



GARY GALYEAN'S GOLF LETTER®

THE INSIDE REPORT ON WORLD GOLF

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Dear Subscriber:

THE 101ST P.G.A. CHAMPIONSHIP Bethpage - The Black

ON THE OCCASION of Long Island's fifteenth hosting of a major championship we were served a daunting portion of the two critical elements of which exceptional major championships are comprised: The unflinching elegance and brutality of the host course's architectural and strategic demands; and the champion's ability to reply to the demands of the course with strokes of equally unflinching elegance and brutality.

Onto Bethpage Black, A.W. Tillinghast's stylish and obstinate examination, Brooks Koepka, 29, last week walked his relaxed-arm-flapping walk and got after it. Disdainful of slow play and exaggerated drama, thriving on loudly cheering and jeering crowds, dipping tobacco, preferring baseball and focusing on the present, Mr. Koepka prosaically went about "kicking the field's ass," as the poets of Suffolk County relate it.

"I'm pretty flat-lined most of the time."

"I think I'm more focused than anybody out there. I think I'm tunnel-visioned," he said. "I don't know what my resting heart rate is, probably not far off (what it is when competing at the highest level). It would probably be not far off what it is sitting on the couch. I'd say I'm pretty flat-lined most of the time, as you can tell."

On his way to winning his fourth major in eight starts, Mr. Koepka's records included:

- The 18 hole Bethpage Black course record, 63 (7 under par);

- The 36 hole lowest total in major championship history, 128 (12 under); [NOTE: of the nine players who previously opened a major with 63, Mr. Koepka's second round of 65 was the best second round score *by four shots*];
- The 36 and 54 hole record lead, 7 strokes; and
- Becoming the only player to ever simultaneously hold two, consecutive victories in two major championships.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

REFLECTIONS ON
THE P.G.A. CHAMPIONSHIP

MACHRIHANISH
Machaire Shanais
from Grant Books

The Pine Valley Connection

Mr. Tillinghast, the dean of American born golf course architects, designed and oversaw the building of the Black course in 1936 - the height of the Great Depression. Barely more than 20 years earlier, while his contributory work at Pine Valley - the 7th and 13th holes - and the general allure of the New Jersey dunes were leaving their indelible impression on his design eye, Mr. Tillinghast joined George Crump, Howard Perrin and Richard Mott for the first round ever played at Pine Valley. "Tillie" made the first par (4 at the 1st) and the first birdie (2 at the 3rd). The striking demands of Pine Valley, at a time when American golf architecture was just emerging, left a never to be forgotten mark on many. It would, however, be nearly two decades before the right opportunity and the right piece of property would offer Mr. Tillinghast his chance to emulate and compete with Pine Valley's eminence.

Why it Worked at Bethpage

"The Black is one of five golf courses operating out of the same clubhouse at Bethpage, a fact of considerable significance," Rees Jones wrote in his BETHPAGE BLACK COURSE FIELD NOTES following his erudite restoration of the Black for the 2002 U.S. Open.



"If the Black had been a stand-alone public course, A.W. Tillinghast, who had designed three of the four original layouts at the site by 1936, would never have been allowed to make it as demanding as he did."

Mr. Tillinghast agreed when he wrote, "Without a doubt were the other courses at Bethpage as severe as the Black the place would not have enjoyed the great popularity it has known since it was thrown open to the public. Yet thousands of 'weak sisters' undoubtedly will flock there insisting on at least one tussle with the Black Leopard, just to show they can "take it."

Mr. Tillinghast's recognized talent for building the most sculptured, finger-shaped, and eye-catching bunkers of his day and his genius for routing were magnified by the size of the Bethpage property, his being "given a free hand to craft a supremely challenging course ... and ideal sandy, naturally rolling terrain similar to that at Pine Valley."

Drawing Us Across the Footlights

Like all course designers of his day, Mr. Tillinghast's design work - nearly 100 original designs as well as hundreds of renovations and inspections - centered on private clubs because that was where the money was. At Baltusrol [7 U.S. Opens] he was told to create *championship* layouts; at Winged Foot [5 U.S. Opens] *man-sized* courses. At Bethpage, with the other softer courses already in play, he was unimpeded by any restrictions as to what the Black could be. What it became was the most demanding and sophisticated course he ever designed - more than Baltusrol or Winged Foot.

