

## James Walter Buckland:

## Once upon a time at the Cologne Officer's Golf Club

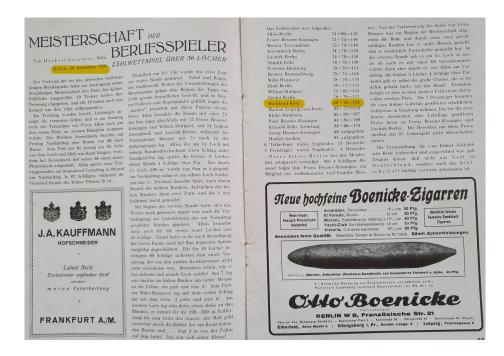
Do you know James Walter Buckland? I didn't know him either until I bought the club pictured above from a dealer friend: engraved in the head of the niblick is his name and "Cologne Golf Club". My curiosity was aroused. I researched Buckland's life and work and thus immersed myself in the beginnings of the game of golf in the Rhineland - with the realisation that it was very British.

## From soldier to Golf Pro

The passion for golf runs like a thread through Buckland's life. Born in Windsor in 1898, his passion for golf gripped him as a teenager; even before the outbreak of the First World War, he was an assistant to golf pro Jack White at Sunningdale Golf Club Southwest of London. When he was drafted into the Royal Artillery in 1916, he served in France and after the war in the Army of Occupation on the Rhine. Stationed in Cologne, he was drawn to the Golf Course again - and became involved as a Professional at the Officer's Golf Club on the Schillingsrotter Weg (now GC Marienburg). He settled down there for a few years: according to the yearbooks of the German Golf Association of 1926 and 1931, he was a Golf Professional at the Cologne Golf Club in the Marienburg district from 1925 to 1929.

"Put your shoulders to the hoof!", "Body first!", "Keep your head down on the follow-through!": With these sentences he taught the Rhinelanders how to play golf around 100 years ago.

My research in the German Golf Archive at the German Sport University Cologne led me to a report in the professional organ "Golf" from 30 September 1928 about the German Golf Teachers' Championships, held on the course "Schillingsrotter Weg". Here "Buckland-Köln" is mentioned by name with a total score of 158 strokes on two scored rounds:



## From the Rhineland to Saxony

From 1930 to 1933 he was a Professional at the Bergisch Land Golf Club, then in 1934 he moved to the now defunct Dresden Golf Club Bad Weisser Hirsch (see the German Golf Association Yearbook 1935). Until 1936 he held the course record there with 68 strokes (!) (Source: Golfer's Handbook 1936). He probably left Germany in November 1935, as it became difficult for British Pros to live and work in Germany.

After marrying Dutchwoman Katchen Senta Knoop or Effelberger (born 16.06.1892 in Rotterdam) in Hampsted in 1935, there is a record in the 1939 register of residents at 71 Holland Road in London. James Walter's occupation at this time is "Golf Professional" and he ran a golf school from 1940 at 20 Denmark Street, London WC2.

The two of them probably had no children, and in 1940 his trail disappears. He probably died in 1969, his wife Katchen died in 1971. I am currently researching the period from 1940 onwards in England and hope to shed more light on the history of this man.

In order to keep the memory of James Walter Buckland alive, the Hickory-Society Cologne will play the historical Niblick permanently as the Society's annual open tournament.

Andreas Biste

Founder of the Hickory Society Cologne