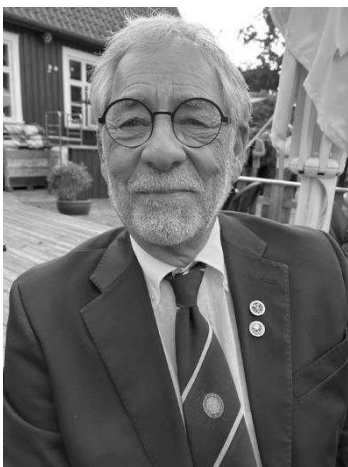


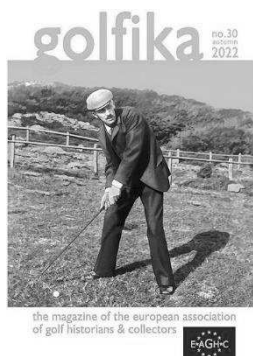


*A tribute to Czeslaw Kruk (†2022), a great friend of the EAGHC*



*And congratulations to Georg Kittel who has received The Golden Pin ("Guldmärket") from the Swedish Golf Federation for his valuable contributions as golf historian, and also to Leif Einarsson who received a Golden Loyalty Medal for having played the Swedish Hickory Championship no less than 20 times. The Hickory Championship 2022 was staged at Rya Golfklubb, between Helsingborg and Landskrona.*

# golfika



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The front cover of *Golfika* magazine N°30 shows an illustration by Viktor Cleve featuring Viktor H Setterberg, “the Father of Swedish Golf”, addressing a golf ball at the Hovås golf course outside Gothenburg, the home of Sweden’s oldest golf club, Göteborgs Golf Klubb, founded in 1902. 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*)



**L**ESS THAN ONE YEAR AGO, AFTER POUL-ERIK JENSEN, CZESLAW KRUK PASSED AWAY. It is difficult to lose a friend and much more painful to lose a brother. He was a true one for all those of our members who knew him. We pay him a heartfelt tribute by introducing this new issue of Golfika. An article is dedicated to him below.

Czeslaw helped us plan an AGM in Poland, but even after the second year of the pandemic, it seemed that the confidence had not yet returned. We had to cancel our planned AGM meeting in Brzezno. Sadly, Czeslaw will not see an EAGHC AGM held in Poland.



Czeslaw was undoubtedly sad to learn that our 2022 meeting could not be held in Brzezno. Nevertheless, he sent us his best wishes for a meeting in Sweden.

Of course, we wanted to avoid a third cancellation after the two previous ones in a row. After the pandemic, several airlines had staffing

problems, and it was not uncommon to face difficulties with air travel. As several connections were often necessary to join Brzezno, many members were hesitant to attend our AGM. The war in Ukraine added more hesitation. Only ten members had sent a positive response.

Due to legal obligations, organising either a Zoom meeting or trying another place for the AGM was necessary. Our Board member Leif Einarsson suggested holding the AGM in Sweden at Landskrona Golf Club. The main advantage was the ease of finding flights as Landskrona is only 40 km from Copenhagen airport, a central hub to reach all Nordic countries from any point in Europe.

Within a few days, Leif drafted a plan and organised various lectures, a visit to the new golf museum and a hickory event; as well as all the practical aspects, hotels, catering, and visits for those who did not wish to participate in the hickory competition.

This time, twenty persons informed us of their attendance. Still a small number compared to previous years, but we decided that we should go ahead with a AGM in Sweden with members actually physically present.

The pandemic has changed people's lifestyles. But we are sure we shall soon see again the enthusiasm for our previous meetings.

In this edition of our magazine we have an entire section on the Landskrona meeting. You will find it at the end of this issue.

Regarding the next AGM, we can already inform you that the Cannes-Mougins Golf Club (France) will welcome us next year. In 2023, the club will celebrate its centenary, and some great celebratory events will be organised. The club, which at its creation was called the *millionaires' golf club*, is still today one of the leading golf clubs on the French Riviera. It will be a pleasure and an honour for the EAGHC to hold its AGM there.

As we switched the AGM from Poland to Sweden, we tried to dedicate as much space in the magazine as possible on Swedish golf.

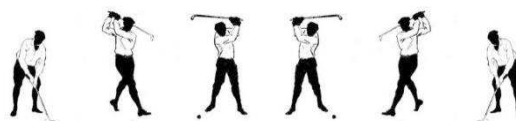
Even though he had other important commitments, Georg Kittel accepted to write a paper for this issue of *Golfika* magazine on *Early Golf in Sweden – The First Golf Clubs and Golf Courses*. This paper is a reworked version of some chapters of the book he wrote a few years ago, which we presented in *Golfika* magazine #23, the framework used for the lecture he gave us in Landskrona. This is the first version in English of such important work – a reference.

Historically, Finland was part of Sweden for an extended period. As next year we shall have our meeting held in Cannes-Mougins, we found it interesting to publish an article about France and Finland, more precisely between Cannes-Mougins GC and the first ever golf course in Finland, in Helsingfors

Distance as the crow flies between the south of Sweden and North of Germany is less than 100 km. So David Hamilton's paper should interest Swedish and German golfers ... if not all of us, passionate about the game's history.

We often ask elderly golfers where they learnt their golf. The answer is usually similar: on a part of the course where there was no one else. Immediately came another question: when did practices-ranges and driving-ranges start? The answer was not that simple. With the help of several golf historians, during a Zoom Literati meeting, we were able to make a step forward.

Before closing this introduction, I would like, once again, to ask you to send us articles for publication in this magazine. Often our members think that what they know is of minor interest! However, even the smallest anecdotes help us better understand golf's Great History. There is no need to think that your contribution must be long. A few lines are enough. There is always a place in this magazine to share our knowledge.



*The club-house of the Cannes-Mougins Golf Club – founded 1923 (see also p.22)*

## In Memoriam: Czeslaw Kruk

*By JBK on behalf of the Board*

ON FRIDAY JULY THE 29<sup>th</sup>, OUR FRIEND CZESLAW KRUK PASSED AWAY. Everyone who knew him will remember him as a generous, caring and passionate man. He loved golf and its history and had not missed a meeting since joining the EAGHC in 2013. His contribution to the history of Golf in Poland was exceptional, and he was the cornerstone of developing the Polish golf heritage. It's a real pity that he could not achieve his ambition to host us in Poland.

The same day, in the afternoon, I received a message from Christoph – the first informed – with a short Polish text “*Czesiu Kruk dzisiaj odszedł do Pana Boga*” – Czeslaw Kruk has rejoined the good Lord in heaven.

I immediately called Ina, Cheslaw's widow, and, on behalf of the Board and all EAGHC members, gave her our deepest condolences and told her how much we shared her sorrow.

Czeslaw and Ina lived happily in Edinburgh, and although they had lost much of their possessions – and part of Czeslaw's collection of golf clubs – in a fire, they had regained their *joie de vivre*. And we all agree with Leif Einarsson when he says that his humour will remain unforgettable.

David Hamilton met him during The Open at St Andrews and did not find him well. A few days before, he had warned us that he had to cancel his participation in the AGM. in Sweden as he had no strength in his legs. And he sent his best wishes to Leif.

On Sunday 24, only five days before he passed away, he sent me his last message : “Dear J.B. I dream of being in Warsaw in September for my Uni 100 anniversary and meeting old pals. Have a good AGM. in Sweden. Thank you for all in Polish Golfika golf 1675 according to this Miller. Kisses to Madam H.”

Sadly, I could not understand that it was a kind of farewell. His dream will not come true.



Czeslaw's Polish hickory friends have displayed a sculpture of him on the club wall and made T-shirts representing him.

*Requiescat in Pace Czeslaw*

In the following page, we reproduce a few photos of Czeslaw at different EAGHC meetings.



*Czeslaw Kruk, a central figure in St Andrews (2017)*



*During the AGM 2015 at Valescure. A great theatrical performance: David Kirkwood as an auctioneer and Czeslaw Kruk playing the role of his porter-assistant.*



*In Pau (2018)  
Above with Georg & Britta Kittel  
Below a (partial) group photo*

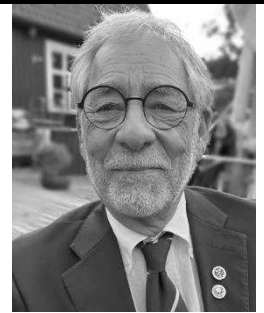


*At Valescure (2015). Above with Wilma van Rijn and Huguette K Below a group photo*



## Early Golf in Sweden The First Golf Clubs and Golf Courses

*By Georg Kittel*



**T**ODAY SWEDEN IS A FACTOR IN INTERNATIONAL GOLF. Since the mid 1980's players from Sweden have won more than 360 titles on the four leading professional golf tours, including 17 majors. Annika Sörenstam, Henrik Stenson and several others are household names in the world of golf. Sweden, with a population of 10.5 million, has more than 530,000 registered golf players, some 450 golf clubs and more than 600 golf courses.

How, when, and where did it all begin? It started with two enthusiasts. Two brothers. Here we briefly present the first 20 years of golf in Sweden when the first golf clubs and golf courses were established.

### Ryfors – 1888

The very first golf course in Sweden was laid out on the Sager estate at Ryfors near Mullsjö (west of Jönköping) in southern Sweden; a private course, opened for play in 1888.



*Edvard Sager driving off the 6th tee at Ryfors, 1907*

Robert and Edvard Sager were just young children when their father died in 1858. They inherited a significant fortune that included the

Ryfors iron mill and a large piece of land. After schooling and studies in Uppsala, Robert Sager (1850–1919) pursued a diplomatic career and Edvard Sager (1853–1939) a military career. Ryfors was primarily a summer and holiday residence for the brothers and their mother, while the operations of the mill were managed by a professional manager under Edvard's supervision.

The Sager brothers traveled extensively in Europe; in Britain they discovered golf. Most likely they were the first Swedes to take up the game seriously. The well-known English landscape architect Edward Milner and his son Henry Ernest Milner were hired by the brothers and commissioned to plan a grand nature park on the Ryfors estate. The encyclopedia *Nordisk Familjebok* later described the “English Park” at Ryfors as “*an attraction without equal in Sweden.*”

The park included a golf course that was ready for play in 1888. Originally with six holes the course was extended to nine holes in 1895. It then measured 1,701 yards. The length of the holes varied between 163 and 266 yards. The small greens were cut square and the holes were marked with cast iron flags.

