonstrated her skill abroad winning the German Championship in 1926 (though the Deutscher Golf Verband has decided to only recognise titles from 1927 onwards), and she had five wins in the Austrian Championship and four Czechoslovak titles.

In addition to individual triumphs, before tournament golf took up all the playing dates, international team golf was a feature in Europe. These were typically bilateral events, Hungary faced Germany eight times in the 1920s with, of the known results, three wins each and one all-square²⁰. Mrs Szlávy competed against the men here also. In addition there were multi-team events, the largest of the period (though greatly reduced because of withdrawals on account of the political situation) was the Great Golf Prize of Nations²¹ at Baden Baden just after the 1936 Berlin Olympics. The event, in what was to become the Canada Cup format, won by an English pair representing Great Britain, attracted six visiting national teams including Hungary with, almost inevitably, Lauber in its pairing²².

The Hungarian Golf Association graciously acknowledges the role of its "foreign trainer" in developing these players. Though the first identification of him I found²³ gets his name wrong and, to add insult to injury, describes him as English. This golf coach was Malcolm Goodwillie²⁴, professional at the Magyar Golf

Club in Budapest and born in Leven, Fife, in Scotland on 18 January 1885, the son of David Goodwillie, an insurance agent, and his wife Georgina née Brand²⁵. He began his working life as a miner, a drawer, whose job was to push the tubs of coal from the coal face to the bottom of the mine shaft. He was a good amateur player in the Leven Thistle club. Playing at Burntisland in the Scottish Amateur Championship of 1906 he was drawn against James Sorley²⁶, another Fifer destined to be a professional in eastern and central Europe Carlsbad [Ed. today Karlovy Vary in the Czech Republic] in Sorley's case. From Leven Thistle Goodwillie won the Shepherd Cup and the Innerleven Gold Medal (the Leven Links Championship) in 1907²⁷. The following year, after playing in the Scottish Amateur Championship at Leven he turned professional. A later newspaper report suggests he was a 'golf tutor' at Wemyss Castle²⁸ in Fife, however his first real post was in 1908 at the newly established club at Selsey near Chichester, in England. In November 1912 he accepted the position of professional at Burgess Hill²⁹.

He had played in The Open of 1910 at St Andrews but a first round of 98 following a thunderstorm so severe that the course flooded and the round replayed, (his 98 was far from the worst score as there were six rounds of 147), meant he missed the cut after the second round. There was a similar outcome, minus the deluge, at the 1911 Open held at Royal St George's³⁰.

His stay at Burgess Hill was short, though long enough to play George Duncan in an exhibition match to mark the opening of the extended course, winning the first medal round and then losing the second round in match play. Goodwillie's appointment to the Budapest club was announced in September 1913, and he immediately left for Hungary. He took with him, as assistant, his younger brother, Charles³¹.

¹⁹ <https://golf.eoldal.hu> loc cit and *Tennisz és golf 1*, évf 5 sz, 10 July 1929, p133

²⁰ *Golf in Deutschland*, 1956-57

²¹ Alan Fraser, *The Hitler Trophy*, Floodlit Dreams, 2016

²² <https://olympics.com> loc. cit.

²³ *Golf Kincseskalendárium*, Budapest, Magyar Golf Szövetség, 2005

²⁴ SRO 456/14

²⁵ SRO 456/2/21

²⁶

<https://www.antiquegolfscotland.com/antiquegolf/maker.php3?makerid=718>

²⁷ *Dundee Courier*, 12 and 5 August 1907

²⁸ *Leven Advertiser & Wemyss Gazette*, 24 October 1933, p4 and 21 October 1908, p2

²⁹ *Mid Sussex Times*, 26 November 1912, p5

³⁰ See <https://www.theopen.com/previous-opens/>

³¹ *Westminster Gazette*, 22 March 1913, p16 and 25 September 1913, p3

The brothers were soon caught up with the First World War as enemy non-combatants and technically were interned. To use the word internment obviously had some propaganda value³² but the arrangement was far looser. Interviewed when back in Fife for a holiday in 1930 he said,

“he was by no means interned and could move about freely and unchallenged so long as he confined himself to the city’s environs. Of the treatment meted out to him then he speaks very highly”³³.

If he bore the Budapest club any ill will in September 1919 he accepted with alacrity their proposal for him to return and to bring £2000 of golfing requisites with him which made the deal even sweeter³⁴.

For all the success he had in coaching in the 1920s he bemoaned the costs involved in golfing in Hungary.

All the courses are excellent 18 hole stretches but owing to the climatic conditions huge bills for upkeep make the charge for a round so restrictive that the game is as yet largely the preserve of the aristocracy. A common enough fee for membership is £40 and many of the clubs fix a yearly subscription of nearly 50 guineas³⁵.

[Ed. A guinea was a historic British gold coin, with a face value of £1 and 1 shilling, in pre-metric money. Hence, 50 guineas was equivalent to £52 10s.]

Goodwillie argued that to play golf was too expensive and militated against the youth of the country participating. When a man was able to take up the game he was usually well on in years with no hope of ever achieving a championship level of golf.

These prices were phenomenal. To put them into context, back in Fife the Golf House Club Elie (to which villagers were often hostile because of its high charges compared to other local clubs) in the early 1920s imposed a 3 guineas, (£3 and 3 shillings), joining fee and an annual subscription of £2.

It was not all teaching for him in the 1920s. First there was sadness. Charles took a trip home to Fife in 1922 and did not return. He succumbed at the age of 27 to double pneumonia after catching influenza³⁶. James, another brother, arrived in Budapest as Malcolm’s assistant in 1929 promptly setting a new course record of 65³⁷.

In 1924 the Golf Championship of Central Europe was played over the Magyar course. After four rounds, with a score of 312, Goodwillie was the winner, sixteen strokes ahead of his nearest rival, the German, Stiefler³⁸. The following year the championship was played in Bad Salzbrunn in Silesia and Goodwillie went to defend his title.



James Goodwillie, Budapest, 1929
Malcolm Goodwillie



³² *Leven Advertiser*, 28 January 1915, p2

³³ *Dundee Courier*, 14 January 1930, p4

³⁴ *Dundee Courier*, 10 September 1919, p6

³⁵ *Dundee Courier*, 14 January 1930, p4, loc. cit.

³⁶ SRO 459/239

³⁷ *Dundee Courier*, 14 January 1930, loc cit

³⁸ *Dundee Evening Telegraph*, 19 Nov. 1924, p7

There were only two rounds this time and he finished third behind Marsh (presumably H Marsh who came from the Disley club in England, to become professional at the Wentorf-Reinbek club outside Hamburg) and Hanton, (E R Hanton who became the professional at Leipzig later in the decade), who tied for first³⁹.

He qualified and played in the 1927 German Open at Berlin Wannsee which attracted a strong field, qualifying behind Percy Alliss, Archie Compston and Open champions Henry Cotton and Arthur Havers but ahead of Ted Ray and George Duncan⁴⁰.

In 1933 Goodwillie had been 20 years with the club and the members presented him with an illuminated address signed by the secretary and president⁴¹. In September 1935 the Prince of Wales (later briefly King Edward VIII then Duke of Windsor) visited the course and Malcolm Goodwillie partnered him during his round⁴². Royalty of a different kind visited the course the following year in the shape of Bobby Jones who had been invited to the celebration for the 25th anniversary of the founding of the club. Malcolm was star struck. He did not know what Bobby Jones looked like but knew he would recognise him by his golf clubs when he got off the train. When no one left the train with clubs he was disappointed and asked a gentleman who looked American, "Forgive me sir but did Bobby Jones, the great golfer, come on the train with you?" In a quiet voice the stranger replied, "I'm Bobby Jones⁴³."

Goodwillie offered to help him to his hotel but was too nervous to invite him to play golf but, just as he was leaving, Jones asked Goodwillie if he might have a set of clubs he could borrow and if they could have a round of golf together at the club. A very nervous Goodwillie had to be reassured by his small son to "just play his normal game". Nervous as he was, he seemed to remember every shot Bobby Jones played. He described Jones topping his drive off the 7th tee.

The first hundred metres were just a tangle of stones, weeds and rough grass and Jones' ball lay in a cluster of rocks and bushes.

"I'll never forget him walking up to it. He stood looking at the ball for a minute and scratching his head and pushing his cap back and forth. Then he pulled a brassie, (Ed. 2-wood), out of his bag, took one more quick look and banged that bloody ball 225 metres straight up the hill. There'll never be another like him.⁴⁴"

The finest golf shot of all time was Goodwillie's verdict.

The Hungarian Golf Federation is wrong in saying that Goodwillie went back home to "England" after the club closed in 1943. Exactly how he spent the rest of the war is not clear. None of his relatives in Scotland had heard from him since 1942 but in October 1945 they received news through the Red Cross that he and the family were safe⁴⁵. Probably having had enough of European wars and internment he, his Hungarian wife Mária née Götz⁴⁶ and younger son, David James, emigrated to the United States in May 1947 aboard the ship *Marine Flasher* from Le Havre to New York City⁴⁷ and settled in Vermont. That same year Malcolm became a naturalised American citizen. He does not appear to have had any further connection with professional golf: the 1950 US census lists him as a caretaker and his wife's obituary in 1992⁴⁸ notes the couple had run Goodwillie's Country Store in Manchester, Vermont. He died in Manchester on 9 November 1959 and was buried with his favourite 7 iron. This apparently was a club he had been about to sell to a customer but took a fancy to its balance and kept it. In later life he used it as a walking stick⁴⁹.

The Goodwillies' elder son Malcolm Charles (see next page), born in 1923, was the first Hungarian born player to enter the Boys Amateur, travelling from Budapest to play at Moor Park in 1938⁵⁰. If later newspaper articles

³⁹ *Dundee Evening Telegraph*, 1 September 1925, p3

⁴⁰ *The Scotsman*, 12 September 1927, p5

⁴¹ *Leven Advertiser & Wemyss Gazette*, 24 October 1933, loc cit

⁴² *The Pasadena Post*, 3 September 1936, p12

⁴³ *Ibid.*

⁴⁴ <https://hungolf.hu/szoveteg/magyar-golftortenet/magyar-golf-tortenete-1/>

⁴⁵ *Leven Mail*, 31 October 1945, p4

⁴⁶ *Hungary Civil Registration*, Budapest 15 April 1929, Pest-Pilis-Solt-Kiskun, 217

⁴⁷ *Manifest of In Bound Passengers (Alien), Passenger and Crew Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, NY, 1897-1957*, Frame 752, Lines 25-27

⁴⁸ *Bennington Banner*, 8 Jan 1992, p14

⁴⁹ *Rutland Daily Herald*, 11 Nov 1959, p9 and 14 Nov 1959, p2

⁵⁰ *Dundee Courier*, 17 August 1938, p4

about his life are correct, he turned professional in 1941.



This was presumably in Europe as he first travelled to America to rejoin his parents and brother in 1953 aboard the ocean liner *Île de France* from Le Havre, the manifest showing his last place of residence as England⁵¹. A newspaper article in 1964 noting his appointment as professional at the Quarry Hill club in South Burlington⁵² states he had been professional at the Dover Hill club in Manchester, Vermont, for eight years. Mentioning also a prior stint at Stratton Mountain GC, in 1966 Malcolm jr became professional at Oakwood. By the time of his mother's death in 1992 he was back living in Hungary.

