



# GARY GALYEAN'S GOLF LETTER

THE INSIDE REPORT ON WORLD GOLF

NUMBER 361

OUR 33<sup>RD</sup> YEAR

JULY 2022

Dear Subscriber:

AS THE STADDLE<sup>†</sup> upon which rest golf's invention, evolution, and governance, St. Andrews and the Old Course always produce unabridged, excruciating competition — Opens, Amateurs, Walker Cups — of historic excellence, surprise, and passion. The townspeople thrive in these moments and their knowing enthusiasm adds to the quality of the play; and the Old Course, like a silent preceptor, distills a dignified result regardless of weather, criticism, adulation, or expectation.

The game that has been played here for six centuries initially produced the idea of an open competition 400 years on. Since then (1860), 150 Open Championships have been played, 30 of those at St. Andrews.

Each of the last 16 Opens to be played over the Old Course — beginning in 1939 — found *The Champion Golfer of the Year* from among those within three strokes of the leader after the first round. This year continued that remarkable line. At the conclusion of Thursday's play, Cameron Young's 64 was low, Rory McIlroy followed two

<sup>†</sup> *staddle* - a base, support, or framework supporting a stack, or rick; from the old English "stathol", meaning base or support.

back at 66, and Cameron Smith and Robert Dinwiddie posted 67s. For the second round, Mr. Dinwiddie fell away with a 77. However, Mssrs. Smith, Young, and McIlroy stayed close to one another throughout and, with the exception of Victor Hovland's intrusion during the second and third rounds (66, 66), the 150<sup>th</sup> Open Championship became a struggle among these three who

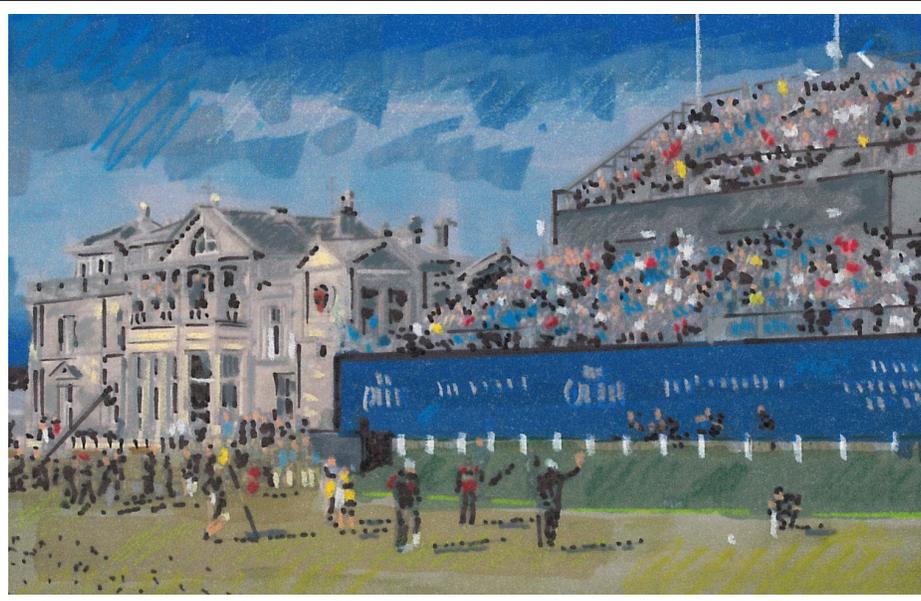
remained within four strokes of one another for 72 holes — ending with just one stroke separating each of the first three places.

The 150<sup>th</sup> Open was yet another unyielding extraction provided by a golf course many feared would be overwhelmed by modern power. At 7,300 yards,

green speeds between 10.5 and 11, and fairways firmer than the greens, the Old Course set about her job of demanding an excellence of decision making and execution. It was a marvel to see those who generally overwhelm distance, bunkering, and putting elsewhere in the world find it necessary to apply all their skill to prevail at the home of golf ... and to win with humility and without fist pumping and yelling.

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Thursday's weather was as it would be throughout the competition: mid 60's, wind from the west at 10 m.p.h., no rain. The Old Course appeared available for the tak-



TAG GALYEAN, *The 18<sup>th</sup> at St. Andrews, Tom Morris*

150<sup>th</sup>

ing. Firm, dry, predictable, greens quick but not unreasonable, bunkers exacting penalties, and undulations that gave competitors (and spectators) good reason to stay focused whether ultimately baffled or rewarded.

At the 614-yard, par-5 14<sup>th</sup>, Tiger Woods' drive did not stop until it traveled 412 yards, leaving only 188 to the hole — a nice reply to his double bogey at the wide, short 1<sup>st</sup>, where his second found the burn.

