



GARY GALYEAN'S GOLF LETTER

THE INSIDE REPORT ON WORLD GOLF

NUMBER 362

OUR 33RD YEAR

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2022

Dear Subscriber:

During an off week for the PGA Tour China Series, 17 People's Republic of China Chengdu J-20 fighter jets crossed the Taiwan Strait meridian line and entered Taiwan air space — Aug. 2

'If LIV Golf is elite golf's future, what do [LIV players] care about the dust-collecting trophies of a bygone era?'

U.S. District Judge Beth Labson Freeman,
Northern District of California — Aug. 9

PUBLIC ASSESSMENT of the LIV Golf-Saudi-terrorism entanglement has acquired notable, negative traction amongst the mob, while opinion about the PGA Tour-China-Series-warmongering entanglement *not so muchy*.

Human rights violations, social violence, and military saber rattling have moved down a few rungs on these two tours' respective ladders of self-assigned righteousness to be replaced with a 21st century regard for style, legal maneuvering, and, of course, lots and lots of money.

Both tours thrive in autarkic darkness, lighted occasionally by public relations forays, but have greater difficulty tolerating open discussion or reporting. Details of these points were laid out in our June issue.

Into July and August, the fight between the PGA Tour and LIV Golf predictably continued in court, press rooms, and before the camera. THE GOLF LETTER suspended coverage of the quarreling in our July issue out of respect for the 150th Open Championship. The Open was a celebration that deserved better, and so we ignored the fight that affects this tiny group of professionals until it could no

longer be ignored. We will now attempt to describe the chain of impactful and sometimes bad behavior, on both sides, to update the story from the days just before the first round of the Open through the days just following the Tour Championship.

We include the valuable and discerning stand by the one articulate and unafraid voice among major championship administrators, as well as the judge overseeing the antitrust lawsuit between the two tours.

THE DAY BEFORE the first ball was struck at the Open in St. Andrews, Martin Slumbers, chief executive of The R&A and secretary of The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, appeared at the traditional pre-Open press conference and, among other issues, voiced his opinions, some official, others personal, about the disruptive LIV Golf behavior and its intrusion into golf's superstructure and what he referred to as golf's *ecosystem*. Mr. Slumbers:

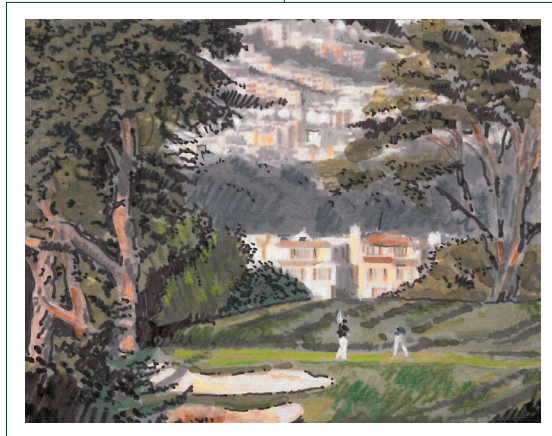
INSIDE THIS ISSUE

R&A Firm
Tours Squabble
... from the Open through the Tour
Championship ...

Professional golfers are entitled to choose where they want to play and to accept the prize money that's offered to them. I have absolutely no problem with that at all. But there is no such thing as a free lunch. I believe the [LIV] model we have seen at Centurion [London LIV event] and Pumpkin Ridge [Portland, Oregon, LIV event] is not in the best long-term interest of the sport as a whole and is entirely driven by money. We believe it undermines the merit-based culture and the spirit of open competition that makes golf so special. I would also like to say that in my opinion the continued commentary that this is about growing the game is just not credible and, if anything, is harming the perception of our sport which we are working so hard to improve.

Mr. Slumbers referred to LIV's behavior as a disruption for the benefit a small number of players that impacts the vast structure of the game. He presented the argument—and is thus far the only leading administrative voice to present a coherent argument without equivocation or fear, which once again illustrates The R&A's foremost global role in the Rules, manners, and expansion of golf—that golf's current, stable pathway for new players to enter and realize their full potential is disrupted by LIV's harmful concentration on money.

Mr. Slumbers reminded the golf press and all those distracted by this money fight, "Golf is far more than just professional golf, and we should all remember that. ... I believe that the vast majority of the 70 million plus golfers do so because of the values of golf which to me are integrity, personal responsibility, and respect." Later, he reminded the press that the Open purse has risen 60 percent since 2016, which diverts more money to the professional players and, therefore, away from The R&A's efforts to conduct and grow the game from its grassroots level all the way up and through the Open Championship.