Despite golf being very much a minority sport in Hungary (the *PA* reporter who wrote the Bobby Jones story reported a membership in Budapest of "a few Americans from the Legion and a dozen more Englishmen and some 50 Hungarians") it must have impinged in some way on the popular consciousness. Komlos Keramia, who initially operated from Nyíregyháza but later opened a factory in

Budapest, produced this 33cm high art deco female golfing figure between 1931 and 1934⁵³.

Indeed golf in Hungary during the 1930s seemed to have more affinity with art deco than other sports, due to the French and American association with golf perhaps, as demonstrated in the 1931 advertisement⁵⁴.

After being excluded from international sport in the wake of World War I, including Budapest losing the 1920 Olympics that it had been previously awarded and, indeed, Hungary not even being invited to the Antwerp games⁵⁵, Hungary in the 1930s had once again joined the European sporting family. In golf this manifested itself in Hungary being a founder member of the European Golf Association established in Luxembourg in November 1937 with the country's delegate being who else but Dezső Lauber⁵⁶.

Of course, soon after, Europe turned to things other than golf. After the war the communist regime in Hungary was keen to use sport as a political tool but not golf which was seen as a capitalist recreation with golf club members likely to be exposed to "imperialists' recruitment activities" and the Magyar Golf Club was dissolved in 1951⁵⁷. There were various alternating periods of détente and hostility towards golf until 1979 when Dr Ferenc Gáty established the Blue Danube Golf Club and became its first president. He had been a soil expert in Cuba with UNIDO for four years and had fallen in love with golf there. Seeking permission to build the course, the local party secretary took the attitude that if golf was good enough for Comrade Fidel Castro, it's good enough for us. Gáty became president of the newly constituted Hungarian Golf Federation when it was created in 1989. Golf in Hungary was properly back.

⁵¹ *Manifest of In Bound Passengers (Alien), Passenger and Crew Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, NY, 1897-1957*, Frame 1183, Line 18

⁵² *Burlington Free Press*, 30 June 1964, p9; 8 Jul 1966, p8 and 8 Jan 1992, p14

⁵³ *A Survey of the Development and Assessment of the Influence of Golf as a Traditional Sporting Theme in the pre-1930 Decoration of Ceramics*, Andrew C. Mutch, Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of PhD, St Andrews University Art History School, Museum and Gallery Studies, April 2008

⁵⁴ *Tennisz és golf* 3, évf 8 sz, 20 April 1931, P139

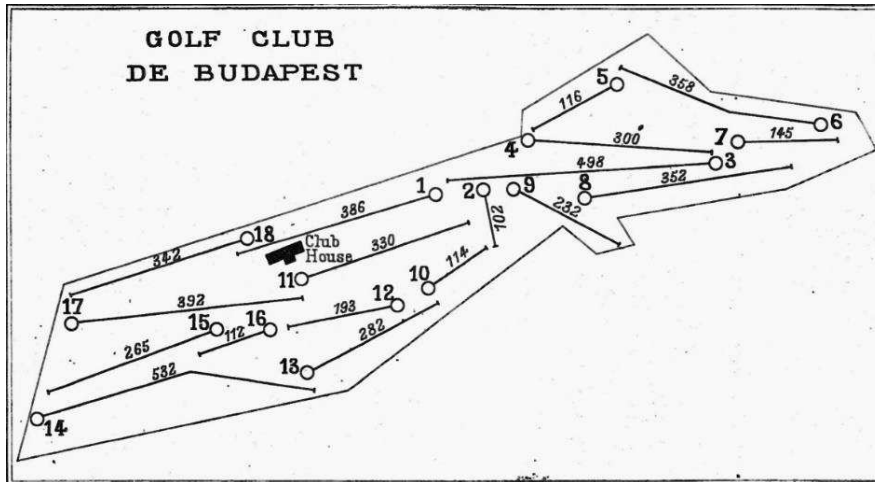
⁵⁵ Nikolett Onyestyak, *Hungary's Olympic dilemma: the politics of global conflict*, *Olympika: The International Journal of Olympic Studies*, 17, 2008, p 169ff

⁵⁶ Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak, *Golf in Luxembourg before WWII*, *Golfika*, 25, 2020, p33

⁵⁷ Tibor Szlávay, *100 Years of Hungarian Golf*, *Hungarian Golf Federation*, 2011, pp24-26; pp 28-30 and p42

There was a nice completion of the circle when the Szentlőrinc club was established just outside Budapest in 1992 Malcolm C Goodwillie was appointed “head professional”, with a focus on talented young players, nearly 80 years after his father, bearing the same name, began at the Magyar Golf Club.

As is the case with everything I write which touches on Central European golf, my thanks to Christoph Meister for finding relevant records and photographs.



Plan of the course, *Guide Plumon*, 1930



A medal from the 1922 championship of Hungary



Magyar Golf Club, logo, c.1930



Art-deco advertisement



Komlos figure



Hungary v Germany 1928: Dezső Lauber 2nd from left, Mrs Béla Szilágyi 4th;
I believe Béla Gyurkovich far left and Dr Jenő Kovács third from left.

Below: Bobby Jones playing at Magyar Golf Club in 1936

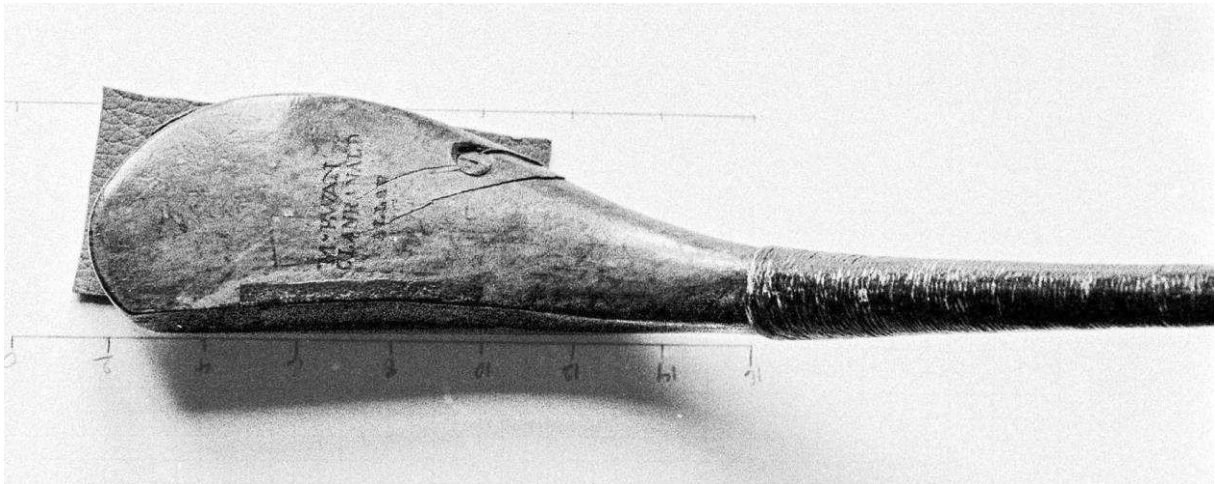


My Father's Clubs

By Pehr Thermaenius



My late father Bengt (1914-1994) made miniatures and a few full-scale replicas of historic clubs. He visited the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews in 1984 and documented some of the clubs in their collection. He made detailed drawings, notes and photographs which he later used to make copies of the clubs.



My father's photograph of Allan's McEwan play club. One of the three screws that hold the cracked clubhead together can be seen in this picture.

When my father arrived at the R&A he was shown into the secretary Michael Bonallack's office with a view over the first and 18th holes. My father said he was especially interested in Allan Robertson's clubs. Michael Bonallack then turned around in his chair and picked Allan's clubs out of a wooden box, which was Allan's travel box. My father then spent a couple of days in the clubhouse of the R&A, documenting some 30 clubs.

The club that is marked number one in his documentation is this play club, [Ed. equivalent to a modern driver], made by the clubmakers McEwan of Bruntsfield, Edinburgh. This is the club that my father copied most in different scales. He also made a full-scale copy, clearly marked as a replica.

This is how the club is described in the R&A's collection (as copied by my father):

A favourite Play Club (driver) presented by Adm Bethune 1865. Belonged to the late Allan Robertson [is?] the club he played with that day he made the round at 79 strokes, date 15/9/1858.

It is wise to question information about how an historic club has been used, but the following information appears to be trustworthy. Admiral Bethune is mentioned in the R&A's history. In 1864 he persuaded the committee to take good care of old clubs stored in the clubhouse. Evidently, he was interested in old clubs and also knowledgeable. Allan Robertson's round of 79 in 1858 is well documented.

In the McEwan stamp on the club head one can see a small line under the c. The firm used this stamp from the early 1800s. I have not been able to date the club any more precisely than that. The stamps on the club head read:

**McEWAN
CLANRANALD
ALLAN**

The name Clanranald is an interesting surprise. It refers to Ranald George Macdonald (1788–1873) who was the head of the Clan Macdonald of Clanranald. When he was young, he inherited a large fortune, which he managed to squander. Late in life Clanranald moved to London, where he died in 1873.

Clanranald was one of the keenest golfers in St Andrews and North Berwick. He became a member of the R&A in 1831. Clanranald is prominent in the book *Golfiana* (1842), with poetic pleasantries about well known golfers. He is pictured in Francis Grant's painting, *The Fathers of the North Berwick Club* (1832), today owned by and hanging in the Links Club of New York.

Clanranald created a scandal in Gothenburg in 1808, when he offered £20,000 for a British merchant's beautiful wife, with whom he had become bewitched. He is interesting for Swedish golf historians as he was one of several Scottish golfers in Gothenburg at the time. We like to believe that they played golf there, but so far we have not found any evidence of this.

On the play club one can see that the letters in McEWAN are similar to the letters in CLANRANALD. But the letters in ALLAN are smaller and they are stamped with more space between lines than the two other names.

This indicates that McEWAN and CLANRANALD were stamped at the same time while ALLAN was added later. So it is reasonable to believe that Clanranald bought the club from McEwan and had it stamped with his name by the clubmaker and that he passed it on to Allan some time later, perhaps when he moved to London

Nothing is known about who owned the club between 1859, when Allan Robertson died, and 1865, when it came to the R&A.

My father's photographs show cracks in the club head and that it had been crudely repaired with three screws. At first I could not believe that Allan would have used a club in this condition, so I was convinced that it was a later owner who cracked the club and then repaired it.

But I learned from the R&A museum that they have another club that Allan used for his round of 79 and that this club is also cracked and repaired with a screw. The museum also pointed out that the reason these clubs are cracked is that they were originally made for play with featheries, [Ed. early soft golf balls].

When the gutties, (harder golf balls), came along in the late 1840s golfers quickly changed to the new balls. Clubs were also to change, with shorter and sturdier club heads, but this change was slower. Players kept to their trusted long-nosed clubs. When Tom Morris won The Open Championship in 1864 he played with a club made by Hugh Philp, who had died eight years previously. These old clubs tended to crack when they hit the new harder guttie balls.