This private golf course was used by the Sager brothers and their guests, often diplomatic friends from abroad. But Edvard's wife,

baroness Ida Sager, née Fock (1864–1914) was apparently the single most active golfer. She played almost daily during the family stays at Ryfors and noted in detail, on a large sheet of paper, all her scores in 1897–1899. That fascinating document was found in a “forgotten” archive folder at Ryfors in 2013, just in time for the 125-year jubilee.

Ryfors also had the very first tennis court in Sweden. It was established in 1879, just a few years after the first Wimbledon tournament. Crown Prince Gustaf (later King Gustaf V of Sweden) became a dedicated tennis player and was occasionally seen as a guest at Ryfors.

While Robert Sager’s interest in golf seemed to slowly diminish, Edvard Sager became a prominent figure in Swedish golf. He was a driving force when Stockholms Golfklubb was formed in 1904 and sat on the club’s committee for more than twenty years, in 1916–1925 as President. He was also a board member of the Swedish Golf Federation 1904–1927 and kept his own golf game alive well into his later years. In 1929, at the age of 76, he was listed as having a handicap of 24, and “*at the age of 80, he still played on the Stockholm courses and on his own beloved [private] course*”, his nephew Leo Sager later remembered.



*Ida Sager at Ryfors, 1903*

Ida Sager also played golf in Stockholm where the Sager couple had their permanent residence. She won the district championship for ladies in 1910 as well as the Stockholm Club championship in 1913 and she finished 2nd in the Scandinavian scratch competition in Copenhagen in 1912. She died in 1914, at only 50 years of age.

Once Edvard Sager stopped playing due to his great age, all maintenance of the Ryfors course

ceased and the traces of the greens and fairways slowly disappeared.

Since the late 1980’s there is now a modern 18-hole golf course and a proper club, Ryfors Golfklubb, on the old estate. Near the first tee, Ida Sager, quite possibly the first female golfer in Sweden, resides in the form a wooden statue.

### **Gothenburg Golf Club – 1891**

The first golf club in Sweden, Gothenburg Golf Club, was founded on April 15, 1891, initiated by Reverend Arthur Vandeleur Despard from England who had arrived in Gothenburg (*Göteborg* in Swedish) in 1890 as a 29-year-old pastor. He was priest at St. Andrew’s Church of the English congregation in Gothenburg.

The “Managing Committee” consisted of some leading industrialists of the city, all with a British background, and with Despard as Secretary. All protocols were written in English. In addition, there was an “Executive Committee” that would carry out the decisions made.

Election of new members was an issue for the Managing Committee. This was to be done by balloting with white and black balls; two black balls meant rejection. In the first year there were 24 club members. Ten of them signed up for permanent membership at SEK 100 and 14 paid an annual fee of SEK 20. But only a few of the members played golf. Pastor Despard himself was the most diligent one.

A 4-hole course, 900 meters long, was laid out (most probably by Despard himself) in an area at Sannegården/Sandvik on Hisingen, north of Gothenburg and the Göta river. The golfers went there most conveniently by boat. “*A quarter of an hour by steamer from the city to Sandvik*”, according to a notice in the *Golfing Annual* 1893–1894. A small pavilion was erected for storage of the members’ golf equipment. Long-distance guests were welcome as well: “*Members of any recognised golf club are allowed to play free of charge, and to compete for any event at the same handicap which they receive in England*”, the club announced.

Fairly soon, however, Reverend Despard began to despair. Neither the church congregation nor the golf club developed as positively as he had hoped. He thus wished to terminate his service



and return to Britain. Consequently, the golf club was liquidated in good order after a meeting on January 13, 1894, with only three Committee members present: Reverend Despard, Mr. Oscar Dickson (President) and Mr. James Keiller Sr. Each permanent member got a repayment of SEK 66.87 of his deposit.

Gothenburg Golf Club was a short-lived story, but still an important chapter in Swedish golf history. Some golf seeds had been sown. Soon they would start sprouting in different places around Gothenburg.



*Idyllic golf at Arendal near Gothenburg in the 1890's*

#### **Arendal – 1894**

In the 1870s, well-to-do families in Gothenburg started building summer villas at Arendal on the southwest side of Hisingen, where a small seaside resort emerged. One of the first settlers was Gustav Reinhold Setterberg, a salt merchant. His son Viktor Hugo Setterberg, born in 1859, quickly became a key figure in the social life at Arendal. Setterberg organised all kinds of games, such as tennis, water polo and sailing, but also musical entertainment; he played the lute and sang carols.

Inspired by the players at Gothenburg Golf Club (located some 10 km east), Viktor Hugo Setterberg laid out a golf course between the rock outcrops in Arendal in 1894. Quite a simple natural course on meadow land, but it served its purpose and was appreciated by his friends, men, and women alike. Old photographs suggest that the Arendal golfers experienced an idyllic togetherness on the course. Tor Törnsten was one of those relaxed summer golfers. Eventually, he would, just like Setterberg, take on a leading role in Göteborgs Golf Klubb and the Swedish Golf Federation.

Originally, the Arlanda course had 18 holes and measured 1,692 meters but was soon reduced to 9 holes measuring 997 meters; fewer but somewhat longer holes. A club was founded, “Arendals Idrotts Klubb”, the purpose of which was “*to provide an opportunity for summer guests at Arendal near Gothenburg to practice useful and enjoyable sports*”. In other words, an early version of a “country club” concept. Golf was not specifically mentioned but soon it became the main sports activity of the club.

Quite possibly, golf at Arendal faded away after the 1903 season. The last preserved record concerns *Arendal Amateur Championship* on August 23, 1903. As from 1904 Viktor H Setterberg’s attention was all on a new golf course at Hovås and on his function as Secretary of Göteborgs Golf Klubb and the Swedish Golf Federation.

Many years ago, the area of the former Arendal golf course was transformed into a huge industrial site for large companies, a Volvo automobile factory being one of them. As a reminiscent of its idyllic past, a road through the area is called *Viktor Setterbergs Väg*.

## Särö Golfklubb – 1899

The defunct Gothenburg Golf Club had two members named James Keiller. The elder (1836–1918) was on the Managing Committee but probably never played golf himself. His son, however, James Keiller Jr (1867–1962), may very well have tried the game on Gothenburg Golf Club's 4-hole course at Sannegården.

In 1895 James Keiller Jr travelled to Scotland with a growing interest in golf. He visited St Andrews where the New Course had just been opened, and from Edinburgh he brought home 7–8 sets of golf clubs for himself, his family, and some friends. They started playing leisurely on the Keiller property on Vallda Sandö south of Gothenburg.



*James Keiller Jr and his wife Alice playing golf at Vallda Sandö, 1900*

After a few years, the game became more organised. Keiller laid out, or had laid out, a 5-hole golf course and he founded Särö Golfklubb. At the start in 1899, the club had 23 members, each paying an annual fee of SEK 2 (compared to SEK 20 at the former Gothenburg Golf Club). The following year the membership increased to 28 persons.

In those days Särö was a fashionable seaside resort with royal splendor. Every year, King Oscar II and his entourage visited Särö. In an advertising booklet published in 1901 for "Särö Climatic Spa and Seaside Resort" it was claimed that "*Lawn tennis and golf are played extensively, and several excellent courts and courses are available for this.*"

Sadly, however, the low-lying golf course was hit by a severe flood that very winter, in 1901. The course was badly damaged and was lost. The golfers lost also their spirit, and all club activity seemed to stop right away. Finally, in late 1908,

James Keiller Jr donated the balance of SEK 29 from the closed Särö club to nearby Göteborgs Golf Klubb. The donation was gratefully noted in a protocol from a GGK committee meeting on January 11, 1909.

Keiller and some of his Särö friends continued playing golf as members of Göteborgs Golf Klubb at Hovås. In its membership list of 1920, at least four names from the former Särö Golfklubb can be found.

In 1981, a new club was founded with the name Särö Golf Club.

## Göteborgs Golf Klubb – 1902

While the two first golf clubs in the Gothenburg area were short-lived, the third one has been considerably more long-lived. It still flourishes today and is thus the oldest golf club in Sweden: Göteborgs Golf Klubb, founded in 1902.

As mentioned already, in 1894 Viktor Hugo Setterberg began playing golf at Arendal, a course that he had laid out himself. Most likely he got his first inspiration by observing Reverend Despard and other golf players at Gothenburg Golf Club. Soon he started ordering golf literature from Britain, studying all aspects of the game. Quickly he became an "expert".

Golf at Arendal was merely a summer game. Setterberg had higher ambitions. In 1901 he managed to lease the same land that the former Gothenburg Golf Club had used in the early 1890's, at Sannegården/Sandvik near a large sand pit. It was closer to the city and allowed a longer golf season. Setterberg laid out a 6-hole course measuring 858 meters. "*Holes 1, 2 and 3 are marked with white flags; holes 4, 5 and 6 with red*", according to Setterberg's comment on a course sketch. The golfers from Arendal now started playing there.

In early 1902, Viktor H Setterberg and Tor Törnsten initiated the formation of a formal club under the somewhat cumbersome name "Göteborgs Idrotts-Förbunds Golf-Afdelning" (the Gothenburg Sports Association's Golf Department), in 1909 changed to "Göteborgs Golf Klubb", with Setterberg as Honorary Secretary (1902–1914) and Törnsten as President (1907–1917).



*The first Göteborg course, at Sandvik. Theodor Åkermark, the player in the middle, was Club President 1902–1903 and winner of the first Swedish Golf Championship in 1904*

The new club took over the responsibility for the golf course which was soon extended to 1,332 meters. On the layout sketch Setterberg wrote: *“The greatest pleasure that a sport can give is when, after a successful drive in golf, the ball is sent on a journey of 180 meters. – Golf brothers! Let us never grow old; that is merely a bad, lazy habit produced by city life. Where there are golf courses, no one needs to grow old!”* Viktor H Setterberg clearly had a passion for the game.



*Driving off the 1st tee at Hovås, c. 1904. The oldest golf hole in Sweden still in existence.*

As the expanding city of Gothenburg needed more land the young golf club was soon forced to move. An ideal area was found at Hovås, south of Gothenburg, easily reachable by train from the city. There, Viktor H Setterberg laid out a 6-hole course for the club in 1904. Hovås is thus the oldest golf course in Sweden, still in existence. In that same year, 1904, the Swedish Golf Federation was formed with headquarters in Gothenburg and with Tor Törnsten as President 1904–1927 and Viktor H Setterberg as Secretary 1904–1914. A very active period began with Gothenburg/Hovås as the obvious hub of Swedish golf and with Setterberg as its tireless

ambassador in his dual secretarial roles. He has later been called “The Father of Swedish Golf”. He wrote about 40,000 pages on golf in his lifetime.