Anticipating questions about The R&A banning LIV players, Mr. Slumbers said, "That is not on our agenda. But what is on our agenda is that we will review our exemptions and qualifications criteria for the Open. And whilst we do that every year, we absolutely reserve the right to make changes as our Open Championships Committee deems appropriate. Players have to earn their place in the Open."

This led to a question of how the Official World Golf Ranking (OWGR) would be able or unable to incorporate LIV performances into their ranking calculations. This will become a tipping point in this territorial quarrel as it applies to major championship exemptions.

Mr. Slumbers answered that he would not be discussing OWGR issues, and that the OWGR-issued statement would suffice. The day before, July 12, the following statement was posted on the OWGR Twitter feed:

*Statement from the Official World Golf Ranking
Chairman Peter Dawson*

On 6 July 2022 Official World Golf Ranking received an application from LIV Golf for inclusion in its ranking system. Examination of the application will now commence.

*Peter Dawson
Chairman*

The founding members of the OWGR in 1986 were The R&A, USGA, PGA of America [club professionals], PGA Tour, European Tour, and the International Federation of PGA Tours. [ASIDE: The PGA Tour-China is among the 23 various professional tours eligible for world ranking by the OWGR.]



Following on, Mr. Slumbers was asked if his seat on the OWGR, representing The R&A, was a conflict of interest. He replied that is a matter decided by the U.K. Companies Act. The Companies Act 2006 was passed by the Parliament of the United Kingdom to form the primary source of U.K. company law. Among many things, the act codifies common law principles, such as those relating to directors' duties.

The exemption and qualification criteria—largely the world rankings based on 72-hole performances—for the major championships will be the focal point going forward. While The R&A has clearly stated their view of the LIV disruption, the other major championships have been mostly silent.

The USGA at their Open in June, like The R&A in July, allowed those who had come

through the exemption and qualifying process to play. USGA CEO Michael Whan later added that the USGA's decision for 2022 would not necessarily be its ruling in perpetuity. He said he could envision a day where it would be harder for some folks doing different things to get into a U.S. Open.

The PGA of America, who conduct the PGA Championship and the Ryder Cup and who were the parent organization of the PGA Tour, is expected to tilt toward support of the PGA Tour.

The Masters Tournament, being an invitational, can and will do whatever Augusta National likes—inviting past champions, regardless of tour affiliation, and others who they might like to see in their contest, or not.

The 150th Open Championship concluded with Cameron Smith's excellent performance and his haunting equivocation as to whether or not he would join LIV Golf in the future [see the July 17th timeline entry].

The competition between the PGA Tour and LIV Golf for players and television viewers has pushed each tour to expand their purses, number of events, and efforts for greater audience appeal. The timeline that follows below details where we are in that process today.

July

9th - The R&A released the following statement:

In response to enquiries regarding The R&A Celebration of Champions field and the Champions' Dinner, we can confirm that we contacted Greg Norman to advise him that we decided not to invite him to attend on this occasion. The 150th Open is an extremely important milestone for golf and we want to ensure that the focus remains on celebrating the Championship and its heritage. Unfortunately, we do not believe that would be the case if Greg were to attend. We hope that when circumstances allow Greg will be able to attend again in future.

LIV players who are also past Open Champions, Phil Mickelson and Louis Oosthuizen, were invited to the dinner. When asked if the denial of Mr. Norman's suggestion in May that he receive a special exemption to play in the Open was linked to the un-invitation to the past champions dinner, Mr. Slumbers replied that a special exemption to play is "a completely different issue than an invitation for a celebration dinner".

11th - The *Wall Street Journal* reported, and the PGA Tour confirmed, that the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) is investigating whether the PGA Tour engaged in anti-competitive behavior in opposing LIV Golf. In 1994, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) looked into two PGA Tour rules that 1) prevented tour members from playing in non-PGA events without the tour's permission, and 2) members' appearances on televised golf programs. The FTC dropped their inquiries the following year.

The week before the 150th Open, some PGA Tour-suspended LIV players won a stay over the tour's action and were allowed to play in the 2022 Scottish Open, which is a competition co-sanctioned by the PGA Tour.