So, it might well be that Allan Robertson actually used these cracked clubs for his record breaking round in 1858. It tells us something about how he valued these clubs – or how he feared going out without them – that the world's arguably number one golfer at the time kept playing with clubs that looked like they were damaged beyond repair.

* David Hamilton helped me with information about Clanranald.

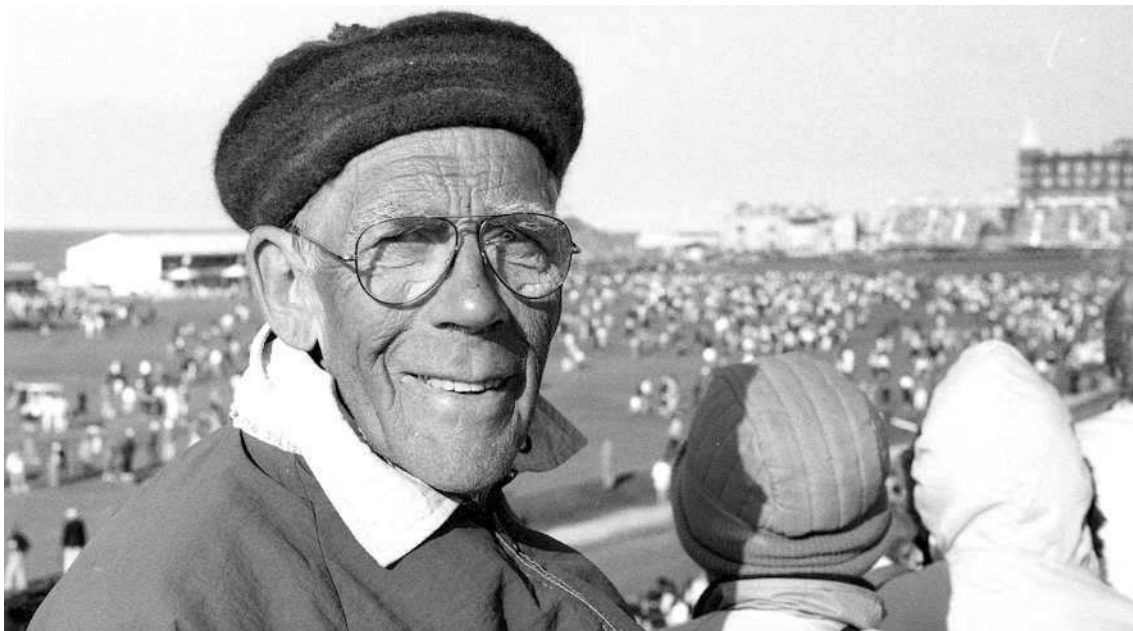
*McEwan's stamps are described in Jeff Ellis's book, *The Club-maker's Art*.

*The R&A World Golf Museum have been very helpful with the research.

[see illustrations next page]



My father copied the McEwan play club in full scale and also in miniature in scales 1:2, 1:5 and 1:10. He made the full scale replicas as the club would have looked when new.



My father Bengt in the stand by the Road Hole 17th green in St. Andrews, on the last day of The Open, 22 July 1990, when Nick Faldo, the eventual winner, was walking up to the 18th green.

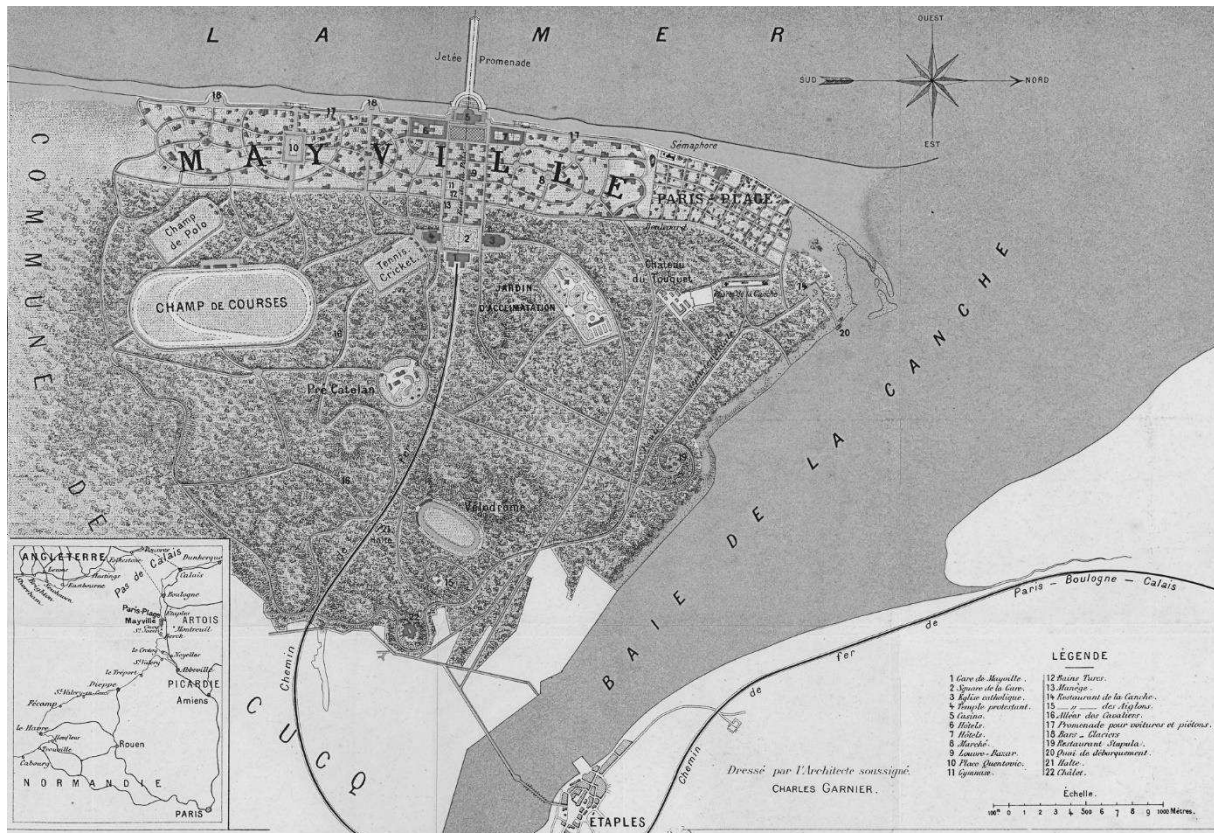
Mayville before Le Touquet Looking at the 1896 - 1906 Period

By JBK (Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak)



IN GOLFIKA #3 (2008), ALAN JACKSON WROTE: “I recently had access to a substantial run of *Golfing Annual* from which I was doing some research into early golf clubs. During my work, I noticed that there were some European clubs which I was not aware of and began noting them down as a matter of principal. A couple of points came to mind: a good number were associated with hotels, obviously one way of attracting custom. The other was that they did not survive overlong, why I am not too sure.”

Among the list of early French golf clubs, one was called London-Paris GC and was supposed to be close to Boulogne – and I imagined being Wimereux ... I was wrong. Here is a summary of a short piece of research I was able to conduct recently, which makes a connection between Mayville and Le Touquet.



Plan of the Mayville project. Note: right of “Mayville” is “Paris-Plage” and just below “Château du Touquet”. Details can also be found in a leaflet, “Mayville and Anglo-French Pleasance. Its Attractions and Aims”, 1896. The golf course was built on the racecourse (Champ de Courses) - see the left side of the plan”.

In 1892, John Whitley, a wealthy British businessman, wanted to recognise the increasingly cordial relations between Great Britain and France by creating a seaside resort in the Artois region of northern France. He named it Mayville, in honour of Princess Mary wife of the Duke of York, the future king George V.

[Ed. Princess Mary was informally known as May to her close friends, after the month in which she was born].

He bought three kilometres of coastline to the south of Paris-Plage to build a pharaonic project which was to offer, among other things, several hotels, a train station, a golf course, a racecourse, polo fields, cricket fields, tennis courts, etc. On the map (see the previous page), we can see the location of the resort.

The project started soon, and in 1896, *The Golfing Annual* was listing the golf course, under the title “Boulogne - London and Paris GC – 1896.

The course, of eighteen holes, extending to about four miles, is laid out at Mayville, Boulogne, upon ground close to the sea, recently purchased by La Compagnie de Mayville Limited. The round was planned by W. Fernie, and both he and J H Taylor have reported favourably upon the links. The headquarters of the club in Paris are at the British Club in the Grand Hotel. The links can be reached from London in five hours and from Paris in three. There is a splendid stretch of sea beach, and in the immediate vicinity are beautiful pine woods.

BOULOGNE.

LONDON AND PARIS GOLF CLUB, INSTITUTED 1896.

The course, of eighteen holes, extending to about four miles, is laid out at Mayville, Boulogne, upon ground close to the sea, recently purchased by La Compagnie de Mayville, Limited. The round was planned by W. Fernie, and both he and J. H. Taylor have reported favourably upon the links. The headquarters of the Club in Paris are at the British Club in the Grand Hotel. The links can be reached from London in five hours, and from Paris in three. There is a splendid stretch of sea beach, and in the immediate vicinity are beautiful pine woods.

The Morning Post, 3 September 1896, reported that the *Conseil Général du Pas-de-Calais* had given its authorisation for a railway line from

Etaples to Mayville⁵⁶. It also reported plans to open golf courses on the land chosen for the Mayville racecourse. The project was well underway.

Golf architects were commissioned: W. Fernie and J.H. Taylor. In early November⁵⁷, Willie Fernie was visiting the place.

He was entrusted with the work of superintending the laying out of the course and had a large staff of workmen under him. to construct the golf course. Fernie stated that he believes the new links will be one of the best when the work is completed⁵⁸.

According to several newspapers⁵⁹, in April 1897, the Marquis of Lorne had just visited the site and secured land to build a chalet.

On the same occasion, the Marquis drove the first ball on the Mayville Links, which will be opened this spring, and which promises, according to the best authorities on golf, to be one of the finest courses in Europe.

Although there had been no official inauguration, we shall see that this golf course construction had been continuing for a considerable time. The layout and construction of the course was perhaps sufficiently advanced for play to start.

However, according to *The Queen*, 29 May 1897,

the Mayville project was not progressing as quickly as expected. Nevertheless, “golf links have been laid out, and a first ball driven over the course, this Spring ; but golf links alone do not make a bains de mer [sic, seaside resort] enjoyable for the English.

But, there was strong opposition from the local population, who claimed that English colonisation was dangerous and that they were not happy with the change of the name of their town from Paris-Plage to Mayville. The town of Paris-Plage did not accept having its future being dictated by foreigners from across the Channel. One year later, *The Queen*, 9 April 1898, continues to refer to the golf links but clearly states the failure of the overall project.

⁵⁶ Nevertheless, in *The Boulogne and North of France Times*, 29 May 1902 we read “it would have doubtless proved a success if a branch line of rail had been constructed”.

⁵⁷ *Scottish Referee*, 16 November 1896

⁵⁸ We have provided their full appreciation of the (future) course at the end of this article.

