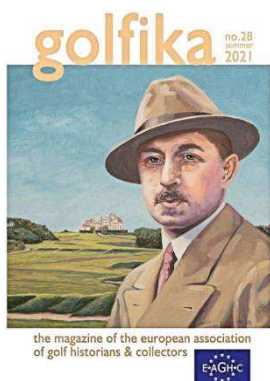


Philippe Palli has an article in this issue about Botcazou. In 1908 he played against John Haskins (Hoylake's professional) whose swing is shown here. (From The Sketch, 22 July 1908)

golfika



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The front cover of Golfika Magazine n°28 shows a painting by Viktor Cleve. Viktor Cleve is a EAGHC honorary member and a German leading golf painter. As a former art director, he kindly designed the cover page for Golfika Magazine.

Copy-editing by Geoffrey Lyon.

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The Association welcomes new members – who will find all necessary information on how to join the Association on www.golfika.com

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A Few Words from the President

By Robin Bargmann



It is a great privilege to be a member of this pan-European association and to serve as your president for this two-year term. It is a wonderful opportunity to be in regular contact with fellow golf historians – active and passive – and to exchange information about new discoveries. This would not be possible without such an enriching community.

Looking back at our last annual meeting held at Rosendaelsche GC in Arnhem (NL) in 2019, no one could have expected the global effects of a viral pandemic which we were to face the next year. The lockdowns have indeed protected vulnerable health care systems and saved many lives. However, they have also put pressure on the mental stability of others.

For the EAGHC, the effect was that for two consecutive years we have had to cancel, our annual meeting planned to be held in Poland. It is frustrating for those who have put so much effort into the organisation of this important event, which has once again been postponed to the next year. Hopefully we will be ‘third time lucky’.

As I am working on my latest book project – a comprehensive history of golf in the Netherlands – the pandemic has given me more time than expected to read through some wonderful books and papers written by some of the contributors to this magazine.

It is noteworthy to mention that the EAGHC was founded by three gentlemen, Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak, Christoph Meister and Georges Jeanneau. During the recent Olympics I read through Georges’ excellent book *Le Golf et les Jeux Olympiques (Golf and the Olympic Games)* 2003, giving detailed information about the golf and the games in Paris (France) in 1900 as part of the World Fair Games, and in St Louis (USA) in 1904 as part of the World Fair (the giant exhibition celebrating the centenary of the Louisiana Purchase). Not only was golf part of the Olympics but women also competed. In this

respect the names of the first winners Charles E. Sands and Margaret Abbott will forever be remembered. Sadly and unfortunately golf was not included in the Olympic Games in London (UK) in 1908, due to stubborn miscommunications between the organising committee and the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews. It would take another 112 years and a lot of talking before golf reappeared on the Olympic calendar in Rio de Janeiro in 2016. However, for the today’s participants and spectators, golf at the Olympics may need a little more excitement.

I have also been reading through the two volumes of *Golfika* covering the beginnings of golf in the various European countries, a very valuable golf historical record. In this regard, the EAGHC has demonstrated its *raison d’être* for all. I am especially grateful to Jean-Bernard and Christoph who have generously contributed and allowed our readers access to golf’s wonderful history. I am proud to be in such company.



Inaugural meeting, Chantilly, 2006
From left to right. Standing: C. Meister, X. de Taffin, J. Hanna, Lally Segard, C. Arnoldner, P. Massion
Kneeling: JBK and David Hamilton.

Editor's Corner

By JBK (*Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak*)



Dear EAGHC members, dear friends, Unfortunately the Covid-19 pandemic is far from over. The recent spread of the Delta variant throughout Europe has meant that we have had to cancel the 2021 AGM which was to be held in Poland. It is postponed to next year 2022, when we hope to be able to meet our Polish friends there. The provisional plan is to hold the 2023 AGM at Le Touquet, in France, (and if necessary, reschedule the AGM in Poland at a later date).

I would like to begin this editorial by asking you to excuse me for once again calling on you. This magazine will only survive and develop if we all come together to share our historical or technical knowledge or by showing our passion for collecting. I am sure that you will continue to keep Golfika-Magazine alive and improve it, by submitting interesting articles concerning your relevant historical and collecting interests.

Our member Geoffrey Lyon has agreed to copy edit the various texts of the magazine in order to make them more readable and easier to understand. This takes a considerable amount of his time, and we would like to thank Geoff for his valuable contribution.

Several of our members are from USA and/or members of the American GHS (Golf Heritage Society). Consequently, we have decided to reprint in our magazine one of their articles so introducing their association.

In our previous issue, Iain Forrester and David Hamilton opened a discussion on handicapping. In this issue, Michael Sheret now offers a follow-up. It is planned to continue this feature in the future.

It will be noted that the article by Huguette Kazmierczak, which deals with a first golf event on the roof of the Galeries Lafayette in Paris is quoted not only by JBK but also by Philippe Palli.

Philippe is a new member of the association. He was the professional at Morfontaine, one of the most exclusive golf clubs in France. In 1988, he won the French National Omnium – and has his name engraved on the same trophy as the legendary French champion Arnaud Massy. The golf champion Anne-Marie Palli is Philippe's sister. Philippe owns a private nine-hole golf course, which allows him to offer an introduction to golf for golf beginners. In this issue, we present Philippe's paper on Yves Botcazou, the one-armed golf champion.

As we had hoped to have our AGM in Poland, we wanted to write about a Polish-born golf architect who built, or remodelled, several courses in various European countries. You will find the paper on page 13.

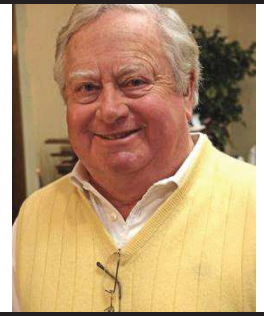
Stéphan Filanovitch, avid collector of Ryder Cup programmes, gives us the opportunity to admire the earliest in his extraordinary collection.

By the time you read these lines, you may have participated in our AGM meeting via Zoom. Of course, such a virtual meeting will never replace a meeting in person. But we will have had at least the pleasure of continuing to see each other and to exchange a few words and ideas. Unfortunately, we will have missed the pleasure of playing on golf courses in Poland.

Keep safe and enjoy the read.

The Golf Collectors Society

By John G. Capers



Sixty invited and twenty-seven came. Fifty years ago, this spring, a Philadelphia Cricket Club, GAP (Golf Association of Philadelphia) member was talking to a friend about golf. "Do you think there are other people who collect golf clubs and books?" That simple question from Lafayette Hills, Pennsylvania started an awareness of golf memorabilia collecting that spread around the world.

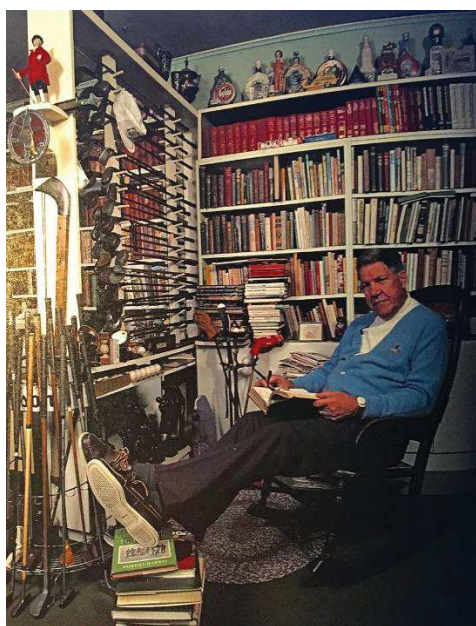


2020 is the fiftieth anniversary of The Golf Collectors Society (GCS) founding. Now known as The Golf Heritage Society (GHS). Those two men were Philadelphian, Joseph S. F. Murdoch and Robert Kuntz from Dayton, Ohio. As they had said before, they did not think there were other nuts out there collecting golf books and old golf clubs. Were they wrong! Joe penned the one page "Golfiana Collectors Club", Bulletin No. 1, September, 1970, and mailed it to the sixty names he and Bob could remember who might be inclined to join such a "nutty group". Of the twenty-seven who responded, several were GAP members; John Capers, Bert Heizman and Wilber Germain. Soon to be international names in the world of collecting like Dick Bednarek, Ray Davis, Nevin Gibson, Ralph Miller, Mort Olman, and Col. Otto Probst emerged from the US. Only two of the original twenty-seven, John Capers #0003 and Gary Wiren #0019 are still collecting and playing while the others are in a place where the first putt is never missed. Others

soon joined the "Rover Boys", as Joe and Bob came to be known to those who were visited by them. And visit they did, collecting friends, new members in our fifty States and all around the world...Australia, Canada, England, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Korea, Scotland, South Africa just to identify a few locations.

Joe Murdoch graduated from the Charles Morris Price School of Advertising and Journalism after rising to the Master Sargent rank in the Second World War. He joined the Philadelphia Inquirer editorial staff in 1947 and moved to the Sun Oil Company in 1951, where he would spend the next forty years travelling the country and the world. His collecting education started at Philadelphia's Leary's Book Store in the mid-1950's – well ahead of the curve in the US. He soon learned there were five more large used book stores in the City and fourteen within a six block area of New York's 14th and Broadway. But the search didn't stop there. In the age of "no

internet" the best source was the Yellow Pages of every new town visited.



Joe Murdoch in his den.

Then there were trips to Scotland. Joe had plenty of reasons to visit new friends but another one was even stronger. Annual trips for him and Betty, his wife of over fifty years, to visit their son who studied in Scotland and eventually taught in Edinburgh. The world had not discovered the fertile collecting treasure troves of books, clubs and other historical items on the "auld sod". Again Joe was ahead of the curve. By the end of 1972 there were over one hundred Golf Collectors' Society members. Joe had printed his tenth "Bulletin" and it was sixteen pages long. (Today the GHS's "The Golf" has grown to a forty page full color quarterly.) There was a formal "Golf Collectors' Society Membership Directory" and nearly half the membership met each other in Louisville, KY. Joe was really surprised! It was called "The First Meeting". In the following forty-eight years, the now "Annual Meeting", has been held from coast-to-coast in the fall. 2020 will be an early October, Pittsburgh affair with golf at Latrobe, educational sessions and the largest display of golf memorabilia for trade, sale and conversation in North America.

Originally there were no GCS dues. Joe Murdoch and Bob Kuntz footed the entire bill.

This article originally appeared in the Fall 2020 edition of GAP Magazine. It is reprinted with permission. Written by John G. Capers, III, #0003, a member of GAP's Merion Golf Club, GHS and the USGA Museum Committee.

They wanted the GCS to be informal. But growth had its problems. Members wanted to help. They would send Joe a check to defray his Bulletin costs. He returned them. To get around that I would send full sheets of stamps, as did others. We knew Joe was too Scotch to return something that useful. But by 1985 the GCS had expanded around the world and needed more organisation. Joe was not for it, but knew the time had come. The "Young Committee", as he referred to it, was formed. It was, "The Old Guard" and the "Bright Young Fellows". Today's Executive Director, Pete Georgiady, was part of the latter group.

