



GARY GALYEAN'S GOLF LETTER®

THE INSIDE REPORT ON WORLD GOLF

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OUR 31ST YEAR

MAY 2020

Dear Subscriber:

Bruted here a few weeks back, the 149th Open Championship, which was scheduled to be played this coming July at Sandwich, will instead be played at Sandwich next July [2021].

This maintains the return of the Open Championship to St. Andrews for its 150th playing. The Old Course has been the Open venue 29 times since 1873.

The Open Championship is the only 2020 major championship—at least so far—to have canceled altogether for 2020. The three other 2020 majors have moved to late summer and autumn as follows:

2020 - 102nd P.G.A. Championship - Harding Park, San Francisco - Aug. 6 - 9.

2020 - 120th U.S. Open - Winged Foot, Mamaroneck - Sept. 17 - 20.

Ryder Cup - Whistling Straits - Sep 25 - 27

2020 - 84th Masters - Nov. 12 - 15.

NEXT YEAR

2021 - 85th Masters - Apr. 8 - 11.

2021 - 103rd P.G.A. Championship - Kiawah [Ocean], South Carolina - May 17 - 23.

2021 - 121st U.S. Open - Torrey Pines [South], San Diego - June 14 - 20.

2021 149th Open - Royal St. George's, Sandwich - July 15 - 18.

Games of the XXXII Olympiad - Golf event, Kasumigaseki, Japan - Jul 30 - Aug 8.

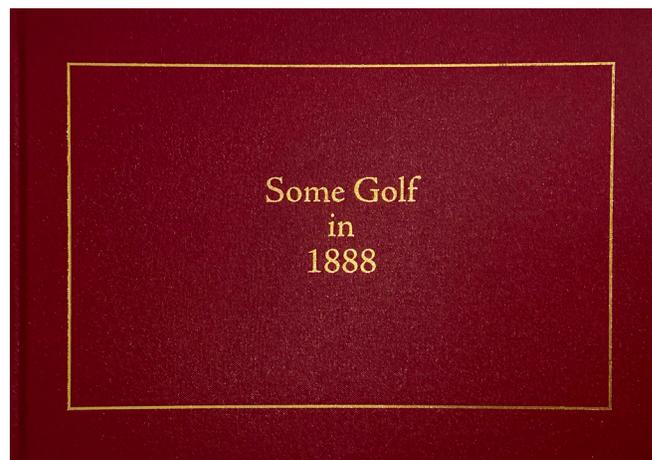
SOME GOLF IN 1888

Compiled and Edited by
D.M. Wilson III

Yet again, Grant Books, through the collaboration of D.M. Wilson III and H.R.J. Grant, has produced a golf book that reflects the formative years of 19th century golf in Great Britain through the intriguing language, customs, and art of that time.

SOME GOLF IN 1888 was compiled and edited by Mr. Wilson who communicated that “there was plenty of pleasure and serendipity in creating ‘1888’, not the least of which was discovering the delightful art of John Fulleylove”.

This is an engrossing, attractive and fulfilling book. Its 60 pages are comprised of a backgrounding introduction by Mr. Wilson, the reproduction of four articles—ranging



from golf travel in Scotland to the psychology of playing—and a charming reproduction of the RULES OF GOLF AND LOCAL RULES FOR THE LINKS OF ST. ANDREWS from 1888.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

MAJOR CHAMPIONSHIPS' NEW DATES

SOME GOLF IN 1888

A Reader's Comment

The year 1888 was relatively ordinary during an extraordinary time on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. Golf was booming in Great Britain, Ireland, and across the British Empire; and just coming ashore in America.

Two important golf clubs were founded in 1888: In Ireland, The County Club, which would be renamed Royal Portrush in 1892; and, in New York, the St. Andrews Golf Club of Yonkers, which became one of the five founding clubs of the United States Golf Association.

The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews enjoyed its 134th year in 1888 while the U.S.G.A. was nine years from being established.

Queen Victoria, 67, was in her 51st year as sovereign and 12 years out from having adopted the title Empress of India.

In England, the Lawn Tennis Association was born in 1888, as was T.E. Lawrence, monikered "Lawrence of Arabia" by Lowell Thomas and simultaneously "you little twerp" by Gertrude Bell. Thomas Hardy's *WESSEX TALES* were published. The Whitechapel Murders—11 unsolved cases attributed to Jack the Ripper—began their three year run of terror in London's East End.