⁵⁹ *Clifton Society*, 15 April, *Golf*, 16 April and *Westminster Gazette*, 27 April 1897

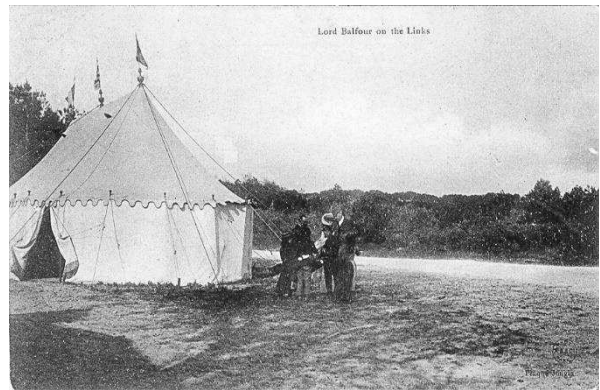
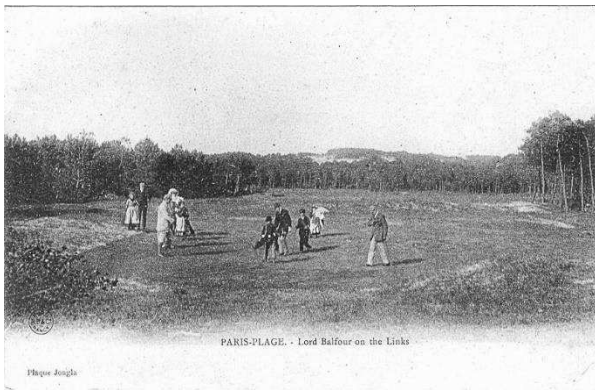
John Whitley finally gave up, and the *Mayville Company Ltd* was wound up. With an understandable delay of one year, *The Golfing Annual* stopped mentioning this golf course after its 1898-1899 edition. Curiously, in his *Golfing Notes*, published by *The Tatler* on 18 December 1901, Garden G. Smith, still referred to the golf course at Mayville!

A second phase.

On 16 December 1902, 1,100 acres of sandy land adjacent to the original estate were

auctioned off, and Whitney began to dream of Mayville again.

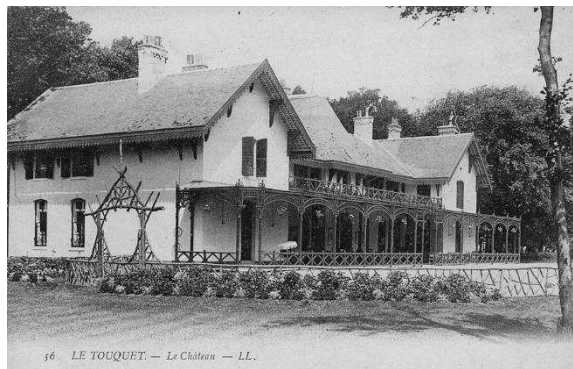
A group of local people, supported by the local population, managed to raise a large sum of money to buy the land. However it was thanks to his friend Allen Stoneham, a London banker, that Whitney could outbid them and acquire the land. The company responsible for managing the new estate, had cleverly named it “Le Touquet⁶⁰ Syndicate Ltd”, referring to a local name, and must have intended to work in harmony with the local population.



The first three postcards feature Lord Balfour playing at Le Touquet in 1904 (see also text)



*Lord Balfour at Le Touquet in May 1904.
To the caddy "... vive la France"
Caddy's answer "... vive l'Angleterre"*



"Le Château" were Lord Balfour stayed

⁶⁰ Nowadays, Le Touquet-Paris-Plage.

From Mayville to Le Touquet

On 18 February 1903, Garden G Smith, in his *Golfing Notes (The Tatler)*, gave an important statement:

Golfers will learn with interest that the course at Mayville at the mouth of the Canche near Etaples is at last in a fair way of being opened. It will be remembered that a few years ago Taylor and Fernie went over there and laid out what they both reported to be a most magnificent piece of ground for golf. The scheme, however, fell through temporarily chiefly from lack of funds, but this difficulty has now been overcome by the formation of a new company which has purchased the entire property. It is intended to develop the whole place in a thorough manner as a first-class seaside golf resort.

This text is not entirely clear. It suggests that the Fernie course will still be played or that it might be expected that a new one will be designed. Nevertheless, a few months later, on 1 July 1903, the same writer in the same newspaper was referring to a

new golf course at Le Touquet near Etaples [which] has now been laid out and gives promise of being quite the best on the Continent. The hazards are all natural and the turf is of the true seaside quality. The following influential committee has been appointed President, his Grace the Duke of Argyll, K.G.; vice-presidents, the Right Hon. A. J. Balfour; M. Pierre Deschamps; G. Herbert Windeler. Among the committee are Horace Hutchinson; the Earl of Chesterfield; the Hon. Harold Finch-Hatton; Lord Walter Gordon-Lennox; F. Gore-Brown, K.C.; Eric Hambro, M.P.

Nevertheless, the qualifier “new” for the “golf course” is certainly a figure of speech, as in *The Boulogne and North of France Times*, 19 March 1903, we read:

Amongst, the attractions there will be: a Club-House, a Casino, Golf Links: Willie Fernie and J. H. Taylor report the Links to be

excellent, and Willie Park has also reported favourably thereon; Mr N. L. Jackson has been appointed Sports Director.

So clearly, the course, which was at the same place (or close to it) was the same, if perhaps modified. But surely, Willie Fernie and J.H Taylor were still the designers with possible support of recommendations from Willie Park.

From *The Golfing Annual 1903-1904*, we can add that the Honorary Secretary was H.J. Maeder (written Marden), and the first professional was F.J. Walls. We also read that the club was founded in 1903... while later editions will correct this to May 1904. An interesting point is the primary address of the club: *Le Touquet Sports Office*, 12 and 13, Nicholas Lane, London E.C. More understandably in *The Golfing Annual* a local address is given.

The official opening was announced for Saturday 11 June, when the clubhouse would be completed⁶¹. Nevertheless, the course had to be in good condition to be played by Whitsun 1904, when Lord Balfour came to spend a few days. The press⁶² reported that on the evening of his arrival, on Sunday⁶³, 22 May, Lord Balfour played golf with two friends who accompanied him: Mr W. H. Grenfell and Lord Elcho.

The date of 11 June for the official opening of the club was most probably chosen as the French International Amateur was played at La Boulie on the 16, 17, and 18 June. The S. E. & C. Railway allowed the players to break the journey at Etaples to attend the inauguration of the Le Touquet golf course.

One month later, the first events started. For three days, on 13, 14 and 15 July, several competitions were organised for ladies and gentlemen⁶⁴.

On 2 September 1904 a friendly match was played on the links at Le Touquet between the local club and Boulogne⁶⁵ who won both the

⁶¹ *The Tatler*, 4 May 1904; *Golfing Notes* by Garden G. Smith.

⁶² *Edinburgh Evening News*, 31 May 1904

⁶³ *The Boulogne and North of France Times* gives the date Tuesday 24 May ... The same newspaper, 23 June reports that *the road to the golf was “made up and in a good order”* only a few days later.

⁶⁴ *The Queen*, 23 July 1904 is providing the extensive results but it’s not the place here to reproduce them.

⁶⁵ *The Boulogne and North of France Times*, 8 September 1904. We must remind our readers that the the Boulogne GC was established in 1900.

singles and the foursomes. A return match was planned for shortly after on the Boulogne links at Wimereux, but we were unable to find any trace... except in August 1905⁶⁶, when Le Touquet, still on its own course, took its revenge and won 6 to 2.

Singles (18 holes)

H.A.E. Scott (Boulogne) beat H.T. Maeder (Le Touquet) by 5 up.

V. Dicks (Boulogne) beat W. Gordon (Le Touquet) by 3 up.

[...]

A. Tailing (Boulogne) was beaten by W. Lane Jackson (Le Touquet) by 6 down.

Geo. Thierry (Boulogne) beat W. Judd (Le Touquet) by 2 up.

M. Peron (Boulogne) beat Dr. Creasy (Le Touquet) by 3 up.

E. A. Manton (Boulogne) beat P. Nolan (Le Touquet) by 2 up.

Foursomes (18 holes)

H.A.E. Scott and V. Dicks (Boulogne) beat H.T. Maeder and W. Gordon (Le Touquet) by 3 up.

A. Tailing and Geo. Thierry (Boulogne) beat W. Lane Jackson and W. Judd (Le Touquet) by 1 up.

M. Peron and E.A Manton (Boulogne) beat Dr. Creasy and P. Nolan (Le Touquet) by 3 up.

Late in September, the first open meeting at Le Touquet ended with a professional stroke play competition over 36 holes. The winner was Fowler of Wimereux, with 83 + 77 = 160. Simpson, of Maidenhead, and Chestney, of Burnham Beeches, tied for the second prize with 169; Walls, of Le Touquet, came next with 175. The Le Touquet Challenge Cup and first prize was won by Mr. W. Lane Jackson (10), who beat Mr W. Gordon (9), of St. Andrews, in the final. Mr Lane Jackson also won the stroke play competition and tied for the scratch prize with Mr Val Dicks and for the bogey prize with Mr W Gordon. An Eclectic prize was won by Mr W. J. Malder.

Mr Walter Judd presented the Challenge Cup⁶⁷ to the Le Touquet Golf Club: a silver cup made by

⁶⁶ *Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News*, 19 August 1905

⁶⁷ *The Graphic*, 8 October 1904

Mappin & Webb, London, which bears the inscription: “ *Société de Golf du Touquet. Open Challenge Cup. Presented by Walter Judd, Esq. 1904.*” The image below, even if of poor quality, provides a good idea of the cup.

This short description of the activities on the links during the first months after the opening shows us that Le Touquet, from the beginning, was a very active club and that competitions were held regularly.

Before following with the year 1905, it is worth noticing that, on 30 July, the *Journal Officiel de la République Française*⁶⁸ announced the creation of the *Cercle International du Touquet*, whose aim was to promote sports (horse racing, clay pigeon shooting, golf, etc.) in Le Touquet. It was undoubtedly necessary to create this company to facilitate the relationship between the British club and the French administration.



In 1905, an important interclub competition was held between Le Touquet G.C. and Paris-La Boulie GC⁶⁹. The first leg was played in May and Paris won the singles 3 to 2 and the foursomes 2 to 1. In the return matches in June, Le Touquet avenged its defeat on its own course, winning the singles 6 to 5, and the foursomes 4 to 1.

One month later, at the end of June⁷⁰, Le Touquet had a match with Hythe Golf Club. In the singles, each side won three matches, but Le Touquet won by two matches to one in the foursomes.

⁶⁸ Dated 18 August 1904

⁶⁹ *The Field*, 27 May and 17 June 1905

⁷⁰ *Daily News*, 28 June 1905

Several other matches took place, very regularly, during the summer and autumn, which once again proves the sporting character of the club. According to *The Golfing Annual* (1906-1907), a new professional was now attached to the club : L. Pruvost.

Vardon at Le Touquet

Vardon had been suffering from a lung complaint that threatened his health for many years. The doctors advised him to rest for two or three months, retiring either to Davos (Switzerland) or Le Touquet. He chose the latter, arriving there on 17 January 1906, in the evening⁷¹.