Joe Murdoch, from his second floor library, the original golf man cave, had collected a few friends' names and started a worldwide movement. He was responsible for creating a genuine interest in golf history greater than the PGA, USGA or golf journalism ever mustered. Thousands of golf enthusiasts, over the past five decades, have joined the GCS. Many of these members, with Joe's help, have spun off their own "societies" around the world...Australia, Europe, Japan, Britain, to name a few. Joe was a visionary. He enjoyed meeting new people and introducing them to others. He relished the idea of educating others about golf's history. I was fortunate to first sit at his feet when I was eighteen. He'd often say, "Here read this. It was written in the 1400's. Not much has changed. Get a ball. Get a stick. Swing at it and see if you can beat me." Commenting on losing an item in an auction he'd say, "Don't worry about being out bid on that item. Collecting is like watching street cars – another one will come along soon." That is why I am sure he would appreciate the name alteration of his baby from "The Golf Collectors' Society" to "The Golf Heritage Society". Joe was a teacher of golf history and its implements. He was the first to offer his knowledge about the game we all love for the enjoyment of everyone around him. Without the GAP member from Lafayette Hills there would be no GHS or other Societies around the world. Information about Joe's creation and the forthcoming 2020 Fiftieth Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh's Monroeville Doubletree can be found at www.golfheritage.org

Handicapping Modern Complexities Old Fashioned Ways

By Michael Sheret

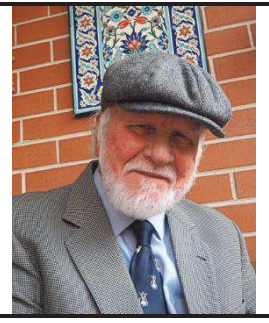


Image by Zoë Balıkcıođlu

I started to play golf in 1954 in the United Kingdom. Golfers were given their official handicaps to play in club competitions, but the procedure in 1954 was not as complicated as it is today.

Official handicaps were decided by the club captain or an assistant. The captain might have had some sort of formula to calculate your handicap, but it seemed to depend very much on how good a golfer the captain thought you were. It did not really matter as most games were played with friends outside of competition. Then your handicap was what your opponent was prepared to give you.

I first came across a definite formula for official handicaps when I moved to Australia in 1970. Australian golfers tend to play most of their golf in club organised competitions. An official handicap was therefore important. It was calculated according to a simple and easily understood formula. All that has changed. Handicaps have now become much more complicated, and I would like to complain.

My golf handicap is supposed to measure my potential as a golfer, a measurement of how well I might play and how well I might score on a reasonably good day. That is a day when I am in reasonable form, when weather conditions are not extreme and I have as much good luck as I have bad luck. I think we can safely say that a golfer's potential is a vague and elusive concept. Why then do the golfing authorities try to measure that concept to 0.1 of a stroke? Does the claimed accuracy of the end result justify the complex formula and the cost of the computerised system to decide whether Michael Sheret's handicap should move up 0.1 of a stroke or down 0.1 of a stroke? Why, tired and thirsty after 18 holes, do I have to queue up to enter my score for every hole into a computer? Is it all

designed simply to add to the complexities of modern life?

Reading through back copies – as one does – of that wonderful Indian newspaper the Bengal Hurkaru, I came across this gem of a handicapping system in 1831 at the Calcutta Golf Club.

GOLF MEETING.

CALCUTTA LINKS,—TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1831.

In a former paper, it was announced that a splendid Cup was to be played for on this-day. I have now the pleasure to send you the result.

A most respectable attendance was anticipated and we were not disappointed, though indisposition still prevented several of our players from entering the List. The Handicap was framed on a new, and most judicious plan, removing the responsibility entirely from the Councillors. Each player determining the odds to be given to the others, and the average taken by the Councillors, according to the estimation entertained by individuals, of each others performance. They started as follows:

1st Party.	Major Playfair,.....	70
	R. Barlow, Esq.	91
2d Party.	Lieutenant Cornish,.....	87
	Lieutenant Austen,.....	101
3d Party.	Dr. Grant,.....	102
	C. Marquis, Esq.	70
4th Party.	Captain Graham,.....	74
	Dr. Playfair,.....	71

The odds decided on by the average of rates given in, were, Major Playfair 77, Captain Graham 77, C. Marquis, Esq. 78, Dr. Playfair 85, R. Barlow, Esq. 93, Dr. Grant 95, Lieutenant Austen 93, and Lieutenant Cornish 84.

A comparison of the above rates, with the play of each party will shew, that the Cup was gained by Dr. Playfair, who holed the Links in 14 strokes less than the rate allowed him. The whole party then sat down to a splendid Tiffen, and separated about 4 p. m. each anticipating the honor of becoming the winner of the Cup at Dum-Dum on Saturday next.

A GOLFER.

Extract from Bengal Hurkaru

For readers struggling to understand the old-fashioned style of English, Dr Playfair, the winner, was expected by the rest of the players to go round in 85 but actually **improved on that by 14 strokes** by going round in 71, the lowest score according to handicap. Major Playfair and Mr Marquis went round in 70, but only

improved on their expected scores by 7 strokes and 8 strokes respectively. Lieutenant Austen did not do well. Expected to go round in 93, he had a bad day and went round in 101, **8 strokes worse** than expected. I suspect that Lieutenant Austen had to meet the cost of the "splendid Tiffen". Those were happy days.



Again the question of handicaps.

from the Magazine Le Golf, #77, 1st Aug. 1928
[Text added by the editors]

The results of the last French international championships were disappointing and we do not have to hide our disappointment, because we expected to see French players in a better position at home.

It is by no means a feeling of xenophobia that agitates us; it is fair enough. It is even rather pleasant to see a French player being a champion of golf in England and an English player champion of golf in France. Let's make this remark about the performance of our champions. The findings are even sadder if we examine the scores of our best golfers, and we are impressed by the disjointedness and unevenness of their results, which makes us seek to find the reasons that can remedy this state of affairs.

Firstly, it is sure that it is how handicaps are established that is the leading cause. We are not making a particular reproach here to the *Union des golfs de France* because we understand that it has followed the same

mistakes as neighbouring countries – such as Germany and Switzerland.

The affiliated clubs gave the measurement of their course: then a handicaps committee established the Scratch Score by taking as a base the "par" and then adding extra strokes due to the natural difficulties of the course. This was based on the method and rules for setting handicaps recommended by the Advisory Committee of the British Isles Golf Union. This would be fine if the scratch scoring was done under the same conditions, but it is quite different in England. In Switzerland, as an example, the Standard Scratch Score is 66, while in England a scratch player is one who can complete a course with a Scratch Score of 74/76 without fail.

Consequently, if a player goes to play in the same way on a course with a Scratch Score of 80, the same player will have a handicap of 1 or 2.

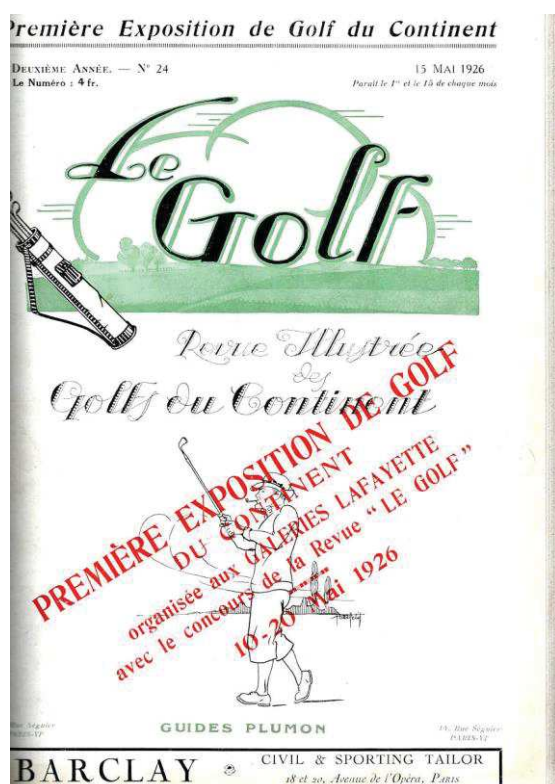
Nevertheless, initiatives like the ones recently taken in Switzerland are very commendable. Nonetheless, they can only be used for the establishment of the national Scratch Score; as far as the international Scratch Score is concerned, an agreement between the Federations of the different countries would be necessary, and we believe that with the development of golf, we will get there shortly, especially as this need is felt and it would be in the interest of all players to agree on this point.

The First Golf Exhibition in France

By Huguette Kazmierczak



In mid-May 1926, the French magazine *Le Golf* featured on its cover page 'Première Exposition de Golf du Continent' – no need for translation. It was to be held from 10 to 20 May, at the Galeries Lafayette, the famous department store in Paris. The magazine was one of the sponsors and published several articles about the event. The following is a summary.



In its issues 23 and 24, of 1 and 15 May, 1926, the magazine *Le Golf* announced that *Galeries Lafayette* - in collaboration with this magazine that had first been published just a year earlier - would organise a golf exhibition for the first time on the Continent. The exhibition would last from 10 to 20 May and was intended for the general public and golfers. The idea was to present all the players' equipment (clubs, bags, balls and accessories) and clothing and demonstrate that

this sport was not reserved for the wealthy elite and could be affordable for the general public.

The organisers insisted that creating public golf courses was achievable with reasonable expenditure, without requiring players to make considerable financial commitments.

A miniature golf course was installed on the roof of the Galeries Lafayette building on Boulevard Haussmann, Paris. It certainly gave only an approximate idea of the charm and scope of the game where the natural obstacles of the golf course play such a significant role. Still, the demonstration of the game's elegant shots by champions such as Jean Gassiat and the other golf professionals he had brought in, showed to the visitors the subtlety and precision of the various golf shots.

A golf practice mat with nets was installed on the third floor, for demonstrations and teaching – with the help of movies. On the terrace, there was a miniature putting green and another teaching net. Many golfers from Parisian clubs visited the exhibition. They were attracted by the idea of finding a little of the atmosphere of the links.

The general public, who came to discover the game, also responded to the invitation of *Galeries Lafayette*, and they were impressed by the exhibition. After a moment of curiosity, a spontaneous interest was shown by all. Many were the people for whom golf was only a kind of inaccessible game (Olympian, impracticable for the masses).

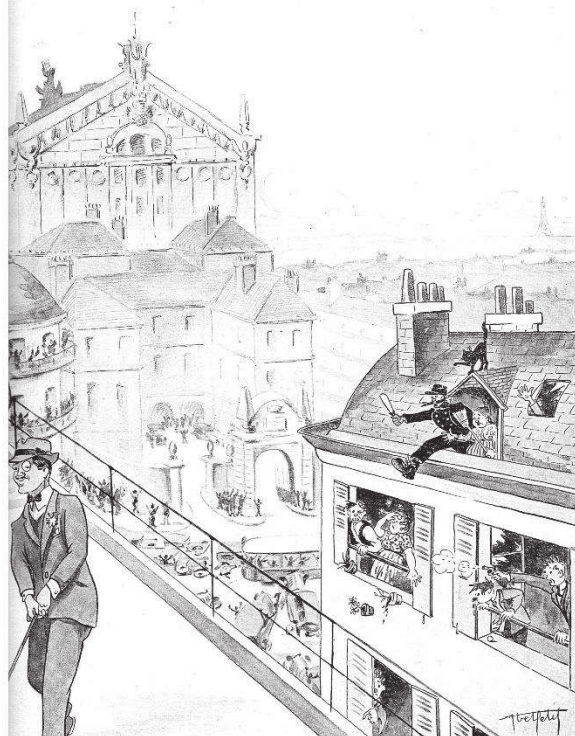
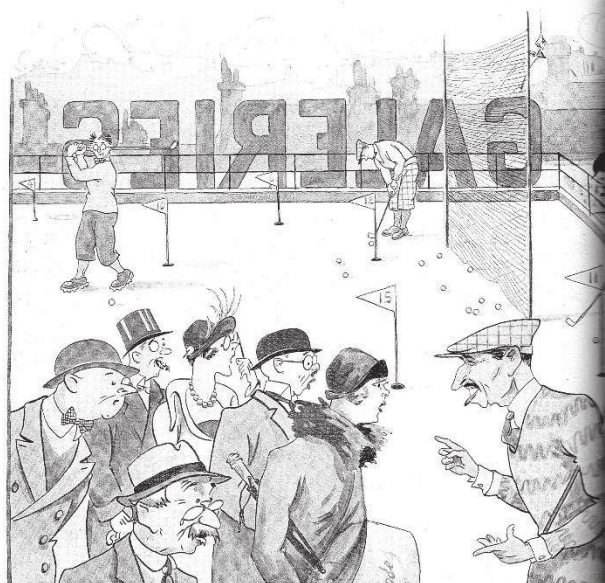
A few moments on the terrace of the Galeries and a few practice shots or putts with one of the professionals was enough to convince them that it was a sport of exquisite charm that deserved much more than a discreet admiration.