Mr. Young took the first round lead, 64 (31, 33), that included birdies at seven of the first 12 holes, three putting for par at the 14<sup>th</sup>, two putting for par at the Road Hole, and making birdie at the last.

“Don't think I played a perfect round of golf,” Mr. Young said. “I think it just kind of ... I scored really well. And I think we thought our way around kind of the way you have to out there.”

“I think any time you're around the lead in a major championship, or any PGA Tour event, frankly, you get more and more comfortable every time,” Mr. Young, 25, said referring to his third place finish in May at Southern Hills. “Whether I'm leading by three or one or four back after today, I'll sleep just fine. I feel like I've been around, even though it's only been most of the year, I've been around the lead a good bit, and I think we'll just take tomorrow as it comes. That's really all I can control.”

Mr. McIlroy, 33, with top ten finishes in each of 2022's previous major championships, referred to his steady 66 (32, 34) on Thursday as rather “boring”.

Apparently the loop at the top of the course – holes 7 through 11 – produced delays that rippled through the afternoon rounds. It took Mr. Woods' group five hours to play 15 holes! The same would recur on Friday. Once the cut was made, the weekend games moved along nicely.

Friday was another day of similar weather, similar play, and two important pieces of Open history. Wearing navy trousers, a white shirt, and a white sweater – Scotland's national colors – Mr. Woods, 46, walked up the home hole for what will probably be the last time as a competitor in an Open Championship at St. Andrews. He has stated repeatedly that the Old Course is his favorite course. Earlier in the week, he was admitted to the Royal & Ancient Golf Club as an honorary member.

“I don't know if I'll be physically able to play another

British Open here at St. Andrews,” Woods commented. “I certainly feel like I'll be able to play more British Opens, but I don't know if I'll be around when it comes back around here. So the warmth and the ovation at 18, it got to me.” The Open is expected to return to St. Andrews in 2027.

Elsewhere on Friday, Mr. Smith birdied the first three holes as well as the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup>. His 295-yard second into the par-5 14<sup>th</sup> finished 61 feet from the hole, and he made the putt to go 13-under. Mr. Smith's opening 36 holes (67, 64) were the lowest in Open history and required only 28 putts in each round. He finished two strokes ahead of Mr. McIlroy and Mr. Hovland.

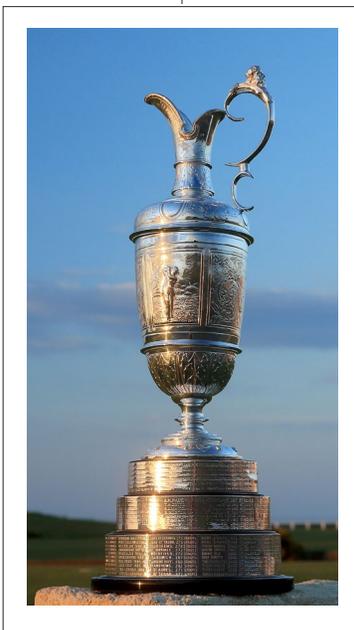
The 36-hole cut was made at even par and included 83 players – 18 of whom were tied at even par. The Open cut rule admits the low 70 and ties.

On Saturday, Mr. Smith led by two over Mr. Young and three over Mr. McIlroy. By day's end, Mr. McIlroy would lead both Mr. Young and Mr. Smith by four. It was more a jostling day than a moving day:

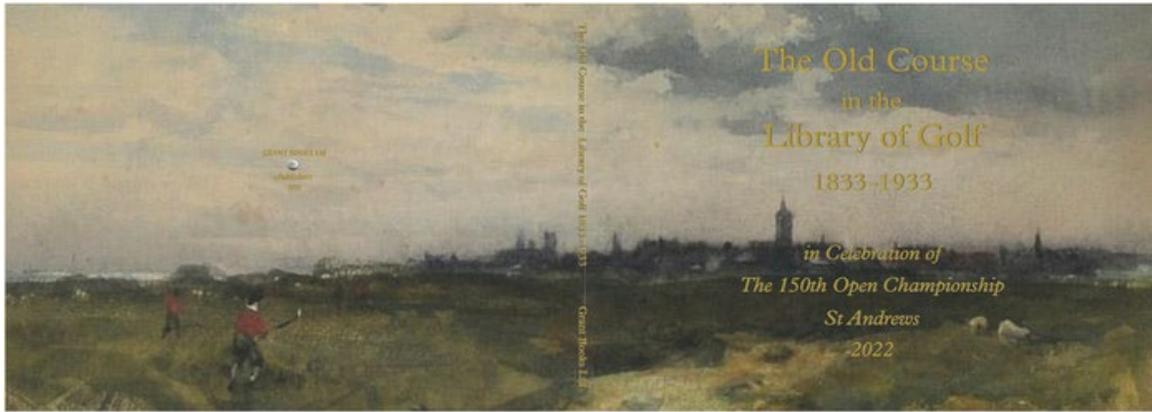
Mr. Smith three-putted the 1<sup>st</sup> - his first three-putt of the championship and only his second bogey. Mr. Hovland, playing with Mr. McIlroy, tied the lead with a 41 foot putt at the 4<sup>th</sup>. Mr. McIlroy holed

