# GOLF LETTE

#### THE INSIDE REPORT ON WORLD GOLF

#### NUMBER 376

OUR 34<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

DECEMBER 2023

#### Dear Subscriber:

L AND O' GOSHEN. Another year of extraordinary athletic performances, lots of shouting, money, lawsuits, hearings, appeals, wastrels' petulant comments, an agreement to agree, stone cold silence, and a war that may back the PGA Tour and the DP World Tour into their corners without the benefit of Saudi funding.

LIV Golf—via the Public Investment Fund (PIF) of Saudi Arabia forced the P.G.A. Tour's hand into changing their longtime operating model into a more expensive LIVlike model e.g. larger purses, no-cut competitions, and payouts for the more popular players. Simultaneously and despite endless funding, LIV has failed to attract a robust television audience. Their season finale in Miami ranked sixth among their top eight in final round viewership.

Golf's major championships – because of their exemptions – are the only competitions where it is possible to watch most of the world's best players compete head-to-head.

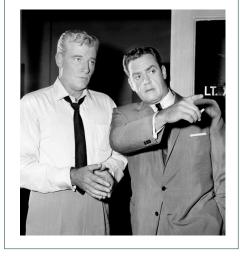
If Saudi Arabia and their PIF

decide to withdraw from doing business with the P.G.A. Tour, or the tour decides that doing business with Saudi Arabia is not in their best public relations interest — if the Saudis side or are perceived to side with Hamas against Israel — where does that leave the P.G.A. Tour in its search for needed money? Looking for American investors now that the LIV/P.G.A. Tour lawsuits have been terminated?

Might that leave LIV/PIF with a diffident audience and an unpromising future in the major television markets? Stay tuned. 50

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2023 IN REVIEW



#### JANUARY

• 3rd - Warner Bros. Discovery and the P.G.A. Tour restructure their 12-year, US\$2 billion international streaming agreement. All current and future media rights outside the US will be managed by the tour. They say their 2018 agreement no longer makes sense.

> • 9th - Adam Scott becomes the seventh player in P.G.A. Tour history to exceed \$60 million in career money earned after he finishes 13-under at Kapalua and wins \$210,000. His career total is \$60,083,599 in 370 starts.

> • 18th - The P.G.A. Tour announces a \$153 million cash infusion for prize-money increases and the Player Impact Program. This will come mostly in the form of more lucrative tournament purses in 13 pre-designated events. Purse sizes for these events will range between \$15 million to \$25 million. The largest purse outside the Players Championship and the majors in 2022 was \$15 million at the FedEx Cup playoff events.

• 19th - CW Television Network announces a multiyear deal to broadcast LIV Golf tournaments. LIV CEO Greg Norman sees it this way in a press release:

"The CW will provide accessibility for our fans and maximum exposure for our athletes and partners as their reach includes more than 120 million households across the United States."



• 23rd - Jon Rahm wins the American Express Tournament at La Quinta. It is his fourth win in his last six starts worldwide.

• 23rd - Majed Al Sorour, LIV managing director and Golf Saudi CEO, leaves LIV. Al Sorour is as an adviser to Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF) as well as the director of the Newcastle United soccer team. He was considered the second-in-command at LIV—one place above Mr. Norman and one place below PIF governor Yasir Al-Rumayyan. Mr. Norman will now report directly to Mr. Al-Rumayyan.

• 25th - In what turns out to be lethal and prescient (four months later) to the legal maneuvering and lawsuits between the P.G.A. Tour and the Public Investment Fund (PIF) of Saudi Arabia and its governor, the tour files a motion to add the PIF and its governor to its counterclaim lawsuit against LIV Golf for interfering with its contracts with players who joined LIV.

• 26th - Patrick Reed, having been ignored by Rory McIlroy on the range at the Dubai Desert Classic, tosses a LIV tee in Mr. McIlroy's direction while walking away. "Patrick came up to say hello," Mr. McIlroy comments, "and I didn't really want him to. That was it. I didn't see a tee. I didn't feel a tee. Obviously someone else saw that. I can't believe it's actually turned into a story. It's nothing." Mr. McIlroy was ignoring Mr. Reed after the latter's lawyers subpoenaed Mr. McIlroy on Christmas Eve.