In France, everything ends with a meal! The *Galeries Lafayette* had not missed out this pleasant French custom. On 20 May, to end the golf week, the management had invited an elite group of enthusiastic sportsmen and women and personalities all devoted to sport, to meet on its

terrace. About sixty people were present. Mr E. Plumon, director of the magazine *Le Golf*, and many golf managers from the Paris region and some major provincial golf clubs joined the *Galeries Lafayette* managers. We will mention here only Mr Fournier-Sarlovèze, one of the pioneers of golf in France, to whom we owe the creation of the Golf de Compiègne in 1896 - which hosted the golf events of the 1900 Olympics.

Une leçon de Golf sur le toit des Galeries Lafayette

Le champion GASSIAT initie le "Tout Paris" aux charmes du Noble Sport



After lunch, the guests, together with numerous spectators, golfers or the curious, followed with interest the competition open to all professionals from the Continent. Competitors took part in three events: a putting contest on the miniature greens, a mashie-shot competition consisting of hitting a ball into a basket, and a teaching event.

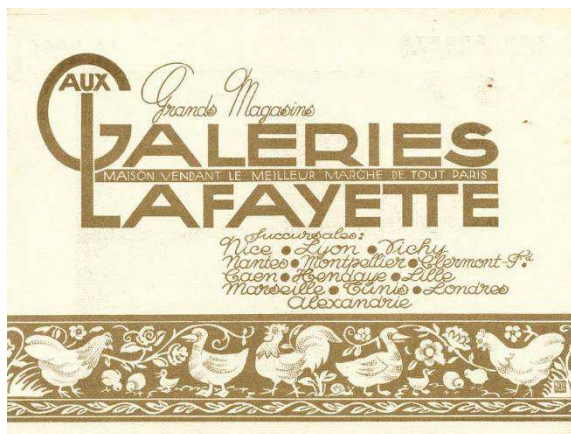
The final ranking of the three tests, obtained by adding up the points of the different events, was as follows:

1. Lafolley, Country Club de Saint-Cloud.
2. Walley Marks, Waterloo Golf Club, Belgium.
3. Marius Cavallo, Golf de La Boulie
4. R. Golias, Golf d'Ormesson.

5. Henri Gassiat, Golf de Chantilly.
6. Yves Bocatzou, Golf de La Boulie.
7. Bigues, Golf de Chantilly.
8. Padley, Axenfels Golf Club, Switzerland.

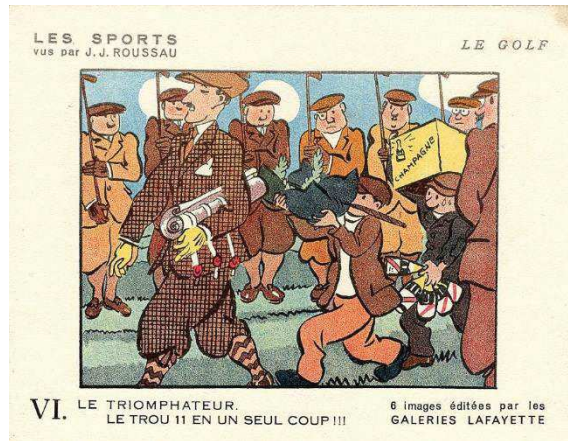
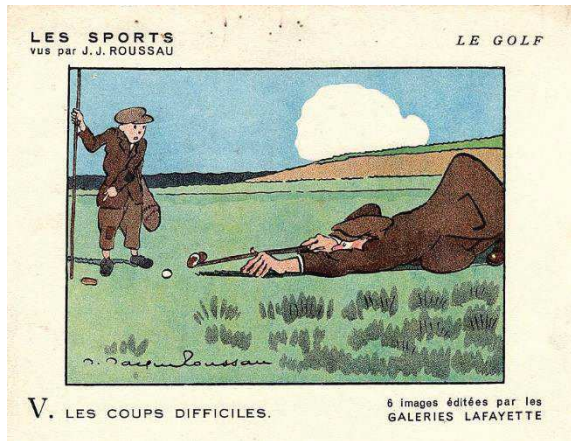
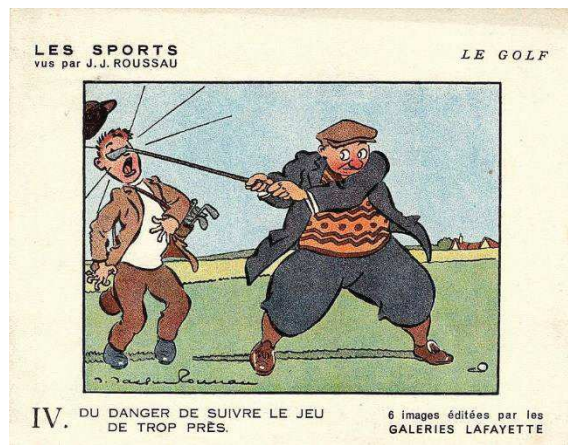
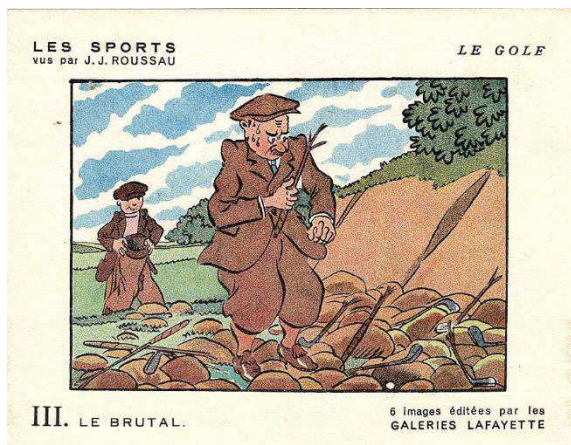
The prizes offered by the management of *Galeries Lafayette* were, as follows:

- 1 - 1,000 francs and a Peugeot bicycle (offered by the Peugeot Company);
- 2 - 800 francs and a Peugeot bicycle (offered by the Peugeot Company);
- 3 - 600 francs; 4 - 500 francs; 5 - 400 francs;
- 6 - 300 francs; 7 and 8 - 250 francs.



Six illustrations published by *Galeries Lafayette* in Paris (all with the same backing, see opposite) in the series *Les Sports – Le Golf* by J.J. Rousseau.

Size: 14 x 18 cm.



C. Noskowski, a little-known Golf Architect

By JBK (*Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak*)



For a long time, his first name was unknown. All the references found referred to the initial ‘C’ – and some writers were erroneously guessing that it could be “Christoph or Christophe”. Following some new discoveries when preparing for our AGM in Poland, I have made a short biography of Noskowski the first golf architect from the European Continent.



Two photographs of C. Noskowski

Left: from *The Chicago Tribune* (18 January 1930); right: from *Le Golf et les Golfeurs* (#193, 15 August 1933)

When searching on various genealogy web-sites, we learned that Noskowski was born in 1882 and died in 1936. More precisely (as we can see on an ‘official adjudication form’ see next page), he was born in Warsaw on 28 November 1882. The document clearly states that he was an ‘*architecte expert*’ (as he calls himself in his

texts), and he lived in Neuilly-sur-Seine, 12 rue Montrosier – very close to the present-day *Palais des Congrès*, on the boundary of Paris.

His full name was Casimir, Sigismond, Joseph Noskowski – which makes it possible to understand the initial ‘C’ in his signature.

Départ ^t de la SEINE LISTE de 1936.	
NOM	Noskowski
PRÉNOMS	Casimir Sigismond Joseph
COMMUNE	Vanoverie
DÉPART ^{EM}	Pologne
DATE	28 novembre 1882
PROFESSION OU QUALITÉ	Architecte expert
DÉMEURE	12 rue Montchouart
COMMUNE	NEUILLY SUR SEINE
CANTON	ARRONDISSEMENT
NEUILLY SUR SEINE	St-DENIS

Régie Imp. Centr. Paris. — 70,000 ex. — Carré L. 30 kg. (7-33) 45195.

An 'adjudication form' dated 1936.

His family arrived in France at the end of the 19th century, and he studied in Paris at the *Ecole Libre des Sciences Politiques*, where he graduated in 1905 in the 'administrative', 'economic and financial' and 'economic and social' sections.

Noskowski certainly discovered golf in the early 1900s. We can even imagine that he knew the golf course of Vincennes (certainly a rough and simple one – not listed in modern golf books! – we'll come back to this point). Soon, rather than thinking about improving his game, he became fascinated with the way golf courses were designed. In the 1920s, he was considered the only non-British professional golf course architect on the European Continent.

It has sometimes been written that he was a member of the *Golf Architects' Society* in London – of which all other members were British. But he corrected this inaccuracy himself. He was invited by the Golf Architects' Society in London to become a member, but, for unknown reasons, he declined the invitation.

Noskowski travelled a lot. He visited the United States and many European countries several

times. He said he visited nearly 400 golf courses between 1918 and 1930. He believed that some of the finest golf courses in the world were in the USA, and his favourite was Pine Valley, New Jersey. In 1930, a tour of Germany allowed him to examine almost all the courses in the country.

These trips certainly provided him with most of the ideas he expounded in articles written for the magazine *Le Golf* and the *Revue des Usages de la Route* – see later).

OFFICE TECHNIQUE DU GOLF

Noskowski did not imitate the famous old Scottish links that he had studied when designing golf courses. But he retained the spirit of them. The hazards he designed were much more subtle than those provided by nature. He preferred curved banks of streams and lakes in the place of uneven shapes formed by nature. For his various golf course projects, Noskowski created a company the *Office Technique du Golf (OTG)*.

We do not know the exact date of creation of this company, but found evidence of its activity as early as the beginning of 1927 (see various advertising, p. 21).

Moreover, the collaboration of the OTG and the magazine *Le Golf* dates from before 1 March 1927. Indeed, at this date, we find an article of this company, but signed by Mr H. Lambert, and entitled: *Les terrains de Golf; Aménagements réduits (Golf Courses of smaller dimensions)*. This article is not without significance. We will see that the OTG, had built many 'classic' courses, and it had also invested a lot of effort in the creation of nine-hole par-3 courses.

NOSKOWSKI'S GOLF COURSES

We identified fourteen courses designed, developed or modified by Noskowski.

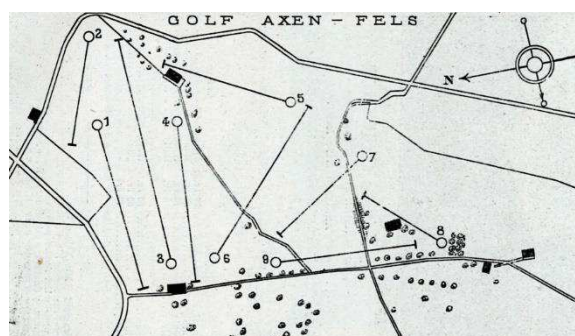
1923. Warsaw, Poland

Thanks to Elzbieta Grendeka, who directed us to this perhaps first golf course designed by Noskowski. It is not that surprising as he was from Polish origins. We can add that Jules Laroche, French Ambassador to Poland, was a member of the Warsaw Golf Club Committee – which shows the connection between the two countries.

1925 Axenfels, Luzern, Switzerland

[Not to be confused with Axenstein, founded in 1907, which after WW2 was an 18-hole course later reduced to eleven holes – and eventually to nine holes). This Axenstein course was often criticized.]

Concerning Axenfels, in 1925, C. Noskowski designed a nine-hole course. Without being too hilly, it had some natural hazards which were difficult to negotiate and required a lot of precision. This was particularly true of holes 5 and 7.