Judicious observers offered the opinion that the DOJ's action came so close to the events of the two tours' struggle and President Biden's August trip to Saudi Arabia that the Biden administration may have sought Saudi favor by invoking the DOJ investigation.

12th - Tiger Woods, in a St. Andrews press conference, said, "I think that what they've [PGA Tour players who joined LIV] done is they have turned their back on what has allowed them to get to this position ... It would be sad to see some of these young kids never get a chance to experience it and experience what we've got a chance to experience and walk these hallowed grounds and play in these championships."

13th - The R&A does not include any LIV player in the pre-Open press conference schedule or any of the spotlighted opening round pairings.

13th - Jack Nicklaus becomes the third American, following Benjamin Franklin (1759) and Bobby Jones (1958), to be made an honorary citizen of St. Andrews.

Mr. Nicklaus' acceptance speech was comprised of 531 words of which 55 were "I", "me" or "my".

14th - LIV players Dustin Johnson and Ian Poulter, in separate pairings, were booed on the first tee of the Old Course. Mr. Poulter responded with a snap-hooked tee shot that nearly finished out of bounds on a fairway that is 129 yards wide. He saved par.

Trying to insert himself into the importance of the 150th Open competition days, tediously loquacious Gary Player recounted his assessments of Ben Hogan, which were about as valuable as Ron Popeil recounting Isaac Newton.

15th - Mr. Johnson described how he deals with the LIV controversy. "Honestly, I don't read anything. So I wouldn't know what you were saying or if there was anything negative being said. ... I don't pay attention to it."

"That's exactly how I do it. I don't read. I don't look at it. It doesn't bother me because obviously, everyone has their own opinion and I have mine, and the only one I care about is mine." - Mr. Johnson

17th - Of the 59 players who are members of LIV to this date, 23 were in the Open field of 156. Twelve missed the 36 hole cut. Mr. Johnson finished highest with a tie for sixth place. Mr. Smith asked post-victory if there was any truth to the suggestion and rumors that he might sign with LIV answered, "I just won the British Open (sic) and you're asking about that? I think that's pretty not that good."

18th - David Feherty leaves NBC for LIV because "they paid me a lot of money".

20th - Henrik Stenson confirmed that he signed with LIV following the announcement that he was stripped of his European Ryder Cup captaincy, which was revoked due to his signing with LIV.

28th - LIV Bedminster, New Jersey's launch party was predictably gaudy. A bougie five-ball the day prior to the competition included former President Trump, his son Eric, Yasir Al-Rumayyan (who runs the Saudi sovereign wealth fund), Dustin Johnson, and Bryson DeChambeau. Bougie boys.

29th - Bubba Watson signed with LIV.

31st - Mr. Stenson won LIV Bedminster and \$4 million having scored 11 under par for 54 holes.

31st - *Forbes Magazine* reported Mr. Mickelson is the highest paid athlete thus far for 2022 with \$138 million. His \$200 million from LIV is apparently paid in installments, as you might do if you were buying a new washer and dryer.



August

2nd - Mr. Norman contended that Mr. Woods refused between \$700-800 million to join LIV.

3rd - Eleven LIV players filed an antitrust suit against the PGA Tour. Three of the 11 players also sought a temporary restraining order that would allow them to play in the FedEx Cup playoffs, for which each had qualified prior to joining LIV.

8th - Judge Beth Labson Freeman denied the three LIV players' request for a restraining order. Judge Freeman disagreed with the LIV players' argument that not appearing in the PGA Tour play-offs would cause them to suffer financial and reputational losses.

The London Daily Mail printed Judge Freeman's written remarks: "Plaintiffs' contention that they will irreparably lose future sponsorship opportunities and career status is undermined by Plaintiffs' evidence that LIV Golf offers a refreshing new extremely fan-friendly business model that will lead to an improved broadcast output and entertainment experience compared to the staid old golf world built by PGA Tour.

"If LIV Golf is elite golf's future, what do Plaintiffs care about the dust-collecting trophies of a bygone era?"

9th - *The London Telegraph* reported that Open Champion Cameron Smith has agreed to sign with LIV for \$100-143 million following the Tour Championship.

12th - Scottie Scheffler [world #1] intentionally walks in front of Mr. Smith [world #2] as Mr. Smith lined up a putt at the St. Jude Championship, the first playoff event before the Tour Championship. Mr. Smith looked up at Mr. Scheffler in amazement.