Mr. McIlroy continues, "If someone shows up on your doorstep and delivers that, you're not going to take that well. I'm living in reality. I don't know where he [Reed] is living. If I were in his shoes, I wouldn't expect a hello or a handshake. I don't see how you can pretend like nothing's happening."

• 29th - Mr. Reed's tee shot lodges high in a tree during the Dubai third round, 17<sup>th</sup> hole. Using binoculars (as allowed by the Rules), Mr. Reed identifies a ball in the tree as his without hesitation. The tour's chief referee allows him to declare his ball unplayable and drop another ball for a penalty of one rather than stroke-anddistance for a lost ball. Later, GOLF CHANNEL commentator Brandel Chamblee produces video suggesting Mr. Reed's ball actually lodged in a different tree than the one looked into with the binoculars.

• 30th - Mr. McIlroy wins the Dubai tournament by one stroke over Mr. Reed.

#### FEBRUARY

• 3rd - Phil Mickelson tweets criticism of Sam Ryder's golf attire during the tour stop in San Diego: "The Tour doesn't allow shorts but does allow this week's leader to

wear joggers with ankle socks? ... Showing 4 inches of ankle? I'm no fashion guy, never will be, but there are some things I won't ever understand."



Paige Spiranac responds on her podcast *Playing a Round*: "Phil Mickelson, which I didn't see because I'm blocked, but people were posting about it. Phil Mickelson even had this tweet saying, 'How can you show four inches of skin?' Also, if Phil thinks that's four inches, I feel sorry for his wife."

• 9th - Magistrate Judge Susan van Keulen rejects LIV Golf's argument of sovereign immunity, permits deposing of Saudi officials, and orders the release of subpoena documents. An appeal is expected.

• 17th - Tiger Woods plays competitively at Riviera for the first time in five months. His group includes Justin Thomas and Rory McIlroy. On the 9<sup>th</sup> hole, Mr. Woods, 47, out drives Mr. Thomas, 29, following which Mr. Woods apparently hands Mr. Thomas a tampon.

• 18th - Mr. Woods apologizes. The managing editor of USA TODAY'S FOR THE WIN tweets: "If Tiger spent three months a year bleeding and coping with period pain, they'd make a whole-ass documentary about how champions overcome insurmountable obstacles."

• P.G.A. Tour players Danny Lee and Brendan Steele, as well as DP World Tour player Thomas Pieters, join the LIV Golf League.

• 19th - Bernhard Langer, 65, wins his 45th senior victory equaling Hale Irwin's record while carrying a verse from Proverbs 3: "It says, 'I will trust in the Lord with all my heart and not lean on my own understanding. In all my ways I will acknowledge him, and he will make my path straight,' and my path was pretty straight today and this whole week. I drove it very well, hit a lot of fairways, a lot of greens, and fortunately did better than anybody else."

• Jon Rahm wins at Riviera. He is the quickest to reach three wins in a calendar year since Johnny Miller did so in 1975.

• 22nd - The P.G.A. of America announces that LIV players who qualify through the association's list of exemptions will be allowed to compete at the P.G.A. Championship at Oak Hill (East) in June.

• The same decision is announced by The R&A for the 151st Open to be played at Royal Liverpool in July.

• 26th - Chris Kirk wins the Honda Classic and \$1.5 million inspired by a commentator describing him as

"an emotionless robot". "I heard Paul Azinger say ... he said I looked like an emotionless robot, and I loved that," Kirk says. "I absolutely loved it. I said today, I'm going to be an emotionless robot and I'm going to go stick to my guns and play aggressive and try to do the best I can."

• 27th - Despite a \$4 million purse and Mr. Norman's enthusiastic prediction in January, the first LIV broadcast on CW Network finishes behind *World's Funniest Animals* in the television ratings.