Axenfels (from Plumon, 1931)

There is a mystery, for us, about this course. The *Guide Plumon* indicates that it was a nine-hole course (confirmed by the plan) of 1,884 yards, bogey 34 (modern day par). Nevertheless, the same guide gave the length of each hole but for ten holes and not nine:

Hole 1 216 yards	Hole 6 227 yards
Hole 2 124	Hole 7 265
Hole 3 267	Hole 8 110
Hole 4 275	Hole 9 210
Hole 5 190	Hole 10 190

Total length for the first nine holes being the 1,884 announced in the description.

1926. Galeries LaFayette, Paris, France

A temporary miniature course which was built on the roof of *Galeries Lafayette* (see Huguette Kazmierczak's paper, page 10 and following).

1927. Villars sur Bex, Switzerland

It was a nine-hole miniature golf course, inaugurated on 14 August 1927. Present were: Mr Plumon (director of the magazine *Le Golf*) and, among other personalities, Mr Jean

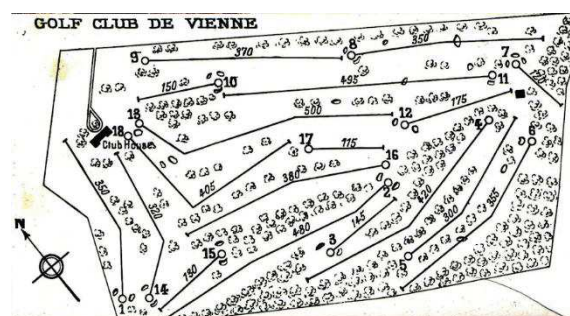
Hennessy, French ambassador in Bern and managers of major Swiss golf courses were also present.

It should be noted that this miniature course was built in only six days, under the direction of OTG.



Inaugural day at Villars

1927-1930. Prater II. Vienna, Austria



Above Prater in Plumon 1931

Christoph Meister has provided the following information:

‘The golf course is often attributed to Willie Park who in fact designed the original nine-holes course of Wiener Golf Club in 1901-1902. When the course was extended to 18 holes some of the Willie Park holes from 1902 were lost as the land was needed for the new football stadium. The course was extended to 18 holes by Noskowski.

Today's golf course of ‘Wiener Golf Club’ is 2 km south-east of the former pre-war golf course and was built 1949 on the Vienna horse racing track. This course has nothing to do with the pre-war course at Prater-Krieau which was built there by Noskowski and which is lost today.’



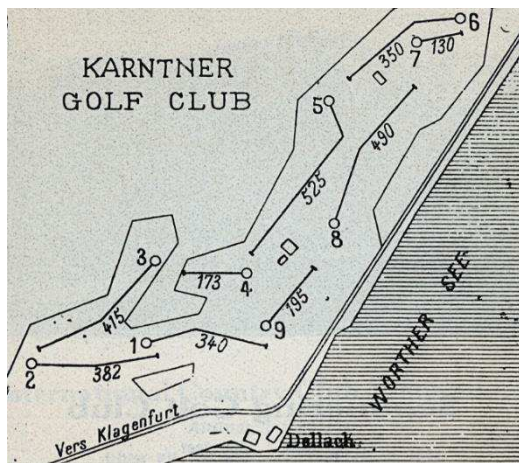
Two photographs of the opening match at Kärntner Dellach GC, in 1931
(with the kind permission of Christoph Meister)

1927-1931. Kärntner, Dellach, Austria

In Kärnten (Carinthia), close to the Wörthersee.

The club was founded in 1927 and in 1929 Graf (Count) Lato Hoyos became the first president of the club. The golf course opened in 1931.

The Yorkshire Evening Post reported that the opening of the golf course was on 15 August 1931, and that to mark the opening of the course, Brown, the professional from the Vienna Golf Club had played a 'few days ago' with Philips, the local professional.



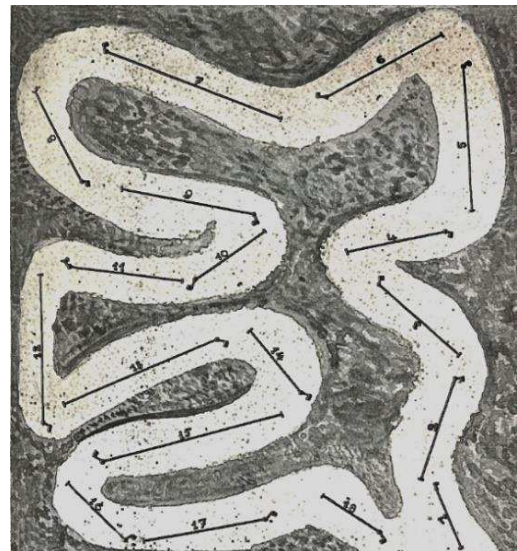
Karntner Dellach (from Plumon 1931)

We know that it was a nine-hole course, 3,110 yards long. The scratch score for 18 holes was 72.

1928. Baden-Baden, Germany

In 1928, a miniature 18-hole course was designed and built by the Office Technique du

Golf (Noskowski's company) near the Lichtentaler Allee (see plan below).



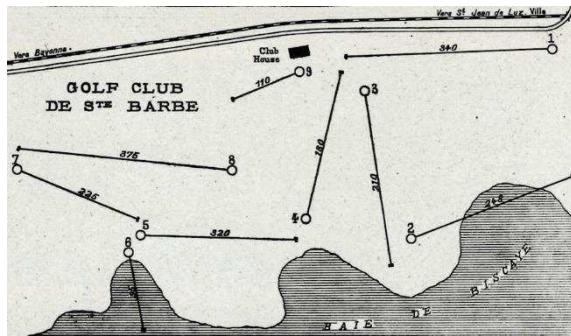
The inauguration took place on 15 July. The shortest hole measured only 6 yards and the longest one 30 yards. The par, for the 18 holes was 36 – and described as not easy. In October, a competition on the putting green was reported to have been dominated by two young Americans, Mr Fleischman, the winner, Mr Hethmann, finishing second.

1928. Sainte Barbe, France

This golf club was initially created in 1893 and was known as 'le golf des Anglais', it was the first golf club in Saint-Jean-de-Luz (early picture on next page)

World War I was an end for this club which stopped functioning in 1915. But an investor who built some villas close by resurrected the

golf club the 1920s and Noskowski designed a new course.

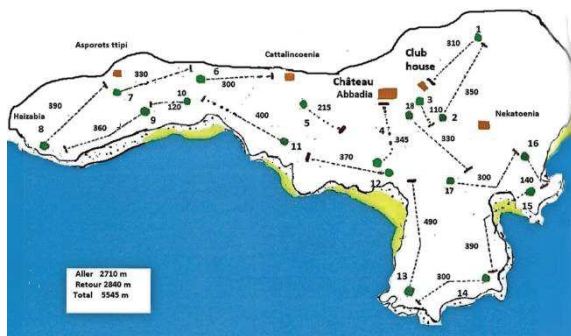


Sainte-Barbe (from Plumon, 1931)
Below a postcard "Golf des Anglais" (dated 1903)



1928-1929. Hendaye, France

Very close to Saint-Jean-de-Luz, this course was designed by Harry Colt in 1910 and inaugurated in 1911. The club survived the First World War, but the *Société Foncière de Hendaye* which managed it went bankrupt in 1930.

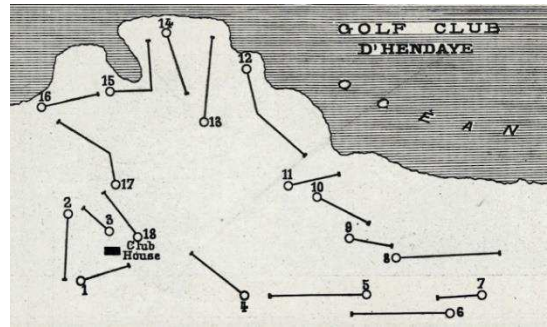


Above: Hendaye in 1911 (from Guy Lalanne's book)

Meantime, in 1928-29. Huge investments were made and Nosowski was in charge to redesign and expand the course to a longer one (from 5545 to 5700 m).

The Hendaye golf course eventually closed in 1934.

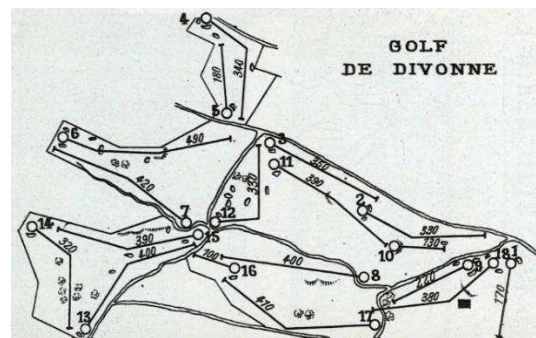
¹ We were unable to find any reference to this 'best known golf architect' Arsène Varrin.



Hendaye after modifications (Plumon, 1931)

1928-1931. Divonne, France

Founded in 1928 but opened in 1931. It was an 18-hole, 5,700 meters course.

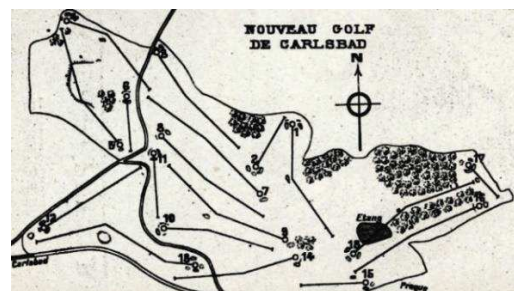


Divonne (from Plumon, 1931)

1931-1935. Carlsbad (Karlovy Vary) – New, Czech Republic

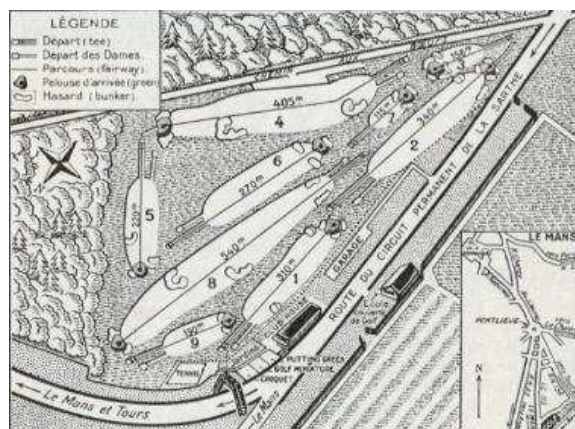
A nine-hole course existed since 1924. In 1929, the City Council decided to entrust Nosowski to lay out a new golf course. The course was finally opened in 1931. It was an 18-hole course, 5,750 meters long.

In fact, according to the *Chicago Tribune*, 20 April 1930, it might have been Arsène Varrin ('one of the world's best known golf architects¹') who designed the course, and Nosowski who supervised its construction.



Carlsbad (from Plumon, 1931)

1934. Le Mans, France



Le Mans GC (from Plumon 1935)

Below: Professional Bouly at Le Mans (c. 1935)



1935. Strasbourg, France

Inaugurated on 15 October 1935.
Nine-hole course, 2,750 meters.

1938-1939. Semmering II, Austria

Christian Arnoldner has informed us that there may have been a project for a second golf course in Semmering, which would have been entrusted to Noskowski. But given the geography of the place this was unlikely. However, in the *Plumon* of 1938 we found an indication of a new golf at Semmering:

Saarow	253 ..	253
Salzbrunn	254 ..	254
Semmering	255 ..	255
Semmering (nouveau golf)	266 ..	266
Stuttgart	256 ..	256
Travemunde	257 ..	257
International Country Club (Vienne)	258-259 ..	258-259
Wiener Golf Club	260-261 ..	260-261

Unfortunately, the page mentioned only says 'golf course under construction.'!

NOSKOWSKI'S PUBLICATIONS

Le Golf et les Golfeurs

The Editions Plumon published this French magazine, (originally titled simply *Le Golf*.) between 1925 and 1939 where we can find many articles from Noskowski.