In the years 1904–1912, all Swedish golf championships were staged at Hovås, five times with Tor Törnsten as winner and four times with Setterberg as runner-up. Soon, a new generation of younger players emerged at Hovås, led by young Erik Runfelt. During the period 1911–1938, he won 23 Swedish and Scandinavian championship titles and was runner-up 10 times. He was also the first Swede to enter The (British) Amateur Championship, in 1914, under the name of Erik Andersson.



*Tor Törnsten & Viktor H Setterberg, c. 1906*

In 1911, George Roberts arrived from Liverpool and became the club’s first professional. He won the first pro tournament at Hovås in 1916 when all the four Scandinavian professionals participated: also his younger brother Edwin “Ted” Roberts (Stockholm), William Hester (Falsterbo) and Robert Turnbull (Copenhagen).

The golf course was expanded stagewise, from six to nine holes in 1908, to 12 holes in the 1920’s, and to 18 holes in 1933. Club member Andrew Person, architect by profession, made the 18-hole layout.

## Christinelund 1902

An early volume of the encyclopedia *Nordisk Familjebok*, published in the spring of 1905, stated under the keywords “Ball sports/Golf”: “*Nowadays there are golf courses near Stockholm and Gothenburg (Hovås) as well as at some larger manor seats in Skåne and Västergötland.*” The latter most certainly referred to the estates Christinelund in Skåne and Ryfors in Västergötland.



*Ebba Wachtmeister at Christinelund, c. in 1902*

Count Carl Wachtmeister af Johannishus and his wife Ebba resided at Christinelund, an estate on the Öresund coast north of Helsingborg. They played golf on the links, just below their own manor. It was laid out in June 1902 by Charles R. Jensen from Denmark, the first golf professional in Scandinavia; he was hired by Copenhagen Golf Club already in 1898. An old photo shows Ebba Wachtmeister putting on one of the greens with the sea in the background. According to a handwritten comment by a granddaughter in 1964, the picture was taken in 1898; obviously she was wrong by a few years.

In June 1905, Prince Gustaf Adolf (later King Gustav VI Adolf) brought home a young wife from England, Princess Margareta, a daughter of Prince Arthur, the Duke of Connaught, and a

granddaughter of Queen Victoria. As wedding gift from Oscar II, the king of Sweden, and his wife Queen Sofia, the newlywed couple received a summer castle, Sofiero, north of Helsingborg. The princess had been playing golf with her family in England and Ireland since she was a young girl and now expressed delight over “the golf course nearby by the sea” when she and her husband arrived at Sofiero for their first summer.

The local newspapers in Helsingborg wrote daily reports on the whereabouts of the young couple. Frequently they socialised with the Wachtmeisters nearby and “*played golf at the beach*” at Christinelund, i.e. on the private golf course that had been laid out a few years earlier.

Pictures were also taken that summer of the young royals with golf clubs in their hands and published in some leading Stockholm magazines and papers. This sparked curiosity about the new game amongst high society in Stockholm...

The Crown Prince and Crown Princess (as of King Oscar’s death in 1907) returned to Sofiero every summer with their growing family. Eventually they had five children. Golf was a popular pastime for the royal couple, especially for Margareta, “the Golf Princess”. She enjoyed playing golf those summers on the private Wachtmeister course. Tragically, she died in 1920, at the young age of 38. Her friend Ebba Wachtmeister had passed away some years earlier.

No more golf was played at Christinelund. The course disappeared into oblivion.

## Stockholms Golfklubb 1904

In the 1890’s, a tiny group of enthusiasts could be spotted on Ladugårdsgårde (a military training ground in Stockholm) playing golf under simple conditions. Cosswa Anckarsvärd (a diplomat), Erland af Kleen (a military officer) and August Abrahamsson were The Three Pioneers. Later they were joined by Edvard Sager and his wife Ida, already keen golfers from their own private course at Ryfors.

In early 1904, they all agreed that Stockholm needed a proper golf club to spark an interest in the game. Several potential members were contacted, including foreign diplomats and Colonel Viktor Balck, “the Father of Swedish Sports”, who later would be the driving force

behind bringing the Olympic Games to Stockholm in 1912. Stockholms Golfklubb was formally established on May 27, 1904, with Viktor Balck as President and Erland af Kleen as Honorary Secretary. Edvard Sager was also elected to the committee.

It was agreed to immediately lay out a golf course on a well-suited cavalry training ground belonging to Fältrittklubben, not far from the provisional course at Fågelbacken on Ladugårdsgårde. The new course was completed in 1905, initially with seven holes, later nine. Crown Prince Gustaf Adolf, President of the golf club in 1906–1916, donated a wooden shed for the members to store their equipment. Fairly soon, however, the course turned out to have weaknesses.

In 1912, therefore, Stockholms GK moved to a new course in Råsunda, designed by George Roberts from Göteborgs GK. The move meant a significantly better golf course and a more spacious clubhouse. In 1914 his younger brother Edwin “Ted” Roberts arrived at the club and stayed on as club professional for 64 years. A world record?

The Swedish golf championship was held several times at Råsunda in the years 1914–1924. Crown Princess Margareta finished runner-up among the ladies in 1914. But it was not until the 1930’s that a Stockholm-raised player won a Swedish championship. All previous champions came from Hovås or Falsterbo or from abroad. In Stockholm, golf was primarily played by middle-aged, well-to-do gentlemen and ladies, which may have contributed to golf’s early reputation as an “Old man’s sport”.

When also Råsunda proved to have shortcomings, Stockholms GK decided to move once more. They settled down on Lidingö where 9 holes were opened in 1926 and 18 holes in 1927 – the first 18-hole course in Sweden – before making a final (?) move to Kevinge in 1932.

No less than twelve design proposals from different golf architects were evaluated before the club committee was ready to decide. The result: a “creative mix” with John Morrison from Colt, Alison & Morrison and club member Rafael Sundblom as main contributors.

Finally, Crown Prince Gustaf Adolf and the Prince of Wales hit the opening drives on the

new 18-hole course at Kevinge, October 7, 1932. Stockholms Golfklubb has thus celebrated its 90th anniversary at Kevinge this year.



*The Råsunda course with prominent members Gustaf von Platen and Henry Lindberg on the 2nd tee. Early 1920’s.*

### **Karlskrona Golfklubb 1906**

In his days as Secretary of the Swedish Golf Federation, Viktor H Setterberg was an early PR (public relations) genius. His intensive golf publicity sparked curiosity among young officers from many regiments in Sweden. The only place, however, where this resulted in a formal golf club was Karlskrona, an important naval port in southern Sweden.



*Karlskrona with Viktor H Setterberg demonstrating golf in front of the photographer, 1906.*

Karlskrona Golfklubb was founded in October 1906 with the help of Setterberg, who also laid out a 6-hole course on Wämö just outside Karlskrona’s city limits. In the following years, the course was expanded to nine holes. The club became member N°3 of the Swedish Golf Federation.

The majority of the club members, some 20 of them, were naval officers. One was Henry Lindberg, who quickly became a dedicated golfer and later one of the leading figures in Swedish golf. He was President of Stockholms Golfklubb 1925–1937 and the Swedish Golf Federation 1932–1938.

Towards the end of World War I, food rationing and almost famine struck Sweden. On April 29, 1917, six thousand Karlskrona residents, including soldiers with rifles with fixed bayonets, marched up to the main square and demanded “More food!”. The city’s rulers were pressured and promised that all available land would be cultivated. As a result, the golf greens on Wämö, once painstakingly laid out, were plowed up into potato fields. All golfing ceased and club life came to a standstill. No more golf was being played in Karlskrona until a new club emerged in the 1950’s.

### **Falsterbo Golfklubb 1909**

A young Malmö businessman, Erik Schweder Jr, often went to England on business trips. He was also a great sports enthusiast. He tried various sports, and became particularly fond of golf. In 1908, he raised the idea of starting a golf club in his hometown Malmö. Several locations around the city were reviewed, but none of them were found to be suitable for a golf course.

In the spring of 1909, Schweder and a friend took the train to Falsterbo, 30 km south of Malmö. They liked what they saw, and a plan was put into action.

At a meeting at Hotel Kramer in Malmö on October 21, 1909, Falsterbo Golfklubb was formed, with Erik Schweder as Honorary Secretary. A local newspaper informed its readers that “*the game of golf resembles a game of billiards in the open air*”. Within a few weeks, 48 persons had signed up for membership.

In January 1910, nine holes laid out by Schweder, were ready for winter play, and some competitions were held already in the Spring. Only a few members had played golf before, Miss Viveka Rosencrantz being one of them. Like Schweder, she had learned the game in

England. A few years later, she was a three-time Swedish champion.

The first golf course in Falsterbo lasted only one season. Already in 1911, the club moved down to the sandy linksland surrounding Falsterbo lighthouse, on the southern tip of the Falsterbo Peninsula, where the Öresund and the Baltic Sea meet. Scotsman Robert Turnbull, professional at Copenhagen Golf Club, laid out a 9-hole course. Ever since, Falsterbo has had a prominent role in Swedish golf.

In the Autumn of 1911, Sweden’s first 72-hole competition was played at Falsterbo. It was won by young Carl Rydbeck, a promising sprinter with Olympic ambitions but a beginner in the game of golf. The following year he became the first scratch player in Sweden.

In August 1912, William Hester arrived from Liverpool as a newly employed professional and settled in Falsterbo where he remained for the rest of his life. Hester had a key role in the development of golf in Sweden. Many of his young local caddies were hired as club professionals when the game started growing throughout the country.

Several talented players emerged in Falsterbo. In the years 1904-1914, almost all Swedish championships were won by players from Hovås, but the following years, 1915–1924, Falsterbo took eight of the ten titles through Carl Rydbeck, Hans Beck-Friis and Gunnar Edstrand.

Sweden’s first golf international match was held at Falsterbo in 1914, Sweden vs. Germany, as part of the Baltic Games. Three of the five players on the winning Swedish team were from Falsterbo. That same year a new club house was completed.

In the 1930’s Falsterbo hosted several international tournaments – 18 holes were opened in Spring 1930 (design Gunnar Bauer) – that attracted players from Britain and other countries.

Ever since, Falsterbo has built a reputation for having a links course of very high international standard. It has been regularly ranked among the top golf courses in Europe.



*Falsterbo, the 9th green (today the 7th) in front of the new club house, 1914*

to do with Viktor H Setterberg? In 1914 he resigned from his two secretarial roles after a dispute about a local rule on his home course Hovås. Although Setterberg continued writing letters and memos about golf, he no longer could do it with the same inspirational authority and effectiveness as during his years as dual Secretary. By 1923 – thirty-five years after the start at Ryfors – the number of golf players in Sweden had grown to about 400.