MARCH

• 1st - Saudi Arabia's Public Invest-

ment Fund files an amicus brief describing a judge's order that PIF and fund governor Yasir Al-Rumayyan were subject to discovery in LIV's legal battle with the P.G.A. Tour as "an extraordinary infringement on the sovereignty of a foreign state".

• P.G.A. Tour announces their designated events for 2024 will feature limited fields and no cuts after the tour's Policy Board voted to approve a new structure for the tournaments. The no-cut decision raises opinions from/about those who defended 36-hole cuts in light of LIV no-cut tournaments.

Justin Thomas responds to LIV jabs saying, "Well, [the P.G.A. Tour has] an astronomically higher amount of quality players than [LIV does] in their events," said Thomas, laughing. "But, no, it's very ... I think all of us have not been shy to say it that, you know, this is stuff that we've been trying to do and have worked on. Obviously got sped up a crazy amount due to what was going on in the outside."

Next week, 46 of the top 50 players in the world will play at T.P.C. Sawgrass. LIV returns March 17 at The Gallery Golf Club in Tucson, Az., where four out of the top 50 will be in the field.

• 7th - Mr. Mickelson claims if the P.G.A. Tour leadership had adopted his ideas to emphasize its marquee players, LIV might never have come into existence if the tour had simply listened to him.

On X, he posts, "Before I left I brought a \$1 billion commitment from a current P.G.A. Tour partner to have 8 elevated events and give equity and ownership in these

events to the players. JM's quote was 'I don't believe the league is going to happen so we won't be doing that.' No vote, no discussion."



Mickelson Ordure Meter

Roughly a year ago, before his being purchased by LIV for \$200 million, Mr. Mickelson characterized the

P.G.A. Tour's behavior as motivated by "obnoxious greed" that opened up opportunities for rival leagues.

• Xander Schauffele, states he has no interest in watching the NETFLIX series *Full Swing*, and comments: "My wife watched it. She told me I need to watch it, actually. She watched Tony Finau's episode and she said it was awesome. So her and Alayna [Finau] get along, and I heard great things about his episode, as well.

"So I don't know, man. I'm more of like a murder mystery [guy]. I don't really like to bring my work home. Unless there's any murder on the show, then probably not."

• 8th - Mr. Woods ex-girlfriend, Erica Herman, files suit against Mr. Woods in Martin County, Florida, arguing that a nondisclosure agreement she signed should be declared unenforceable under the federal Speak Out Act. Ms. Herman was the general manager at Mr. Woods' restaurant, The Woods Jupiter, and was first publicly seen with Woods at the 2017 Presidents Cup.

• Padraig Harrington and the late Tom Weiskopf lead a group to be inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame. The ceremony will be held in Pinehurst, N.C., next summer in conjunction with the U.S. Open.

• 9th - P.G.A. Tour makes nine-year domestic media deal that adds Disney and ESPN+ to their existing partners ViacomCBS and Comcast/NBS Sports Group.

• 12th - Scottie Scheffler wins the Players Championship by five strokes posting 65-69 over the weekend. He wins \$4.5 million and regains his title as number one player in the world. Tyrrell Hatton takes just 29 strokes on the back nine Sunday—65 total—for solo second and \$2,725,000.

• 26th - Mr. McIlroy defeats Mr. Scheffler (2 and 1) to win the bronze medal in the WGC Match Play Championship in Austin, Texas. All eyes turn toward Augusta.

#### APRIL

• 1st - Gary Player, a threetime Masters champion, says he does not feel welcome at Augusta National.

"After all I've contributed to the tournament and been an ambassador for them, I can't go and have a practice

round there with my three grandchildren without having to beg a member to play with us, and there's always some excuse," Player tells THE TIMES [London]. "It's terribly, terribly sad. I've played my role: I've won it three times,



I was in the top-10 15 times, I made the most number of cuts in a row ever. Yet here we are struggling to get a round. If it wasn't for the players, [Augusta] would just be another golf course in Georgia."

• 2nd - Mr. Norman announces that should a LIV player win the Masters Tournament the other 17 LIV players in the field will gather near Augusta's 18<sup>th</sup> green to celebrate with the victor.

