



# GARY GALYEAN'S GOLF LETTER

THE INSIDE REPORT ON WORLD GOLF

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Dear Subscriber:

THE NOTABLE GOLF EVENT OF OUR GENERATION will take place at St. Andrews in mid July with the playing of the 150<sup>th</sup> Open Championship.

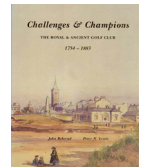
As the location of the Old Course, the only naturally evolving golf course on earth, St. Andrews was the starting place for all that continues to this point. The object of the game, its etiquette, club and ball making, social history, golf course design, rules, championships, art, dissemination amongst the British Empire—every aspect evolved from what began on and near the shores of the Eden River estuary where it opens into the North Sea.

As this moment of historic distinction approaches over the next six months, short articles will appear here to illuminate the logic, or at least the rationale, of why what has taken place has taken place and the role of St. Andrews in that history.

Dozens of sources will be relied upon, and cited. Prominent among those is the trilogy of histories of the Royal & Ancient Golf Club commissioned for the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Club in 2004. These three books were primarily written by Peter N. Lewis, director of the British Golf Museum since 1988 and the prolific author of important golf histories, and John Behrend, the author or co-author of seven golf books and past captain of both the R&A and Royal Liverpool. Keith Mackie, who authored many golf books including *The Art & Architecture of the Royal & Ancient Golf Club*, joined the two above to produce the second volume [1884 - 1939]; and Donald Steel, the noted golf course architect and author, joined Mr. Lewis to produce the third book [1939 - 2004]. Design and production of the trilogy for the Royal & Ancient Golf Club was provided by Grant Books, Worcestershire.

### Challenges & Champions

The Royal & Ancient Golf Club  
1754 -1883  
John Behrend • Peter N. Lewis



### Champions & Guardians

The Royal & Ancient Golf Club  
1884 - 1939  
John Behrend • Peter N. Lewis • Keith Mackie



### Traditions & Change

The Royal & Ancient Golf Club  
1939 - 2004  
Donald Steel • Peter N. Lewis



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

The Forthcoming  
150<sup>th</sup> Open Championship  
Why 18 Holes?  
Brookline's Legacy

The first of our pieces running up to the playing of the Open this coming July concerns how it came to be that we play 18 holes.

In the June, 2011 issue of *Through the Green*, Peter N. Lewis (mentioned above) published an article titled *The Lost Holes of St.*

*Andrews - What might have happened in 1764.* He modestly referred to his work as “an informed speculation” as to how the number of holes in a round over the golf links of St. Andrews was reduced from 22 to 18.

Obvious and abbreviated reasoning affords

As we begin our 33<sup>rd</sup> year, we thank you for your loyalty and welcome those who have just joined us.

PETER ALLISS

“Long may you continue your independent voice, bringing golfing points of view to our notice, praising many but also, on occasion, ‘slapping a wrist’ that needs to be slapped.”

the short answer that we play 18 holes everywhere in the world today because the Old Course is comprised of 18 holes, and the Old Course is where golf began. How, then, did it evolve that the Old Course is comprised of 18 holes now when there were 22 holes in 1754?

In preparation for understanding what may have taken place 257 years ago on the links of St. Andrews, it is important for the modern reader to keep these things in mind when reading the historical comments:

- When the word *hole* is used, it often refers to the specific hole in the ground, as opposed to the modern reference that usually includes the entire hole from the teeing ground to the hole in the ground;

- The first half of a round at St. Andrews in 1754 consisted of playing to eleven holes on a path that ran toward the estuary and then playing to the same holes again on the way back home.

- Most of the course at that time was contained on the land that is the second nine today; the scale of the playing ground was roughly half of today's length.

- In 1764, there were no putting greens and no tees. A player teed his ball within a clublength of the hole just finished, and played until holing out at the next hole over whatever ground there was surrounding that hole.

- In Scottish law, the word *feu* means rent - verb or noun. It refers to a perpetual lease on rented land. It comes to us from the Latin *foedus* meaning fire place, Old French meaning fire, and as an abbreviation of the word feudal, hence the Scotch usage as land held in feudal tenure for which feu (rent) could be collected.

...

The earliest map of the links was drawn in 1821. What route the course took before that, therefore, is discerned from written sources e.g. minute books, town council meetings, etc.

The minute book of the Society of Golfers, which eventually became the Royal & Ancient Golf Club, mentions the result of 1754's Challenge for the Silver Club and that the competition was played over 22 holes. Eleven holes were played to on the way out and, over the same ground, the same eleven holes played to on the way home.