an 82 foot bunker shot at the 10<sup>th</sup> for eagle and joined Mr. Hovland in the lead. At the 13<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Smith played poorly from the outside edge of a bunker into the gorse and came away with a double bogey. Almost simultaneously, Mr. McIlroy birdied the 16<sup>th</sup> for the sole lead. Mr. Hovland made par from the pavement behind the Road Hole green, while Mr. McIlroy made bogey from near the wall. They were tied once again for the lead. Through the 14<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Smith took as many putts (28) as he needed for each of the first two rounds – ultimately he took 35 putts on Saturday before posting 73. Mr. Young's 71 was equally disappointing and assured that he would play again with Mr. Smith on Sunday in the next to the

*Open report continues on final page ....*



In celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> Open Championship and the Old Course's 30<sup>th</sup> hosting, Grant Books just released *The Old Course in the Library of Golf 1833 - 1933*. This conspicuously-erudite and beautifully-produced book, described on the following page, addresses only the evolution of the course – not the competitions, or the clubs that border it. Casebound, 304 pages, 150 images.



**Extraordinary New Release:**

**THE OLD COURSE  
IN THE LIBRARY OF GOLF 1833-1933**

**From the Notice by D.M. Wilson III,  
Publisher, Grant Books, Ltd.**

*The Old Course in the Library of Golf, 1833-1933*, published just three weeks ago by Grant Books Ltd., was inspired by the 150<sup>th</sup> Open Championship as it returned to St. Andrews for its 30<sup>th</sup> playing.

The book is focused between 1833 and 1933 so as to start with George Fullerton Carnegie's first edition of *Golfiana* and to end with *Golf Courses: Design, Construction and Upkeep*, edited by Martin H.F. Sutton, and Dr. Alister MacKenzie's *St Andrews Manuscript*.

Chronologically arranged, this anthology transports the reader through a hundred critical years of the history of the Old Course using words, artwork and maps that were chosen after a careful review of the approximate 500 books and booklets that premier golf bibliographers count as the total number of such published golf sources for the period 1833-1933.

*The Old Course in the Library of Golf 1833-1933* houses within its covers a pantheon of classic golf authors: Balfour, Bauchope, Bauer, Bennett, Carnegie, Chambers, Clark, Colt, Dalrymple, Darwin, Everard, Farnie, Fleming, Hilton, Hutchinson, Lang, Low, Macdonald, MacKenzie, Simpson, Smith, Sutton, Tulloch and Wethered.

Their words, whether in prose or rhyme, describe and illuminate the Old Course as it appeared to them during the period 1833-1933, and their observations not only retain truths, but also resonate with us now, as valuable reference and as enduring respect for this unique and historic terrain and turf at seaside in St Andrews.

The book's selections are embellished by images provided by permission of The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, as well as text and images provided by permission of the Bernard Darwin Estate, and the Estate of Raymond M. Haddock.

The book's singular focus is the Old Course itself—not the town, not the history of St. Andrews, not the golfing societies nor clubs, not the game nor its personalities, not the championships nor competitions— simply the Old Course itself as expressed timelessly in the exposition, photography, art, and cartography in the chosen sources.

[Appearing just to the left are] excerpts from the Foreword by David Hamilton, famed golf author, historian and publisher, and excerpts from the Afterword by Peter N. Lewis, renowned golf historian and author.

The book is in landscape format, typeset in 14 on 16pt Plantin, printed on acid-free paper, casebound, with dust jacket and with cover and slipcase gold-blocked. The volume is 304 pages and includes more than 150 images, many in colour.