We already reported that M. Lambert (from the Noskowski company) published the first article early in 1927.

La Revue des Usagers de la Route (The Road Users' Review)

The first possible collaboration between Noskowski and this magazine may have been in December 1935. In this issue, he discussed three prejudices which were *against the wide development of golf*. In contrast to the Anglo-Saxon countries, especially the United States, where golf is one of the favourite sports of the youth. These three prejudices are

1° Golf is a sport for old people;

2° Golf is a sport reserved for a particular class of society;

3° Golf is an expensive hobby.

After lengthy discussions in several issues about these aspects, he introduced some more varied topics: golf balls (November 1936), Bobby Jones (May 1937), the etiquette of the game (June 1937), Arnaud Massy (July 1937), golf in the USA (August 1937), mature golfers (February 1938), effects on the ball (May and June 1938), natural hazards (January 1939), animals in the way of play (February 1939).

So, for more than four years, Noskowski had been working with the *Revue des Usagers de la Route* on various aspects of golf.

Two articles are important:

The first one is entitled *Les débuts du golf populaire en France* (the beginning of popular golf in France) and is particularly important as this aspect, to our knowledge, had never been addressed before ... and perhaps very rarely afterwards! The text is so interesting that we have added a translation it and reported it at the end of this paper. It reveals inexpensive golf played in Paris in 1911.

The second one is dedicated to miniature golf (but not those found in amusement parks for children). The courses the author deals with are nine-hole courses with only holes where a good player can reach the green in one shot. Their length varying from 100 to 200 metres and the greens have a surface area of 100 to 600 sq. m. From what we know, Noskowski was very interested by such 'small courses'.

We would like to finish this review on Noskowski with his book:

L'Architecte de Golf devant la Loi, 1931
(The Golf Architect and the Law)

Preface: Henri Robert.

Authors: C. Noskowski, A Dubrulle and Henri Robert.

The very rare book, which we never had in our hands, published by 'Les Guides Plumon' in 1931, was described by Maître Henri Robert, President of the Bar Association, as 'a useful and timely book'. We could not see the complete text of this book, but we can say that the main chapters are: Construction defects, Contract work, Situation of golf architects in front of various foreign jurisdictions...

We had to wait two years before the magazine, *Le Golf et les golfeurs* (15 August 1933) published a long text about this book. As the book is so rare and difficult to find, we are translating it here:

A Golf Architect Expert in Front of the Courts.

The term 'golf expert' has often made people smile. This vague title, which could just as well designate an expert of the sport of golf as it would a club maker, mainly was taken by those who boasted of having the necessary knowledge and experience to build golf courses and who did not dare to declare themselves 'golf architect'. This is not to say that there were (and still are, alas) many pseudo-architects of golf, for example on committees of golf clubs.

Taking advantage of the ignorance, unfortunately very frequent, of those who wished to build golf courses, the misdeeds of these pseudo-experts in golf can no longer be counted. How many magnificent courses have been ruined, how many others poorly designed, how much money lost and, in the end, without any sanction because those who were wronged did not even know if it was possible to seek redress.

A few years ago, this question had already attracted, Mr Noskowski, one of the golf architects who knew best all the courses of Continental Europe, where he saw the same abuses he had observed in Great Britain and America. He, therefore, wrote, in collaboration

with Me Dubrulle, a lawyer at the Cour d'Appel de Paris, a book entitled 'L'Architecte de Golf devant la Loi'.

He did not hesitate to point out that many cases of liability of the golf architect could be sought under the same conditions as an architect building houses, for example.

There are often huge sums of money involved, and, surprisingly, lawsuits are not filed more often.

The Civil Court of the Seine has official experts for all professions. Therefore, it has just recognised the usefulness of having one in the category: 'golf architect'; this is why it has just appointed Mr Noskowski as an expert for the Court of First Instance and the Court of Appeal.

Mr Noskowski, who has already acted as an expert in golf matters for the provincial Courts, is the only architect who could be admitted as an expert in this category. Apart from him, golf architects in France were only English (and therefore could not be appointed by the Courts because they were foreigners. Or sometimes, pseudo-architects (often builders) not having the necessary education and knowledge to present a report on complicated matters.

'L'architecte de golf devant la loi' was unanimously appreciated by the technical press of the Anglo-Saxon countries, which expressed surprise that it came from France.

But Mr Noskowski is not only a theoretician who has written numerous articles published even in Great Britain! He is also a talented manager which he has proved by the golf courses he designed and whose construction he supervised.

While we are pleased to note that the Courts have finally recognised the usefulness of having a golf architect as an expert, we are pleased that this honour has been bestowed upon Mr Noskowski, who has been the director of the Office Technique du Golf for over five years.



The beginnings of popular golf in France

C. Noskowski in *Revue des Usagers de la Route*, #236, September 1937.

Many golfers who will read this text will probably find it paradoxical to see us writing that popular golf had declined in France, at least in the Paris region. They are certainly unaware that there was a golf society in Paris where the entrance fee, payable once, was three francs and the monthly fee for temporary members was one franc fifty².

This golf society did not have its own course: they played on the Vincennes practice ground, in the Bois de Boulogne, near the Bagatelle Polo Club and in Issy-les-Moulineaux. There were no regulation 'holes' and the players had to hit their ball onto the greens (with a flagstick), whose shape was determined by goodwill. Nevertheless these golfers were anxious to get as close to golf as it was played in St Andrews.

This golf society, which was first called the 'Standard Golf Club', and which became, in 1914, the 'Paris Golf Club'³, was founded in 1911, by the director of a Parisian sports goods company, and it was among the employees of this firm that he recruited the first members of his club.

Its aim was to popularise the game by preparing members who were sufficiently educated to be able to answer, and if necessary give advice, to people who wished to learn about the game of golf.

The question of places or land where golf could be played presented great difficulty. After much effort, the Club managed to obtain permission from the military authorities to play on the manoeuvring grounds of the Bois de Vincennes. Here is the calendar of events played by the Paris Golf Club in May 1914:

- 3 May: Training at Bagatelle ;
- 10 May: Foursome-handicap (with prizes)
first day at Bagatelle;
- 17 May: Training at Issy;
- 24 May: Monthly medal at Bagatelle;
- 30 May: Training at Vincennes.

Apart from the full members we have mentioned, the Club also accepted temporary players whose fees were much higher, since they were asked to pay... one franc each time they came to play.

They could take part in the organised competitions, but their results did not count for the prizes. It should be added that sets of golf clubs were available to rent for full members, temporary players and beginners.

The games were held on Sunday at 9.30 a.m., and some of the sports newspapers gave on Saturday the location of the next day's play. It may seem strange to those who only came to golf after the war, that one could have read at that time indications of this kind: 'For the Bagatelle links, take the Val d'Or tramway at Porte Maillot and get off at the Pont de Puteaux.'

The war dealt a mortal blow to the modest club. Both because of the departure of many members and the impossibility of returning to the old grounds. After the war, the founder of this popular club tried to revive it. He wanted to develop it further while retaining its character. But he could not succeed because of the lack of land near Paris that was suitable for golf.

Some old club members had tried to practice on the fields near the municipal track at the Porte de Charenton in the Bois de Vincennes. Some wardens tolerated them, but others refused to allow them to play.

In the Bois de Boulogne, conditions had also changed. The golfers found their old ground, adjacent to the Bagatelle Polo Club, occupied on Sundays by various football societies. Even if one played with a special ball, which was less dangerous than a 'captive golf ball', the wardens were inflexible. However, on this Bagatelle course, the club's former founder sometimes returned early in the week, when there were no wardens.

Permission to play at the Vincennes, Auteuil and Longchamp racecourses during the annual closing was also refused, while golf was played at several racecourses in England, Germany and Italy. Defeated by so much hostility, the Paris Golf Club had to resign itself to be disbanded and its members were obliged to give up the game,

² One franc in 1910: equivalent to about 3€ today

³ Strange name indeed as the 'Golf Club de Paris' (La Boulie) already existed, since 1901.

not having the means to join private golf clubs in the vicinity of Paris, most of which were difficult to access for people without a car.

We can add that the author of these reports had made many steps to popularise golf in France, but he met with absolute indifference, even at the Ministry of Sports. He was advised, in high places, to abandon such a bold project, telling

him that it would be easier to move the Eiffel Tower than to make people accept that golf could become a popular sport.

This illustrates in an obvious way the abyss that separates France from the United States in this respect, which we mentioned in our article of August.

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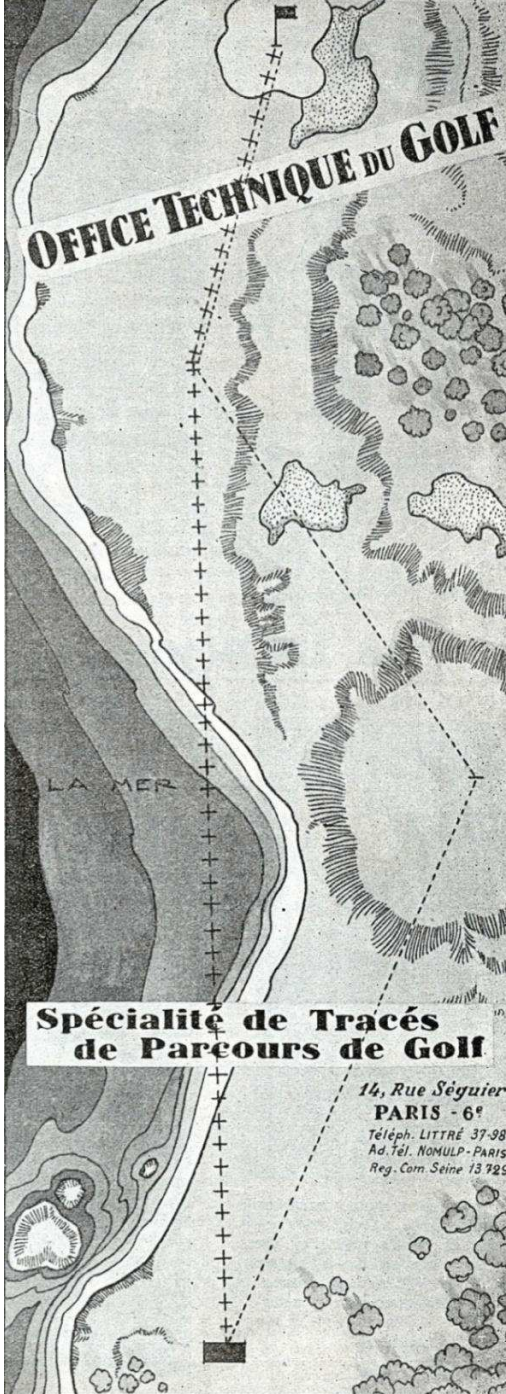
- A. matériel pour le parcours: boîtes de départ, drapeaux, perceuses, etc.;
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LA MER

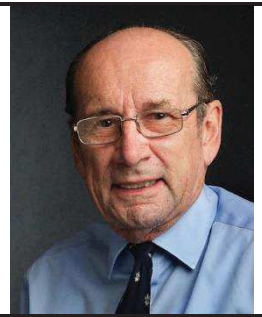
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Top left: First advertising (February, 1927), Bottom Left: Second one.
Right: Advertising used after 1930. See also 3rd cover page.

Clanranald in Sweden Another early Scottish golfer fails to play in Sweden

By David Hamilton



With the travel and trade between Scotland's east coast and Sweden in the 18th and early 19th centuries, it seems likely that the Scottish visitors would play the game, yet no trace of play has been found in Sweden until the 1880s.

The likely players included exiled Jacobites from Fife, notably the Carnegies, and the Erskine dynasty who were merchants in Gothenburg in the 1700s. These golfers maintained their long-standing links with St Andrews and Fife, yet there is no trace of them playing in Sweden, in spite of the climate and terrain being suitable for golf.