In addition to the enormous bunkers and narrow ramps at most of Bethpage's par 4s, there are par 3s that can be substantially reiterated depending on hole locations, and the beguiling par 5 4th with its signature cross bunker is one of the most gorgeous of all inland par 5s. Holes of "alarming excellence" as Bernard Darwin described such things. Mr. Tillinghast's take was that the truly great holes have the ability to "draw us across the footlights".

Mr. Koepka's play also drew us onto the stage. The ease and perfection of his first 36 holes, the calm of his third round, and the tension and resilience of his fourth provided unanticipated spectator stress turning us from complacent to unsettled. When it was finished and he reflected on the fickleness of the mob that vacillated in their support, Mr. Koepka described an ability to separate and de-personalize what would have deeply rattled or angered others.

Harold Varner, Mr. Koepka's fellow competitor in the same pairing Sunday, did not like how the crowd responded when Mr. Koepka's lead slid to just one after the 14th. "It was a pretty crazy day," Mr. Varner recounted when it was over. "I thought it was pretty weird how they were telling Brooks to choke. I feel like that's kinda - that's not my cup of tea. ... I was pulling for him after that. ... [Their] cheering for him to do bad, I don't get that."

Mr. Koepka's take was more removed. "When they started chanting 'DJ' on 14, it actually kind of helped, to be honest with you," he commented. "I think it helped me kind of refocus and hit a good one down 15. I think that was probably the best thing that could have happened."

Mr. Koepka's strength of mind that allows him to take what he needs from a loud, hostile, disrespectful mob is akin to the simplicity of focus that sets Alex Honnold apart. Mr. Honnold was the first to climb El Capitan's 900-meter vertical wall without a rope, which he talks about using very ordinary speech.

The Antithesis of the Masters

Could Bethpage's spectacle have been more different than Augusta National's? Free-range public golf thrives at Bethpage on its inclusivity and availability to all. There are crowds and sometimes mobs here - not "patrons" intimidated by the possibility of losing their tickets. The Long Island crowds have played the golf course. [New Yorkers pay \$65 on weekdays, \$75 on weekends.] They are loud and opinionated. They jeer, catcall and heckle when a player makes a weak play; they whoop and ac-

LONG ISLAND'S MAJOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

1896	U.S. Open	Shinnecock Hills	James Foulis
1902	U.S. Open	Garden City	Laurie Auchterlonie
1919	P.G.A.	Engineers Club	Jim Barnes
1921	P.G.A.	Inwood	Walter Hagen
1923	U.S. Open	Inwood	Bobby Jones
1926	P.G.A.	Salisbury	Walter Hagen
1932	U.S. Open	Fresh Meadow	Gene Sarazen
1939	P.G.A.	Pomonock	Henry Picard
1986	U.S. Open	Shinnecock Hills	Raymond Floyd
1995	U.S. Open	Shinnecock Hills	Corey Pavin
2002	U.S. Open	Bethpage Black	Tiger Woods
2004	U.S. Open	Shinnecock Hills	Retief Goosen
2009	U.S. Open	Bethpage Black	Lucas Glover
2018	U.S. Open	Shinnecock Hills	Brooks Koepka
2019	P.G.A.	Bethpage Black	Brooks Koepka

A.W. TILLINGHAST'S BEST

1917	Somerset Hills
1918	San Francisco
1918	Pine Valley - 7 th & 13 th
1918	Quaker Ridge
1922	Baltusrol - Lower
1922	Baltusrol - Upper
1923	Winged Foot - West
1923	Winged Foot - East
1929	Ridgewood
1936	Bethpage - Black

claim seconds later if the same player achieves a notable recovery. The putting greens at Bethpage are flatter and trickier to read than Augusta's dramatic contours. The Black's greens have never been rebuilt with precision grading in the modern style; Augusta goes to the agromomic plastic surgeon annually.