After the establishment of Falsterbo GK in 1909, when there were about 150 golf players in Sweden, a long period of low activity followed. Not a single new golf club was formed in the following fourteen years. A similar pattern was seen in other countries due to the Great War. Perhaps, to some degree, in Sweden, it also had

*This paper is basically a condensed and reworked version of some chapters of the book “När golfen var ung – Sveriges första golfklubbar och banor” from 2018, where the 60 first golf clubs and the 50 first golf courses in Sweden were presented chronologically. But it also includes some new facts that emerged during the EAGHC meeting in Sweden on September 9, 2022.*



### ***The Royal and Ancient Game – Swedish style***

*Shortly after their wedding in 1905, the young royals, Prince Gustaf Adolf (later king of Sweden) and Princess Margareta, demonstrated their interest in the ancient game. These pictures were published in the Christmas edition 1905 of the weekly sports magazine “Ny Tidning för Idrott”. The man in a dark suit is Prince Arthur, Margareta’s brother.*

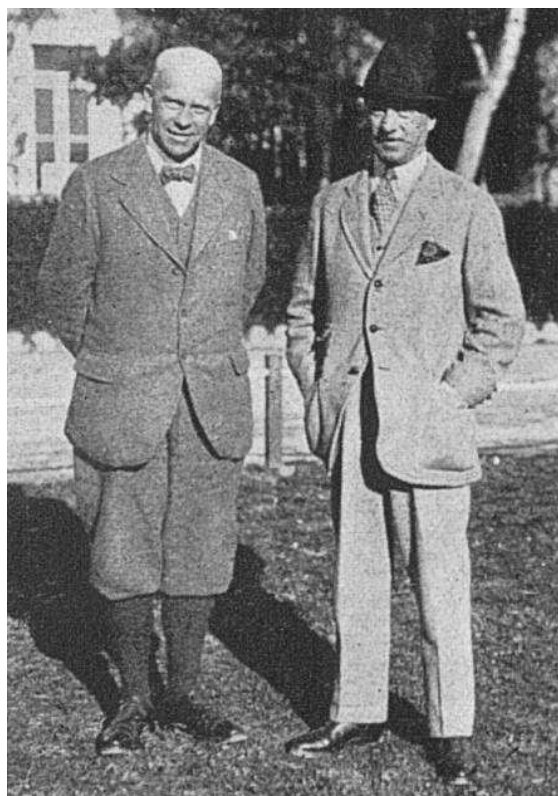
## Who are Barons C. and C.A.F. Ramsay? From Cannes-Mougins to Helsingfors

By JBK (*Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak*)



WHEN SEARCHING BIOGRAPHIES OF THE FOUNDERS OF THE CANNES-MOUGINS GOLF CLUB, we were puzzled by one of them: Baron C. Ramsay. It was difficult to find any valuable and indisputable information. A paradigm change was the solution. Instead of continuing to search the genealogy of Scottish families, we decided to find collectors' items relating to the Ramsays. Here is the result of this search. Many thanks to Mika Hjorth who has helped us significantly

### Founders of the Mougins Golf Club



*A photograph of T.K. Ashton (left), the Hon. Sec. of the Cannes Mandelieu GC and Baron Ramsay (Bystander 14 December 1921)*

In a future issue of *Golfika Magazine*, we shall dedicate an article on the history of the Cannes Mougins Golf and Country Club. In the archives

of the club, we were able to access the minutes of the meetings of its foundation.

The club was founded in 1923 by an initial small group of friends – all members of the “old” Cannes Mandelieu G.C. (1891). Among the founders, we could see many well-known names. But one of them was unfamiliar to us: Baron C. Ramsay.

He is still listed as a founding member in a Member's Directory, dated 1937 (see below).

- F Ramsay, Baron C.,  
Le Paradis Terrestre, Cannes.
  - Ramsay, Baron C. A. F.,  
Le Paradis Terrestre, Cannes.
  - Reid, Mrs. W. M.,  
105, West 8th Street, Kansas City, Missouri.
  - F Reinhart, Gustave,  
Le Beau Verger, Californie, Cannes.
  - F Reinhart, Madame Gustave,  
Le Beau Verger, Californie, Cannes.
- (F) Signifies Founder Member.

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Note that a Baron C.A.F. Ramsay is also listed as a regular member. He is certainly a relative of Baron C. Ramsay as their addresses are the same.



Searching in the local newspapers, Baron C. Ramsay is very often reported in lists of personalities attending social events. In the early years of the century, he could be seen in the company of Russian aristocrats such as Grand Duke Michael of Russia and his wife, Countess Torby, and the Grand Duke Cyril<sup>1</sup>, who was a diplomat in St Petersburg<sup>2</sup>.

Baron C. Ramsay was born in 1847 and married in 1903 an American lady from Chicago, born Frances Whitehouse. They had one son (most probably C.A.F., as we shall see later) and one daughter, Veronika. In November 1937, she was engaged to Count Carl Armfelt from the Finnish diplomatic services.

The baroness Ramsay died suddenly in February 1936 after heart failure following pneumonia; her husband passed away in November 1939.

Note that Captain Edward Whitehouse, the father of Frances, died in October 1904, in Varenna, Lake Como and was buried in St Moritz (where his wife was buried).

We were also able to establish that Baron and Baroness Ramsay were living in Cannes, *Villa Esterel*, until 1927., when they moved to *Villa Paradis Terrestre*, Cannes, which they had recently acquired.

### **The Ramsay Family**

When searching more on the Ramsay family, we found very extensive information<sup>3</sup> which we summarise as follows.

The story starts in 1066 when a German pirate – an old Ramsay relative – followed William the Conqueror to England and later to Scotland. Two hundred years later William Ramsay joined forces with King Robert the Bruce to defeat Edward II of England. He was the signatory to the Declaration of Arbroath, where Scottish Barons appealed to the Pope against the oppression of the English.

After extended services to the Scottish crown, Sir George Ramsay received the title of Lord

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<sup>1</sup> Grand duke Cyrille (or Kirill) was also a founding member of Cannes Mougins.

<sup>2</sup> To better illustrate his position, we can report a short info given by “*Le journal des étrangers*” (Cannes, 31 March 1933): “On the 22nd, the H.M.

Ramsay which was later raised to the Earl of Dalhousie which is the beginning of a long family history in Scotland.

### **A secondary branch in Finland**

This is not the place to develop more on Ramsay’s origins. Nevertheless, we must report that in the 16th and 17th centuries, during several wars between Sweden and Denmark, foreign troops were recruited to reinforce the Swedish army. In the summer of 1573, at least 3,000 Scottish soldiers disembarked at Gothenburg. Among them were Alexander Ramsay and his son John Ramsay.

In 1576, Alexander Ramsay died in Livonia (a region that includes the north of present-day Latvia and the south of Estonia). The following year, his son moved to Finland. In 1611, The family bought a property in Somero: the Finnish branch of Ramsay was born.

### **A reunion**

The two branches of the ramsey family developed quite independently.

In the mid-19th century, Sir William Ramsay – from the Scottish branch – born in Glasgow and educated in Glasgow and Tübingen, was a Scottish chemist renowned for his work on separating elemental gases from the air. His contribution to nuclear physics is also significant. In 1904, he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry.

When he came to Stockholm to collect his Nobel Prize, he walked through the city’s streets and stopped in front of a bookshop window, where he discovered a book written by a homonym: Anders Ramsay. Surprised by this coincidence, he contacted the author and finally rediscovered the other Ramsay family branch.

### **Searching collectibles related to Ramsay**

Was “our” Baron C. Ramsay from the Scottish branch or the Finnish one? Long research on

*King of Sweden was the guest of Baron and Baroness Ramsay, at the Cannes Country Club”*

<sup>3</sup> See:

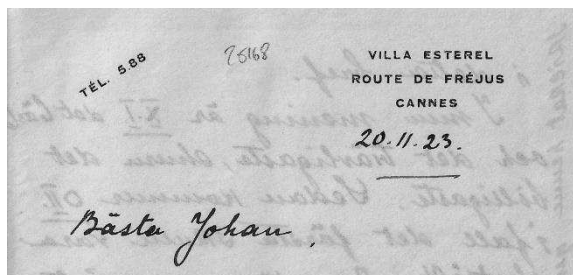
<https://www.electricscotland.com/webclans/ntor/ramsay3.html>

parentage in Scotland led us to a dead end. So we had to turn to Finland.

Not being familiar with Finnish nor Swedish language, we decided to change our minds and browse websites dedicated to the collection, looking for Ramsay-related items. After a few months, we found an envelope sent in 1923 to Baron Johan Ramsay, Tali Gard, Helsingfors, Finland.



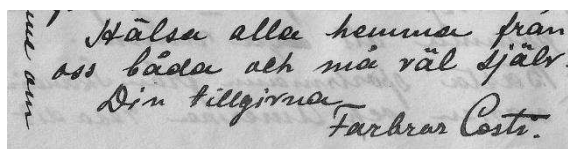
A letter, dated November 1923, was included in the envelope, but unfortunately the text was not related to the game of golf<sup>4</sup>. Still, it was interesting to notice that it was written on paper with the lettering of the *Villa Esterel*, in Cannes, where we knew Baron Ramsay lived until 1927 (see above)



The connection between Baron Ramsay and Helsingfors (Finland) was clearly established. Nevertheless, at this stage, we had no idea of the first name (even not the initial: C, of the C.A.F. or any other)?

A first hint was given by the signature of the letter: *Farbras Costi* : uncle Costi. The “C” could have been Costi?

<sup>4</sup> The only reference to sport is ““In the end of January we plan to travel to Chamonix, up in the mountains where the VII Olympic games will take



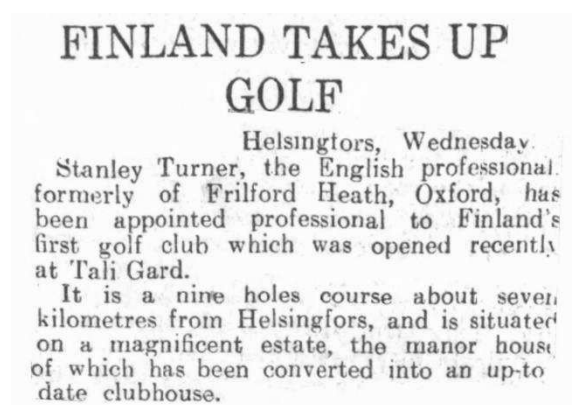
Note that the link, between Ramsay and Finland highlights Ramsay’s relationship with Russia: after being Swedish until 1809, Finland was then under Russian sovereignty until 1917.

