



PGA OF LUXEMBOURG

The 21st instalment of a series that takes a random look at each member PGA in turn.

# Golf has Grown Little by Little in the Grand Duchy

Hard facts alone, in terms of the size of the country and their limited number of members, emphasise how restricted Luxembourg is when it comes to the question of growth... here the sensible philosophy is that of consolidation rather than expansion.

The Grand Duchy, which is part of the Benelux 'low countries' triumvirate of Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg, has a total population of some 500,000 people, less than half of that boasted even by major cities in larger countries.

So, realistically, Luxembourg's golfing future is in gradually strengthening, improving and building on what they have, rather than seeking spectacular growth and this, no doubt, is the philosophy of its PGA.

Although golf has been played there for more than seventy years there have been, for the past 16 years, just six golf clubs in

Luxembourg and, while PGA membership has had its rises and falls, there are currently only seven fully qualified pros to provide the lessons and other services.

Luxembourg's first golf course, the Grand-Ducal, was built in 1936. There was no PGA until 1992 at a time when, for a three or four year period, five more courses were created. These are at Christnach, Clervaux, Gaichez, Golf De Luxembourg (Juglinster) and Kikuoka, a collection that provides quite a comprehensive spread across the country.

In Luxembourg's golfing community there are now some 3,912 players and this reflects a healthy growth factor of more than twenty-percent over a nine year period of increasing interest in the sport.

This statistic was one that John Little, the former Luxembourg PGA Chairman and PGAs of Europe director, was able to take with him into retirement when he returned to the UK

recently after eleven years working across the channel.

"It has been a gradual process, but there are encouraging signs," he said. "In Luxembourg it is expected of children that they concentrate on their school work," a comment that explains why golf has never been introduced into the national education curriculum there, despite attempts by the PGA to bring it about.



Grand-Ducal.... home of the PGA of Luxembourg  
The Golf Club de Luxembourg



## PGA of Luxembourg The Facts

	2000	2009
Number of facilities	6	6
Number of players	3,200	3,912
Number of PGA Members:	11	7

### OFFICIALS

- Patron: HRH Prince Guillaume
- President: Andre Roelants
- Chairman: Leon Marks
- Head of Training: Leslie Cain
- Secretary: John Pickford
- Treasurer: Julien Pailler

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## Did You Know..?

- The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg is located in the Western part of Europe and surrounded by Belgium, France and Germany. Luxembourg covers 2,586 square kilometres and has a population of half a million people.
- Luxembourg is a parliamentary representative democracy with a constitutional monarchy, ruled by a Grand Duke. The country has highest Gross Domestic Product per capita in the world.
- Luxembourg is a founding member of the European Union, NATO, the United Nations, Benelux, and the Western European Union. The city of Luxembourg is the capital and gathers a number of institutions and agencies of the European Union.

## Leslie Cain: Man of many Parts

Since the retirement of stalwart John Little The PGA of Luxembourg has needed to 're-shuffle the pack' and at the recent AGM among the new appointments was Leslie Cain moving from being Treasurer to Head of Training.

As both Head Professional and Head Greenkeeper at Luxembourg's oldest club, Grand-Ducal, not to mention National Coach to the Golf Federation, Les Cain finds himself in a unique role in the country's golfing set-up.

With his PGA qualifications supplemented by a GSEB (Golf Stroke Engineering Bachelor) and a Class A Clubmaker with the PCS Professional Clubmaker's Society, he is widely qualified to serve his PGA on a number of fronts.

## President Andre Roelants: Main Sponsor

Honorary President Andre Roelants is a well-known banker and businessman who has done a vast amount to promote golf in Luxembourg and was the main sponsor of the Luxembourg Open, a Challenge Tour event for five years

## John Pickford the ITC Regular

John Pickford, of the Kikuoka Club, has been the PGA secretary for 12 years and, like his colleagues John Little and Leslie Cain, have been outstanding supporters of The PGAs of Europe since the earliest days.

Having represented Luxembourg in the World Cup in New Zealand in 1999 he has also been virtually an ever-present in the International Team Championship vying with the Slovenian pair, Danny Kraljic and Janez Grlic, for the record number of appearances.

## Tournament Sponsor

For the past seven years, Clearstream Deutsche Borse Group have sponsored the PGA and an annual Pro-Am. Also there are five Order of Merit events, with the top three comprising the national team in the ITC each year.