A Good Move

Moving the P.G.A. Championship from August to May was an enlightened decision. Not only did the audience respond energetically in the wake of Tiger Wood's Masters victory, the full championship season is more intense. No longer is the P.G.A. a sort of Dog Days afterthought.

May's weather was also a welcome bonus to course conditions. Grass grows in the spring; in August, it tries not to die. Likewise, finer playing surfaces were presented. There were fewer divot holes and general wear and tear to the course before the P.G.A. Championship because the colder, wetter weather of March and April meant fewer rounds played prior to the championship.

The Black's New Record

The Black is one of only four courses to have hosted *both* the P.G.A. Championship and the U.S. Open during the last 25 years. It is now the only course to have done so three times.

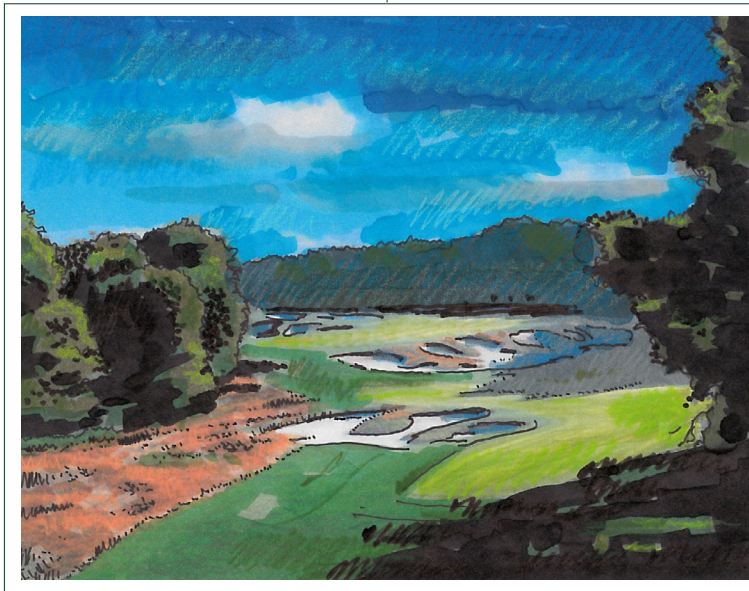
Oakland Hills	1996 U.S. Open	73.160
Oakland Hills	2008 P.G.A.	74.315
Winged Foot	1997 P.G.A.	73.122
Winged Foot	2006 U.S. Open	74.993
Southern Hills	2001 U.S. Open	73.271
Southern Hills	2007 P.G.A.	73.016
Bethpage Black	2002 U.S. Open	74.901
Bethpage Black	2009 U.S. Open	74.983
Bethpage Black	2019 P.G.A.	72.625

Two Rules Clarifications: Caddies Standing Behind Players Replacement of Broken Club

The R&A and the U.S.G.A. have issued two clarifications regarding the Rules of Golf. Both were published in quick response to incidents that have taken place on the professional tours. With regard to the restriction on a caddie standing behind a player, it is now possible to erase the violation under Rule 10 if a player is not considered to have begun a

"stance for the stroke". Therefore, a player can now back away from his or her stance anywhere on the course and avoid a breach of the rule if the caddie had previously been standing in a location behind the ball.

With regard to the replacement of a broken club, the governing bodies introduced a Local Rule allowing players to replace a broken or significantly damaged club, except in cases of abuse.



THE 4TH, BETHPAGE, THE BLACK COURSE, PAR 5, 517 YARDS

MACHRIHANISH *Machaire Shanais* Golf 1880s - 1920s

Compiled and Edited by
D.M. Wilson III and H.R.J. Grant
Grant Books Worcestershire 2018

GOLF IS CREDITED with the most extensive library of writing that comes from any sport. Only cricket and horse racing come close to rivaling golf in this medium. As has been said on these pages before, we are heartened and grateful for the work of Grant Books in re-publishing notable works from golf writing's most prolific period which was from the mid 19th and early 20th centuries.

MACHRIHANISH is the latest addition to these efforts. It is a 156 page compilation of essays, poetry, water colors, and photographs all about one of golf's greatest places to play [see THE GOLF LETTER, Nov. 2018].