In America, "The Schoolhouse Blizzard" in the upper Midwest killed 235—including many children on their way home from school—and "The Great Blizzard" killed more than 400 on the eastern seaboard. *CASEY AT THE BAT* was published, the national typing competition was won by a stenographer using touch typing for the first time, Wil-

liam Borroughs patented the adding machine, George Eastman created Eastman Kodak, and the Washington Monument opened. T.S. Eliot, Harpo Marx, and Joseph Kennedy Sr. were born.

The first two articles in *SOME GOLF IN 1888* are a two-part account of a 20-day, 12-course trip through Scotland titled *A Tour Round Scottish Golf Courses*. They

were published in *THE NEWCASTLE DAILY JOURNAL* and written under the pen-name Scriba. The traveling group was comprised of four men who began their journey at Dunbar and finished at Prestwick. There is a descriptive entry for each course played, as well as contemporary course maps and scorecards.

The 12 courses in the order played were: Dunbar, North

Berwick, Gullane, Luffness, Musselburgh, Edinburgh, St. Andrews, Carnoustie, Leven, Glasgow, Troon, and Prestwick. NOTE: In 1888, The Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers still played at Musselburgh. It was not until 1891 that the Club moved to Muirfield.

It is significant to remember that Bernard Darwin's *GOLF COURSES OF THE BRITISH ISLES* was not published until 1910. While it was the first, and remains the finest, opinionated description of golf courses in Great Britain, that standard had not yet been reached in 1888.

Scriba's accounts of their trip's 12 courses are more a knowledgeable enthusiast's descriptions, as opposed to those of a professional writer, genius, and highly skilled amateur player. That being said (written), the reader will find it easy to appreciate Scriba's effort. As he and his friends began their trip's golf at Dunbar, this first paragraph sets the stage for the entire piece:

Dunbar

Arriving at Dunbar by the 2:50 train from Newcastle on the afternoon of Saturday, 23rd June, we engaged the station bus to convey us to the Links, about three-quarters of a mile distant, where, having selected whom we thought the most intelligent-looking "caddies" from amongst the throngs of boys in



Princes Street from the Steps of the New Club by John Fulleylove

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RULES OF GOLF insert 24 pages

waiting, we commenced the round of 18 holes. The situation of the golfing course is very fine, charming views of the Bass Rock, May Island, and long stretches of the Haddington coast forming a delightful panorama. The grass throughout the course is rather longer than is desirable for the game, but the "putting greens" were all that could be desired.

In addition to golf course descriptions and evaluations, Scriba is unafraid to wander into the social aspects of their trip that do not include golf. His take on visiting an Edinburgh club for dinner gives a calm and tasteful account of an evening that, perhaps thankfully, distracted from the game:

Edinburgh

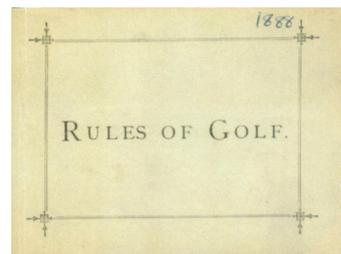
Returning to Edinburgh, and divesting ourselves of our golfing attire, we made our way to the Conservative Club in Princess Street, where we had an engagement to dine with a party of golfing friends. Our host, Mr. W.B. Glen, S.S.C., was ready to meet us, and showed us over the magnificent building ... The view from the windows is charming, the upper ones commanding the entire length of Princess Street, with Sir Walter Scott's monument, and facing into the gardens and on to the grand old Castle.

Additional segments from SOME GOLF IN 1888 include *The Psychology of Golf*, reprinted from *Edinburgh Magazine* [May 1888], and simply *Golf*, which appeared in *Outdoor Sports in Scotland* in 1889. The former is intriguing in light of all that is currently written about sports psychology. Nothing has changed much in this area—and probably never will.

Golf describes the game's history and traditions in a delightful and entertaining way for those, presumably, newly drawn to the game's magnetic qualities.

In addition to the main volume, there is an inserted reprint of the RULES OF GOLF from 1888. The little book (4¾" x 3½") fits into a pocket fixed inside the back cover. It is also reprinted in full as an appendix at the end of the book proper.