The Golfing Annual wrote that the first course record was established by A. Fowler with a 77, in October 1904.

During another competition, an unknown player realised the first recorded best score in autumn 1904 with 79 strokes for a bogey 80. But, during a round played on the 23 and 24 of July 1905⁷². Horace Hutchinson would record 73. Six months later, in January 1906, Harry Vardon went round in 72, a record that he improved the following week by playing 70 and again two strokes better a few days later⁷³, recording a 68!

He almost improved this score, or at least equalled it, being 62 on the 17th, but took 8 on the last hole and spoiled his round⁷⁴.

But, even if Vardon was playing extremely well at Le Touquet, his health was not improving so much. Some newspapers wrote that he had probably been practicing too much on the golf course.

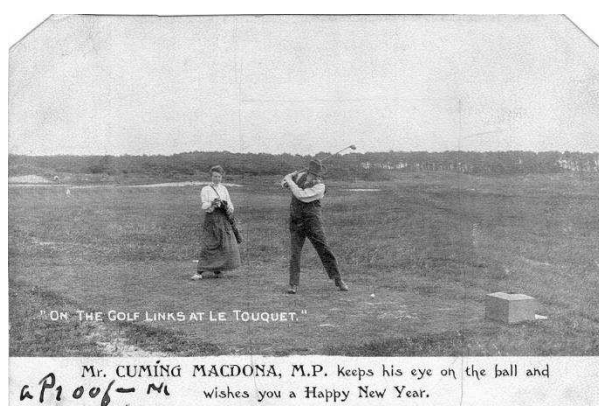
Finally, at the end of March, Vardon returned to England where he could be seen in Bournemouth ... but he was forbidden to play golf. He had simply to watch the others play⁷⁵. It seems that he had started playing golf again in May.

After 1906, the history of the club is well known, this is why we limited our research to the first years, and especially before the club was called Le Touquet.

More on Le Touquet

Readers interested in the recent period are invited to read two very good books. The first, *Echos & Images du golf du Touquet – Paris-Plage*, by Daniel Boivin, 1993, as its name suggests, it is a collection of images and photographs of the early days of Le Touquet Golf Club.

The second book, *Golf du Touquet – 1904-2004*, was issued for the official centenary of the club. It is a group work, carried out under the direction of the club president, Philippe Boissonnas, with the help of *Société Académique du Touquet* and the Le Touquet museum.



Left: Cuming Macdona playing at Le Touquet (New Year, before 1906). [Corners trimmed – proof copy. This postcard might have never been issued]. Right: Prince of Wales (large step) in 1905.

⁷¹ *Daily Mirror*, 12 and 17 January 1906.

⁷² *Daily Telegraph & Courier* (London), 27 June 1905

⁷³ *Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News*, 3 February 1906; *Sheffield Daily Telegraph*, 2 February 1906 and *Gloucestershire Echo*, 2 February 1906.

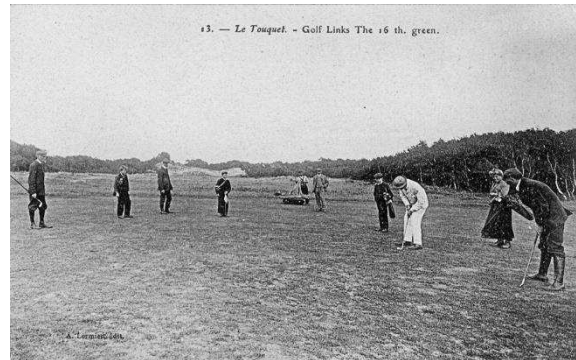
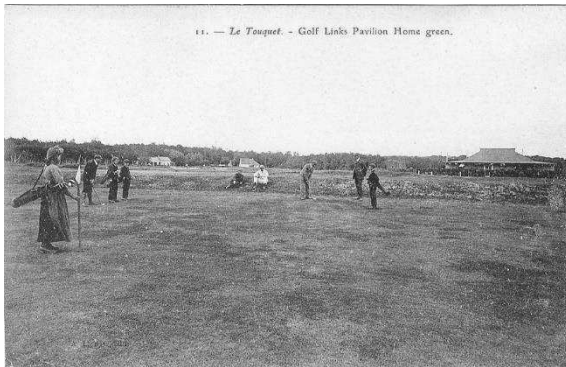
⁷⁴ *Derby Daily Telegraph*, 22 February 1906.

⁷⁵ *Bournemouth Graphic*, 29 March 1906.



The *Second Open Handicap* Le Touquet [silver] Medal, won by D. Brown in 1906 with 91 - 10 = 81.

The Scotsman of 17 April 1906 gave the details: there were 74 entries for the Le Touquet Club's open stroke play competition, with a handicap limit of 18, at the Easter meeting. The gold medal was won by G. Moseley, 85-4=81, after a tie with Mr D. Brown, 91-10=81, who took the silver medal. Mr G. C. Healing, 83-1=82, was third, and Mr E.W. Brown, 86 -3=82, fourth. Mr G.G. Healin sr won the gold medal for the best scratch score with 83, and with 82 net the second prize in the optional sweepstake, first prize went to Mr D. Brown with 81 net.



Left: Home Green; Right: 16th green (postcards c. 1910)



Right: A large group of caddies; Right: caddies on the 1st tee.

Mayville, an Anglo-French pleasnance, its attractions and aims. Illustrations by Phil May
(page 20)

Nor is the neighbourhood of Mayville less suitable for the game of golf, for which a four-mile course is being laid out among the dunes that lie between the pine wood and the beach; so that the golfer can here pursue his eager rounds while inhaling a fragrant and bracing blend of sea and forest air. There are but few four-mile golf courses in all England where the lines between the holes do not cross, but this one at Mayville will be entirely free from this defect with all its attendant drawbacks. While abounding in natural bunkers, the Mayville course is one of the best available for English golfers, and as it may be reached in less than five hours from Charing Cross and Victoria Stations, it ought to offer a powerful attraction to lovers of this game.

On this subject, Mr Whitley received the following reports from Mr J. H. Taylor of Winchester, who held the Golf Championship during two successive years, and from Mr William Fernie, of Troon, N.B., another Ex Champion, who is now laying out the course

Mr Fernie's Report.

I can make as good a Links at Mayville as any I know. The Links will be as large as, and if necessary, they could be made larger than any I have seen, as there is more ground than is required for an 18-hole Course. The Mayville Golf Links, which are situated on the main line of Calais-Boulogne-Paris, can be reached within five hours from London and four hours from Paris. The bracing and invigorating character of the air ought to make the Links a favourite spot for golf players. The Links itself has the right sort of turf, and the hazards, water brooks and large natural sand bunkers of beautiful sand are all that could be desired.

Mr. Taylor's Report.

Having inspected the ground for the proposed Golf Links at Mayville, I am strongly of opinion that, if properly laid out, it will make one of the largest and very best courses I know, as the natural conformation of the ground is admirably adapted for the game—having plenty of hazards, consisting of water brooks and big natural sand bunkers, whilst the turf itself is of the right sort for Golf Links.”

“ The course is splendidly situated between the Sea and Pine Woods covering over 2.000 acres, on the main line from Calais—Boulogne to Paris, and I have no hesitation in saying that, when the Links are known, Mayville will be a favourite resort for Golfers.

The London and Paris Golf Club with Links at Mayville, is in course of formation and, when constituted, it will be affiliated to the British Club at Paris, whose rooms are at the Grand Hotel there. The latter Club was organised by Mr. Austin Lee, C.B., of the British Embassy, assisted by Mr. John Whitley, the founder of the Welcome Club, which formed one of the most attractive social features of his Four National Exhibitions at Earl's Court, London.



Le Touquet, a watercolour dated 27 Sept. 1910, inscribed:
To Roger Beraud, from William Parsons Winchester Dana (private coll.)

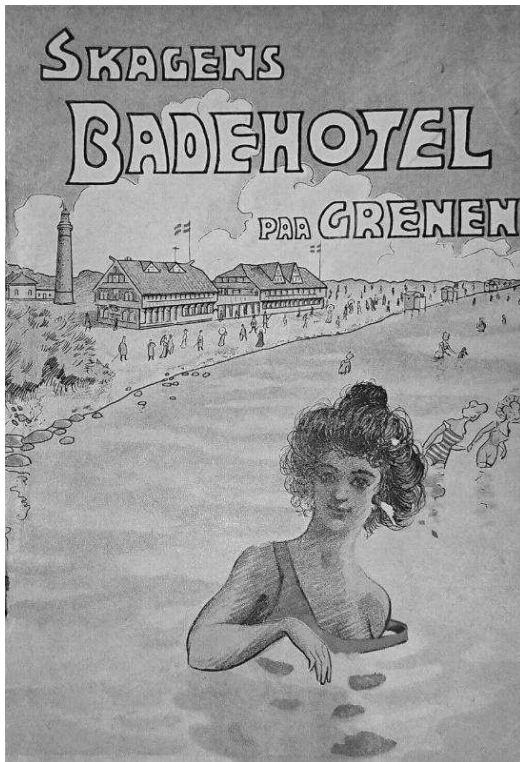
A Golf Course at Skagens Badehotel on Grenen^(*)

By Erik Madsen,
Secretary of the Danish Golf Historical Society



A POSTCARD FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE 1900s showing a young man playing golf in front of Skagens Badehotel on Grenen put me on the trail of a lost golf course at the very top of Denmark, [Ed where the Baltic Sea meets the North Sea].

It was an advertisement in *Aarhus Stifts-Tidende* from 15 May 1912 that convinced me that there had been a golf course at the then fashionable and well-known seaside hotel in Skagen. The advertisement states that Skagens Badehotel opens the season on 25 May and offers reduced prices for Whitsun and June, but also that they could now offer a: "Newly built golf course over large terrain".



Golfing bathers

With the construction of a golf course, the director of the seaside hotel, Georg Jørgensen, could attract golf-playing guests, among others, from the region of the capital Copenhagen, who frequented Fanø Vesterhavsbad, which since 1898 had a golf course in the dunes by the North Sea.

In the spring of 1912, a reporter from *Nationaltidende*⁷⁶ had travelled all the way up to Skagen to write about the excellence of the beach hotel.

Under the headline "Lille Skagensbrev" he wrote in the newspaper on 31 May 1912:

"We met Director Georg Sørensen in the reading room of the bathing hotel. For the past few weeks, the head of the large establishment on Grenen has been staying in Skagen to put things in order for the coming season."

In the article Director Georg Sørensen tells us about the major construction work that has taken

^(*) Grenen is a long sandbar spit at Skagen Odde (the headland of Jutland), north of the town of Skagen. Grenen (The Branch) was named for its shape like a tree-branch, reaching out from the mainland. The beach of Grenen appears in many of the works of the Skagen Painters, a community that gathered there

every summer between 1875 and the end of the 19th century.

⁷⁶ *Nationaltidende* was a Danish daily newspaper published from 18 March 1876 to 3 September 1961 by De Ferslewske Blade in Copenhagen, Denmark.

place prior to the opening of the season, including a concrete promenade and an automobile garage with space for ten cars, and he added: "and now we are in the process of building a golf course."

