



GARY GALYEAN'S GOLF LETTER®

THE INSIDE REPORT ON WORLD GOLF

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Dear Subscriber:

Reflections on the 2018 Ryder Cup Matches One Simple Explanation

Accepting that
 • Second-guessing holds the lead for inclusion as the 11th Commandment (i.e. *Thou shalt not*);

- Statistics can be used to justify nearly any side of any debate; and
- There are more reasons than the ones we are presenting as to why the United States lost last month's Ryder Cup:

We offer the following simple observation of fact without cavilling

or malice. The data, as set forward in the box below, indicate that the European victory hinged on the success of their captain's picks, just as the U.S. defeat hung on the poor performance of their captain's picks.

Eight net points were lost by the American picks to the Europeans. Of the four captain's picks, only Tony Finau posted any wins! He won 2 and lost 1 for a net gain of 1. The four American picks together lost 8 net points.

All of the European captain's picks together posted 6 wins, 4 losses and 1 half for a gain of 2½ net points. This difference of 10½ points

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RYDER CUP CAPTAINS' PICKS

United States

Europe

2018 - Le Golf National

	WIN	LOSS	HALF		WIN	LOSS	HALF	
Bryson DeChambeau	0	3	0	Margin of Victory 7	Paul Casey	2	2	0
Tony Finau	2	1	0		Sergio Garcia	1	1	1
Phil Mickelson	0	2	0		Ian Poulter	3	1	0
Tiger Woods	0	4	0					
Totals	2	10	0		Totals	6	4	1
Net Points	8 points lost				Net Points	2½ points gained		

2016 - Hazeltine National

	WIN	LOSS	HALF		WIN	LOSS	HALF	
Rickie Fowler	2	1	0	Margin of Victory 6	Martin Kaymer	2	2	0
J.B. Holmes	1	2	0		Thomas Pieters	4	1	0
Matt Kuchar	2	2	0		Lee Westwood	0	3	0
Ryan Moore	2	1	0					
Totals	7	6	0		Totals	5	7	0
Net Points	1 point gained				Net Points	2 points lost		

in the two teams' performances was simply too overwhelming to ignore or, obviously, to overcome.

There were other shortcomings including the neutralization of Brooks Koepka and Dustin Johnson. Mr. Koepka, the 2018 PGA Tour Player of the Year, currently ranked third worldwide, and winner of the past two consecutive U.S. Opens and the 2018 PGA Championship, was held to a Ryder Cup performance of 1 win, 2 losses and 1 half - for a net of minus ½ point.

Dustin Johnson, the number one ranked player in the world and the player who has held that position for 79 weeks during the past two years, won just 1 point and lost 4 at Le Golf National. Playing in all five Ryder Cup matches, Mr. Johnson's only point came during the Friday morning four ball match in which he partnered with Rickie Fowler.

Paul Casey, ranked 20th in the world and playing as a European captain's pick, halved his singles match with Mr. Koepka on Sunday. Mr. Johnson lost his Sunday singles match, 2 up, to Ian Poulter, ranked 34th in the world and also playing as a captain's pick.

Sergio Garcia, currently ranked 29th in the world, was the third of three picks by European Captain Thomas Bjørn. Mr. Garcia won 3 points and lost 1 point. On Sunday in singles play, he beat Mr. Fowler 2 and 1. Mr. Fowler is ranked as the 9th best player in the world.

So, not only did the European captain's picks win more points than the American captain's picks, they were also responsible for neutralizing several of their strongest opposing team members. With a seven point margin of victory, this is not a surprise. Something extraordinary had to take place in order to produce such a result.

Who Designed Le Golf National? *Fraude Artistique?*

The design provenance of Le Golf National, host course for the 2018 Ryder Cup Matches, has been challenged in an article titled *Art Fraud?* by Frank Giordano for the July issue of GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTURE - THE GLOBAL JOURNAL OF GOLF DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT.

Mr. Giordano writes of his dismay in learning that the French Golf Federation identified Hubert Chesneau as the designer of the Albatros course; and the course's official website reference to Mr. Chesneau as the sole designer. Mr. Giordano's article details the extensive work of Robert von Hagge and his associates in creating the Albatros and states flatly that the omission of credit for their work is "shamefully unfair and needlessly chauvinistic". *C'est la vie française*.