12th - Mr. Smith tells the press, "I'm ready to cop some heat. I understand that's what I've said but I'm here to win the FedEx Cup Playoffs, that's my number one

goal, and whatever happens after that will come from me." The inference seemed obvious.

12th - *The Daily Mail Australia* reported that PGA of Australia CEO Gavin Kirkman told reporters, "The Australian players that come home from wherever they are playing at the moment, if they are members of our organization they will be eligible to play and that has been discussed with the other tours."

13th - Ben Hogan's 110th birthday.

14th - Two hours before beginning his fourth round at the St. Jude Championship, Mr. Smith is penalized for a third round Rules infraction — not taking *complete* relief from a penalty area. He dropped and played his ball from on top of the red line delineating the penalty area [see photo]. Under the Rules, the line is considered to be within the penalty area. It was an accurate but embarrassingly late call.



14th - Will Zalatoris won the St. Jude (\$2.7 million) on the third playoff hole. His tee shot on that hole finished in a greenside water hazard between the turf and a stone wall (see photo). He chose to drop out of the penalty area—a one stroke penalty—and still won with a bogey.



14th - FedEx point standings after the St. Jude Championship: Zalatoris 3,680; Scheffler 3,556; Smith 2,548.

15th - Mr. Smith withdrew from the BMW Championship—the second PGA Tour playoff—due to hip discomfort. Mr. Zalatoris withdrew with a back injury.

16th - Mr. Woods met privately with group of players at a Wilmington hotel just prior to the BMW.

20th - *Fire Pit Collective*, from sources, reported the private player meeting discussed larger PGA Tour purses, no cuts, 18 events with 60 of the top players. Also discussed was the PGA Tour dropping its nonprofit status in order to allow investors and equity firms to pump money into the organization.

20th - LIV is expected to announce six or seven new signees following the Tour Championship.

21st - Defending champion Patrick Cantlay won the BMW again, this time by one stroke in regular play. His truly extraordinary fairway bunker shot at the last hole secured his win and raised him five places (7th to 2nd in the FedEx standings going into the Tour Championship), paid \$2.7 million, and awarded him 8 starting strokes. Mr. Scheffler remained in first place overall and was awarded 10 starting strokes.

21st - Leader stats and pay out after BMW:

BMW Result		FedEx Points	Prize Money	Starter Strokes
T3	Scheffler	4,205	\$.87 mill	-10
1	Cantlay	4,129	\$2.7 mill	-8
WD	Zalatoris	3,680		-7
T3	Schauffele	2,824	\$.87 mill	-6

21st - The President Cup selection's three year auto qualifying ends.

23rd - The creation of a new entity named *The Tomorrow Group* was unveiled by Mr. Woods, Rory McIlroy, and Mike McCarley, founder and CEO: "A company focused on building technology-focused ventures that feature progressive approaches to sports, media, and entertainment".

24th - PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan at a pre-Tour Championship press conference revealed plans to elevate four more tour events (for a total of 12) in which the purses will be \$20 million. The top players will play in all 12, plus the four majors, the TPC, and three un-elevated events for total of 20 appearances. In addition, the tour will reward the 20 players "who drive the most impact" to the PGA Tour from a pot of \$50-\$100 million; all fully exempt tour players who compete in 15 tournaments will be guaranteed \$500,000.

During a question-and-answer portion following his statements, Mr. Monahan was asked if players who left the PGA Tour to join LIV and later want to return to the PGA Tour would be allowed to do so? Mr. Monahan answered with a firm no and added, "As I've been clear throughout, every player has a choice, and I respect their

choice. They made it, we made ours, and we are going to focus on what we can control."

LIV released this in response: "LIV Golf is clearly the best thing that's ever happened to help the careers of professional golfers."

Greg Norman, on Instagram, inferred that both Mr. Monahan and he are cheaters when he meme'd,

Jay: "Hey, can I copy your homework?"

Greg: "Sure, just make it look different so it doesn't look to (sic) obvious."

28th - Mr. McIlroy comes from six strokes behind starting the final round of the Tour Championship to win by one over Scottie Scheffler and S.J. Kim. Mr. McIlroy made 130 plus feet of putts during his fourth round and drove his ball masterfully to win the \$18 million prize - \$12.5 million more than the second place tie.