• 4th - Mr. Woods supports the R&A and U.S.G.A. intent to propose a rollback of performance of the golf ball used in elite competitions. "If you're going to do anything about the equipment," he tells reporters, "I don't think you can change the size of the heads anymore, just because there are so many out there. But I still think it's very much like baseball with aluminum bats [for amateurs] and wooden bats [for professionals]. You can have a difference in the golf ball. Tennis has the same thing. You go to different events and you have different balls. The public doesn't know that, but the players do."

• April 5 - Fred Ridley, Augusta National chairman, clarifies why Mr. Norman was not invited to this year's Masters, as is usually the case with major champions and those who oversee various tours : "We did not extend an invitation to Mr. Norman," Mr. Ridley said. "The primary issue ... I want the focus this week to be on the Masters competition, on the great players that are participating, the greatest players in the world, which, by our decision in December, we ensured that we were going to

honor and be consistent with our invitation criteria."

The decision Ridley references was when the club announced that LIV golfers, who are prohibited from playing in P.G.A. Tour events, would be allowed to compete at Augusta National. Eighteen LIV golfers, including reigning Open



champion Cameron Smith, and six past Masters champions including Mr. Mickelson and Dustin Johnson, will start on Thursday.

"I would also add that, in the last ten years, Greg Norman has only been here twice," Ridley said. "I believe one of those was as a commentator for Sirius Radio. It really was to keep the focus on the competition."



• Mr. Mickelson chooses not to speak at the Masters Past Champions' Dinner.

• 6th - U.S. District Court Judge Labson Freeman upholds a motion to compel both the

PIF and its governor to submit to discovery in the antitrust case filed last year against the P.G.A. Tour. Depositions must take place on U.S. soil. • The DP World Tour wins its arbitration battle to impose fines and sanctions against LIV players who competed in conflicting tournaments with the tour's permission.

• 7th - U.S. Amateur Champion and Texas A&M senior, Sam Bennett, finishes his second round in the Masters with a second 68 putting him in third place, four strokes behind Mr. Koepka. Only two other amateurs have reached such a position in Masters history.

• Several trees collapse on Augusta's 17<sup>th</sup> hole after strong winds whip the course and delay play. No one is hurt.

• 8th - Jason Kokrak, 37, strenuously objects



to the way Sandy Lyle, 65, the 1988 Masters champion, was treated when finishing his last competitive round at the Masters. "To not be able to find a way to let Sandy Lyle walk off that green with his family there and people around to send him off properly ... I thought that was wrong. It would have taken a minute to just let him finish by himself," Mr. Kokrak says. Play is suspended for a dangerous condition—the wind that knocked down the trees on the 17<sup>th</sup>—just before Mr. Lyle finished. On Saturday morning, he returns to the last green and twoputts to complete his final round.

•9th - Jon Rahm shoots 69 on Sunday to win the 87th Masters by four strokes.

• After a five-hour final round, Mr. Koepka, who ties for second with a 75 on Sunday, comments, "The group in front of us was brutally slow. Jon went to the bathroom like seven times during the round and we were still waiting."

### • 18th - P.G.A. Tour representative makes first, secret, digital contact with PIF Governor.

•19th - The R&A reports that the 150th Open at St. Andrews last year generated more than £300 million in economic benefit for Scotland.

#### • 25th - P.G.A. Tour representatives and PIF Governor meet secretly in London about merger possibilities.

• 27th - It becomes clear that the U.S.G.A. change to their exemptions rule earlier in the year will leave some LIV players out of the 2023 U.S. Open. The rule was

amended to require that a player must qualify and *be eligible*. Taylor Gooch, seeking a U.S. Open exemption because he qualified for the 2022 Tour Championship is excluded because he was not *eligible* for the Tour Champion—because he is not a P.G.A. Tour member.

#### ΜΑΥ

• 2nd - Jack Nicklaus, 82, in Manhattan, takes the witness stand in his lawsuit with Jack Nicklaus, LLC. Asked to state his name and business address, Mr. Nicklaus replies, "Jack William Nicklaus. I don't even know a business address." He gives his home address.

