

## Swing Time Philately

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Swing Time Philately</b> <b>GOLF-BASEBALL-SOFTBALL</b> (founded 21 January 1991) <b>INFORMATION BULLETIN</b> (31<sup>st</sup> volume, edition 2021-2)</p>	
<p>Correspondence: Rob van Tuyl Bartokhof 16 2402 GE Alphen a/d Rijn The Netherlands Tel. 31 172-420453 E-mail: <a href="mailto:robvantuyl@kpnmail.nl">robvantuyl@kpnmail.nl</a> PayPal: <a href="mailto:robvantuyl@kpnmail.nl">robvantuyl@kpnmail.nl</a> ING: NL31INGB0001846342 BIC ING: INGBNL2A ABN-AMRO: NL57ABNA0545626668 BIC ABN-AMRO: ABNANL2A</p>	<p>Members of: <a href="#">N.V.v.P.V.</a> <a href="#">Sports Philatelists International</a> (USA) Research: Rob van Tuyl (NL) Leon Vanverre (B) Bulletin: Rob van Tuyl (NL) Ad van Sinttruijen (NL) Translation: Hendrik-Jan van Telgen (NL)</p>	<p>Website: <a href="http://www.swing-time.info">www.swing-time.info</a> Webmaster: Ad van Sinttruijen (NL) E-mail: <a href="mailto:advshint@gmail.com">advshint@gmail.com</a> Postage: Rob van Tuyl (NL)</p>

### **THIS TIME IN THE BULLETIN**

A necrology of co-founder Leon Vanverre, postal problems with PostNL, a nice golf tear-off calendar containing two different days of Swing Time Philately, the catalogue supplemental pages golf and baseball, missing items, payment for shipments, financial injection for the European Tour including the Dutch Open, the most famous golf club iron-6, Japan in ecstasy, golfer Anne van Dam on stamps, information about the list of offers and the baseball contribution of Ad van Sinttruijen.

*Dear Club members,*

Unfortunately I have to start this bulletin with a sad announcement.

On 11 October, our co-founder of Swing Time Philately, Leon Vanverre, passed away at the age of 84 in Antwerp after a long illness. Due to the sharp Covid-19 restrictions, only a written condolence to his wife Irene could be made.

Many of our members joined Swing Time Philately several to many years after it was founded. That's why a want to look back at my first meeting with Leon Vanverre and the origins of the club.

In the summer of 1990 I sat next to Leon in the Pim Mulier stadium in Haarlem as a spectator at a match of the Netherlands in the Haarlem Baseball Week. We started talking and he told me he was an avid collector of baseball stamps and very old postcards from all the American baseball stadiums. Given the duration of the game, there was plenty of time to talk about baseball and my curiosity was aroused by his enthusiastic talk about his collections. At his home he turned out to have a true baseball museum. What followed was an invitation to visit Antwerp and there I could see a number of beautiful collections. Although I wasn't a stamp collector myself up to that point, we decided to start a club together of collectors that dealt with images of baseball on stamps and almost immediately after that the theme of golf was added. It was **21 January, 1991**.

It turned out to be about there were more than a few collectors and soon – also due to the compilation of illustrated catalogues for both sports by ourselves - we had over 100 members from America, Italy, The Netherlands, Germany, Sweden, Belgium, Scotland, Canada, France, Ireland and Spain.

Through intensive collaboration with Leon, Swing Time Philately was able to expand further with an information bulletin, website, list of offers, New Issue Service, etc. Unfortunately, over the years the contact ebbed away, partly due to his deteriorating physical condition. The latest information received already indicated that the end was near for him.

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Last October it finally came to an end and those who met him during the club days can confirm that Leon was an enthusiastic, sympathetic and empathic collector with a lot of knowledge. May he rest in peace.

### **REGISTERED SHIPMENTS**

The vast majority of the shipments sent to as well as by me, are made by registered mail for reasons of safety and speed of shipment. Unfortunately, I have been in contact with PostNL for quite some time, both by telephone and email. It concerns a quality employee of the PostNL Executive Secretariat and we have extensive weekly contact, which resulted in a 7-months-old file of more than 90 (!) pages. So is there so much wrong with the shipments? Although it is not the most interesting information article, I think it makes sense to go deeper into this.



I regularly receive registered mail, sometimes presented correctly, such as personally signing for delivery. Unfortunately, it occurred several times that the registered shipment (note: for which a substantial extra fee is paid) has been delivered straight into the mail box as regular mail. After consultation via Track & Trace, the initials for receipt appear to have been signed by the postman himself. Of course, he wants his delivery money for the package and will not receive it if he returns the shipment to the PostNL distribution point. That may all be true, but it is and remains forgery. Moreover, you cannot refuse a shipment if it is damaged or make a claim, because a (false) signature has been made.

