



GARY GALYEAN'S GOLF LETTER®

THE INSIDE REPORT ON WORLD GOLF

NUMBER 213

OUR 20TH YEAR

JANUARY 2009

Dear Subscriber:

2010 U.S. Open Changes to Pebble Beach 6th, 8th, 9th and 10th Holes

Changes have already been implemented to Pebble Beach in preparation for the 2010 U.S. Open. Those in the know like what has been done and comment that the course is presenting itself beautifully. Here are the most obvious alterations that will be apparent during next month's Pebble Beach Pro-Am:

- 6th - Fairway bunkers moved to the right; the fairway has been cut back further to the right, which allows balls to run toward the ocean.
- 8th - Fairway moved to the right bringing the ocean more into play in the drive zone.
- 9th - A new back tee and the fairway, like the 8th, moved further to the right in order to make the ocean more of a factor.
- 10th - As with the others already mentioned, the fairway has been moved closer toward the ocean in order to magnify the effect of the hazard.

Reader Survey Results

Your vacation preferences, as indicated by responses to November's survey, are very specific and surprising in only one area - your all-time favorite domestic and international vacation destinations. Complete results appear on page three.

The general portrait of a GOLF LETTER subscriber reveals that golf is not a vacation necessity for a majority of you. You prefer staying at a small hotel in your home country with members of your family. In addition to playing golf, you like good restaurants and a variety of sports activities to engage in.

Demographic: During 2008, you aged very slightly, made a little more money, increased your net worth, lowered your handicap minutely, and played a few more rounds of golf. It is perhaps not surprising that your all-time favorite vacation destinations are located in various corners of the world and are specific to each subscriber. You do not share favorites with other subscribers, with two exceptions: Pebble Beach and

Italy. Both were your overwhelmingly favorite destinations in their respective category. Your Pebble Beach visit included golf, while Italy did not.

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More Adjustment to the State of the Match 13 Down! After 2

The Rules of Golf often provoke some sort of reaction or correction because of their complexity. Our November piece on State-of-the-Match penalties resulted in this much appreciated response from W.H.N. in Greenwich, Connecticut:

"You mentioned [in the November issue of THE GOLF LETTER] that a player in match play can be nine down after playing two holes because of the four violations you mention. Actually there are two additional rules violations which could put a player thirteen down after two holes.

"• Under Rule 4-2b there is a penalty (new format for this year) for carrying, but not making a stroke with a non-conforming club. This requires adjustment of the state of the

As we begin our 20th year, thank you for your loyalty and welcome to those who have just joined us.

DAVIS LOVE III

"There is only one source for reports on the top resorts for great golf vacations - THE GOLF LETTER. It's the only golf publication I really look forward to reading."

match by deducting a maximum of two holes for the breach.

“• Under Rule 6-4 a player is penalized for having more than one caddy (sic), with the penalty being adjustment of the state of the match by deducting a maximum of two holes.”

Winged Foot's Tree Appeal Refused 6th Hole Remains Out of Play

In mid November, the New York State Court Appellate Division refused Winged Foot G.C.'s request for injunctive relief to lift the temporary restraining order (TRO) that has closed play on the 6th hole of the club's East Course.

Because the appeal process can take a good deal of time, the Club asked the higher court to lift the TRO during the course of the appeal. The higher court declined to give the Club that interim relief.

The TRO prohibiting play on the hole was issued in October, as reported in our November issue. Winged Foot President Billy O'Keefe reported the news of the court's refusal in a mid-November letter to the members. In that letter, he reiterated that the Club had planted three, large Norway Spruce trees between the 6th [East] tee and the plaintiff's property.

“We argued to the Court, and continue to believe, that those trees are sufficient to address the concerns raised in plaintiff's complaint,” Mr. O'Keefe wrote.

“Nevertheless, while the appeal proceeds, we will also be working with experts on designing and locating additional plantings to provide further screening between the 6 East tee and plaintiff's property.” In the next paragraph, the idea of erecting nets was dismissed as a solution.

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We have a friend who likes Martinis. About once a year, after he has avoided them for several months, he orders one with great anticipation. Usually the next day, he tells us that the first one made him feel so good that he had two more - imagining that three would make him feel three times better than one.

The critical success of tree removal at Oakmont and The National has inspired other clubs. Such work can be warranted in varying degrees. As with our Martini friend, early success can lead to excess. Incremental encroachment of classic courses needs attention. Boundary protection and environmental advantages also have their places at parkland courses.