Ten years later, the Society's minute about the 1764 Challenge for the Silver Club records a formal call for the alteration of the first two holes. From the minute book:

*The Captain and Gentlemen Golfers present are of the opinion that it would be for the improvement of the links that the four first holes should be converted into two, they therefore have agreed that for the future, they shall be played as two holes, in the same way as presently marked out.*

What can be confusing in this statement is that "the four first holes" converted into two actually reduced the total number of holes for a round by four because they were played once going out and again coming in.

According to Mr. Lewis, the first two holes "were short and not very good". From his 2011 article:

*The Captain and the Gentlemen did not enjoy playing [the first four holes]. They thought that playing the course as eighteen holes 'as presently marked out' was better. They stated that they were going to convert the first four holes into two and that in the future they would play what had been four holes as two holes. In other words, they were using the same terrain but simply by-passing the areas where the two holes had been located.*

The hole numbers were of course altered accordingly and the home hole became the 18<sup>th</sup> hole—rather than the 22<sup>nd</sup> hole. The length of the course was not changed.

Fifty-six years after the reduction in the number of holes, along came the land developers and the opportunity for controversy. On March 3, 1820, the St. Andrews



Town Council agreed “to feu (rent) by public roup (auction)” part of the land that is now Links Road. The Society of Golfers met two days later to express their opposition to “an encroachment on the ground which has from time immemorial been appropriated to the Game of Golfing as appears from the evidence of the oldest cad-dies and ballmakers”.

A compromise was reached three months later, and the Town Council unanimously agreed that:

*... the golfing course is now fixed by the plan of feuing betwixt the first hole and the Swilcan Bridge to be the unalterable golfing course in time coming, and that it shall not be in their power or in the power of their successors in office to feu, build, or encroach further upon the said course on the north or west sides and also to allow the Golf Club a piece of ground on the east of the present first hole sufficient for the site of a new golf-house (emphasis added).*

This compromise saw the elimination of the old first hole and the subsequent difficulty in determining where it was exactly. Forgan House now occupies that land.

### **Boston and Brookline as U.S. Open Hosts A Legacy of Fine Play and Appalling Behavior**

Twenty-eight days before the Open begins in St. Andrews this year, the U.S. Open will be played at The Country Club in Brookline. It will be the fourth time the Club has hosted the national championship [1913, '63, '88]. Six National Amateurs have been played there [1910, '22, '34, '57, '82, 2013], three Women's Amateurs [1902, '41, '95], the 1973 Walker Cup Match, and the 1999 Ryder Cup Matches.

Immediately following the 1999 Ryder Cup Matches at Brookline, we unearthed the following story from the September 21, 1913, edition of the NEW YORK TRIBUNE.

It ran in the newspaper the day after Francis Ouimet's U.S. Open victory in a playoff with Harry Vardon and Ted Ray at The Country Club. The piece provides wider historical framing when considering the appalling behavior that took place at the same venue during the 1999 Ryder Cup Matches.

#### ***Outbursts of Cheering Violated True Ethics of Golf Code***

#### **John Reid, jr. (sic), Apologizes “In a Slight Way” to the English Players for Wild Enthusiasm of the “Gallery.”**

*Boston, Sept. 20 - John Reid, jr. (sic), secretary of the United States Golf Association, in awarding the open golf championship medal to Ouimet, the trophy to the Woodland*

*Club of Auberndale, Mass., which he represented, and cash prizes to Vardon and Ray, here today, after the great match, took occasion to apologize “in a slight way,” as he put it, for the outbursts of cheering at inopportune times.*

*This was a delicate reference to a feature of today's play which is quite likely to be a subject of international comment by the golfing mentors of England and the United States.*

*The management of the tournament has been the subject of much praise, but to-day the gallery several times violated the true ethics of the sport by cheering wildly whenever Ouimet gained a point.*

*The same outbursts occurred yesterday, but Ouimet was then playing with George Sargent, who had no chance for first place in the final half of his round. It was different to-day, for both Ray and Vardon were playing shots either just before or just after Ouimet, and it was plainly evident that these outbreaks annoyed them.*

*Approaching the seventeenth hole, Ray deliberately stopped in the midst of a swing and refused to play until the cheering ceased.*

*This action had little or no effect on the result of the match, but a number of golfers publicly stated their regret that cheering like that at boat races or football games should have occurred, although they realized and stated that it was impossible to check these spontaneous outbursts of enthusiasm when Ouimet made particularly good plays.*

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Reid presided at the prize giving in the absence of Robert C. Watson, president of the U.S.G.A. and member of National Golf Links, Southampton, N.Y. Mr. Watson was kept informed via telephone reports from the NEW YORK TRIBUNE and when told of Mr. Ouimet's victory stated, “I can hardly believe it. It is amazing. Am I delighted? How foolish a question. It's the most wonderful thing that ever happened in the history of golf.”