I received the same signals from some Swing Time members, such as a registered shipment that was put outside in the open behind the garbage can, while there was a (so-called) initials of the sender on the delivery document and which could then be viewed via Track & Trace. Even on this very moment big problems. According to the sender, a registered shipment was sent on September 22, 2021 and the shipment was received at the Customs department on September 27, 2021 as can be seen via Track & Trace. Now, 70 days later, nothing has been received, whereas PostNL expected the item to be sent around mid-October.

It was very worrying as it was a registered package from Japan with some nice golf and baseball sheets. The sender, who is known to me, had sent everything neatly, but the shipment never arrived. I checked Track & Trace again and to my surprise I see that the item was offered to my address on October 28, 2021. It was then stated that the addressee was not at home and 3 hours later the registered shipment could be obtained up at the relevant PostNL service point. However, no note was left in which PostNL stated when and where the item could be picked up. If not collected, the shipment would be returned to the sender on November 4th!!

The next day (October 29) I was traveling to my daughter who works in Antalya (Turkey) to return home after 7 days on November 5, 2021.

Checked the mail but nothing about this shipment. Track & Trace consulted again and.....the item was returned to Japan but nothing else can be found. In any case, have informed the Japanese sender and asked if he wants to report immediately when the returned item is received. After almost six weeks, the recipient has not yet received anything back and nothing can be found anymore via Track & Trace.

Of course PostNL has been held liable because it has not complied with the prescribed postal rules. When delivery is not possible, an official statement has to be left in the mail box that the item can be picked up and it would only be normal that, also in view of the extra payment, a reminder is sent.

An elaborate story but also for a reason.

**Could all members, both Dutch and foreign, send me an email when they have received the shipment.**

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In particular the Dutch members I want to ask if they can inform me whether they have signed for receipt themselves or whether the signature has been made with false initials?

So I can continue my battle with PostNL with this information.

### GOLF TEAR-OFF CALENDAR 2021



This illustrated calendar is composed by Leo van de Ruit, sports journalist, golf writer, columnist and author of ten sports books including two about golf: Bunker Blues and Falling and standing up of Dutch golf heroes. The calendar contains a joke, a golf statement, short anecdotes and all kinds of other golf facts per day. In the summer of 2021 I was approached by him concerning golf stamps and he explained his initiative regarding a golf tear-off calendar. He asked me for images of golf stamps and I was of course able to hand these over because Leo van de Ruit is also a member of Golfclub Zeegersloot in Alphen aan den Rijn. The calendar (priced at € 14.95) is now in my possession and very nice to browse through and every day a new and joke and/or interesting fact.

In the illustration images of the front and back and when we look on Thursday, March 10, 2022, we read that on that day in 2009 the first official Dutch golf stamp was issued by PostNL. On Monday May 16, 2021 also attention to other Dutch golf stamps including Joost Luiten, Golfclub Zeegersloot and others. I have no further involvement with it, but if interested you can email to [info@mediaruit.nl](mailto:info@mediaruit.nl) or visit Leo's personal website at <http://www.mediaruit.nl>.



**SUPPLEMENTAL CATALOGUE PAGES GOLF and BASEBALL**

# TOKYO 2020



Never before has there been so much work in the golf and baseball supplemental pages for the catalogue. It is quite normal and logical that in an Olympic year more stamps and sheets are issued than in the intervening years, but this time we had to deal with the rescheduling of the Olympic Games 2020 in Tokyo (for which already many stamps and sheets had been produced and issued), to Tokyo 2021, resulting in additional issues. Some of these issues are really very nice.

Thus the sets of pages are more extensive than average, but 2022 it will be more back to normal again.

## **MISSING ITEMS LISTS**

From quite a few members I have a missing items list so that I can see what they need. However, most lists are already quite dated and it is important for me that I have an up-to-date list if possible. I can see per member what has been delivered, but not what a member has received through other channels and has crossed off his or her list. I would appreciate receiving an updated list from the members concerned.

## **PAYMENT OF ORDERS**

Those members who regularly receive shipments probably are familiar with the basic payment rule that if an invoice is a bit higher, you can pay in two or even more terms without any problem, provided that I am notified because I have to keep track of things. In general, payments are smooth and correctly across the board, for which I thank you.

## **MILLIONS FOR EUROPEAN PGA TOUR**

In 2022 the European PGA Tour will be named the DP World Tour. What's the reason for that?