• 5th - Mr. Mickelson calls upon his extensive vocabulary and personal expertise to comment on the U.S. Open exemption rule change:

Hey Mike [Whan, USGA CEO], what about changing a rule and making it retroactive to exclude someone who has already qualified? How can Talor Gooch not take that personal? It's a direct attack on him and his career. How does it benefit the usga or US open? It doesn't. Just a d!\*k move.



• 13th - Mr. Monahan and Mr. Al-Rumayyan meet secretly in Venice about the possibility of merger. It is the wedding weekend of Chloe Stroll, whose father owns the Aston Martin F1 Team.

• 19th - Canadian Corey Conners, Viktor Hovland, and Mr. Scheffler share the second round lead of the 105th P.G.A. Championship at Oak Hill [East] at five under par.

• Cameron Young, 26, playing with Tommy Fleetwood and Hideki Matsuyama, fails to return his ball marker to its original spot and putts out and is penalized two strokes for playing from a wrong place [Rule 15-3]. He is ranked 15th in the world.

• Mr. Mickelson loses a Rules debate with an official at Oak Hill when he takes a penalty drop in a wrong place. He is stopped by an official before playing; the wrong drop is confirmed by a second opinion requested by the six-time major champion; he is allowed to re-drop correctly without penalty (since the wrongly dropped ball had not been played); saves a two stroke penalty; and makes his 100th cut in 119 major championship starts.

• 20th - Jordan Spieth's first stroke of the third round at Oak Hill goes directly into the fenced-in porta johns.

• Following his third round 66, Mr. Keopka leads Viktor Hovland by one.

• 21st - Playing in the final group with Mr. Hovland, Mr. Koepka leads by just one at the 16<sup>th</sup> when Mr. Hovland buries his fairway bunker shot in the forward lip resulting in double bogey. Mr. Koepka birdies, finishes with 67, wins by two over Mr. Scheffler who posted 65 on Sunday, and collects \$3.15 million.

• 26th - P.G.A. Tour and PIF worked out final agreement details in San Francisco during Memorial Day Weekend.

• 30th - P.G.A. Tour and PIF sign final agreement secretly in early hours at the Four Seasons in San Francisco. Mr. Monahan flies to Columbus for Memorial Tournament festivities.

#### JUNE

• 6th - Surprising their respective players, the P.G.A. Tour, DP World Tour and LIV Golf announce in New York that they agree to merge, and all lawsuits between them end immediately. Mr. Monahan and Mr. Al-Rumayyan appear on CNBC early this morning.

• Mr. Monahan's reversal of action regarding LIV, sparks speculation that he may be unable to continue as commissioner due to his hypocrisy and the lack of first notice to his players. "The game of golf is better for what we've done today," says Mr. Monahan.

• 13th - Mr. Monahan, 53, takes temporary medical leave from his role as commissioner.

• 14th - The U.S.G.A. raises the U.S. Open purse to \$12.5 million—the richest in major championship golf. The champion will be paid \$3.6 million.

• 15th - Rickie Fowler leads the U.S. Open at Los Angeles C.C. [North] by one stroke after 36 holes. Mr. Koepka—"not a huge fan"—Mr. Fitzpatrick—"not my cup of tea"—and Mr. McIlroy—"technology has passed this course by"— voice their displeasure with the George Thomas design. Dustin Johnson's opening 64 is his tenth career score of 65 or better in a major championship, which equals Mr. Woods' record.

• 17th - Wyndham Clark, 29, wins the 123rd U.S. Open by one shot over Mr. McIlroy. His holding on despite Mr. McIlroy's charge impresses.

#### JULY

• 2nd - Mr. Langer, 65, wins U.S. Senior Open to break Hale Irwin's previous record of 45 wins on the 50+ tour. He is the oldest ever at 65 years, 10 months, 5 days. • 9th - BARBIE'S film premiere promos feature a giant Taylor-Made golf bag.