### Golfing connection

It was then much easier to learn more about the Ramsey Finnish family. Instead of searching “golf” and “Ramsay”, we switched the last name into “Helsingfors”. We found a short notice in the *Dundee Evening Telegraph*, dated 12 October 1932, where we could read:

*Stanley Turner, the English professional, formerly of Frilford Heath, Oxford, has been appointed to Finland’s first golf club which was opened recently at Tali Gard.*

*It is a nine holes course about seven kilometres from Helsingfors, and is situated on a magnificent estate, the manor house of which has been converted into an up-to-date clubhouse.*



We must add that the Ramsey family possessed the Tali manor at Helsingfors.

### A conclusion

If it was probable that Baron C. Ramsay was “Costi” Ramsay. But what about C.A.F Ramsay?

place”. Interesting when we remember that the Olympic Games were planned to be in Finland, at Helsingfors (Helsinki) in 1940.

Mika Hjorth, with whom we communicated (and who helped us translate the letter), provided us with a strong hypothesis:

*“One of the relatives – not clear about the relations – “Tino” Ramsay was a keen golfer [...] I found a photograph of Tino Ramsay, Baron Constantin Ramsay, (C. Ramsay). This might also be “Consti”, who signed the letter.*

This hypothesis can be confirmed two ways.

First, there is a clear resemblance when comparing the picture of Baron C. Ramsay, reprinted in the *Bystander* and a photograph provided by Mika Hjorth of “Tino” Ramsay.

Second, by searching now “Constantin Ramsay” we found the final proof. *The Burlington Hawk Eye*, 23 april 1903, wrote: *“The engagement is announced between Frances eldest daughter of Fitzhugh Whitehouse, formerly of Chicago, and Baron Constantin Ramsay, a [chamberlain] of the czar.”* (see page 18). The marriage was

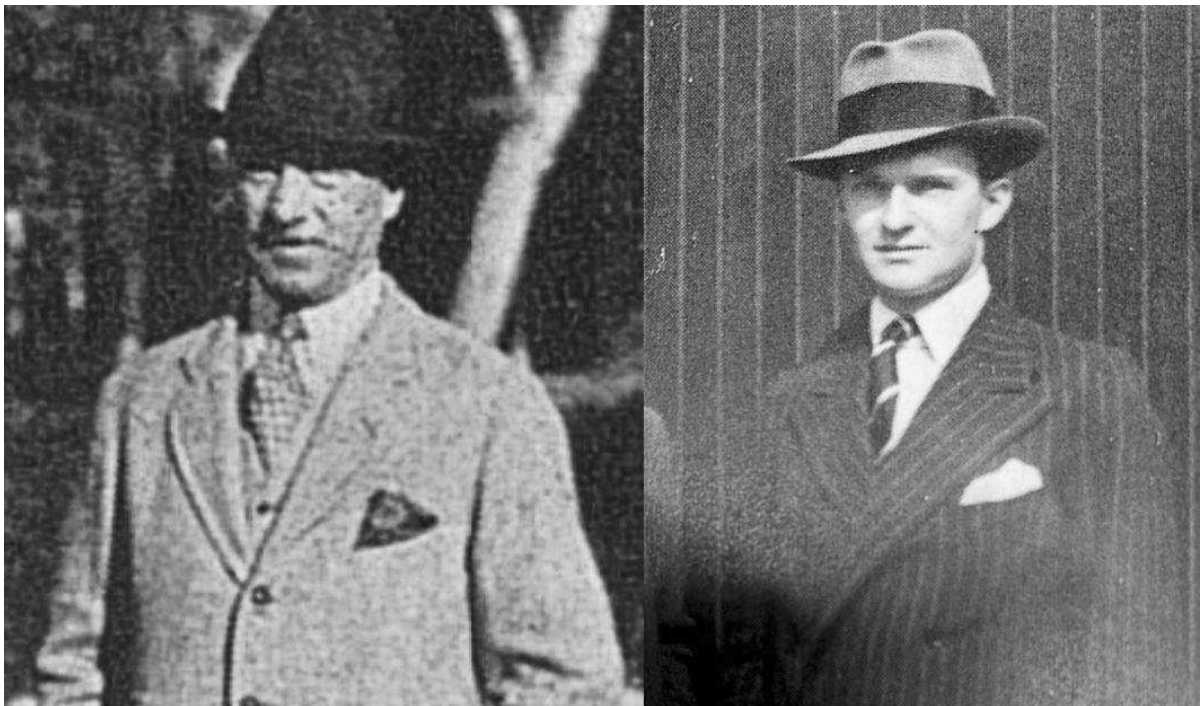
celebrated in July in London, and Prince Orloff was the baron’s best man.

To close the research, Mika also provided an answer extracted from a Finnish newspaper, printed in 1937:

*Baron Constantin Alexander Francis Ramsay (C.A.F.) was born on 19<sup>th</sup> February 1912.in St Petersburg [...] at some point he has had the opportunity to play abroad during the winter months [...] he got the chance to play in the south of France during the whole April month in 1936.*

Born nine years after the marriage of Baron C. Ramsay, C.A.F. Ramsay is most probably his son.

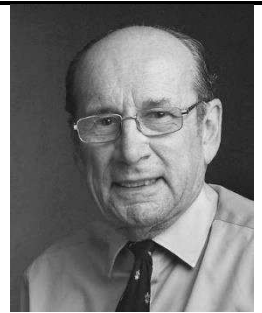
Most important is the newspaper article is the fact that *Baron C A F Ramsey was praised for being such an excellent golf player, the best one in Finland with the lowest handicap and three championship titles under his belt. “Baron Constantin Ramsey is the golf star of the year.” He played golf in England and France in the winter season because” our own [Finnish] golf season is too short”.*



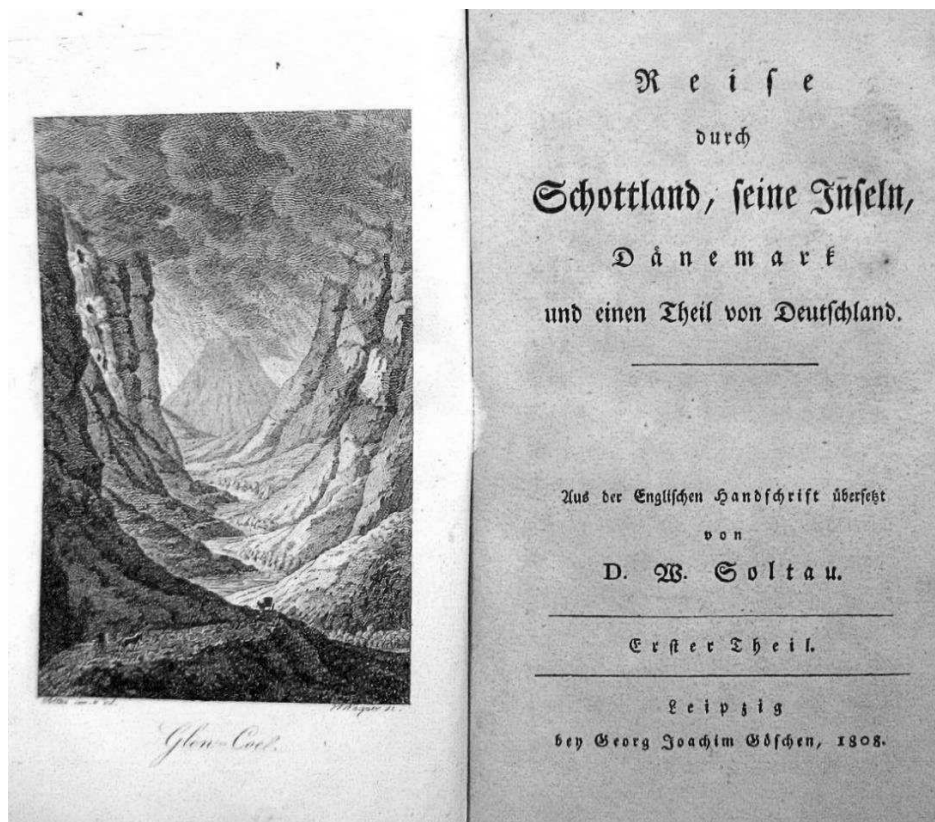
*Left: Baron C. Ramsay (Bystander, 1921 – see reference above)  
Right: “Tino” Ramsay. A photograph provided by Mika Hjorth*

## A German Visitor Describes Scottish Golf in 1808 – or did he?

By David Hamilton



In 1808, a three volume work *Reise durch Shottland, seine Inseln, Dänemark und einen Theil von Deutschland* was published in Leipzig, apparently recording a German's travels in Scotland. It has an accurate description of what the traveller found about Scottish golf.



*The hole was about 6 inches in diameter, 4 to 8 inches deep, and each hole was 200 to 600 yards long. It usually involved two or four players and scoring was by strokes taken. Caddies were involved and it also included the author's attempts to play the game. It was a very early description of the game by a Continental traveller.*

Surprisingly the author is not given, and the publisher explained unsatisfactorily that it had been translated by Dietrich Willhelm Soltau from “an English manuscript”.

Soltau seemed enthusiastic about his task, since he added a personal note mentioning that, when working in Russia in 1778, he had played golf at St Petersburg with some Scotsmen.

The author has now been traced and he was not a German at all, but, surprisingly, a Scotsman, and was the Rev James Macdonald a Church of Scotland minister living in Anstruther close to St Andrews who died in 1811<sup>5</sup>. He was well-connected and married the daughter of Principal Playfair who headed the University at St Andrews. He had radical and even republican sympathies, which were dangerous views to hold in Britain at that time when there was fear of Napoleon's ambitions.

He had travelled widely in Europe and had many friends in Germany. The original text had much political polemic and the publisher advised that he cut the text down to a blander travelogue apparently written from a German visitor's viewpoint and remain anonymous.

The book was quickly raided by a French author for another travelogue published in France. In the third edition of J. B. Depping's mostly fictitious

adventures, he pretended he had been in Scotland and added an error-laden version of the golf passages taken from the German work. His claim that the holes were 4 to 8 feet deep went unnoticed because Depping was not a golfer. Depping's work then went to five editions in England as *Evening Entertainments* or *Delineations of the Manners and Customs of Various Nations* and it was also published in America.

Depping's success meant he is falsely credited with being one of the earliest travellers to report on Scottish Golf. The story had instead come along a long route from a Scottish minister's text published in Germany, thence copied in France and finally reached the English-speaking world.

For the further complexities of this story, see David Hamilton *Through the Green* June 2003, pp. 12-15.



