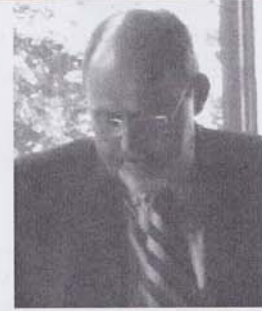


## The Danish Golf Museum 25 years old

**Hans Erik Duschek-Hansen**  
Chairman of the Danish Golf Historical Society



In 2012 it is 25 years since Denmark's Golf museum was founded. The idea of creating a golf museum in Denmark is formulated for the first time by Denmark's renowned golf course architect Frederick Dreyer. There should, however, go 9 years before the word was to act. In 1984 was a doctor Erik Halling from Vejle invited to attend The Open, which this year was held at St. Andrews in Scotland. Halling admired on the spot the fine collection, as the Club professional golfer had created



### The history

After his return to Denmark the idea of a Danish golf museum would not escape Erik Halling. Inspired by the many golf historical experiences he had in Scotland - the Old Course, the old clubhouse, a very lively club maker and, not least, the little golf museum inside the clubhouse – he was convinced that in Denmark was the base to assemble and maintain the early signs of "the noble art of golf". The British golf museum, which now lies behind St. Andrews clubhouse, was not yet built.

He tried to persuade several golf clubs to make room for a Danish Golf Museum, but without success, and came to the conclusion, that if there should be a golf museum in Denmark, he had to make it himself.

He then persuaded his wife to let him open a museum in his own house and declared in September 1987, that Denmark's Golf Museum was now a reality. And that it was open by appointment.

Together with two good friends - Søren Berggren and Jan Skanderup he founded then in January 1988 "the Danish Golf Museum" with Halling as President, Skanderup as Vice-President and Berggren as Hon. Secretary.

Golf clubs and the Danish Golf Union were contacted and a stream of golf antiques found their way to the new museum. Especially old golfers from Copenhagen delivered scrapbooks, silver, score cards and protocols. The small museum collection filled more and more.

With the formation of the Danish Golf museum in 1987 the structural conditions were in place and four years later the first golf museum at the continent was moved to new and larger premises in a in a charming house in the Grønnegade in Vejle.

The positive development continued. But the rooms in Grønnegade soon proved too small for the growing collection. And, most importantly, the Board had noted that the house in Grønnegade was too remote.

The Board approached therefore in 1995 the leading hotel in the city – Hotel Munkebjerg. After a few conversations with one of the owner- director Hans Geschwendtner, it was agreed that the museum could move into the hotel.

The agreement with Munkebjerg Hotel was unique, since the Museum was able to establish itself in some splendid facilities without paying rent, heat, or light. So it is today.

### **The exhibition**

The Museum is proud of its collection of Danish and international golf equipment and utensils. The Museum's finest and most rare things are undisputed the Fanø Medal, the winner prize in the first "Open" on the European continent, played on the island of Fanø in 1901. The Museum had great help from Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak and Christoph Meister in the efforts to bring the medal back to Denmark and in the Museum.

In the exhibition "The Club maker" you will see a collection of tools and materials used for the manufacture and repair of clubs and irons. They originate from English and Scottish club makers and are gifts or purchased at auctions through a number of years.

In the exhibition "The Ball maker" is exhibited objects that are gifts or purchases at auctions, including old tools for the manufacture of Feathery balls. There you will find an original Feathery ball from ca. 1840, as well as several original and rare Gutty balls from ca. 1860. Also a Gutty ball from ca. 1860, hammered by hand, and witch has been identified during excavation at Luffness golf course in Scotland.

Together with the balls, old ball boxes with contemporary popular ball marks, as well as rare advertising figures and signs are exhibited.

The two workshops contain only a fraction of the exhibits, which are displayed thematically. These themes include: Tove Palsbys autograph collection, the DGU collection, the story of the tee, the story of Samuel Ryder and Ryder Cup, captains coats and men's clothing, the history of the caddies, Royal golf, clubs, iron and putters.

As the Golf Museum was known, it created national and international connections and could, among other things, help in connection

with exhibitions, especially in connection with club anniversaries.

A major national task was resolved in connection with Copenhagen Golf Club's 100-year anniversary. Several cars filled with historic golf effects was sent to Copenhagen and was placed in the middle on the floor of a large exhibition hall. Such measures were good to make the museum known all over Denmark.

Also international contacts were established. Swedish golf historians paid several visits to the museum. They also wanted to create a golf museum. And so they did. Representatives of the Danish Golf Museum were invited as guests at the opening of a golf museum in Landskrona in 2000

If you want to pay us a visit, the museum is open all day long and is only closed when Hotel Munkebjerg closes one week between Christmas and New Year's Eve.

The Museum is organized with a board of seven members. The chairman is Hans Erik Duschek- Hansen and Curator/ honorary treasurer is Poul Erik Jensen. (see picture) In July 2012 the museum published a booklet about the 25years jubilee. The booklet is available to all interested EAGHC members. Pls. send a mail with your name and address to [p.e.jensen@tv.dk](mailto:p.e.jensen@tv.dk) and you will receive the booklet together with an English language summary.



*See also pictures on golfika magazine cover.*



*Danish Golf Museum*