The state-owned Dubai Ports World will invest millions of dollars in the Tour as title sponsor. Total prize money will reach an all-time high in 2022 with \$200 million US, equivalent to 173 million in Euros.

The name change coincides with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the European Tour in 2022 and on the calendar 47 tournaments in 27 different countries are scheduled. New tournaments will be added in Japan, the United Arab Emirates, Belgium and South Africa.

Each tournament has a minimum prize pool of 2 million dollars (1.7 million Euros) and that will also apply to the Dutch Open. In addition to other sponsors, the Dutch Open will be considerably upgraded and there is a chance that more appealing top golfers will come to the Netherlands.

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Of course the championship final of the Tour will be played in Dubai, where the best 60 players compete for a well-filled prize pool. Unfortunately, this current year Joost Luiten and Wil Besseling were far away from this limit and missed the final tournament.

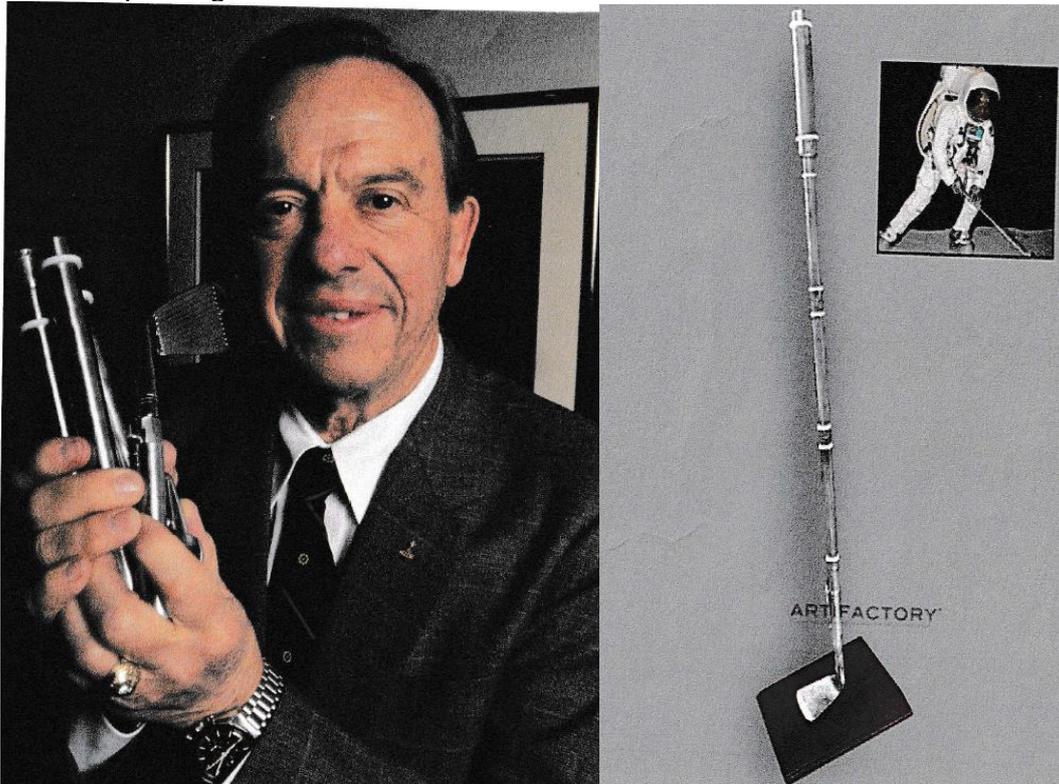
### **MOST FAMOUS IRON-6**

We have paid attention to the golf stroke of Alan Shepard on the moon before and there are several stamp issues with an image of the astronaut. The stroke(s) are listed in the Guinness Book of Records and original images from the moon can also be found on the Internet. It was always thought that the hit ball disappeared into the universe and was therefore the farthest golf shot ever. But new information has surfaced.

From the Apollo 14 Lunar Module, six photos were taken that show the landing site and close by the place where two golf balls were knocked off by Alan Shepard. For decades, space enthusiasts have wondered in particular how far the second ball was hit. Thanks to imaging specialist Andy Saunders, a photo showed the impact of the 6-iron swings. Saunders spread historic news after his investigation that the first ball struck by Alan Shepard reached only 24 yards and the second ball flew 40 yards!

But how did Alan Shepard come up with the idea of taking an Iron-6 golf club to the moon? It is known that each astronaut was allowed to take one personal item, of course within certain limits.