We can add another early, year-long visit in 1807 by a young Scottish golfer later prominent in Scottish golf. He might have been expected to play there, but, yet again there is no evidence that he played the game while in Sweden.

Young 'Clanranald' – Ranald George Macdonald – was heir to huge estates in the Western Isles of Scotland. His father died young and he was brought up with an 'exaggerated belief in his importance'⁴. Until he was age 21, his complex and deteriorating finances were looked after by trustees in Edinburgh and they had a hard task dealing with the boy's irresponsible behaviour, and he would eventually become a foppish member of the decadent Prince Regent's circle in London. Taken away from school he was, as was the fashion, sent on a series of grand tours of Europe and when he arrived in Gothenburg in 1807, age 19, he was involved in an extraordinary public affair. He was bewitched by the beautiful wife of a local British merchant and Clanranald proposed that, after a divorce, he would purchase her for £20,000. Word reached his trustees in Edinburgh via Thomas Erskine, ninth Earl of Kellie, who was then the British consul in Gothenburg. The trustees were alarmed

at his behaviour, especially as Clanranald did not have much money. They dispatched his former tutor to Sweden to deal with the situation, and Britain's Foreign Secretary Canning also arranged with the King of Sweden to intervene. Meanwhile, Clanranald had reconsidered and, to the relief of his trustees, had headed for home.

After gaining his inheritance at age 21, he wasted what little of it remained. He joined the R&A in 1831 and was a founder member of the elite North Berwick Golf Club, appearing prominently in the golfing literature of the time and in Grant's painting 'Founder Members of the North Berwick Club'.⁵

Thus Clanranald is another Scottish golfer who visited Sweden without, as far as we know, hitting a golf ball there.



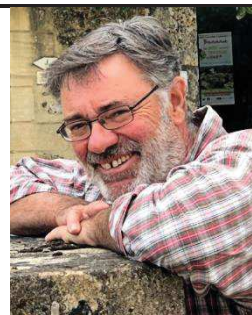
'Clanranald was prominent in Edinburgh and London society.' (Gronow's Reminiscences, 1889)

⁴ Alexander Gillies, *A Hebridean in Goethe's Weimar*, London, 1969.

⁵ David Hamilton, *Golf – Scotland's Game*, Kilmacolm, 1998, p. 111. Clanranald appears in all George Fullerton Carnegie's golfing poems.

Yves Botcazou (1881-1953)
The incredible story
of the one-armed professional from La Boulie

By Philippe Palli



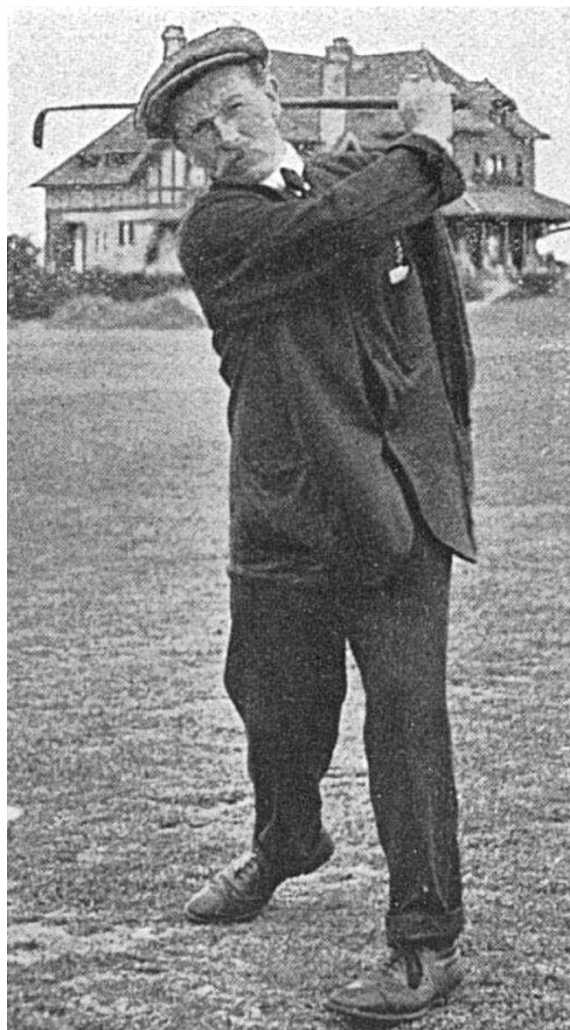
You'd have to have four arms to be able to do something good, Arnaud Massy once said. Certainly, possible on the moon! On earth, with only one arm, Yves Botcazou, the "one-armed pro" of La Boulie as he would later be called, handles the hickory shafted clubs according to his possibilities with elegance, precision and enthusiasm.

ONE DAY HE WILL EVEN PLAY IN *THE OPEN*



In 1911, Yves became assistant professional to Louis Tellier at La Boulie (Golf Club de Paris) and competed against the best French and foreign professionals in the discipline for over twenty years. In 1914, he even played The Open, in Great Britain. Although his driving was good, other professionals were driving the ball much further. On the other hand, he excelled at the short game and his putting could be formidable. Only a bad lie in a bunker was his bane.

During the war, Yves stayed at La Boulie, this was when he introduced his eldest son Raymond to golf. Extremely gifted, Botcazou's son continued his apprenticeship in England and, in 1923, at the age of 17, he won the French Professional Golfer Champion title at Saint-Germain.



Two pictures of Botcazou at La Boulie

A TERRIBLE WORK ACCIDENT

But let's go back and tell the incredible story of this one-armed pro. Yves Marie Botcazou was born near Versailles, on 3 January 1881, exactly in Les Loges-en-Josas. His parents, Yves Marie and Annette Marie née Le Moigne, came from Bourbriac in the department of Côtes-d'Armor, in Brittany.

At the age of 14, while Yves was an apprentice baker, when a work accident unfortunately resulted in the amputation of his left arm. Forced to abandon the baking trade, he became a day labourer like his father.

In 1901, by chance, the Golf Club de Paris golf course opened near the family home. Interested in working there, Yves, just 20 years old, went to the golf course at La Boulie.



Botcazou La Vie au Grand Air, 20 December 1918

HIS FIRST YEARS AS A GOLFER

Yves discovered the game of golf by becoming a caddy. At La Boulie the caddies were allowed to play as they were in Biarritz!

The Versailles caddies created their 'private' course. It was at the sandpit on the road to the golf. As Gustave Golias recounts for the magazine *Le Golf* in 1927: 'I first started as a caddy in 1905 at La Boulie..... There was Yves Botcazou, the famous one-arm... With pieces of bent wood, cut in the nearby Gonards wood, we spent our day playing in the sandpit.... We had a clay green at the bottom and another one at the top, also clay... There were matches with play-offs: everyone put in a penny and the winner collected the stake. These were matches where the rules were respected, otherwise arguments would be inevitable. "

Afterwards, the best players took part in the caddies' competition, which was introduced at La Boulie in 1902. The first prize was a full suit of clothes and the second prize was a pair of *brodequins* (ankle boots) offered by Pierre Deschamps, the club president. Then, with time, the most hard-working, the most gifted became 'caddy-player'.

INTERNATIONAL "ONE-ARMED" GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

In 1908, Mr James C Parrish, honorary vice-president of the La Boulie club, proposed to organise a competition between Yves and the best one-armed players in England.

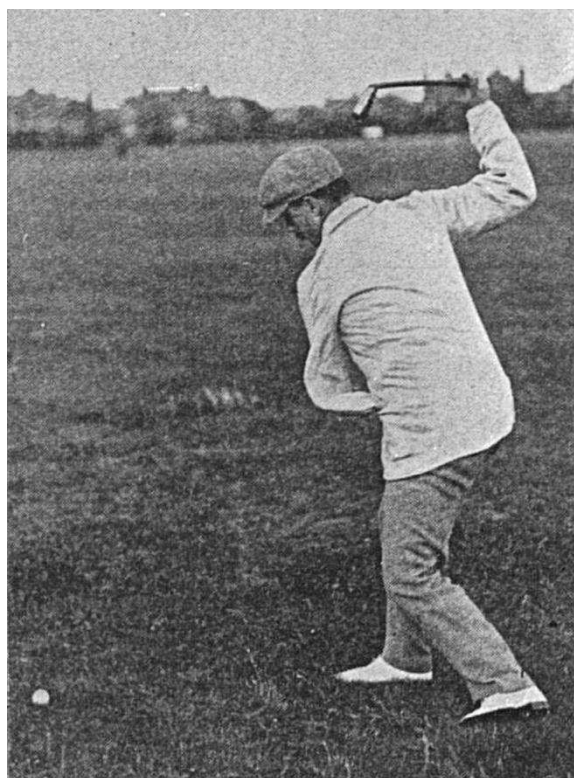
Le Figaro of 11 May 1908 announced '... the English applauded the idea put forward by James C. Parrish and Horace Hutchinson, the famous English amateur champion, offered to select the players from across the Channel. As for their travel and accommodation expenses, they were generously paid by Golf Club de Paris.

The 36-hole tournament was held on Thursday 25 June, two days before the French Open, with a prize money of 375 francs for the winner and 125 francs for the runner-up.

The report of the event appeared in *Le Figaro* on 29 June, 'A very interesting match of a new kind had been organised by ... to compare the skill of the one-armed player of La Boulie with the most famous one-armed golfers of England ... The Frenchman (*le golfeur manchot*) was easily victorious by 12 strokes over Scott the best player from across the Channel'.

Other British participants included John Haskins. The Englishman from Hoylake would travel to the USA at the end of August to compete against the American "one-armed" golfers. Several newspapers from across the Atlantic announced his arrival and a few lines were devoted to Yves Botcazou, the only one-armed player in Europe whom the Briton could not beat. At the meeting held at the Golf Club de Paris, Botcazou achieved a 36-hole score of 180 and Haskins a total of 199.

Like many golfers, the Englishman also had a touch of pride pointing out that his best score at Hoylake was 78.



John Haskins (The Sketch, 15 June 1910)

For your information, I'd like to point out that since 1971 there has been a Haskins Award in the USA. This award is given to the best college golfer in the USA. It is in memory of Fred Haskins, the younger brother of John Haskins. A pro golfer, Fred emigrated to the USA in the 1920s.

PLAYING HIS FIRST FRENCH OPEN

The birth certificate of his son Raymond, born on 15 February 1906, indicates that Yves worked as a day labourer. In May 1911, on the birth certificate of his other son Maurice, it is

mentioned that Yves Botcazou is a golf professional. It was after the departure of the Basque master, Arnaud Massy, that Botcazou was hired by Pierre Deschamps as an assistant teacher to Louis Tellier, who had himself become head professional by then.

In those days there were no examinations. The main professional training school was that of the caddies. Arnaud Massy, Club professional from 1905 to 1910, certainly gave some technical and playing advice to the most motivated caddies. Hard on himself and demanding of others, Botcazou's ambition and mental strength must have pleased him.



Botcazou, playing in the French Open, 1913

The day after the birth of his son Maurice, Yves participated in the 1st National Pro Championship at La Boulie. After the first day, his scores of 85 and 82 for a total of 167, did not allow him to be amongst the four players

qualified to play the 36 holes on the following day. For comparison, Arnaud Massy had two scores of 73. Louis Tellier was second with a total of 153, Eugène Lafitte was third with 155 and the last qualifier was Jean Gassiat with 157.

A few weeks later, Yves participated in his first French Open. It was in summery weather and the fairways were a little dry, so 32 players including the reigning champion James Braid, the British John H Taylor, Ted Ray... and Harry Vardon who had just won his 5th British Open, walked the course at La Boulie. Among the other French players were Arnaud Massy, Louis Tellier, Eugène Lafitte, Jean Gassiat and Gustave Golias, Tellier's second assistant. Three amateur players completed the field, Allen Macbeth, G.R. Mackay and John Mellor.