This excerpt from Mr. Wilson's introduction sets the tone for the accounts of this remarkable place:

MACHAIRE, *in Scots Gaelic, from Machair in Irish Gaelic, resulting in machar in English, which*

refers in the west of Scotland and the northwest of Ireland to low-lying seaside dune grassland, which can refer to sandy links turf for golf with its attendant vistas of land, sea, and sky.

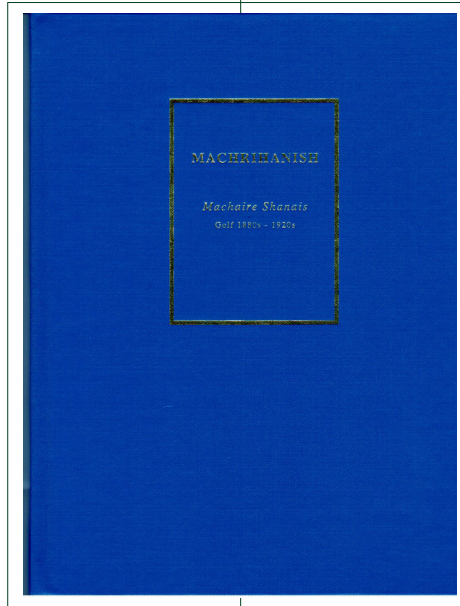
Machaire Shanais. "The plain of whispers." *Machrihanish*.

On the Atlantic Coast in Argyll on the Mull of Kintrye in Scotland lies the small village of Machrihanish, positioned by an oyster catcher flight at less than 50 miles, or by land transportation about 175 miles, from Prestwick Golf Club. 'Old Tom' (sic) Morris laid out the original 12 holes at Prestwick shortly after its founding in 1851. A bit more than twenty-five years later Machrihanish Golf Club was founded, succeeding the Kintyre Golf Club, and 'Old Tom' in 1879 extended the Club's 12-hole layout to 18 holes, including the positioning of its renowned opening hole, which has endured with its teeing challenge in its original design to this day.

Here is a record that seeks to celebrate the unique character of golf at the Machrihanish venue and the natural beauty of Machrihanish from the vantage of essays, paintings, photographs, and poems for the period from the 1880s to the 1920s.

Grant Books, located in Worcestershire, England, is a leading source of golf books, particularly those from the 19th century. In addition, a partnership between Bob Grant, the proprietor of Grant Books, and D.M. Wilson III, of Greenwich, Connecticut, has undertaken to re-publish important books and written collections

from this same period. As Mr. Wilson has written before, "This volume is a continuing effort with Bob Grant, my friend and colleague, to bring collectors and a wider audience rare treasures from the formative years of golf's literature."



MACHRIHANISH is the latest in this impressive and important collaboration. It is available in blue cloth hardback with matching slipcover for £25 plus shipping. To order go to the publisher's website: <https://www.grantbooks.co.uk>

From a Dec. 8, 1893 piece:

Golf is, of course, the main industry of the district. There is also sea fishing, and it is a perfect spot for loafing - the worker's ideal holiday. And when does tobacco taste sweeter than when one lies of a cloudless summer day on the bents above the shore, sun-soaked, watching the long rollers which have sped unchecked from the "still vexed

Bermoothes" to these northern shores. ...

If tobacco ever seems a nobler creature it must be when one sits in the porch of a warm evening, the dined feeling etherealised, too happily idle for aught but to watch the play of the moonlight as it strikes the crest of the rollers, caught far out upon a hidden reef, or the dancing mast-head light of the "Clansman" as she kicks her way northward to the Sound of Jura. And if your talkative partner would but cease his prattle, existence would seem completely rounded off; and you could find it in your heart to forgive him for topping his drive into "Rookie" when you were 3 down and 4 to play.



For B.K.:

*"Good judgment comes from experience,
and a lot of that comes from bad judgment."*

Will Rogers

Yours vy truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. A. Galyean'. The signature is stylized and fluid, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Gary A. Galyean

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