• 10th - P.G.A. Tour COO at Senate hearing admits bungling merger framework agreement announcement. It is stated that the Frame-



work Agreement between the tours is an agreement to 1) end all legal action; and 2) to attempt agreement of merger details before year end.

• 19th - Martin Slumbers, R&A chief executive in pre-Open press conference, says he is open to the idea of partnering with PIF and the creation of an exemption category for LIV players to qualify for the Open.

• 20th - Royal Liverpool maintenance crews, following the first round of the Open, re-rake all 82 bunkers to a less-flat, more-concave condition that prevents balls from running right up against the bunker faces.



• 22nd - Mr. Rahm, chasing Brian Harman's five shot lead into the third round, sets a Hoylake Open record of 33+30 63.

• 23rd - Mr. Harman's final 70 in the pouring rain produces his six-shot victory at Royal Liverpool. He made 45 of 45

putts from five feet or less; 14 of 15 between five and ten feet away; no three putt greens.

• 26th - P.G.A. Tour denounces R&A and U.S.G.A. intent to propose a local rule implementing an elite ball.

A U G U S T

• 1st - Mr. Woods requests and is granted a place on the P.G.A. Tour Policy Board as its sixth director.

• 10th - Billy Walters, author of GAMBLER: SECRETS FROM A LIFE AT RISK and gamboling friend of Mr. Mickelson estimates in his book that the golfer's gambling losses totaled close to \$100 million having wagered \$1 billion over the past 30 years. In 2011 alone, according to the book, Mr. Mickelson made 3,154 bets. On one day, 43 bets on major league baseball resulting in \$143,500 in losses.



Mickelson Ordure Meter



EDITOR'S ASIDE : Player and insider comments regarding the tours' merger negotiations have gone strangely silent. Somebody(s) have told other somebody(s) to zip it — presumably — while difficult operational issues are being identified and worked out.

• 27th - Mr. Hovland wins the Tour Championship at Eastlake by five strokes and collects \$18 million along the way!

	Course	Length	/Slope	Winner & Runner-up	Birdies or Better	Winning Score
2023	Augusta	7,485	148	Rahm Mickelson	20 21	-12 - 8
Majors	Oak Hill [East]	7,334	151	Koepka Scheffler	18 14	- 9 - 7
 	Los Angeles [North]	7,236	143	Clark McIlroy	20 17	-10 - 9
	Hoylake	7,350	110	Harman Straka <sup>t2</sup>	18 21	-13 - 7
	Old Course [2022]	7,201	136	C Smith C Young	23 26	-20 -19
2023 P	St. Jude	7,244	149	Glover Cantlay	18 20	-15 -15
P l a y o ff s	Olympic Fields	7,343	150	Hovland Fitzpatrick	22 21	-17 -15
 	Eastlake	7,397	144	Hovland Schauffele	21 23	-19/-27* -19/-21*

\* after starting strokes were applied

#### SEPTEMBER

• 26th - Sir Michael Francis Bonallack, OBE, Great Britain's most decorated amateur golfer, dies in St. Andrews at the age of 88.

• 27th - Mr. Koepka, the only LIV golfer to make the Ryder Cup Team largely due to his P.G.A. Championship victory in May, when asked if LIV players were snubbed in considering captain's choices, says, "Play better. That's always the answer."

• 29th - The U.S. Ryder Cup Team wins no points in the first day morning foursomes and just three half points in the afternoon four ball matches before 50,000 spectators at Marco Simone in Rome.

• After Mr. Koepka and Mr. Scheffler tie their four ball match with Mr. Rahm and Nicolai Højgaard, Mr. Koepka reacts: "I mean, I think me and Scottie birdied, what did we say, 14, we birdied 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, and then [tied]. So yeah. I mean, I want to hit a board and pout just like Jon Rahm did [on the 17<sup>th</sup> after losing the hole]. But, you know, it is what it is. Act like a child. But we're adults. We move on."

• Mr. Rahm responds: "I'm very comfortable with who I am and what I do."

• 30th - The day after criticizing Mr. Rahm's behavior, Mr. Koepka and Mr. Scheffler suffer the worst loss in Ryder Cup history. Mr. Hovland and Ludvig Aberg defeat the U.S. players 9

and 7 in Saturday morning's foursomes session.