After recently losing the Open Championship play-off, Massy won his third French Open in style. He beat Ted Ray by 7 strokes with a total score of 284 strokes. A score over 4 rounds considered at the time by specialists as an unprecedented performance on the world's top golf courses.

Yves Botcazou was in my opinion very deserving, with a total score of 327 or an average of 82 per round, he finished in 30th place.

AT THE 1914 OPEN TOGETHER WITH MASSY

Yves travelled to the 1914 Open Championship at Prestwick accompanied by Arnaud Massy. But before the two friends went to North Berwick, the Biarritz of the North, where a preparation round took place at the North Berwick Golf-Club where Massy was well known as some years earlier he had been there for training with the famous Ben Sayers. It is a 72 for the Master and an 84 for the Versailles native. Ready for The Open, the two French pros continued on their journey to Prestwick.

Yves Botcazou's participation and performance did not escape the expert eye of Bernard Darwin. Author of numerous books on golf, the grandson of the famous naturalist Charles Darwin was also a correspondent for *Golf Illustrated* magazine.

He regretted that Yves Botcazou did not qualify for the final round. His score did improve in the second round, but his first round of 86 left him too far behind to make the final day.

'The length of his shots lacks the distance of his colleagues, but his shots are nevertheless remarkably well played,' wrote Bernard Darwin. He also observed that Yves had incredible approach and putting skills but that his pet peeve was the bad lie, especially in a bunker.

AT LA BOULIE DURING THE GREAT WAR

Following the departure of Louis Tellier, head professional of the "Golf de Paris", for the USA, Arnaud Massy was contacted by Pierre Deschamps to act as interim head teacher during springtime.

When war was declared on August 3rd 1914, Yves Botcazou was not mobilized. As a result, he found himself as head pro at La Boulie.

On 11 November 1918, the armistice was signed. Marius Cavallo, Gustave Golias, Raymond Gommier and René Golias are demobilized progressively, and they respectively found again their position of professional at the golf of La Boulie.

A BRILLIANT TOUR OF THE USA IN 1919



*Botcazou at La Boulie, c. 1920
(see also page 28. His son is wearing a pullover very similar – about the same year)*

With the title 'Botcazou the one-armed golfer', the magazine *La Vie au Grand Air* of

20 December 1919 recalls the brilliant American tour that the French pro lived through.

It all started in New Jersey, then continued to Massachusetts and ended in the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

Having embarked from Le Havre on 31 May aboard the liner *La Savoie*, Yves arrived in New York on 9 June where he was taken care of by his host, Mr Harvey D Gibson, President of the Liberty National Bank.

During the war, the banker was General Manager of the American Red Cross in Washington. A member of the War Committee of this organisation, he had been appointed Commissioner for France.

In June 1918, while in Paris, Lieutenant Colonel Harvey D Gibson had visited La Boulie. We do not know whether he came to play golf or to visit the No 83 Auxiliary Hospital based at the Golf Club de Paris. Established within the clubhouse by club president Pierre Deschamps, twenty beds had been put at the disposal of the Red Cross.

Moreover, the particularly cheerful site turned out to be very favourable for convalescences, and allowed war victims to rest and, at the same time, to enjoy the surroundings. To think that they could have been taught to play golf by Yves Botcazou is quite conceivable. The magazine, *La Vie au Grand Air* of June 20, 1920, reported that during the war Yves was very active at the golf course of La Boulie : ‘ ... he rendered the greatest services by his experience and his intelligence of the sport where he succeeded in becoming a good scratch player by dint of his energy and will, although he had only started to play golf at the age of twenty; his qualities as a player and professional struck visiting American amateurs who visited La Boulie during the war and consequently he was invited last year by one of them (to come to the USA).’

PLAYING IN THE USA WITH LOUIS TELLIER

On the programme, a series of exhibition matches against the American "one arm", Louis Martucci.

A 119-kilo colossus, caddie-master of the Essex County Club, he could drive almost 300 yards.

It was the same scenario every time they met. Faced with the giant, Yves Botcazou played his game, with science and strategy. Confident in the quality of his short game, he won his first match with two scores of 79.

During his stay, he met his friend Louis Tellier in Boston. Twenty years earlier, neither of them had ever heard of golf. It was astonishing how far golf had brought the two friends since their first day at Golf Club de Paris! Two former caddies who met in the USA to play together and win their match against a team made up of the American-Scottish Charles "Chay" Burgess and Jesse P Guilford.

Guilford is one of the best amateur players in Massachusetts and, well, the kind of player who hits the ball! Nicknamed "Siege Gun" for the quality of his long drives, he won the US Amateur in 1921. During his stay, Yves did not cease to amaze and won practically all his matches except two.

It is no coincidence that these are the players that Botcazou also met with Tellier. As soon as the United States entered the war, Louis Tellier and Chay Burgess and two brilliant students, Francis Ouimet and Jesse P Guilford, took part in exhibitions to raise money for the Red Cross. These funds, sent to Europe, were used mainly to buy ambulances.

MEMBER OF THE PGA FRANCE⁶

In October 1925, Yves Botcazou became a member of the newly formed Association of French Golf Professionals (*Association des Professeurs de Golf de France*). Now called PGA France, Louis Ghintran, pro at Compiègne, became the first president.

THE MASTER OF CHIPPING

An expert in chipping, Yves played a demonstration again in 1926, at the first Golf Show organised at Galeries Lafayette⁷. Under the direction of Jean Gassiat, Yves and other professionals took charge of introducing golf to the Parisian public during the week.

In order to liven up the days, games were set up, including a basket competition for the professionals. Yves won this mashie-shot competition.

⁶ Previously named APGF

⁷ See also Huguette Kazmierczak article, p. 10.

The magazine *Le Golf* n° 25 of 1st June 1926: 'The basket competition was followed with curiosity and interest by the numerous spectators surrounding the basket. M. Botcazou showed a marvellous precision which impressed the assistants: at the first try, he put 3 balls out of 6 into the basket.'

SCORING 79 AT THE 1926 FRENCH OPEN

In July, at the French Open held at Golf de Saint-Cloud, Yves shot a 79 in the third round. This is one of his best scores over 18 holes in a major international event. Finishing 35th at the end of the tournament also shows that at 45 years, his level of play corresponded more or less to that of the best French amateurs of the time.

Louis de Montgomery and Jacques Castel finished 23rd and 28th respectively while André Vagliano, double French champion and 1925 French International champion, retired on the afternoon of the first day after a score of 82 in the morning. As for André Gobert, who had been the finalist in the 1925 French International Amateur Championship, he finished in 36th place just behind Yves.

HIS LAST YEARS OF GOLF

Yves continued to play competitively until at least 1934. He took part in the American Country Club Championship in Ozoir-la-Ferrière, near Paris. There he met up again with his son Maurice (who was pro at Saint-Cloud), Aubrey Boomer, René Golias, Marcel Dallemagne ... but also Geneviève Le Derff, the first female pro in the world to have played in a tournament with her male counterparts.

He had met Geneviève for the first time in 1928, during the annual meeting of Fourqueux in which he had also played.

During the 1930s, he played the summer season in Vittel with his friend Gustave Golias, the regular pro. Some chipping competitions took place with Roger, Gustave's son. In admiration, the young Golias took the opportunity to observe the singular technique of the famous "manchot" ("one-armed").

Yves remained at La Boulie until the Second World War. During the war, the Paris-La Boulie golf course closed. Taken over in 1950 by the Racing Club de France, the course was restored and reopened in May 1952.

Retired from golf, Yves died in Péronne, in the Somme, on 18 November 1953, at the age of 72.

From his marriage with Amélie Françoise Gauglin in 1904, Yves Botcazou had two professional golfer sons. Raymond born in 1906 and Maurice in 1911. Both had started playing golf with their father at a very young age.

RAYMOND BOTCAZOU (1906-1926)

As a child, Raymond discovered golf thanks to his father. In 1920, during the French Open, The Englishman Abe Mitchell who came to play the tournament noticed him. So did the American Harry B Martin who came to Paris to cover the French Open. A draughtsman, writer and golf journalist, Harry B Martin was also one of the founding members of the USPGA. Raymond reminded him a lot of Bobby Jones at the age of 14.

MAURICE BOTCAZOU (1911-1989)



Maurice Botcazou and Marcel Philippon (c.1925)

Maurice began his apprenticeship as a professional in 1926, at the annual meeting in Fourqueux, as did Marcel Philippon, Firmin Cavallo Jr, Paul Gasch ... (three future tournament winners). Less brilliant than his brother Raymond, Maurice obtained good results during his career. This second son of Yves Botcazou was more devoted to the teaching at the golf club rather than to competitions.

Text originally published in French on <http://www.golfplanete.com> - Republished here by Philippe Palli with kind permission of Roland Machenaud – translation by C.M.

Ryder Cup Programmes (Part I: 1931 – 1937)

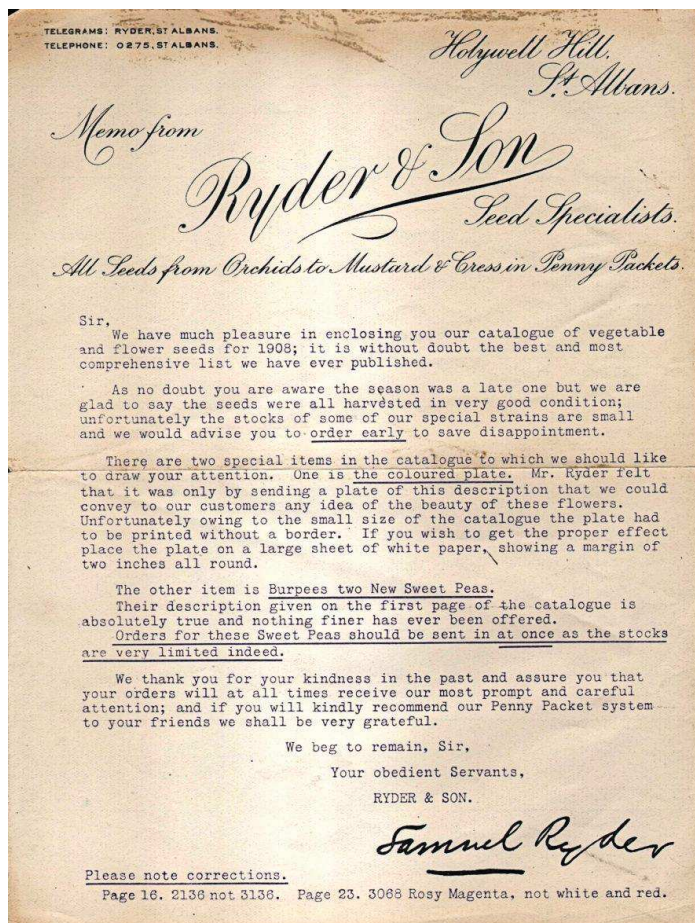
By Stéphan Filanovitch



Collecting golf memorabilia can be done in various ways. Some time ago, before ‘our’ Ryder Cup (in Paris) in 2018, I became interested in the programmes sold to spectators attending this biennial golf event.

Here are some articles from my modest collection which retrace a story around the Ryder Cup, based on the official souvenir programmes.

It all started with a first match between Great Britain and the United States held at Gleneagles, Scotland, in 1921. Five years later a second match was played in 1926, already under the impulsion of the Englishman Samuel Ryder (1858-1936) who was a wealthy seed merchant, businessman and golf enthusiast. Ryder had launched the idea of a regular match between the United States and Great Britain.



A match in 1926

In 1926, a match between Great Britain and the USA took place at Wentworth, England, on the course designed by Harry Colt in 1924.

The American team was heavily defeated.

As this match was not an official Ryder Cup match, it is often described as the ‘forgotten Ryder Cup match’.