The 1912 season promised to be a good one for the popular seaside hotel, which already had guests from Sweden and Germany, as well as many Danes.

Scottish golf professional called to Skagen

But who had designed this golf course in the dune landscape on Grenen?

I found the answer in a notice in *Vendsyssel Tidende*⁷⁷ on 4 June 1912, a month after the hotel had marketed itself as having a golf course. The local newspaper says: "The Scottish golfer Mr. R. Turnbull has arrived in Skagen to build the new golf course at the seaside hotel on Grenen." By hiring Robert Turnbull (1873-1927), originally from Edinburgh⁷⁸, from the Copenhagen Golf Club to build a golf course at Grenen, the seaside hotel became very attractive for potential clients, as the Scottish golf professional was a well-known figure in the British and Scandinavian golfing world.

The year before Robert Turnbull travelled to Skagen to build a golf course, he had designed the first nine holes of the Falsterbo course, south of Malmö in southern Sweden.

Falsterbo Golf Club had been founded in 1909 and in the early years had only a couple of golf holes which were not of the standard of the new holes created by Robert Turnbull.

Prominent guests from home and abroad

Skagens Badehotel on Grenen was completed in 1898 and for the next three decades was visited by a string of prominent guests from home and abroad.

In 1907, King Chulalongkorn of Siam (Thailand) visited the seaside hotel to have lunch with his

entourage. Denmark's King Christian IX and Queen Alexandrine were guests at the hotel for several summers, as were the Swedish King Oscar II and his wife Queen Sofia.

In an advert from 1912, the hotel announced that a single room cost two kroner a day, while a double room cost four kroner a day. However, if you wanted to stay in a room with a balcony, you had to pay five kroner for a single room and eight kroner per day for a double room.

On 20 May 1912, an article in *Aalborg Stiftstidende* revealed that a golf course was being established on Grenen in Skagen.

The newspaper writes: "The game of golf is quite unknown to most people in Denmark, but in the game's homeland, England, of course, it is popular to play golf; every seaside resort must be able to publicise its golf course in order to be fashionable. We also see that just in these days a golf course is being built on the Grenen at Skagen".

Municipal opposition

It is not known how many golf holes were actually built at Skagens Badehotel, because *Vendsyssel Tidende* reported on 15 June 1912 that it was not possible to use a municipal plot of land for the purpose. The newspaper writes:

"The seaside hotel on Grenen was refused the use of a small area of the municipality's land east of the road to the beach, to be used for golf holes." The fact that the golf course at Skagens Badehotel on Grenen hardly had a long life is shown in *Gyldendals Sports-Kalender* 1914, where Axel Rubow talks about the sport and its spread in Denmark. He states: "An attempt in 1911 to give golf a foothold in Skagen failed."

The journalist had written the wrong year, but that does not change the fact that it was only in the summer of 1912 that golf clubs were first

⁷⁷ *Vendsyssel Tidende* was a Danish newspaper printed in Hjørring and published in *Vendsyssel* from 1873 to 1999. Politically, the newspaper was affiliated with the Venstre party - a conservative-liberal, agrarian, Danish political party.

⁷⁸ From Douglas MacKenzie's (see also his article on Golf in Hungary in this edition of *golfika*) website we learn that Turnbull built up a reputation as playing

exhibition matches against the likes of Willie Park Jr. and his brother, Mungo. Later he continued with exhibition matches at Musselburgh defeating Ben Sayers and Willie Park Jr. According to MacKenzie by 1921 Turnbull was professional in the South of France at the Nice Golf Club. In good form there too, lowering the course record jointly held by Braid and Massy.

swung on a newly built golf course in the dunes on Grenen near Skagen.

The seaside hotel burned down

The popularity of Skagens Badehotel among the country's richest people was largely due to the countless different facilities the hotel had to offer, including tennis courts, a boxing ring and even a landing strip so that guests could arrive by airplane.

The seaside hotel's heyday ended abruptly in 1938 when the east wing of the hotel burned down, due to a lightning strike. The east wing was not to be rebuilt.

During the Second World War (1940-1945), the German occupying forces commandeered the seaside hotel and used it as their headquarters on Grenen until the rest of the buildings burned down in 1943.



This postcard from the beginning of the 1900s shows a young man playing golf in front of Skagens Badehotel on Grenen.



Above left: Skagens Badehotel in 1928; right: a map showing Skagen just opposite Göteborg (Sweden)

A Fairy Tale Lived by Françoise Pellegrino-Autiero the Barefoot Caddy of the Antibes-Biot Golf Club in the 1950s and 1960s

By Huguette Rossi-Kazmierczak



IN GOLFIKA #26 (SUMMER 2020), JBK WROTE THE STORY OF THE BIOT GOLF CLUB BEFORE 1939. JBK and I have been lucky enough to know Françoise Autiero for over thirty years. She is a well known figure in the world of golf on the French Riviera, and is by now more than 80 years old, and she has lived a period that few of us – especially the youngest – have known in detail. What she told us about her life at the Biot Golf Club is not only moving but also full of fading images, full of disappearing stories. It seems important to us to relate here a little piece of the history of golf on the Riviera. This story will be told in two articles. The first one, which we present here, concerns her youth as a caddy. The second will deal with an unusual adventure: a honeymoon in America, which was offered to her by Joseph Kennedy, the father of the late John F Kennedy, President of the United States.

Françoise Pellegrino was born on 17 October 1938 in Tende, a Piedmontese village in the then Kingdom of Piedmont-Sardinia. This village became French after the Second World War, in fact on 15 September 1947. At the end of 1949, Françoise's parents moved to Biot, a small village near Antibes, which is still known for its pottery and its year-round golf course, as opposed to the then winter courses of Mandelieu and Mougins, both located near to Cannes.

Her father was a poor mason, however a generous local family sold him a small piece of land near the 8th hole of the golf course, for 50 francs on credit, so that in his spare time he could build a small house for his family.

Françoise learned to speak French at school and saw, every day, golfers passing by. Her schoolmates told her that she "could earn money just by carrying a big bag full of strange iron and wooden instruments with which rich people hit small balls".

So, Françoise decided to join her comrades and as she says: "like little dogs in a shelter of the Société Protectrice des Animaux, [Ed. Society for the Protection of Animals], we waited

anxiously at the entrance to the bridge leading to the clubhouse for the caddy masters, Marius Bravetti and Joseph Vian, to come and pick us out and assign us to our clients."



Left: the small bridge at the entrance to the clubhouse

On 30 June 1950, Françoise was eleven years old and barefoot, as she did not want to damage her only pair of shoes. Her first client that day was the Aga Khan. He was accompanied by a caddy from the Bessone family, most of whom were employed by the golf club. The Aga Khan asked Françoise to accompany him on the course with a duty to put the ball on the tee. He usually came to Biot in the summer and took lessons from the professional Gaud of Cannes

Mandelieu Golf Club, and practised between holes 5 and 6 of the Biot course. In winter he also played at Mandelieu and Mougins where he was always caddied by a member of the Bessone family⁷⁹.

Still going to school, Françoise learned her caddy job as a young girl working on Thursdays and Sundays⁸⁰, and started to receive tips, which helped her parents financially.

Her French was now perfect and as most of the players were British and American, she began to pick up her first words of English. She could soon count from "one to nine" and understand what "a wood or an iron" was.

Among Biot's most dedicated caddies were Louis Cassella and Raymond Pettavino, who would later become the club's professionals, and René Demartini, in charge of the Mandelieu locker rooms. Sometimes it was a whole family that came to caddy, like the Bessone family: Jeannette, Jacqueline, Maryse, Simone, Marcel and William. Later, Jeannette and Simone went to Valbonne golf course; Marcel was caddy master at Mougins and William caddy master at Valbonne. Maryse married Claude Soulès, professional in Mâcon and their daughter Corinne Soulès became a French champion. Jacqueline married Roger Gorgerino, professional in Mandelieu and their son Christian became vice-champion of France!

The competition between caddies was tough especially in the summer as the Biot golf club welcomed caddies from Mandelieu and Mougins. But amongst all these caddies, Françoise felt protected, sharing their pieces of bread. But she was desperate to make her real debut: carrying a bag and not just putting a ball on a tee.

Finally, one day, the caddy master came to pick her out and gave Françoise her first chance, saying: "Hello little girl, can you carry a bag?" "Yes, sir, I can" she replied.

⁷⁹ Jeannette Bessone, now 92 years old, was his regular caddy; he even advanced her money to buy her house.

⁸⁰ It should be remembered that in those days pupils went to school on Saturdays. The only two days off were Thursday (not Wednesday, as is the case today) and Sunday.

He repeated the instructions which her fellow caddies had already taught her: "stay still, facing the player level with him when he addresses the ball, look carefully where his ball is going, rush to where it lands and stay beside it until the player gets close to his ball, remaining perfectly silent."

She said that, "for this first experience, I had to carry the bag of an American who was part of a group that had just arrived at the golf course by bus. The bag was so big and especially heavy that my client, seeing me so frail, helped me put it on my shoulder and the game began."

"I was so stressed, I was following the ball anxiously because I was afraid not to find it; my comrades had told me that I was responsible for it and that if I lost it in the rough, it could cost me my tip at the end of the round! Fortunately, my American was playing straight! He decided to stop at the 11th hole as he was too tired and we went back to the locker rooms. The caddy master, who spoke English with my client, told me afterwards that he was happy with me. When my client came out of the locker rooms, he put a big wad of green paper in my hand. It was the first time I had seen dollars! I ran home in triumph and put them on the table. My horrified parents' reaction was immediate: "What have you done? Who gave you this?" My parents took me back to the golf club and went to see the caddy master, who explained that I had worked hard and had earned the cash. He exchanged the dollars for francs and gave them to my parents and we went home smiling.

So, she no longer hesitated: she would go to the golf course on Thursdays and Sundays and in the evenings after school in order to help her parents financially, especially as she would be soon joined by her sister Anne-Marie. At that time, the rate for a caddy was 2.50 francs a round (soon to be increased to 3 francs), plus tips. Some players were generous and instead of the 2.50 francs⁸¹, they doubled and sometimes even tripled the amount of the caddy fee. Very

⁸¹ By comparison, at that period, a baguette of bread cost about ten centimes and a kilogram of meat about five francs. We can therefore estimate that the price for 18 holes would be between 30 and 40 euros today, or half a day's half a day's wage.

soon, she managed to earn 700 francs in a month. This was more than her father could earn! But to earn such an income, she had to caddy up to four eighteen hole rounds in a day, and walk more than 25 km with sometimes more than 20 kg on her shoulder...

The golf course received, among others, King Leopold III of Belgium⁸² and his wife, the Princess de Rhéty, who had a house in Biot, the former King Farouk of Egypt, Prince Pierre of Monaco, the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, Jean-Pierre Peugeot. Thus Françoise rubbed shoulders with members of the aristocracy, industrialists, political personalities such as Jacques Chaban-Delmas (Ed. Prime Minister of France). Also celebrities, such as Frank Sinatra, whose bad temper was legendary but who was adorable with the caddies, and the actor Sean Connery, who had just finished filming *Goldfinger*. On the 18th green, after he had a good round of golf, he turned to Françoise with a smile and said: "Goldfinger that's you". Françoise added, "I appreciated that tribute because I had indeed pulled out the right clubs for him."