In 1970, American comedian Bob Hope (note: also pictured on golf stamps) visited NASA headquarters in Houston. As an avid golfer, Hope joked about hitting a golf ball from the moon. Alan Shepard thought that would be a big stunt, but of course he couldn't bring an original iron. Jack Harden, golf pro at River Oaks Country Club in Houston, was contacted and the idea was born to modify a Wilson Staff Iron-6. Using aluminum and Teflon®, it became a collapsible golf club.



Many articles at the time reported that Alan Shepard had secretly smuggled in the golf club and balls, but according to a later interview with Alan Shepard, that was not the case. He reported it in advance to NASA director Bob Gilruth, who, after previously opposing the plan, eventually gave his approval.

### **JAPANESE BASEBALL TEAM ECSTATIC**

At the 2021 Olympics, Japan won eight gold medals in judo, the sport that originated in the land of the rising sun. The most prized gold though was won in baseball, the most popular sport in Japan, after a final against the big Team USA (2-0). Interesting detail, the softball final also ended with the same finalists, the same final score and the same winner. Baseball, like softball, made a one-time return to the Olympic program after a 13-year absence. For the first time since 1992, the team of Kingdom of The Netherlands was missing.

### **GOLFSTAR ANNE VAN DAM**



The only female top player in the Netherlands has a new coach: Sean Foley. Not just any coach, as he was a former Tiger Woods golf coach for four years. They were together at the Olympic Games where unfortunately she did not come close to the medals. It was also a difficult year for her with all the Covid-19 issues, especially regarding whether or not to participate in tournaments with the chance that she could not fly back due to sudden measures. She has already showed that she is talented with a few nice top-10 finishes. She is now also featured on some stamp sheets and on pages of the December 2021 edition.

### **IMMINENT CHAOS IN MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL**

The start of the new American baseball season is in danger if not quickly an agreement is reached on a new collective labour agreement. Negotiations between the Major League Baseball leadership (along with the owners of the clubs) and the players' union have stalled. A so-called lockout has now been announced. As it lasts, players are not allowed to play or change clubs. Moreover, players are not allowed to train or rehabilitate at the clubs' accommodations and players will not receive a salary when the season starts.

“Despite all efforts to negotiate a deal with the players' union, we have been unable to extend our 26-year history of labour peace and come to an agreement” said MLB Commissioner Robert Manfred. “Hopefully, our decision is a stimulation to reach an agreement quickly, so that we can start the season on time”.

***Time is running out***

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The competition starts on March 31, but the clubs should already start their preparations around mid-February. Time is indeed running out, with ten weeks to go. Clubs were acting proactively, which led to an unprecedented busy transfer day just before the old collective agreement expired. The Texas Rangers were very decisive, with the arrival of Corey Seager as the highlight. The shortstop has signed a ten-year commitment worth \$325 million. In total, 1.25 billion dollars in contracts were signed on Wednesday, a record. Experience shows that such a lockout can take quite some time. The last time was 27 years ago, when the conflict lasted 232 days. As a result, the 1994 play-offs were cancelled, no champion was declared and the new season was drastically shortened. However, it is expected that things will not get out of hand this time. The corona pandemic has already cost the clubs a lot of money, so they benefit from playing in full stadiums again as soon as possible.

### ***Drastic and unnecessary***

In a statement, the players' union speaks of a drastic and unnecessary measure. "We remain committed to negotiate a new collective labour agreement that will increase competition and improve the product for our fans, and promote the rights and benefits of union membership. Important points in the negotiations are shortening the number of years of service to enforce a transfer-free status as a baseball player and a more favourable tax rate." Robert Manfred nevertheless remains hopeful about a timely start to the competition: "Today is a difficult day for baseball. But there is a way to a fair agreement and we will find it."

### **SWING TIME-BULLETIN**

December is a very busy month for us. For golf and baseball must be a little under a 100 (!) catalogue pages needed to be compiled, also due to the cancellation of the 2020 Olympics that were rescheduled for 2021, and which resulted in additional issues. Then everything needs to be sent to the Copyprint and sorted, the shipments prepared, the accounting and the offer lists.

As has been the case for many years, Hendrik-Jan van Telgen provides the more than excellent English translations of the bulletin and Ad van Sinttruijen takes care of processing the texts and compiling the bulletin, the baseball contribution and the website.

Ad has now permanently emigrated to Spain but has announced that he will remain a member of Swing Time Philately forever. Hendrik-Jan unfortunately has osteoarthritis problems, which means that golf is no longer possible, but he also remains loyal to our collector's club. Cheers for you both.

**The STP team (Ad, Hendrik-Jan and Rob) wishes you all a merry Christmas and for 2022 a prosperous and above all healthy and COVID-free year.**