*A bird's eye view of the Cannes-Mougins golf course*

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<sup>5</sup> A. Gillies *A Hebridean in Goethe's Weimar*, New York, 1969.

## A Modest Investigation on Driving Ranges and Practice Ranges

By JBK (Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak)  
With the help of several historians (see below)



When working on Albert Pélissier for the previous issue of *Golfika* magazine, I often read that he was the first to build a driving range on the European Continent. Was this true? Probably yes as, speaking with friends, I realised that there were no driving ranges in the U.K. in the 1960s, so I decided to investigate more on this point.

As an introduction to this text, I would like first to thank a few persons for their help: Goerg Kittel, Christoph Meister, The Autiero family (Françoise, Lucien and Jean-Marc) and also, after a valuable discussion during a *Literati* meeting: David Hamilton, Mungo Park, Iain Crawford, Peter Fry, Brian Matheson and Geoffrey Lyon.

### Before WWII – UK and USA

In the early days, to learn to play Golf or to practice, you would go to a quiet place on the course, at a proper time – not to disturb any player – with a club and a few balls and practice your shots, often alone, or sometimes with someone who was a good golfer and could provide you with some advice.

This method of practicing lasted until players realised that a better way could be found. First, not surprisingly, in Scotland, winters are cold, so players imagined a sheltered place to practice.

An alternative was to design an indoor place in a large room. According to Mungo Park, the Dunn family set up an indoor golf school: *it was Seymour Dunn's idea initially, in 1895 or 96. It started as a simple piece of canvas draped from the roof of a large hall in Bournemouth. When they went to the U.S.A. to join their uncle Willie Jnr, they developed the idea and set up a series of indoor schools in New York throughout their careers.*

After Mungo's information, we found an essential article in *Evening Star*, 30 December 1896, which is reprinted here.

*Willie Dunn had laid out links in Madison Square Garden.*

*Willie Dunn, the professional golfer has laid out golf links in the assembly room at Madison Square Garden, in New York.*

*The room is 75 feet long. 30 feet wide and 28 feet high. It is laid out in such a manner as to give novices a chance to learn the game and to get an idea of the proper manner of handling their sticks.*

*At one end of the room is a net into which the ball can be driven. In the center of the room is a bunker made of wood. It is seven feet high and is to be used to teach beginners and even older players how to loft.*

*The whole idea of indoor Golf is to teach the old players and the new ones to drive, put and loft properly. Many of the best players of the Lakewood, Baltusrol, St Andrew's, Ardsley Casino and other clubs will practice in the room under the eyes of Mr Dunn, who will correct the faults of the old and direct the efforts of the new.*

*In driving the player can swing with his whole strength, for the net will stop the ball. In lofting the same can be done.*



*It is for this reason that indoor Golf is beneficial to the player. His driving and lofting is done directly under the eyes of the instructor and his faults are immediately corrected.*

*In putting the bunker is removed and the player has the whole length of the room in which to try for his hole. A green carpet covers the room. Beneath the carpet are placed a number of bags to make the greens rough and uneven and as nearly like the real greens as possible under the circumstances.*

*As the instructor is very popular with the local golfers it is probable that quite a number will be present in the opening this morning.*

*Dressing rooms have been prepared for the benefit of the ladies, and also for the men, so that in regular golfing costumes the players can drive and put the loft until they are tired out with as imaginary tramp over the links of the Ardsley Casino or some other golf club.*

Peter Fry sent us an advertisement, published in *Golf World*, October 1969. If we are reprinting this late clipping, it is because of the reference to the Holdright's Golf and Tennis School, North Gate, Regent Park, N.W.1 (London), which – according to this claim – is the “Oldest Golf Scholl”, founded in 1908.

**HOLDRIGHT'S GOLF AND TENNIS SCHOOL,**  
North Gate, Outer Circle, Regents Park, N.W.1.  
**A GOOD GOLF SWING IS ESSENTIAL—**  
Learn the Fundamentals of Golf at the World's  
Oldest Golf School, founded in 1908 and still the  
**LEADING SCHOOL.** Please phone PAD 4588  
for appointment.

However, in the newspapers, we could not find any reference<sup>6</sup> for the school before 1925 and no description of what type of school it was. We are assuming that it could have been a kind of driving range.

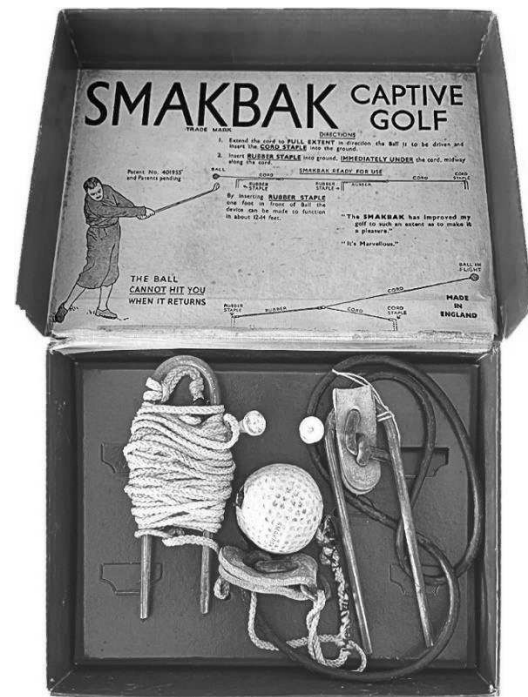
But in the “true” outdoor situation, in these early days, the player was striking his *own* balls, and then he had to pick them up. The so-called “captive ball” was a variant of such training, which did not require collecting the balls.

<sup>6</sup> *Illustrated London News*, 12 September 1925 and *The Sketch*, 16 October 1925.

Note that E.J. Holdright was the coach of the Prince of Wales.

A rudimentary form of driving range existed at least as early as 1894. Several newspapers<sup>7</sup> are reporting: *A golf fever in London ... Venerable looking gentlemen who used to be content with a pipe and a book after dinner now practise “putting” into tumblers ranged along their dining room and hall floors in the evening, or bang away with their bulger in the grey of the morning at a captive ball attached to a tree in their little plot of garden ground,...*

Later the system was improved. A more modern example is provided below (about 1930).



Another example of an outdoor “driving range” is provided by Lee Pace, on the Pinehurst website. He writes that Donald Ross, in 1913, had opened “some ground” for golfers to practice on a 14 acres (about 6 hectares) field. Nevertheless, he gave no information on how the balls were collected.

In the 1920s, indoor driving ranges were often temporary places, used during wintertime. As an example, the *Richmond's only indoor golf school*<sup>8</sup> will open Monday in the second-floor room over the First National bank [...]

<sup>7</sup> *Dundee Evening Telegraph*, *Aberdeen Evening Express*, *St James's Gazette*, *Elgin Courant and Morayshire Advertiser*, just to name a few, all published in October 1893 ... with very similar texts.

<sup>8</sup> *Richmond Palladium*, 9 December 1922

*A complete driving range and mashie practice net have been set up by Mr Herbert for the convenience of golf experts and beginners to practice during the winter months [...]*

*The room occupied by Mr Herbert is spacious enough to care for a number of golfers at one time. He intends to keep golf interest manifested throughout the entire winter until next spring.*

Sometimes, a “one-person outdoor driving range” was imitating the indoor one: it was possible to see “wire cages” to practice his swing – often with a pro or a coach. But even if a panel with marks could help to get an idea of the shot, it was impossible to judge the precise distance covered by the ball and even less its flight path, draw or slice. The picture below should be dated 1930.



The first description of “driving ranges” like what we have nowadays can be found in the *Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News*, 16 August 1930. We read: ‘*a driving range opened at Los Angeles, suits and head-guards of wire are worn by the boys whose job is to retrieve the balls*’. The spread of this custom would spare golfers the nuisance, of having to shout “fore”. The magazine provides a relevant illustration which we have reproduced on the third cover page.

When speaking of early driving ranges, we made just a few references to the UK, where such facilities must have been rare. *The Sketch*, issued 1st December 1932 wrote: ‘**I believe** there is to be found in London a place where this sort of practice can be carried out’. [Emphasis added]

To confirm this impression, the same newspaper, dated 25 August 1937, published, under the title ‘*Driving Ranges Needed*’ a significant paper which we are reprinting here:

*Naturally, all golfers enjoy the exhilaration of hitting a ball right off the middle of the club, a feat rarely accomplished because of the besetting sin of “pressing” for distance instead of swinging the club head. I would like to see a great many more driving ranges in this country.*

*In the United States they abound at every city and the keen golfer can drive fifty balls for about a shilling. But there are few of these ranges in this country, and those that do exist are frequently too expensive. I saw one in the West of England a week or two ago where it was possible to hit only four shots with a captive ball for a charge of sixpence. A captive ball is not ideal for driving practice. It has its merit, of course, but one must not expect too much from the mechanical devices which indicate length and direction, because a slice or hook does not really take effect until towards the end of the flight of the ordinary free ball. For the same reason, driving into a net has less educational value than a drive into the open. It is useful practice to drive at the net until the swing becomes natural and mechanical and one appears to be timing the shot well, but there is an entirely different feeling when it comes to playing a long carry from the tee. For that reason,*

*I think there is a lot to be said for driving-range practice. By the time he has misspent a lot of energy in trying to hit the 300-yards target, the average golfer will have arrived at the conclusion that pressing is futile, and will discover for himself that, when aiming at the 200-yards mark, many shots travel farther than they did when aiming one hundred yards ahead. This may seem elementary to the expert player, but the great majority are not experts, and I commend the thought of a driving range to clubs who have the land to spare. Those whose clubs have been embraced in the Green Belt scheme could find such ranges a valuable source of income, for there is practically no cost of upkeep, and there would be plenty of patronage from the public, as well as club members, at a charge of about forty drives for a shilling.*

If not so common in the UK there was at least one example of a very sophisticated system which was in use in the 30’s. The French magazine *Le Golf et les Golfers*, 15 February 1936, is reporting :





*Invented by an Englishman, a device was installed on a rooftop in Kingston-on-Thames (near London). It is the only one in the UK and allows learning golf by analysing the quality of each shot.*

*A large canvas mounted on a board represents imaginary links. Behind this board are about 400 small electric bulbs behind this board, like those used in torches, each protected by a small button and lit up when pressed at the impact point.*

*The person learning the game stands about 5 or 6 metres away from this canvas and tries to hit the ball. The lighting of a lamp allows appreciation of the direction of the shot. There is also a distance indicator on both sides of the board. Depending on the speed given to the ball*

*and the height it impacts the board, it is possible to calculate how far the ball would have covered if played on the course.*

So, driving ranges were extremely rare in the U.K. before WW2. An additional example, if necessary, was found in an advertisement inserted several times in 1939 in the *Croydon Adviser and East Surrey Reporter* and referring to an “open-air driving range”.