Snake River Sporting Club Moves From Chapter 11 to Chapter 7

Just prior to Thanksgiving, a motion was filed in bankruptcy court in Cheyenne, Wyoming, by attorneys

for the Snake River Sporting Club to convert the club's Chapter 11 status to Chapter 7, according to a story by Traci Agel in the JACKSON HOLE NEWS & GUIDE.

The newspaper reported that the Snake River club is owned by DPS Development, Inc., which is the same firm that developed the Greenbrier Sporting Club in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. DPS, according to the story, took control of the Snake River club in January 2005 from the property's original owner Dick Edgcomb. At that time, \$67 million in loans were arranged from a mortgage company owned by Reno, Nevada, casino owner Barney Ng.

DPS arranged to assume responsibilities for the sale of lots and club memberships. The Greenbrier Resort & Club Management Company, described in the story as a partner with DPS, was to run the club.

At the time of the Chapter 11 filing by Snake River, \$91.48 million in liabilities were reported and \$9.78 million in assets. The club reportedly owned roughly \$78 million to creditors with secure claims and about \$13.25 million to those with unsecured claims.

Also in November, the Yellowstone Club, a different club in the same area, filed for Chapter 11 protection. This story was widely reported because Yellowstone members include Bill Gates and Dan Quayle.

From THE GOLF LETTER Archives: Harris Impressive at Coleman Cup May 1993

As the 2009 Palm Beach season swings into high gear, the following piece adds some panache and admiration to what is sometimes quietly accomplished at Seminole.

John Harris, 40, of Edina, Minnesota, gave an impressively consistent demonstration of his ability to measure the enigmatic and infatuating Seminole Golf Club while winning the second annual George L. Coleman Invitational earlier this month [May 1993] in North Palm Beach.

Mr. Harris's 54-hole score of 211 (68, 73, 70) was five under par and nine shots better than his closest competitor. With repeatedly solid iron play and surgical like putting on the subtle Donald Ross greens (which were magnificently smooth and prepared to a speed of about 11), Mr. Harris demonstrated that he was equal to the task in a field which included several U.S. Amateur and Mid-Amateur Champions, Walker Cup players and the 1993 Walker Cup U.S. Captain Marvin "Vinny" Giles of Richmond, Virginia. Indeed, Mr. Giles was paired with Mr. Harris for the first 36 holes.

On Sunday, Mr. Harris was paired with co-leader Bill O'Connor of Malibu, California, the two being tied at 141 after 36 holes. Mr. O'Connor seemed to lose his concentration on the second nine particularly

RESULTS OF THE GOLF LETTER'S 2008 READER SURVEY

Readers' Preferences

DURING YOUR VACATION...

ACCESS TO A GOOD GOLF COURSE IS:

- 43% a necessity
- 18% nice, but not necessary
- 17% of secondary importance
- 7% really don't care, I play enough at home

FOR ACCOMMODATION, YOU PREFER:

- 51% a small hotel
- 18% my own vacation home
- 15% a major resort
- 5% a private retreats club
- 2% a tour

YOU LIKE -

AND WERE ASKED TO PICK AS MANY AS YOU WANTED:

- 88% golf
- 70% going to great restaurants
- 44% working out at a gym
- 32% hiking
- 24% sailing
- 20% attending cultural events
- 19% skiing
- 19% fishing
- 15% going on a tour
- 11% running
- 9% tennis

GENERALLY, YOU PREFER:

- 61% your home country
- 39% traveling to a foreign country

YOU PREFER TRAVELING:

- 42% with family
- 38% with family & friends
- 15% with friends
- 5% alone

Reader Profile

- Median Age - 59
- Annual Income - \$498,000
- Net Worth - \$4.8 million
- Occupation:
 - Executive - 55%
 - Physician/ Attorney - 7%
 - Other - 38%
- Title:
 - CEO/Owner/President - 74%
 - Vice President/Gen Mgr - 6%
 - Other - 20%
- Golf Handicap: 9.4
- Annual Rounds Played: 77

Subscriber List Policy

The publication of our subscriber demographics invariably leads to inquiries as to the availability of THE GOLF LETTER mailing list. This list is the private area of our subscribers - our members. For this reason, our subscribers' names will be held in confidence.