In his article, Mr. Giordano stipulates that:

- Mr. Chesneau was "a building architect" - unaccomplished in championship course design - when he was given the assignment of producing what was hoped to become the permanent home for the French Open.



plished in championship course design - when he was given the assignment of producing what was hoped to become the permanent home for the French Open.

- The site was nondescript and without natural features.

- The French Federation wanted

a stadium course that would be "challenging to all the best players in the world". They permitted Mr. Chesneau to hire a consultant. He chose Robert von Hagge Design Associates who, in addition to their extensive body of work, had just completed Les Bordes (1987), which was chosen as the best new course in Europe for that year.

- The preliminary layout by Mr. Chesneau was scrapped. Rick Baril, von Hagge's on-site designer is quoted directly as maintaining that the new routing was not a collaboration. They [von Hagge Design Associates] envisioned an amphitheater for the final holes where spectators could see all the action, which resulted in the configuration of holes 15-18. The first 14 holes were then routed through the property.

- In a recent e-mail to Mr. Giordano that inquired about the attribution for the course design, Christophe Muniesa, executive director of the French Golf Federation, restated von Hagge's designation as consultant to the designer Mr. Chesneau. "He [Mr. Muniesa] even argues," writes Mr. Giordano, "that the small fee von Hagge accepted indicates that his contributions to the design were limited. Muniesa could not consult with the primary leaders of the project, as President Cartier is dead and Chesneau retired over a decade ago."

Retired but not Forgotten

On Sunday of the final day of the Ryder Cup Matches [Sept. 30], THE NEW YORK TIMES published an Associated Press story crediting Mr. Chesneau with the design of Le Golf National - a story in which Mr. von Hage's name, nor those of any of his associates, were ever mentioned.

Referring to Mr. Chesneau as "the architect of the Ryder Cup course", the wire story states that the site interested Mr. Chesneau because it was "a blank canvas upon which Chesneau could build 'the stadium of golf that was in my head.'"

Mr. Chesneau, a native of Senegal, refers to the closing holes as "le tribunal" because they are the most difficult and stressful. "It's where you pay the bill," he is quoted in the AP story.

"I wanted a circus at the end," Mr. Chesneau told the wire service. "The idea was to have everyone at the end around these holes."

Many were impressed with the course including Phil Mickelson, who is quoted in the wire story as saying, "An incredible golf course. It's just in pristine (sic), immaculate shape, and yet provides a very good challenge that's a fair challenge."

Mr. Chesneau's reply to the compliment was that it "tickles the heart" - presumably his own.

Harry S. Truman once said, "It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit."

The R&A's New Vision for Growth Access, Appeal, Inclusion and £200 Million

R&A [The R&A group of companies was formed in 2004 to take on The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews' responsibilities for governing the Rules of Golf, staging the Open, and developing the sport. The British Golf Museum in St. Andrews is part of the R&A group. The R&A governs the sport worldwide, outside of the United States and Mexico, on behalf of over 36 million golfers in 143 countries and with the consent of 156 organizations.]

At the middle of last month, The R&A set out "its vision as a global leader in golf, working collaboratively to ensure the long-term success of the sport".

This effort was described by The R&A as a new chapter in golf's long history as they unveiled a "new brand identity and a playbook outlining its vision, purpose and values". This new brand was described as the culmination

of the group's work in the last three years to modernize golf and change perceptions of the sport. The group also "aims to become financially stronger and will reinvest £200 million in developing golf over the next decade".

The R&A's purpose in this new effort will be to make golf more accessible, more appealing and more inclusive while also being responsible for upholding the traditions of the game while embracing change and breaking down barriers to progress. "Its core values are: courage to act in the best interest of the sport; integrity in acting fairly and equally; and inclusivity in growing the sport through achieving greater diversity."

While much of this reads like the words of a beauty contest contender during the interview segment, The R&A has already produced some of this work by a consolidated and admirable effort that is far less utopian than the words that attempt to describe it.

Working with the U.S.G.A., the Rules of Golf [as highlighted in the article below] have been modernized and updated for 2019. Also, a new World Handicap System is being developed to create a consistent measure of playing ability for all golfers "regardless of nationality, ability, age or gender".