After the war, it seems that the progression of driving range was still low, as reported in an American newspaper<sup>9</sup>: *There are no driving ranges in this country, and Mr McGill says that is one of the reasons why we cannot beat the Americans at Golf.*

At that time, Henry Cotton was undoubtedly one of the greatest zealots of the driving ranges. He regularly wrote on the subject in *The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News* during the 1950s. We shall see below his contribution to developing such structures on the Continent.



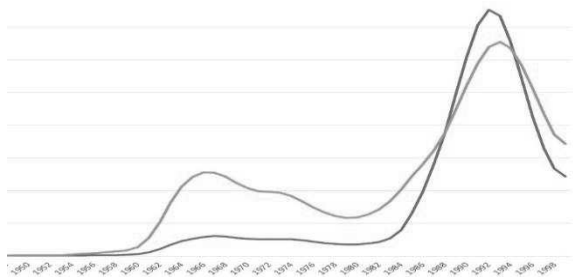
*Driving ranges are now familiar; they are a subject in comic strips (Belfast Telegraph, 15th August 1953)*

Let’s finish this research with a small statistical remark. If we assume that newspapers reflect the interest of their readers in a topic, we can also assume that the more they write about a subject, the higher its interest.

We used the *British Newspaper Archive* website to count the number of occurrences of the word “golf” alone or with the phrase “driving range.”

The results are reported next page.

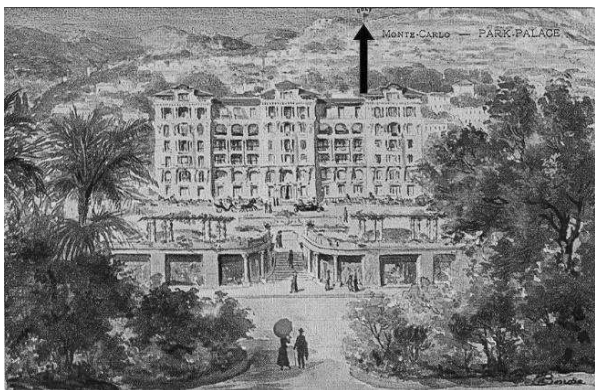
<sup>9</sup> *Marylebone Mercury*, 8 July 1949



The blue line is the absolute number of occurrences of the word “golf”, while the red one is a relative number when “golf” and “driving ranges” are both present on the page. (see text)

Looking at the blue line, until 1950, there is almost no reference which could be found. We should wait until 1960 to see significant values, then a peak is observed in the mid-90s. But this statistic alone is not relevant! The number of occurrences of “driving range” and “golf” must be compared to the number of occurrences of “golf” only. The result is the red curve.

Nevertheless, the story is the same: there was no interest in driving ranges in the UK before 1960. This interest is pretty much the same until mid-80s. Then it seems that the appeal was significantly more substantial in the early 90s.



These two postcards illustrate where Cotton was teaching: in the Monte-Carlo G.C. (top of the hill), and a miniature course and practice mats on the terrace (previously used for clay pigeon shooting)

<sup>10</sup> References are taken from weekly newspaper: *Concorde, hebdomadaire républicain* published in November, December 1946 and January 1947 and Henri Cotton’s book *This Game of Golf* (1948)

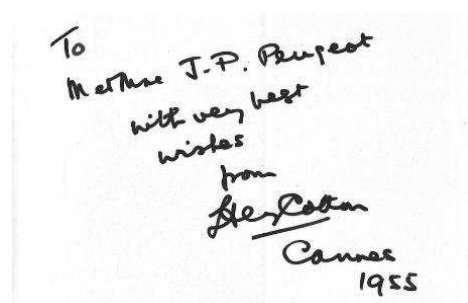
<sup>11</sup> Floating-balls, much lighter than the regular ball were authorised by the rules and used for play in competitions for a very long time. Nevertheless, to my knowledge, Cotton was the first one thinking to use them for a driving range.

## Monaco – Monte-Carlo Golf Club<sup>10</sup>

After several illnesses and an abdominal operation, Henry Cotton was not in great shape. So, when in the autumn of 1946, the Monte-Carlo Golf Club asked him to advise them on the renovation of their course, he decided to accept – the climate being favourable for recovery.

He arrived in January 1946 to realise that the way was not easy between Monte-Carlo, where he would live and the golf club, just across the border with France, at the Mont-Agel. By car, it took him 25 minutes to get to the club perched on the top of a hill, 900 meters above sea level (see picture). The natural idea was to find a spot for a golf school in the city. It was a “natural” but unrealistic idea: there was no ground for such a place in Monte-Carlo!

However, there was an opportunity on the terrace of the casino. The place was used, before the war, for clay pigeon shooting (see picture). It was an ideal site for putting greens. But also, laying down a mat, you could drive floating-balls<sup>11</sup> in the sea toward buoys delimiting the bounds of a “fairway”. The caddies would then return the balls stopped by the nets stretched between the buoys.



Cotton’s book signed to Mr and Mrs Peugeot..

This golf school was inaugurated just before Christmas 1946 in the presence of the Prince de Monaco, Princesse Antoinette de Monaco, Princesse Violet de Montenegro and many other prominent figures. The Minister of State, Monsieur de Witasse, played the first ball. Then Cotton made a demonstration on how the ball must be driven off. (see pictures, page 35)

### Sweden (1955)

Early in 1954, the Halmstad Golfklubb in Tylösand announced<sup>12</sup> the opening of the very first driving range in the country. It was built between the 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> holes of the course and was finally planned to open in summer 1954.

*At one end of the field, mats will be laid out as tees, and golf players wishing to practice or warm up before a competition can buy a bucket*

*of balls from the caddie master, go to the practice field and start hitting. A specially employed ball picker will pick up the balls again, so the players should not care about this.*

Later on (1955) an 18-hole putting green was designed between the 9<sup>th</sup> green and the 10<sup>th</sup> tee<sup>13</sup>.

The same year, the Swedish Golf Federation informed that establishing "driving ranges" near cities and other communities would be effective propaganda for our game and therefore recommends installing such.

In issue n° 5 (1954) of *Svensk Golf*, it was announced that at the *Djursholms Golfklubb* (near Stockholm), a driving range would be prepared and open to the general public.



*Above: The Halmstad Golfklubb driving range (1954).  
See the The ball picker in action in his removable protective cage.*

*Below: Two examples of Golf Schools in Paris, France (around 1930)  
Left, an unlocated postcard. Right: Avenue Gabriel (Paris).*



<sup>12</sup> *Svensk Golf* – No. 3, 1954.

<sup>13</sup> *Halmstad Golfklubb Jubileumsskrift 1930–1955 (A 25th Anniversary book)*

## France (1956)

In the '30s, we have evidence of indoor practices.

A postcard at the bottom of the previous page features a shop named '*Palais du Tennis –Ecole de Golf*', possibly also located in Paris.

The French magazine '*Le Golf et les Golfeurs*' offered a paper in two of its issues dedicated to such places. One is dated 1 May 1938 and presents the '*Maison du Golf – Champs Elysées Golf School*' on avenue Montaigne in Paris. A British golfer visiting Paris said: '*I am not surprised at the progress that French Golf has made in recent years, after I visited the Maison du Golf which has been set up in Paris, avenue Montaigne; there is a quite remarkable centre, and unique in the world, I might say, because I have travelled all over the world, and I have not seen anything similar. I am amazed that in our country, where there are many more golfers, there is nothing similar*'.

This tourist possibly offered an advertisement (or the magazine embellished his words), but it confirms that such a place was unusual in Britain.

A few months earlier (1<sup>st</sup> February), the same magazine described a place on a double page, called *la Maison des Golfeurs* (previously *Ecole de Golf*). This establishment was close to the *Champs Elysées*, located at the *Ancien Alcazar*, now called *Pavillon Gabriel* – so it might be the same as above.



*Practice range at Maison des Golfeurs (Paris)*

The playing area was situated in a closed and heated room and could accommodate several players simultaneously. This establishment had a bar, a lounge on the ground floor, a reading room with French and foreign golf journals, a bridge room, and even a piano!

Considering outdoor places, we have a relevant example at Biot, near Antibes, just in front of the entrance to the Antibes-Juan-les-Pins Golf Club (nowadays Biot GC).

During his stay in the USA (see previous issue of *Golfika*), Albert Pélissier discovered the significant number of driving ranges and their interest in improving one's game. He decided to open the first one in France. It was in 1955.

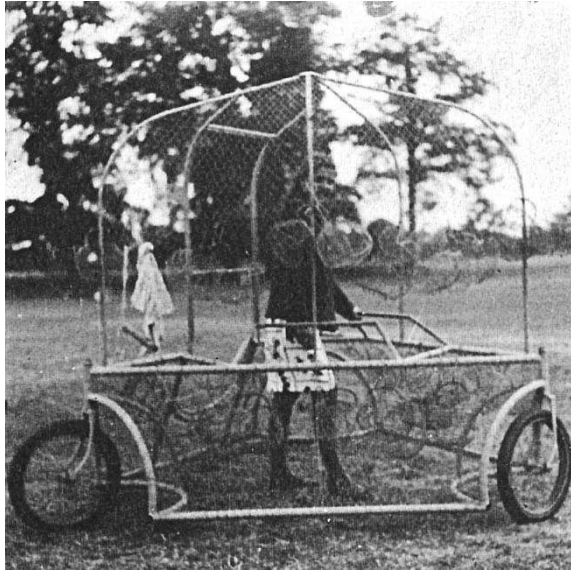


*Albert Pélissier giving a lesson at Biot (France).*

Nowadays, it is still in the same place, owned by the Autiero family (Françoise and Lucien). Their two sons (Jean-Marc and Jean-Luc) are teaching there. A visit to this historic site is worthwhile, as only a few changes have been made.

A second example, possibly the second place in France, is Deauville. We can read in Cotton's book<sup>14</sup> that it was built in 1964, and we read: *This tricycle golf ball shield for the girl 'picker upper' at the Deauville driving range in France was constructed by the local bicycle dealer. The wire baskets in which the balls are hired out are hung round the cage and when there are a lot of full baskets this contraption can become very heavy to push* (see image above).

<sup>14</sup> *The picture story of the golf game*, Henry Cotton, TBS The Book Service Ltd, ed., 1965



### Germany.

In 1958, two new golf courses opened one near Heidelberg and another one near Kaiserslautern. *They are already heavily used by hundreds of trolley-pulling, long-peak-capped golfers of all handicaps and ranks, and the driving ranges are not neglected either.* This seems to be the earliest reference<sup>15</sup> to driving ranges in Germany.