Price is £50, excluding shipping, handling, and postage. Shipping weight is 2.0 kg. and can be purchased at [www.grantbooks.co.uk](http://www.grantbooks.co.uk) 🌿

*Here is a comprehensive compilation, in the Grant Books Ltd style, of descriptions of the Old Course at St Andrews as reported and depicted by authors, artists and cartographers from the mid-nineteenth century to the 1930s. This stretch of uneven land must be the world's most closely studied patch of turf, and for further study, the book offers a rich motherlode of primary sources.... This is an extensive tribute to a unique, centuries-old golf course. It is perhaps the place where the modern era of long golf first emerged from a simple Scottish stick-and-ball game.*

David Hamilton, Golf Author, Historian and Publisher

*The Old Course and golf itself had changed tremendously in the hundred years between 1833 and 1933. What had not changed were the joys and frustrations of playing over the links.... Like the Old Course itself, this is a book to be studied and that study will be rewarded with repeated readings.*

Peter N. Lewis, Golf Historian and Author

"Golf without St. Andrews would be almost as intolerable as St. Andrews without golf."

from *A Batch of Golfing Papers by Andrew Lang and Others*, edited by R. Barclay (1892)

"The links themselves have been so often described that it would be a mere waste of time to dally with the subject here. It is, probably, doing no injustice to others to say that this is the model green of the world, after which all endeavour, more or less, to mould themselves, and even the names and characters of many of its hazards are familiar to hundreds of golfers who have never visited the old grey city by the sea."

from *Golfer's Guide to the Game and Greens of Scotland*, by W. Dalrymple (1894)

"Yes, it is that—the absorbing interest that is taken in—that makes golf what it is at St. Andrews; makes it what it is nowhere else."

from *The Golfing Pilgrim on Many Links*, by Horace G. Hutchinson (1898)

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... continues from page two.

last game. Msrs. McIlroy and Hovland, tied at -16, would also play together again but, this time, in the final game with a four stroke lead.

Five minutes before the last game teed off on Sunday, Abraham Ancer and Sadom Kaewkanjana completed their rounds on the adjoining 18<sup>th</sup> green, each posting 65. Low scores were there for the taking. The jostling began again.

Mr. Smith birdied the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> and was out in 34; Mr. Young posted four birdies between bogeys at the 1<sup>st</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Driving well, hitting all the greens in regulation (or better), but unable to produce any one-putt holes, Mr. McIlroy remained in the lead with eight pars and only one birdie at the 5<sup>th</sup>, where he putted for eagle. Mr. Hovland began to fade with steady but indifferent play.

At this point Mr. Smith surged to a final nine score of just 30 strokes – nine better than his round on Saturday. By 5:15, he had birdied the first five holes on the in nine and assumed the lead from Mr. McIlroy.

The Road Hole, as everyone knew since the beginning, would play the determining role. Mr. Smith's second rolled to a position just right and behind the Road Hole bunker. The hole, as always on Sunday, was cut just behind the bunker. He chose putter and played as closely as possible to the bunker edge without risking catastrophe. His ball rolled up the steep slope and finished 10



For I.R.H.P.:

“Flucht nach vorn, *which nobody has ever quite succeeded in translating. Literally, it means ‘an escape forward’, and it implies certainty, but also a weakness at one’s back, if not an actual burning of boats.*”

John Le Carré  
SMILEY’S PEOPLE

**Sunday Morning  
LADBROKE Odds**

2:50	McIlroy	-16	10-11
2:50	Hovland	-16	7-4
2:40	C. Smith	-12	12-1
2:30	Scheffler	-11	20-1
2:40	C. Young	-12	25-1
2:30	Kim	-11	50-1



feet from the hole. Without hesitation, he read, addressed, and then stroked his ball firmly into the hole for par, as would Msrs. Young and McIlroy.

Mr. Smith went to the final tee 19-under, Mr. Young 17-under, and Mr. McIlroy, in the last group, was 18-under.

Mr. Smith drove to the edge of the green but with an awkward ridge line running nearly the length of his path to the hole 78 feet away. Mr. Young drove his ball onto the green and just 18 feet from the hole.

Mr. Smith made an excellent putt to three feet. However, Mr. Young holed his for eagle leaving Mr. Smith with the necessity of holing his for birdie to finish with one stroke less for the championship than Mr. Young. Mr. Smith did just that, once again without hesitation or betrayal of fear. Back on the 18<sup>th</sup> tee, Mr. McIlroy was left needing an eagle at the last in order to tie Mr. Smith and force a playoff. Stranger things have happened but they did not on this Sunday. When Mr. McIlroy's drive failed to reach the green, and his chip the hole, Mr. Smith had won. When Mr. McIlroy made par, he finished in sole possession of third place — one back of Mr. Young and two back of Mr. Smith.

Mr. Smith's 20-under-par matched Henrik Stenson's winning total at Royal Troon in 2016. It is the joint-best score to par in Open history and the lowest ever at St. Andrews. Mr. Smith's 64 on Sunday was the lowest fourth round score by a champion in St. Andrews history. It was a thrilling display of shot making and good judgement by the 28-year old Australian, who won with audacity and talent.

As ever, the Old Course never flinched.

Yours vy truly,

Gary A. Galyean  
Editor & Publisher

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