• Andrew Coltart, former Ryder Cup player and now SKY SPORTS commentator asks of the U.S. team: "Who

	Europe		U.S.A.	
	Holes	Points	Holes	Points
Friday	Won	Won	Won	Won
Foursomes	22	4	10	0
Four-Ball	21	21/2	16	11/2
Saturday				
Foursomes	26	3	17	1
Four-Ball	13	1	17	3
Sunday				
Singles	58	6	54	6
Totals	140	16½	114	111/2

on earth in their right mind thinks the best way to prepare for a Ryder Cup is to take five weeks off?"

Díd Messrs. Hogan, Snead or Nelson yell and scream?

OCTOBER

• 1st - Mr. Fowler concedes Tommy Fleetwood's 2 ft. 8

inch putt at the  $17^{\text{th}}$ , which clinches a European Team Ryder Cup victory. Many think Mr. Fleetwood should have been forced to putt at such a pivotal moment. The final score is  $16\frac{1}{2}$  to  $11\frac{1}{2}$ .

• 7th - Hamas savagely attacks Israel. Saudi Arabia retreats to its corner. How this horrific provocation will impact the world is unclear. How it may impact the trivial world of golf's tours' mergers is properly equivocal.

• 10th - Peter Dawson, board chair of the Official World Golf Ranking, reports that LIV Golf's application for world ranking points has been denied. "We are not at

For J.M.L.:

"The great thing about bullsh\*t is it can't be outsourced."

Cory Ellison played by Billy Crudup The Morning Show war with them," Mr. Dawson says. "This decision not to make them eligible is not political. It is entirely technical. LIV players are self-evidently good enough to be ranked. They're just not playing in a format where they can be ranked equitably with the other 24 tours and thousands of players trying to compete on them."

• 18th - LIV Golf's season finale in Miami attracts a minor audience despite its \$50 million purse.

#### N O V E M B E R

• 12th - The P.G.A. Tour Policy Board finishes a meeting in which they hear of a few bids for minority stakes that could either replace the PIF or create investments alongside the PIF. Mr. Monahan comments, "[The board] agreed to continue the negotiation process in order to select the final minority investor(s) in a timely manner."

• 14th - THE NEW YORK TIMES reports and the P.G.A. Tour confirms that Mr. McIlroy has resigned from the tour's policy board.

• 15th - An overnight storm and power outage knocks down the TGL's (Tech Golf League — not THE GOLF LETTER) inflated 250,000 sq. ft. dome in Palm Beach Gardens and delays their January opening.

#### DECEMBER

• 3rd - The third anniversary of Mr. Mickelson's having publicly declared himself a genius.

• 6th - The R&A and the U.S.G.A. announce they will update the testing for golf ball conformance to take effect from January 2028. Think *elite ball*.

Yours vy truly,



Gary A. Galyean Editor & Publisher

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Back issues are available to subscribers only at \$10 each. Inquiries: Gary GALYEAN'S GOLF LETTER®, 11718 Southeast Federal Highway, No. 210, Hobe Sound, Florida 33455. Tel (772) 559.3382 Copyright 2023 Gary Galyean. Tag Galyean, Art Director. Quotation, reproduction or transmission is prohibited.

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Name		Name				
Address		Address				
City, State, 2	Zip	City, State, Zip				

Gift No. Three	🖝 Gift No. Four	Name				
Name	Name					
Their e-mail	Their e-mail					
Address	Address					
City, State, Zip	City, State, Zip					
Gift No. Five	Gift No. Six					
Name	Name					
Their e-mail	Their e-mail					
Address	Address					
City, State, Zip	City, State, Zip					
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My check	s enclosed in the amount of	US\$				
OR ======						
(will be	Credit Card Information estroyed after payment is received)					
All overseas p	yments must be made using a credit	t card.				
Card Number:						
Expires: CSC Number:						
First Name:	Last Name:					
Billing Address:						
Apt., suite, building:						
City:		stal Code:				