GARY GALYEAN, EDITOR & PUBLISHER

YOUR ALL-TIME FAVORITE VACATION DESTINATIONS:

U.S. - 76% included golf

1. Pebble Beach, California
2. Sea Island, Georgia
3. Hawaii
4. The Broadmoor
5. Vail - Sun Valley - Aspen
6. San Francisco - The Homestead

Outside U.S. - 57% included golf

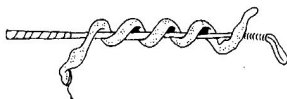
1. Italy
2. Scotland
3. England
4. New Zealand
5. Greece - Paris
6. Africa - Bermuda

after making six to Mr. Harris's two at the par-3 13th. However, Mr. Harris never lost his focus though given more than one opportunity to do so: At the par-4 4th, he took two pitch shots from less than 30 feet to get the ball just onto the green for an eventual six; and at the par-4 11th, a lack of "reasonable evidence" that his ball had been lost in a water hazard resulted in a lost ball penalty and a triple bogey. In both cases, however, Mr. Harris responded strongly, nearly making eagle at the 6th, holing a bunker shot for eagle at the 9th, and with birdies at the 12th, 13th, and 14th.

Mr. Harris was raised in Roseau, Minnesota, which is more than 300 miles north of Minneapolis, has a three-month-long golf season and is best known for the manufacturing of snow traversing vehicles. Despite this un-golf-like setting, Mr. Harris won the Minnesota high school championship and a golf scholarship to the University of Minnesota. He played hockey and golf for Minnesota lettering eight times in four years. It would seem logical that Mr. Harris's extensive play in Minnesota would also be in his favor as a Walker Cup team member since that competition will be held this year at Interlachen C.C. in Edina (Aug 18th & 19th).

The most impressive element of Mr. Harris's play was his methodical measuring of Seminole with shot after shot played pin-high to the proper side of the green. His accuracy is obtained through the careful walking and re-measuring of the course previous to the competition. He knows exactly where his ball is in relation to all hazards and the hole; and he is then able to extract this distance with remarkable regularity from his smooth and powerful swing.

Mr. Harris made the fourth round of match play at last year's National Amateur and his father, Bob, was runner-up in the 1992 U.S. Senior Amateur at the Loxahatchee Club in Jupiter, Florida.



For C.C. & B.L.M.:

"Before you go searching for an answer, consider first that perhaps you've asked a wrong question."

Brian Enos
 Legendary, competition marksman

PALM BEACH RESTAURANT REVIEWS

Renato's - Tel 655.9752 - PB's most romantic and most appealing. Great menu. Charming, friendly service. Inside and out seating. Never disappointing.

Chez Jean-Pierre - Tel 833.1171 - Most civilized on the beach. Sometimes referred to as "très cher Jean Pierre". Request a table in the older part with the artwork. Wonderful Dover sole and cold artichoke.

Flagler Steakhouse - Tel 659.8471 - Best beef on the beach. Head and brisket above the Palm Beach Grill. Great bar.

Cucina del Arte - Tel 655.0770 - Still *the* younger scene. Food uneven. Great people watching. Could use a good cleaning.

Leopard Lounge @ The Chesterfield - Tel 659. 5800 - Dancing most nights. PB glamour-razzi. The bar lizard, geriatric pickup scene is beyond our descriptive ability.

Ta-Boo - Tel 835.3500 - Sit in front unless you prefer Siberia. Food spotty. Service can be slow when busy. No dancing so far this season.

Palm Beach Grill - Tel 835.1077 - Reservations a must. Good, basic food: steak, fish, slaw, fries. Houston's PB version with a more limited menu. Noisy, comfortable. Not our favorite, but everyone else's.

Bice - Tel 835.1600 - Go to Renato's.

264 The Grill - Tel 833.6444 - Reasonably priced. Attractive, red dining room. Classic menu. Lobster every night. Early Bird crowd likes the price point.

Café Boulud - Tel 655.6060 - Over cooked and over priced. The front room is the most attractive. Pricey scene with an attitude. Chez Jean-Pierre is the preferred alternative.

Very truly yours,

Gary A. Galyean
 Editor & Publisher

Destinations included in GARY GALYEAN'S GOLF LETTER® are chosen at the discretion of the editors. All expenses related to the gathering of this information are paid by the publication. Rates quoted are subject to change without notice. Subscription rate is \$88 US per year (\$98US overseas); renewal rate from \$77US.



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