Little by little, a trust was established between Françoise and the players, all the more easily as she could now indicate the slopes of the greens and give them the putting lines. In golf, discipline was very strict. Apart from accompanying their players, caddies were not allowed to handle the clubs themselves. They simply had to give the wood or iron that was asked of them. At the end of the round, they had to clean all the clubs.

The major concern of the caddies was lost balls: not only could it ruin a card and make the player ill-tempered, but for the caddy it was also the risk of losing the hoped-for tip. Indeed, as we all know, a lost ball increases the score. But it also means a break in the rhythm, not to mention the stress of seeing the next game approaching and the five minutes allowed searching time running out, and the risk of finding the ball unplayable. The search could not be abandoned until the player declared that the ball was lost.

⁸² Leopold of Belgium always came with his regular professional, Jean-Baptiste Ado, from the Monte Carlo golf course. J.-B. Ado was the first Frenchman, with Pélissier, to participate in The

Françoise reminds us that the price of a single golf ball at the time was 15-20 francs – to be compared with a caddy fee of 2.50 francs! In the evening, a group of caddies would go out in search of lost golf balls.

Moreover, when they had been round with an impatient player and knew that a tip would be unlikely, the caddies could themselves intentionally misplace a ball: either they had moved the ball to hide it and make it impossible to find, or they had pressed the ball into the ground with their foot. Later on, finding the ball in the evening became easy and the profit interesting. And if they had to recover golf balls from the river La Brague which runs through the golf course, the caddies used bamboo rods split at the end and, with some dexterity, the balls could be fished out of the water and recovered.

Of course, the caddies were not supposed to sell the golf balls back to the players. Yet they all did. All they had to do was stay away from the reception desk to avoid being caught. But they always kept a few balls for the professional who alone had the authorisation to sell them. But no one was fooled!

Among the players there were some generous ones who doubled and sometimes even tripled the caddy fee. But, as we said, there were also the stingy ones, who the caddies quickly learned to spot! "When we saw their car coming to the club, there was a stampede away; we would go and hide, and the caddy-master would be forced to chase after us."

The players

Françoise classifies them into several categories:

There are the placid ones, they are the least numerous: "As a rule, they are always pleased and unlike most other players they only remember their good shots - they are happy". As the ultimate example, Françoise tells us that, to her great surprise, one of her clients was playing without considering either the tees or the greens, and was hitting balls at random, proclaiming: "I play in space towards infinity".

Masters at Augusta. He was also the grandfather of Philippe Uranga, a golf professional and member of the EAGHC.

On the other hand, there are the nervous ones, who are always anxious and who are even more so because they try not to let it show. Here again, Françoise tells us an anecdote. One of her clients had put ten balls in a row in the river driving from the 4th tee. He became so furious that he took his bag and threw it into the water as well. Another story comes to her mind: that of a player who became so exasperated that he sometimes broke his club on his knee. He soon got better at controlling himself, it was costing him too much!

But one must not confuse the nervous with the angry ones! When the latter play badly, it is never their fault, it is a fly that flies, a partner who has moved, a young girl who has spoken! Here again Françoise gives us an example. One of her clients was so violent that when he missed a ball, the caddies would quickly step aside for fear of receiving a club in their legs.

At the other end of the spectrum are the shy ones. They have so little confidence in themselves that they want to go unnoticed. Such a player can be recognized quickly: he goes to the tee along the hedge, he pretends to pick up a ball when he thinks another golfer might see him playing. As much as possible, he avoids teeing off on the 4th because there are always a lot of people on the terrace overlooking the tee.

The fast players should be mentioned also, but they are a rare species, either because they have little time to play or because they want to suffer the anguish of the game for as little time as possible. They sometimes boast that they can complete a round in 1 hour 45 minutes, whereas others can only do it in 3 hours.

How can we forget the talkers? They are the ones you meet most often. They can't resist talking about their golf game to someone who only wants to talk about his own. But what is curious is that they generally speak little about the good shots, but especially about the bad shots, without which they would surely have won!

Finally, Françoise describes two last categories: the players in the club who have the lowest handicaps and who tend more or less discreetly to bet on the games; and the most numerous who are the unfortunate ones, progressing only

slowly from slight improvement to major relapses.

Caddies' competitions

These events have disappeared since there are no more caddies in France. However, according to Françoise, it was a real party, and many club members became, for one day, their supporters.

Once a year, at the end of October or early November, a caddies competition was organised by the club. Up to sixty players were involved, so the first tee time was at eight o'clock in the morning so that the competition could finish by one o'clock. Members were then able to take back possession of their course!

The competition was exclusively medal play [Ed. stroke play]. The caddies could not normally play in competitions and so they did not have regular handicaps. However, for the annual caddies competition the Sports Committee awarded them rather flattering handicaps. If they usually played about 5-6 handicap, they were awarded scratch, 0 handicap. Some of them later became professionals: Louis Cassella, Raymond Pettavino, and the brothers Roger and Michel Damiano. Regarding the lowest ranked players who played at a level of about 24 handicap, both girls and boys were awarded a handicap of 18.

Sometimes the caddies played with clubs lent by their regular player, but other times they used clubs that had been discarded: rusty irons or split woods! Especially for the caddies competition most of their clients gave them a new ball still wrapped in its paper.

A fortnight before the competition, the club allowed the caddies to practice on the course but they often used a mixture of equipment. Some members lent their bags, but most of the time the equipment was salvaged, abandoned by the club's players, which did not prevent these caddies from having a fairly good game. A moderately gifted caddy can assimilate the best swings of their clients in six months. Almost all of them are then capable of hitting a ball around 200m off the tee and 190m for the second shot. In general, the approaches and putts were not as good: the caddies had little time to play and were more excited about hitting their balls as far and as straight as possible.

Françoise's strong point was the long game, but she was at a disadvantage compared to the other caddies. "Indeed, being the youngest of the group, I had to pick up the balls at the driving range when the professional was giving lessons. So, I didn't gain any experience on the course and my short game wasn't brilliant."

Françoise told us about her first competition. She was not yet 14 years old at the time and still remembers her disaster on the 8th hole. While everything had gone well up to that point, her drive went out of bounds to the left, into the woods; the second tee shot was also out of bounds, but this time to the right. The third ball was in play, but in a bush. She had an 11 on this par-4!



From left to right: Robert Devaldère, Jean-Baptiste Ado, and Françoise Autiero, aged 13
Hole 11 – Biot in 1951.

As was the custom, a prize giving reception was held by the club. There were cups for the top finishers, and all the caddies received an envelope containing a share of the donations made for them by the club members. Sometimes there were even extra bonuses offered to the winning caddy by his regular clients. Nowadays there are neither caddies nor caddy competitions.

The trolley revolution

Around 1954-1955, the first trolleys appeared, which the caddies would ignore for months: Carrying a bag was a privilege, a kind of obscure prestige, there was a certain nobility in this work. "With a bag on our shoulder, we felt like free people, whereas dragging a trolley made us feel like beasts of burden," adds Françoise. "We were so hostile to it that when

the caddy master asked us to go to a client's car to fetch his trolley, we would make any excuse to get out of the way." By being stripped of their burden, the caddies had lost their personality, were less involved in the game, and became less important auxiliaries.

One fine day in June 1954, Françoise was designated by the caddy master Marius Bravetti to carry the bag of the former ambassador of the United States of America in London, Joseph Kennedy, whose son John would become the 35th president on January 20, 1961. Françoise became Joseph Kennedy's favourite caddy. This would be a turning point in her life.

This fascinating story will be continued in the next edition of Golfika.



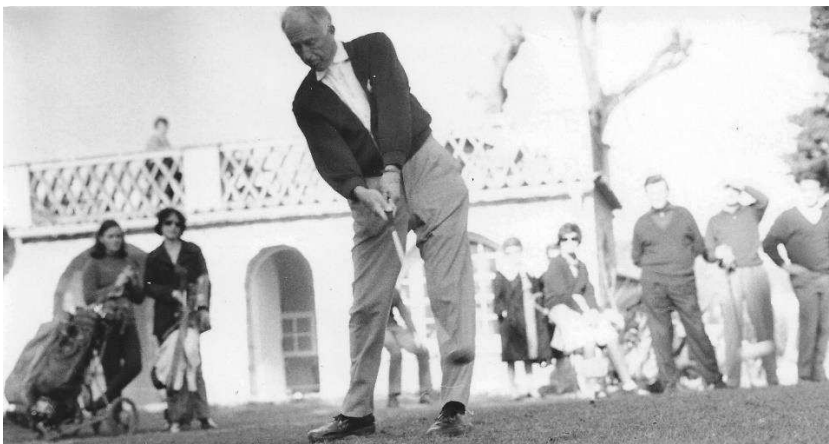
A group of caddies at the entrance of the Biot golf club. Françoise is the fourth from the left, at the bottom of the photo (the blonde lady in the second row between the two women)



Hilaire Giraud
Professional at Biot

X

Marius Bardana Prince Bao Dai
Director of the club



King Leopold of Belgium driving from the 4th tee at Biot

Book Review: The Ryder Cup, by Martin Davis

THIS IS AN INTRODUCTION TO A FANTASTIC BOOK on the history of the Ryder Cup. It is written by Martin Davis and the full title is “The Ryder Cup – Golf’s Grandest Event – A complete History”. It was first published in 2014 by The American Golfer, with an introduction from John Feinstein and prefaces by Jack Nicklaus and Tony Jacklin.

The book is of very high quality with many exceptional illustrations and photographs. A “must have” for a fan of the biennial Ryder Cup. The next edition will be soon, in September 2023 in Rome.

We are reprinting here extracts from the chapter, “Who’s on Top of the Ryder Cup?” It is very well researched and written and will make you want to read the whole book and perhaps acquire a copy for your book collection.

Our member Geoffrey Lyon has been able to acquire a copy of the book and he will bring it to the AGM of our association in October at Cannes-Mougins Golf & Country Club, in order to give those present an opportunity to peruse the book.

A safety warning: the book weighs 3.8 kg (8.4 pounds) and has dimensions 36 x 28.5 x 3.5cm (91.4 x 72.4 x 8.9 inches).



For as long as golf writers have waxed poetic about the Ryder Cup - a relatively easy task given the Ryder Cup's rich history of grand competition and compelling personalities - one of the most endearing stories told has to do with the heroic figure of a golfer addressing a golf

ball that graces the top of the diminutive 17 ½ inch solid gold trophy.

It is said to be the image of Abe Mitchell.

In essence, it is a romantic tale of friendship, camaraderie and loyalty rewarded that began as Sam Ryders mail-order seed company initiated sponsoring golf tournaments for the professionals in Great Britain. In doing so, Ryder became friendly with Abe Mitchell, widely acknowledged as the finest professional golfer in Great Britain at the time who had yet to win the biggest prize of all — the Open Championship. A close friendship subsequently developed, undoubtedly fuelled by Mitchell’s passion for gardening, which culminated in Ryder, through his Verulam Golf Club in St. Albans, hiring Mitchell to give Sam daily golf lessons and also to provide a training ground for Abe to hone his game in his attempt at winning the Open Championship.