Brookline's 17<sup>th</sup> hole has been the site of several notable events. In 1913, Mr. Ouimet clinched his playoff victory there with a birdie from 15 feet, while Mr. Vardon made bogey from the left fairway bunker, and Mr. Ray three-putted for bogey.

During the final round of the 1963 U.S. Open [the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mr. Ouimet's victory], Jacky Cupit made a double bogey at the 17<sup>th</sup> to bring Arnold Palmer and the eventual champion, Julius Boros, into a playoff the following day. In the final round of the 1988 U.S. Open [the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mr. Ouimet's victory], Curtis Strange three-putted from eight feet above the 17<sup>th</sup> hole resulting in his playoff with Nick Faldo.

And, of course, there was Justin Leonard's holed 45 ft. birdie putt at the 17<sup>th</sup> in 1999 during the last day of the Ryder Cup Matches. Mr. Leonard's birdie assured the U.S. of a tie in his match, 14½ team points overall, and hence a victory for the U.S. The American team's immediate, joyful hysteria on the 17<sup>th</sup> green, *before* the match was finished, was viewed from all quarters as exceedingly poor sportsmanship. The raucous demonstration delayed and distracted Mr. Olazábal from playing his 22 ft. putt for birdie. American spectators heckled European players and even their wives as the situation worsened. There were reports of the European wives being spat upon by spectators.

Alistair Cooke addressed the behavior in his weekly BBC World Service broadcast *Letter from America*. His piece was titled THE ARRIVAL OF THE GOLF HOOLIGAN.

Sir Michael Bonallack, Captain of the Royal & Ancient Golf Club, wrote that he had no previous intention of making a mission statement for his year as Captain until his visit to Brookline for the Ryder Cup Matches. In a news bulletin from St. Andrews, he commented:

*When people take up golf the etiquette is there in the Rule book, but it is becoming increasingly ignored. Slow golfers very seldom wave through the match behind. People talk and move while others nearby are playing and all these little things begin to multiply - failing to replace divots, rake bunkers, and repair pitch marks.*

*If these basic courtesies of golf were bred into people you would not get crowd incidents like those at Brookline. It is a minority who start these things, but it is contagious in a highly charged situation and it doesn't take much alcohol for some to get overexcited. Incitement of spectators should never be any part of a golf event.*



For P.G.M.:

*"La vie étant ce qu'elle est, on rêve de vengeance."*

*Life being what it is, we dream of vengeance.*

Paul Gauguin

*Hopefully the incidents at the Ryder Cup will cause many people to give the situation a great deal of thought. The players' reaction at Brookline was out of hand. They should be leading the way, not inciting the crowds with gestures.*

Once again this June at The Country Club, the world will watch the spectacle of the players and the spectators.

#### IMPORTANT 2022 CHAMPIONSHIPS

Latin America Am.	Casa de Campo	Jan 20-23
<b>THE 86<sup>TH</sup> MASTERS</b>	<b>AUGUSTA NATIONAL</b>	<b>APR 7-10</b>
<b>104<sup>TH</sup> PGA CHMPNSHP</b>	<b>SOUTHERN HILLS</b>	<b>MAY 19-22</b>
U.S. Women's Open	Pine Needles	Jun 2-5
Curtis Cup	Merion	Jun 10-12
127 <sup>th</sup> [British] Amateur	Royal Lytham & St. Annes	Jun 13-18
<b>122<sup>ND</sup> U.S. OPEN</b>	<b>BROOKLINE</b>	<b>JUN 16-19</b>
U.S. Senior Open	Saucon Valley	Jun 23-26
[British] Senior Am.	Dornoch	Jul 6-8
<b>THE 150<sup>TH</sup> OPEN</b>	<b>ST. ANDREWS</b>	<b>JUL 14-17</b>
U.S. Girl's Junior	Bowling Green, Ky.	Jul 18-23
[British] Senior Open	Gleneagles	Jul 21-24
U.S. Jr. Amateur	Bandon Dunes	Jul 25-30
U.S. Women's Am.	Chambers Bay	Aug 8-14
U.S. Amateur	Ridgewood	Aug 15-21
Women's World Team	Paris	Aug 24-27
PGA Tour Chmpnshp.	East Lake	Aug 25-28
U.S. Senior Am.	Kittansett	Aug 27-Sep 1
Men's World Team	Paris	Aug 31-Sep 3
U.S. Mid-Am.	Erin Hills	Sep 10-15
U.S. Women's Mid-Am.	Naples, Fla.	Sep 17-22
Presidents Cup	Quail Hollow	Sep 22-25

Yours vly truly,

Gary A. Galyean  
Editor & Publisher

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