TAG GALYEAN, *East Lake*

In his acceptance remarks, Mr. McIlroy was predictably magnanimous and took the moment to promote playing on the PGA Tour. "It's the greatest place to play golf," he said, "and I've played all over the world."

For the season just ended, Mr. McIlroy won \$28.3 million. He became the first player to win the Tour Championship three times. It was a perfect ending for those supporting the PGA Tour's efforts to out-manuever LIV Golf.

Post-victory press question to Mr. McIlroy: *You've won from ahead, you've won from behind but why do you think you thrive so well as the chaser?*

McIlroy: (with hesitating reflection) "Cause I think probably out of everyone in the field I care least about the money. (nodding affirmatively) *That's probably it.*"

In another post championship interview, Mr. McIlroy said that LIV Golf "ripped [men's professional golf] apart." He added that he will play three of the next four weeks on the DP World Tour where 18 LIV players will also be competing. "I don't like that," he said. He also stated that LIV players should not be permitted to compete in the Ryder Cup.

29th - LIV Golf announced that six new players

have signed with them ahead of the LIV Boston event. Those were Cameron Smith (world #2) Marc Leishman, Joaquín Niemann, Anirban Lahiri, Cameron Tringale, and Harold Varner III.

After equivocating about joining LIV since the day of his Open victory, Mr. Smith, 29, said the money was important—undisclosed but estimated to be between \$100 and \$143 million—but it was not the only reason he joined LIV. “[Money] was definitely a factor in making that decision, I won’t ignore that or say that wasn’t a reason. It was obviously a business decision for one and an offer I couldn’t ignore. ... The biggest thing for me joining is [LIV’s] schedule is really appealing. I’ll be able to spend more time at home in Australia and maybe have an event down there, as well. I haven’t been able to do that, and to get that part of my life back was really appealing. ... I’ve lived over here [in America] seven years now, and I love living in the U.S., but just little things like missing friends’ weddings, birthday parties, and seeing your mates having a great time at rugby league games has been tough.”

Mr. Smith earned \$27 million during his eight years on the PGA Tour. It is estimated that the LIV off season will run from late October until February next year. Regarding his being allowed in future major championship fields, it is thought that Mr. Smith may have five years of exemptions into the four majors due to his Open victory in July.

The R&A has stated that their exemption and qualification criteria will be reviewed, and they “absolutely reserve the right to make changes as our Open Championships Committee deems appropriate”. The USGA has insinuated the same; and the other two majors have been silent.



For J.M.M.:

Back horses or go down to Throgmorton Street and try to take it away from the Rothschilds, and I will applaud you as a shrewd and cautious financier. But to bet at golf is pure gambling.

P.G. Wodehouse
THE HEEL OF ACHILLES

31st - Bubba Watson made a precarious statement regarding his playing in forthcoming Masters Tournaments as a past champion (2012, 2014). Players and outsiders telling the August National tournament committee what they should think about something is not usually an endearing or rewarding undertaking. However, Mr. Watson is known for bold statements.

For me, it's a weird situation being a Masters champion,” Mr. Watson said prior to the LIV Boston event. “Right now, we can play in it and I’m hoping and praying they make the right decisions. I sat my kids down and told them there is a possibility we can’t go to Augusta. If [Augusta National] tells me I can’t go, [even as a] past champion then I don’t want to be there anyway because that’s just the wrong way to look at it.

• • •

In a story about Mr. Watson joining LIV, which was posted by *sports.yahoo.com* and originally appeared in *GolfWeek*, this paragraph was included at the bottom:

Saudi Arabia has been accused of wide-ranging human rights abuses, including politically motivated killings, torture, forced disappearances and inhumane treatment of prisoners. And members of the royal family and Saudi government were accused of involvement in the murder of Jamal Khashoggi, a Saudi journalist and Washington Post columnist.

No mention was made of the PGA Tour’s association with the People’s Republic of China or that country’s human rights abuses, sabre rattling, or assorted trading fraud, patent theft et al.

Yours vry truly,

Gary A. Galyean
Editor & Publisher

Destinations included in GARY GALYEAN’S GOLF LETTER® are chosen at the discretion of the editors. All expenses related to the gathering of this information are paid by the publication. Rates quoted are subject to change without notice. Subscription rate is \$88 US or Overseas per year; renewal rate from \$85US.



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 2022 Gary Galyean. Tag Galyean, Art Director.
Quotation, reproduction or transmission is prohibited.