Two amateur events - described as "two new elite amateur events" - have been added to The R&A's production of championships. They are the Women's Amateur Asia-Pacific Championship and the Girls Under-16 Championship.

The R&A announcement ends with the predictable boilerplate drivel that can be found that at the end of most commercial announcements these days:

The R&A playbook can be downloaded at www.randa.org. The new brand identity is being rolled out through a digital and social media campaign on The R&A's platforms and to coincide with the release of the 2019 edition of the Rules of Golf. For more information and updates follow The R&A on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter.

As Will Rogers taught us, "If you're riding ahead of the herd, take a look back every now and then to make sure it's still there."

Golf's New [2019] Rules - Part II:

Stroke and Distance Local Rule Will be Available

When a ball is out of bounds or lost, if the Local Rule is in effect, you can still use the stroke-and-distance relief, but in 2019 you will now have the following option after

adding a *two stroke* penalty: a. determine the spot where your ball went out of bounds or is likely to be lost; b. find the nearest fairway edge no closer to the hole; c. drop your ball in the area defined on one side by a line from the hole through point A and on the other side by a line through point B and not nearer the hole. The relief area is extended on both sides by two club-lengths. [see diagram]. This Local Rule is not intended for higher levels of play, such as professional or elite amateur competitions.

GOLF'S NEW RULES: STROKE AND DISTANCE
 A new Local Rule will provide an alternative to stroke-and-distance relief for a ball that is lost outside a penalty area or out of bounds. This new Local Rule will be available beginning January 1, 2019.

BALL OUT OF BOUNDS

LOST BALL

If the Local Rule is in effect, you can still take stroke-and-distance relief, but you will now have the following additional option that comes with a penalty of two strokes:

A DETERMINE SPOT where your ball went out of bounds (left diagram) or is likely to be lost (right diagram).

B FIND NEAREST FAIRWAY EDGE no closer to the hole.

C DROP YOUR BALL IN SHADED AREA as defined on one side by a line from the hole through point A and on the other side by a line from the hole through point B, and not nearer the hole. The relief area is extended on both sides by two club-lengths.

This Local Rule is not intended for higher levels of play, such as professional or elite amateur level competitions.

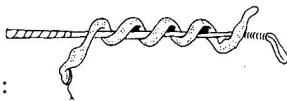
PGA USGA
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Flagstick

If you make a stroke with the flagstick left in the hole and the ball in motion then hits the flagstick, there is no penalty and the ball must be played as it lies.

The decision to have the flagstick in the hole must be made before your stroke, by either leaving the flagstick in the hole or having a removed flagstick put back.

In either case, you must not try to gain an advantage by deliberately moving the flagstick to a position other than centered in the hole. If you do so and the ball in motion then hits the flagstick, you get the general penalty. [Two strokes, or loss of hole in match play.]



For A.B.H.:

“Our republic and its press will rise or fall together. An able, disinterested, public-spirited press, with trained intelligence to know the right and the courage to do it, can preserve that public virtue without which popular government is a shame and a mockery. A cynical, mercenary, demagogic press will produce in time a people as base as itself.”

Joseph Pulitzer

Player Accidentally Hits Ball More Than Once During a Stroke

If your club accidentally hits the ball more than once, there has been only one stroke and there is no penalty.

Time Allowed to Search for a Ball

Your ball is lost if not found in three minutes after you or your caddie begin to search for it. If a

ball is found in that time but it is uncertain whether it is your ball:

- You must promptly attempt to identify the ball and are allowed a reasonable time to do so, even if that happens after the three-minute search time has ended.
- This includes a reasonable time to get to the ball if you are not where the ball is found.

If you do not identify your ball in that reasonable time, the ball is lost.

Enclosed

In order to accomplish our transition to e-mail delivery, there is enclosed a request for your e-mail address, a postage-paid (domestic U.S.) return envelope for returning your response to us, and a re-statement of our pledge to never reveal your snail-mail or e-mail addresses.

If you prefer to respond via e-mail, please send to:
 gg@thegolffletter.com

Yours vy truly,

Gary A. Galyean
 Editor & Publisher

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