Ryder most certainly shared his grand vision of an international competition between the best of Britain's golf professionals and the best of United States' with Mitchell, who, in turn, enthusiastically encouraged Ryders plans. Ryder, somewhat informally, announced his plans for the inaugural Ryder Cup, scheduled

for two days in the early part of June 1926, in December of 1925 when it was noted by golf writer George Greenwood in The Daily Telegraph and then more formally with full details in The (London) Times and again in The Daily Telegraph, both on April 27, 1926. And, based on the virtual completion of the Cup itself in late April 1926, Ryder ordered the physical Cup from jeweller Mappin and Webb in its London showroom in either late December 1925 or early January 1926.



But here is where hard fact separates itself from the romantic story.

For years the accepted narrative held that Sam Ryder had ordered a custom-made trophy, one made to his exact specifications — a process the Brits refer to as bespoke. And Sam, in order to honor his good friend, had the figure on top sculpted and melded after the exact likeness of his good friend and golf instructor Abe Mitchell.

So, how can we determine what really happened?

In order to learn about the history of the Ryder Cup, its best to start with the information found directly on the trophy, stamped right on the face of the Cup itself.

There are five small marks, referred to as hallmarks, on the body of the Cup located right above the results for the 1927 event. They were imprinted on the Cup at the time it was essentially completed on April 27, 1926 by a quasi- governmental body, known as an assay office, that was established in Sheffield by Parliament in 1773. The assay offices were setup to attest to an item's veracity - its manufacturer, its gold or si I ver content and quality, the assay office where examined and the year completed. (Its been said that the U. K.s network of assay offices is the first known instance of consumer protection, originating in the late twelfth century.)

In essence, these hallmarks tell the basic story of the Cup and provide some insight into the Ryder Cups history:

From the hallmarks placed on the Cup we know it was manufactured by Mappin and Webb in its Sheffield facility (hence the use of the assay office located nearby the point of manufacture), was made of nine-carat gold and was assayed in 1926 at the Sheffield Assay Office.

But when in 1926 was it manufactured and subsequently assayed? Was it manufactured and available for presentation at the event at Wentworth of June 4-5, 1926? Or was it manufactured after the event at Wentworth?

The distinctions are very important.

If the Cup was indeed made in time for presentation at the June 4-5 event at Wentworth, then this would clearly corroborate the belief that the event at Wentworth was indeed meant to be the first Ryder Cup, as it was consistently reported in the press.

II it was manufactured after the Wentworth event, this would lend credence to the idea that Ryder offered to provide the Trophy at the time of the British celebration after their dominating win at Wentworth.

So which was it?

The date stamp hallmark on the Cup only provides a year and not a month. It simply indicates a letter "i", referring to 1926.

Therefore, in order to ascertain the exact date of order or manufacture, we contacted Mappin and Webb to see if they could locate a bill of sale, a build sheet or some other record of the Cup's manufacture. But alas, we learned those records were destroyed in a fire during the Blitz in London during World War II.

We then turned to U.K.-based John Bowles, trophy specialist and the leading expert on the Ryder Cup trophy. He was able to verify via Emma Paragreen, the librarian and curator of the Sheffield Assay Office, that their Official Gold Day Record Book covering calendar years 1924-1928 showed that Mappin and Webb produced four gold cups and covers assayed between 1924 and 1928: 1 May 7 1925, 2 December 21 1925, 3 March 10 1926 and 4 April 27 1926. These were the only gold cups and covers manufactured by Mappin and Webb and assayed by the Sheffield Assay Office over a four-year period extending from 1925 to 1928. However, the only one whose weight corresponds to that of the Ryder Cup was the last – 27 April 27 1926.

And that indeed, is the record for when the Ryder Cup Trophy was assayed. The Official Record Book maintained at the Sheffield Assay Office provides all the details for the April 27, 1926 entry.

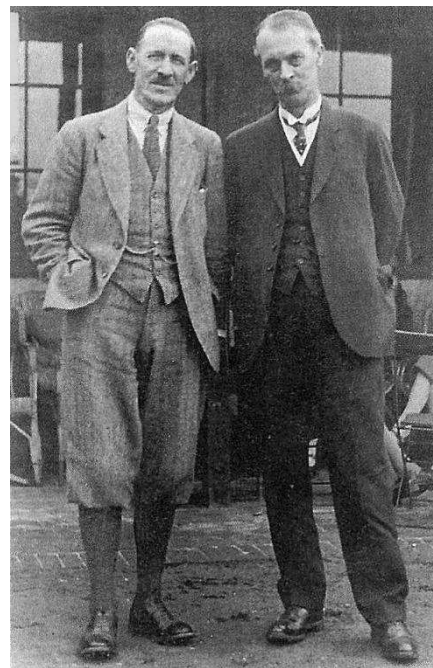
Therefore, the Ryder Cup itself was essentially ready - in all likelihood the decorative finial, the image of the golfer on top of the Cup, and/or the handles and motif remained to be affixed - on the 27 April 1926, clearly in sufficient time to be ready for the inaugural Ryder Cup at Wentworth on 4-5 June 1926.

Thus, in addition to the seamless narrative provided by the major media of the day, the hard record of the Ryder Cup's manufacture clearly lends further credence to the fact this was indeed meant to be the inaugural Ryder Cup. Needless to say, the Cup was surely ready for presentation five weeks later. And, if the General Strike had not intervened, the finished Ryder Cup Trophy would have been presented and the Wentworth event would have gone down in the record books as the first official Ryder Cup.

Moreover, it is also apparent that the Trophy was not custom designed exclusively for Sam Ryder.

In an extensive search of the Mappin and Webb Special Commissions Books spanning 1924 – 1926, Bowles did not locate a commission for the Ryder Cup. Of necessity and practice, if the Ryder Cup was custom made, there would have been a record noted there.

Rather, as reported by Emma Paragreen of the Sheffield Assay Office, the Ryder Cup itself appears to be based on an existing design. Apparently, as she reports, 'The company Mappin and Webb did produce a standard trophy and made adaptations to them for clients, i.e. Sam Ryder. The dates of the image you have provided me with tally.' And further, John Bowles concurs, 'This particular trophy was a pattern used by Mappin and Webb and has been adapted and the gentleman on the top of the cover added.'



Abe Mitchel (left) and Samuel Rider (right)

But what about the figure on top of the Cup?

Bowles is firmly of the opinion that the figurine on top of the Cup is based on a typical golfer of the time, dressed in jacket and tie, plus fours with long socks and a flat cap." This is quite obvious from simple observation. Three facts argue strongly against the figure on top of the Cup being Abe Mitchell.

First, Bowles studied the Mappin and Webb 'patterns' record books and they show several

similar golfer figurines, "... one of them identical in look and dress to the figure on top of the Ryder Cup, but at the top of his backswing." These figurines were "Parish" patterns – the trade term for standard castings or other patterns — which could be used on any of their trophies.

Second, and most incredibly, a second trophy, virtually identical to the Ryder Cup, but produced in 1928 in sterling silver, was found in the records book at the Sheffield Archives. It was made as a trophy for the Johannesburg Stock Exchanges annual golf tournament and was most likely ordered at Mappin and Webb's large retail store there and made in their Sheffield, England workshops. It featured the Johannesburg Stock Exchanges logo on the Cup instead of the Ryder Cup motif of the crossed American and British flags.

Bowles' deductive reasoning and statement of trade practices provide another strong argument for the figure not being Abe Mitchell. He logically concludes, "If Ryder had designed, or had designed for him, the Trophy from scratch, he would have had to commission modelling of the golfer finial on the lid, the lion mask baluster and the handles. The way the trade works, the

modelling and casting costs would have had to be paid for by Ryder, and they would then have become his sole copyrighted property, thus negating use by anyone else – for example, the Johannesburg Trophy order two years later."

Third, Bowles informs us that the model makers who created these special figurines as customized pieces prided themselves as being incredibly accurate. However, the figure on the Ryder Cup is employing a Vardon, or interlocking, grip, while Mitchell, according to Henry Longhurst, in his 1937 book, *Golf*, described him as always playing with an old-fashioned double-handed or "baseball" grip. Bowles concludes that this is the final proof that the figurine on top of the Ryder Cup is not specially modelled on Abe Mitchell.

So in terms of the oft-told romantic story of Sam Ryder having the figure on top of the Ryder Cup modelled on his friend and mentor Abe Mitchell, one can only come to the conclusion that it was a great story, a real heart-warming, feel-good tale, but sadly for the legend, it's not Abe Mitchell.



We can read the date engraved on the cup: 1927

<p>European Association of Golf Historians & Collectors AGM 3-5 October 2023 Cannes-Mougins GCC</p>
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As was already announced, the AGM will be held at the **Cannes-Mougins Golf and Country Club**⁸³. The club is one of the most prestigious in the South of France and it is a privilege to have our annual meeting there. The meeting will commence on the Tuesday 3rd October in order to make it easily accessible for EAGHC members who may be in Rome for the Ryder Cup during the previous weekend.

The programme is as follows.

Tuesday 3rd

12:30 – 14:00	Lunch at the clubhouse
14:00 – 17:00	Collectors trading/exchange session
Evening	free

Wednesday 4th

09:30 – 10:00	Welcome to members and guests.
10:00 – 10:45	JBK: A short history of the Cannes-Mougins Golf Club.
10:45 – 11:30	Georg Kittel: Swedish golf in Cannes
11:30 – 12:15	Peter Fry: The Ryder Cup.
12:15 – 14:00	Lunch at the clubhouse
14:00 – 14:45	David Hamilton: Before the gutta ball era: Did everyone play with featheries?
14:45 – 15:30	Christoph Meister: Joe Mitchell, Germany's first golf professional in Berlin 1896-1898
15:30 – 16:15	Robin Bargmann: tbd
16:15 – 17:00	Break
17:00 – 18:00	AGM
18:00 – 19:30	Break
19:30	Official EAGHC Dinner

Thursday 5th

10:00 – 10:45	Damir Ritosa; tbd
10:45 – 11:30	JBK: Collecting postcards.
13:00	Hickory competition, followed by players with modern clubs (<i>green fee: preferential rate 130 €</i>)

Hotels (all in Mougins)

At 15 minutes by foot you have:

★★★★★ L'Hôtel de Mougins, 205 avenue du Golf; approx 160 € / night
 ★★★★★ Hôtel Villa Sophia, 348 avenue Valmasque; approx 140 € / night

Slightly further away, about 10 minutes by car

★★★★★ Le Club Mougins, 199 chemin du Val Fleuri; approx 100 € / night

Note that the golf club is located 25 minutes from Antibes, 30 minutes from Cannes and 40 minutes from Nice, depending on traffic conditions.

⁸³ Pay attention: The club is the Cannes- Mougins Golf and Country Club (1175 avenue du Golf, Mougins) and NOT Royal Mougins!

The signature pigeoncote of the Cannes Mougins Golf and Country Club



The clubhouse from the 18th fairway.



An aerial view of the course. In the background: Cannes, the Mediterranean Sea and the mountains