### Belgium

The French magazine *Tennis et Golf*, n° 475, Janvier-Février, 1961 is publishing a long text on the Sart-Tilman golf club (close to Liège).

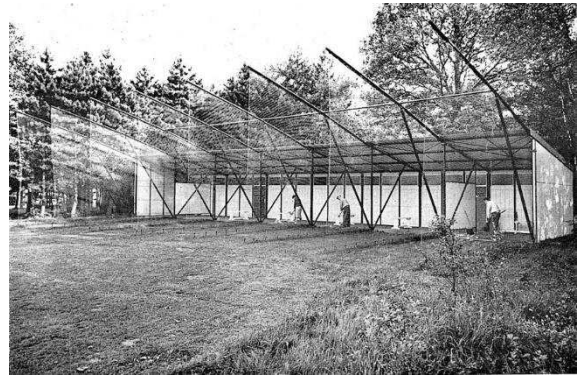
On the initial plans, the space reserved for the driving range was not to exceed 200 by 50 metres, which might seem insufficient, but it had to be made suitable. Mr and Mrs Constant were called in, an architect and a colour consultant.

The magazine provided some interesting details. Seven stands were placed side by side to form a trapezoidal construction converging towards a centre which was the goal to reach by the players. Such a shape also limited the loss of balls.

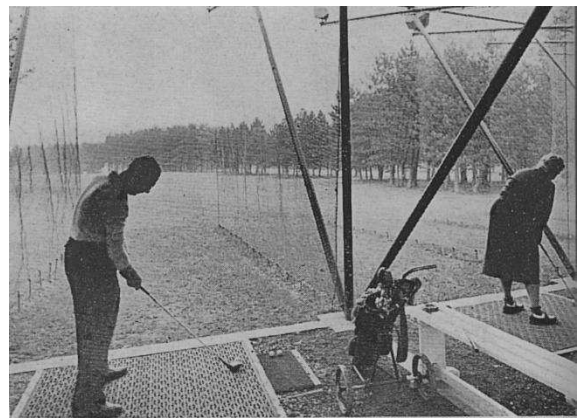
The two extreme cabins were intended for lessons and had been isolated from the others by a translucent polyester partition.

Finally, 7-metre long nets separated each of the cabins. These nets were made of hemp treated against humidity. They had replaced a

galvanised steel net that could damage the golf balls.



*Driving range at the Sart-Tilman G.C. (Belgium)*



### Italy.



Again Henry Cotton, in his book (*op. cit.*) presents a driving range in Milano (Ital). He

<sup>15</sup> *Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News*, 12 November 1958

comments the image: ‘*The golf driving range human ball ‘picker upper’ of the Milan Golf Club, Monza, Italy. This is his own idea of protection and it leaves him fairly vulnerable to a frontal’ attack. He admits to getting a few hits but he has developed an instinct for keeping his back to the line of fire. With his home-made ball scoop he handles thousands of balls on a busy day.*’

There is no information on the date; as the book was first published in 1965, it is fair to assume that this was in operation in the 60s.

It is interesting to compare the ‘human ball picker’ which is featured here with the one pictured on the last cover page.

## EAGHC 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Landskrona Golf Club, Sweden



Although only eighteen persons attended the annual meeting, all judged it was excellent and well organised. We must thank Leif again for all his efforts, supported by the management of the Landskrona Golf Club. Almost all members were staying at the Öresund Hotel, so it was easy to continue informal discussions after the lectures.

The first day was dedicated to informal contacts and trading golfing “treasures”. JBK was offered a brassie, stamped J.K.B. (a misspelling?) by Leif Einarsson; two signed Arnaud Massy, by Claus Maeland, one, a brassie, with a strange engraving which could be read “Singapore”! Hard to believe! Any explanations are welcome.

The central part of the meeting started on the next day. After Leif and JBK welcomed all members, Georg Kittel made the first presentation on *The oldest golf courses and Golf Clubs in Sweden*. You could find a taste of it in his article published in this issue.

For medical reasons, Bengt Larsson could not attend the meeting; JBK and Christoph Meister were two unplanned speakers.

JBK presented a short history of the Cannes Mougins G.C., finishing with a few images of the club today as an appetiser for next year.

Christoph (after research made with Wayne Xing) offered two very unusual presentations:

the first one was on *Graveyard & Golf Links in China*, the second *Golf in Peking*.

Leif continued with a lecture entitled *The first golf teachers in Scandinavia pre-1925*.

Jonas Ripa, President of the Landskrona Golf Club introduced us to *The Club’s history*.

After a quick but delicious lunch, the meeting resumed with Mikael Langbråten’s (new EAGHC member) presentation on the *Swedish Golf Hall of Fame*.

And congratulations to Georg Kittel who has received The Golden Pin (“Guldmärket”) from the Swedish Golf Federation for his valuable contributions as golf historian, and to Leif Einarsson who received a Golden Loyalty Medal for having played the Swedish Hickory Championship no less than 20 times. The Hickory Championship 2022 was staged at Rya Golfklubb between Helsingborg and Landskrona.



*Then, we all had the pleasure to have a visit of the Swedish Golf Museum guided by Curator Göran Nyström.*



*At the Swedish Golf Museum (from left to right): Christian Juel, Jesper Frigast (partly hidden), Erik Madsen, Georg Kittel, Claus Maeland (partly hidden), David Hamilton, Mikael Tillström, and the Curator Göran Nyström*

After a short break, JBK led the AGM of our Association, starting with a minute of silence dedicated to the passing on of two members: Poul-Erik Jensen (announced in our Spring 2022 issue) and Czeslaw Kruk. We associated our thoughts with Queen Elizabeth II, who had passed away the day before our meeting.

Activities of the 2021–2022 year were then described. We analysed the consequences of the Covid pandemic, especially on the number of members (in slight decrease).

A request for articles for our magazine *Golfika* has been launched. Our discussions with members show the number of topics that deserve to be presented.

Many readers have pointed out the improved quality of the English in our magazine, thanks to

the contribution of Geoffrey Lyon as Copy-editor.

Christoph Meister relisted the names of Board Members. Our Statutes impose to elect the Board members every other year; during our last AGM we decided to stop the automatic rota of the President. The change was helpful in the early years but is no longer necessary.

On behalf of Georges Jeanneau, the accounting was presented by JBK. It was unanimously approved. The total 2022 is stable compared to the previous year.

For medical reasons, Stéphan Filanovitch was unable to join, but he wanted to insist that members should more often visit our website. It is essential, for practical reasons, that each member register on [golfika.com](http://golfika.com).

This website was very innovative when it started in 1999 (before the creation of our association, it was the personal website of JBK). But it was getting old and needed to be updated. So we decided to change the system two years ago. Stéphan has made this transition. He wants to go further, but as this is your site, he needs your suggestions to make it evolve.

The AGM closed with a discussion of potential places for future annual meetings. Next year, 2023, we will be hosted by the Cannes-Mougins

Golf & Country Club, France. The exact date is not yet fixed, but it should be in October.

Georg Kittel suggested that in 2024, we go to Le Touquet, as initially planned. Two years in a row in the same country would be a first! So we decided to wait until the end of December to receive more suggestions. Early in January, a final decision will be taken.

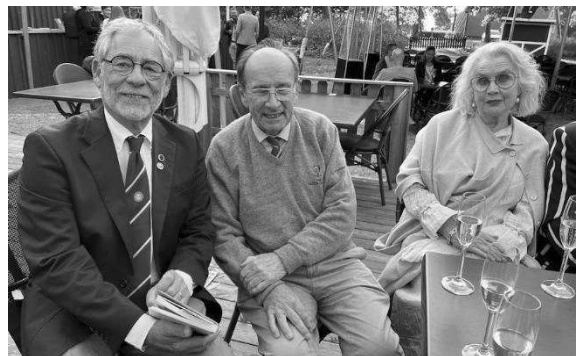
Before the official dinner, the EAGHC offered all attending members a drink to strengthen their friendship.



*First members who were present for the cocktail (closer pictures below)*



*Jesper Frigast, Christian Juel, Claus Maeland*



*Georg Kittel, David Hamilton, Elsa Einarsson*



*Christoph & Franziska Meister, Erik Madsen*



*Erik Madsen, Mats Gustafsson, Mikael Tillström, JBK*

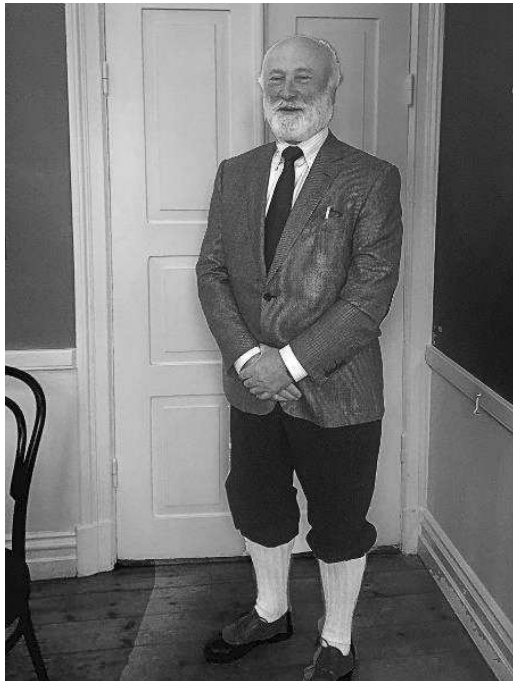




*Elsa & Leif Einarsson, Jesper Frigast*



*Mikael Tillström, Huguette Kazmierczak, David Hamilton  
Back: Leif & Elsa Einarsson*



*Claus Maeland during our Friday dinner*



*Leif in a tricky shot (playing his ball backwards)*

A hickory tournament had been planned for Saturday, but it was reduced to a single four-ball best-ball match.



*Left: Leif Einarsson, Christoph Meister, Claus Maeland and Christian Juel. Nordic countries (Leif & Claus) opposed to the alliance between Germany and Denmark. The latter won the battle.*



*Right: During the prize giving. Note the reflection of Claus in the mirror*



*Above: Cotton driving the first ball on the driving-range by the sea at Monte-Carlo  
Prince Rainier and Princess Antoinette are standing just beyond Cotton  
Below: The putting green next to the driving range, showing a  
friendly putting match between Prince Rainier and the Minister of State of the Principality.*



Next page: a man, protected by a wire cage (a kind of armour), picking up golf balls on a driving range in the USA  
(c. 1930 – From *Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News*, 16th August 1930)