Left: A letter signed by Samuel Ryder, 1908



The 1931 Match

There is an interesting anecdote concerning the Ryder Cup trophy. Abe Mitchell, a leading English professional player was a golf teacher and friend of Samuel Ryder. It is said he could be the golfer whose silhouette is the one engraved on the Ryder Cup trophy itself.

The first official edition of the Ryder Cup was held in June 1927.

I have not been able to find any trace of programmes for the matches in 1927 and 1929. The only items that can be found are the invitations and menu cards for the official dinners (see page 34). They can command 'Rydernomic' prices, and are not yet in my collection.

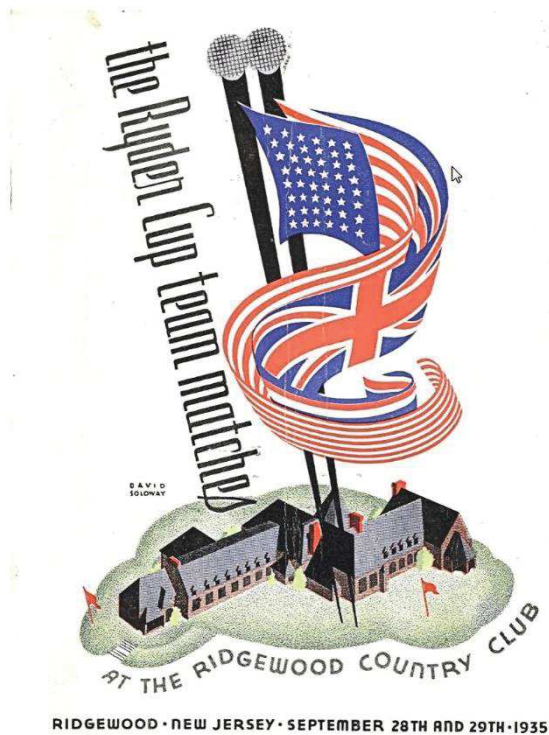
The earliest programme that I have managed to find is for the match which took place at Columbus, Ohio, USA, in 1931. The United States won 9 to 3.



The 1933 Match

In 1933, for the first time, Great Britain had a non-playing captain, the legendary J. H. Taylor. The match was played at Southport and Ainsdale in the renowned links golfing country on the Lancashire coast in the North West of England.

The home team won by 6.5 to 5.5.



The 1935 Match

In 1935 the match was played at Ridgewood, New Jersey, USA, and resulted in a handsome 9-3 victory for the USA, and yet another win for the host team.

Nobody knew at the time, but it would be 50 years before the Europeans, not just Great Britain, would win again.



The 1937 Match

In 1937 the match was held again at Southport and Ainsdale.

The away team, the USA, achieved the first 'away win' with a magnificent 8-4 victory. It was significant that Walter Hagen who had played in all the five previous Ryder Cup matches had become non-playing captain.

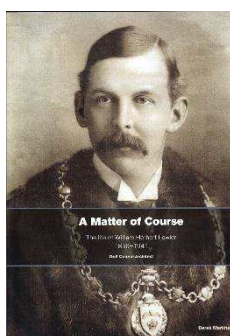
If in the meantime you get to know of the existence of the 1927 and 1929 programmes, please contact me: sfilano@yahoo.fr

Reading (and Tasting) the Greens



In this issue of *Golfika*, we are happy to present five stimulating new books. All five are written by members of the EAGHC. I am sure that you will want to read them all.

Also in this section, we have added a new forum which invites you to discover other pleasures linked to golf.



A Matter of Course
The life of William
Herbert Fowler
1856-1941
Golf Course Architect

Derek Markham

Markham & Truett, ed.
2021

The book begins with Fowler's life and the various stages of his career as a golf architect, including his principles and his working methods.

Fowler's first golf course design in 1902-1903 was Walton Heath close to London. It was such a success that it launched his golf architecture career.

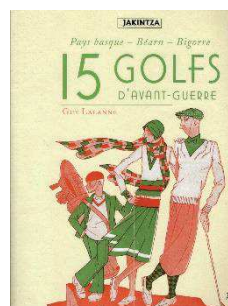
After the establishment of the Fowler & Simpson Partnership in 1913, Fowler concentrated on projects in UK and the USA and in general he left the projects on the European Continent to Simpson (20 years his junior), who was very successful.

Fowler was an active member of the R&A serving on several committees, including the Greens Committee. He was so influential that he even has a bunker on the Old Course named after him, 'Fowler's Bunker'.

Robin Bargmann reminded us (see page 4), and Georges Jeanneau explained, how golf was excluded from the 1908 Olympic Games. We learn that Fowler was implicated in this sad affair. In fact, while the R&A's opposition to this

project is well documented, it is less well-known that Herbert Fowler described the proposed tournament as being 'rot' and 'unnecessary'.

The book is beautifully produced and will be appreciated by those interested in the history of golf course architecture.



Pays basque – Béarn –
Bigorre 15 golfs
d'avant-guerre

Guy Lalanne

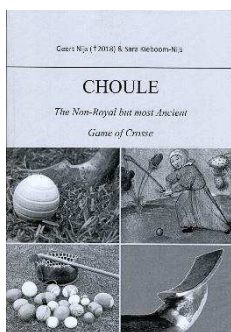
Jakintza éd., 2021

The South West of France is 'golf country'. Guy Lalanne gives us a precise and well researched history.

Pau (1856) and Biarritz (1881) are widely described in this book, as are all the others, such as Chantaco, Chiberta and La Nivelle. Defunct golf courses are also mentioned, such as 'Le golf des Anglais' at Saint-Jean-de-Luz, Argelès Gazost, Gavarnie, Hendaye etc.

To show just how much attention the author paid to this research, he included two lesser known small golf courses, Iduskian (1924) and Mendichka (1930).

For those interested in the history of golf in France this book is a 'must read'.



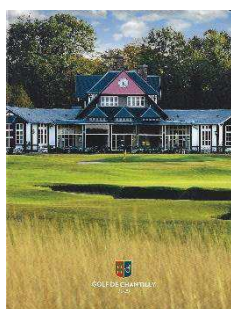
Choule – The Non-Royal but most Ancient Game of Crosse.

Geert Nijs († 2018) & Sara Kieboom-Nijs
2021

If the contents of this book are not entirely new, Sara pays tribute to her late husband Geert, with whom she co-authored several books on the origins of ‘golf-like games’.

This is mainly a revised and redesigned edition of a book published in 2008 by Geert and Sara which is not so easy to find nowadays.

See <https://ancientgolf.dse.nl> if you are interested in buying the book.



Golf de Chantilly 1909

Sébastien Brochu
Imp. Sublim-ID; 2021

Golf de Chantilly was inaugurated in 1909 with a match between the French golf legends Arnaud Massy and Jean Gassiat.

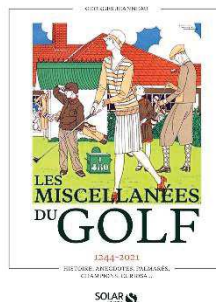
The course was designed in 1909 by the English champion J.H. Taylor. It was modified in 1920 by Simpson (see also the book on Fowler reviewed here).

Over the years Golf de Chantilly has hosted many national and international competitions, and continues to do so. The club has a well established tradition of supporting top level competitive amateur golf.

The book has many interesting illustrations, some of which are particularly rare. We must add

that this book is written both in French and in English – which will be appreciated by our international membership. Very recently issued, the book is exquisitely produced and is available direct from the club.

A special collectors limited edition (in a presentation box) is also available.



Les Miscellanées du Golf. 1244- 2021.

Georges Jeanneau
Solar éd., 2021

At the time of writing, the book is at the printer, and should be available by the time you receive this magazine.

We had the opportunity to have a limited preview of the book by reading the introduction only:

‘These memories are not vanity, they are neither a bible nor an encyclopaedia but a mosaic. You will find, of course, omissions, oversights and mistakes but also some preferences.

Above all, there are forty years of love for golf and its history.

These miscellanies are meant to be a bedside book for lovers of the little white ball. One of those books that you open with curiosity. Which you take in hand. Which you close... And to which one also likes to return.

Reading the book we learn some golf stories and of anecdotes which will allow us to enrich the conversations at the 19th hole.’





Chocolate Golf!

Jean-Patrice Paci, Nice, France

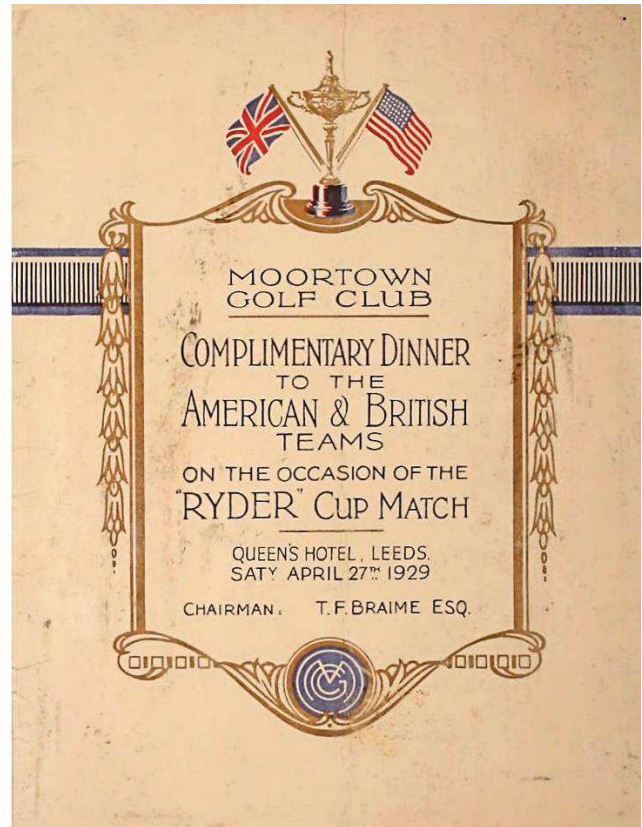
www.paci-chocolatier.com
contact@paci-chocolatier.com

We enjoy reading the greens ... But sometimes we are also 'tasting' (testing?) them.

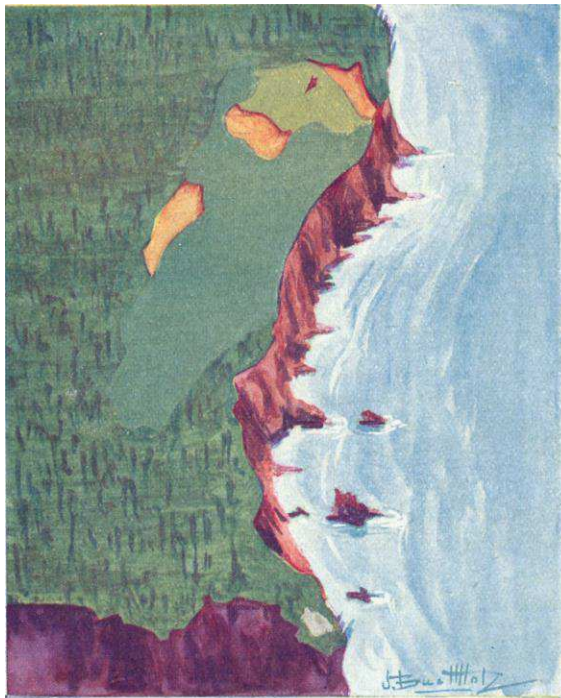
great wine featuring a reference to golf etc., please share your discoveries with our readers.

When we discovered these two compositions in the window of a *maître chocolatier* (master chocolate maker), in Nice, we had the idea of initiating this forum. We hope, it will continue with regular contributions. If you discover a golf club restaurant which is worth a visit: a bottle of

Here, in Nice, we could not resist buying and tasting the two chocolate compositions. We are sure that if you like chocolate (I mean 'real' artisanal chocolate, not the over-sugared industrial version), you will be overwhelmed by the delicate favour. Good tasting!



Two extremely rare 'Commemoratory Banquet' menus for the Ryder Cup 1927 and 1929



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