It is surprising how similar in language and approach so many of the 1888 rules are to those of the last 75 years. Grant Books' brochure states:



The year also saw the important 1888 Rules of Golf by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, the near-final step in making golf's Rules uniform.

This must have been true in 1888. However, the formation of the U.S.G.A. in 1895, and their appointment of themselves for the administration of U.S. and Mexican golf, disrupted uniformity in the Rules. Bill Campbell often spoke of being handed pages of Rules differences when the Walker Cup was played in the U.K. It would be 1952 before this divergence was addressed; 1984 for a major re-org; and 1990 before we all used the same ball.

The booklet also contains local rules for the St. Andrews links. This one is noteworthy:

Ball Lost.

4. A ball getting into the enclosure (between the Road and Dyke holes) called the "Station-Master's Garden," shall be treated as a lost ball.

My Kingdom for a Course Stratford-upon-Avon & Some Golf

While sequestered by Wuhan virus, we can still make plans for future golf in attractive, faraway places. Stratford-upon-Avon is such a place if you have a hankering for Shakespeare and the ancient game.

The Welcombe is less than two miles from Stratford, situated on 150 acres, and features 18-holes of golf. It is also just 45 minutes from Blenheim Palace and Winston Churchill's grave. The hotel offers all the amenities you would expect. Search for www.hallmarkhotels.co.uk and then select Stratford-upon-Avon The Welcombe.



St. Andrews

A Reader's Comment
Retort to Our Greenbrier Account

Our March issue reflected on the long, notable history of the Greenbrier hotel. In response, we received the following e-mail from Robert S. Conte, the hotel's historian since 1978:

"Oh yes, in the middle of all that is going on I forgot to cancel my subscription to your once reputable Golf Letter. Why in God's name you decided to totally trash The Greenbrier in your last issue is beyond me. We, of course, are appalled by your take on the resort's history since the "golden era" of Pitt (sic) and Hays Watkins. We assume that TAG wrote the article. We are also puzzled by the timing--why now? Did somebody piss on your front lawn? And it had nothing to do with golf, which, after all, is what you know something about.

Don't piss me off more by bothering to respond but do scratch my name off of your subscription list.

William F. Buckley Jr. was a devout Christian who used language with acuity and invention. He employed the term *goddam* [lowercase g; no n] regularly and never sacrilegiously. In 2007, a year before his death, Mr. Buckley published a collection of letters from some of his readers and his replies to them in a volume titled *CANCEL YOUR OWN GODDAM SUBSCRIPTION - NOTES AND ASIDES FROM NATIONAL REVIEW*.



For D.:

Recall your courage, put dull fear away. This too sometime we shall haply remember with delight. Through chequered fortune, through perilous ways, we steer for Latium, where destiny points us a quiet home. There the realm of Troy may rise again unforbidden. Keep heart, and endure till prosperous fortune come.

Virgil
AENEID, I.203

N.B. It has been suggested that "Latium" is anywhere golf is enjoyed; and "the realm of Troy" is the game itself.

The following letter and reply appeared in Mr. Buckley's book; they seem apt after Mr. Conte's dull grunting:

April 14, 1972

Dear Bill:

Three cheers to Dr. Ross Terrill. He slashed you to bits as you have been doing to yourself for the past year. Cancel my subscription.

Wm. W. Morris
Green Valley, Ariz.

Dear Mr. Morris: Cancel your own goddam subscription. Cordially, WFB

P.G.A. Tour and Greenbrier Cancel Tournament After Ten Years, Replaced by Safeway Open in California

The P.G.A. Tour's contract to play in West Virginia was canceled altogether in mid-April through a mutual agreement between the tour and the Greenbrier. The contract was scheduled to run through 2026.

The Associated Press reported in their April 16, 2020, piece that "the most recently available tax records for the nonprofit that operates the [Greenbrier] tournament show it with a \$17.5 million debt in 2018". Played 10 times since 2010, the event appeared successful when held over the Fourth of July weekend, but lagged when moved to a fall date during college football.

Instead of the Greenbrier kicking off the tour's 2020-21 season, the Safeway Open will have that honor at Silverado in Napa, Ca., the week after the Tour Championship and the week before the rescheduled U.S. Open.

Yours vy truly,

Gary A. Galyean
Editor & Publisher

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