



GARY GALYEAN'S GOLF LETTER

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Dear Subscriber:

Anticipation 2023

INTERNECINE FIGHTING AMONG the spiv-like millionaires of the professional golf tours will be with us again this year in news rooms, court rooms, locker, and living rooms where their burgeonings are broadcast and discussed.

Most critical to the conflict is on what terms major championship administrators will decide to award exemptions, require qualifying, or prohibit participation. The two most important criteria that will be considered in this process are a.) those who have resigned or been suspended by the PGA Tour; and b.) how the Official World Golf Ranking (OWGR) will, or will not, measure the participation of LIV Golf in the determination of their official standings, which directly impact current exemptions i.e. the usual inclusion of the top 50 leaders on the OWGR in major championship exemptions.

Should the OWGR continue to exclude LIV performances—their competitions are a different format, and their operational elements differ from those long established—this will not necessarily exclude all those on the LIV roster from the major championships. Past champions are usually awarded lifetime or five-year exemptions; those finishing in a major's first-12 or first-4 are exempted into the following year's field, etc.

LIV players not winning points when playing in LIV events that are unranked by the OWGR obviously fall in those rankings as time passes. Pre-LIV, Dustin Johnson was ranked 13th in the world; as of this writing, he is ranked 43rd. Louis Oosthuizen has dropped 30 places; Phil Mickelson has dropped 151 places.

Also of concern for the PGA Tour is how the professional split is impacting sponsor participation. Reportedly, following this year's event, Honda will end the longest-running, uninterrupted title sponsorship on the PGA Tour. Others may follow.

The 87th Masters Tournament Augusta National

To their credit and without surprise, Augusta National answered the question about which professional players would be invited to play in this year's Masters without mentioning the name of the professional organizations that have created problems and doubts about the answer.

Current criteria for invitations, e.g. past Masters champions, the top 12 from last year's Masters, the top four in recent major championships, the 50 leaders of the OWGR, etc. [see top of next page] remain the same in 2023 as they were last year for professionals and amateurs.

In the same spirit as R&A CEO Martin Slumbers' articulation last July at his pre-Open



December 20, 2022

STATEMENT REGARDING THE 2023 MASTERS TOURNAMENT

From its inception in 1934, the purpose of the Masters Tournament has been to benefit the game of golf. Each April, the Masters assembles the world's leading golfers to compete for the Green Jacket and a place in history. It provides a stage for fans to experience dramatic moments of competition at the highest level and promotes the sport domestically and abroad.

Through the years, legends of the game have competed and won at Augusta National Golf Club. Champions like Gene Sarazen, Byron Nelson, Ben Hogan, Sam Snead, Arnold Palmer, Gary Player, Tom Watson, Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods have become heroes to golfers of all ages. They have inspired some to follow in their footsteps and so many others to play and enjoy the game. They have supported the sport and, thus, all who benefit from it. They have shown respect for those who came before them and blazed a trail for future generations. Golf is better because of them.

Regrettably, recent actions have divided men's professional golf by diminishing the virtues of the game and the meaningful legacies of those who built it. Although we are disappointed in these developments, our focus is to honor the tradition of bringing together a preeminent field of golfers this coming April.

Therefore, as invitations are sent this week, we will invite those eligible under our current criteria to compete in the 2023 Masters Tournament. As we have said in the past, we look at every aspect of the Tournament each year, and any modifications or changes to invitation criteria for future Tournaments will be announced in April.

We have reached a seminal point in the history of our sport. At Augusta National, we have faith that golf, which has overcome many challenges through the years, will endure again.

Fred S. Ridley
Chairman

As we begin our 34th 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."

2023 MASTERS TOURNAMENT INVITEES AS OF DEC 19, 2022

Master Champions (Lifetime)
Open, US Open, & PGA Champions (Honorary, after 5 yrs)
Winners of The Players Championship (3 yrs)
Current Olympic Gold Medalist (1 yr)
Current Amateur & US Amateur Champions (Honorary, after 1 yr)
Runner-up to the current US Am Champion
Current Asia-Pacific, Latin America & US MidAm Champs (1 yr)
First 12 players and ties in the previous year's Masters
First 4 players and ties in the previous year's Open, US Open & PGA Championships
Individual winners of PGA Tour events that award a full point allocation for the season ending Tour Championship, from previous Masters to current Masters
Those qualifying for the previous year's season-ending Tour Champ.
50 leaders on the final OWGR for the previous calendar year
50 leaders on the OWGR published during the week prior to the current Masters

Championship news conference, Fred Ridley, Augusta National G.C. chairman, used the opportunity presented by the forthcoming Masters to state, by example, the same points.

On Jan. 5, Mr. Ridley announced the invitation of two additional players to the Masters field—players who otherwise do not fit the qualification criteria, as shown above. The two invitations demonstrated the Masters autonomy as an invitational competition but also their independent control of their invitations. Mr. Ridley left no doubt that Augusta National will determine who is invited and who is not; and that the tournament “prioritizes opportunities to elevate both amateur and professional golf around the world”.

The two extraordinary Masters invitees are: **Kazuki Higa**, 27, with six career wins on the Japan Golf Tour (four in 2022), first on the Japan Order of Merit last year, and 68th in the professional OWGR; and **Gordon Sargent**, 19, the first freshman [Vanderbilt] since 2007 to win the NCAA Division I Men's Individual Championship, and ranked 3rd in the amateur OWGR.

Anticipated Augusta National course changes this year include most prominently a new tee at the 13th on property bought from Augusta C.C. in 2017. If the new tee is used this year it is expected to lengthen the hole by about 40 yards—from 510 to 550. In 1934, the par-5 hole measured 480 yards.

It seems time now for Rory McIlroy to win the Masters and complete his grand slam. He finished second (-7) to Scottie Scheffler (-10) after beginning with two 73s and trailing Mr. Scheffler by six after Friday's round. The *sitzfleisch* (perseverance) of both players was unusually impressive, as is often the case when the Masters trophy is within reach. Mr. McIlroy's performance through all that followed Augusta during 2022, resulting in his vic-

tory at the Tour Championship and regaining the World No. 1 mantle, puts him in the favored position for his first Masters win this April.

The 105th PGA Championship Oak Hill [East], Rochester, New York

While the criteria that determine the players who will compete at Oak Hill in May is yet to be determined, they will most likely mirror the approaches of the R&A and Augusta.



Certainly, the familial association of the PGA of America (the club professionals who conduct this championship, the Ryder Cup, and others) with the PGA Tour (tour professionals), which split away from the club professionals in 1968, would give reason to suspect a greater filtering of LIV players who resigned or were suspended by the PGA Tour in 2022. The legal implications of such filtration will also demand or provoke their consideration. We shall soon see.

This will be Oak Hill's ninth hosting of a major competition since the Club's establishment in 1921 at its present location. Past competitions include:

- U.S. Amateur** - 1949 (Coe), 1998 (Kuehne)
- U.S. Open** - 1956 (Middlecoff), 1968 (Trevino), 1989 (Strange)
- PGA Championships** - 1980 (Nicklaus), 2003 (Micheel), 2013 (Dufner)
- Ryder Cup** - 1995 (Europe 14½ to 13½)

Oak Hill is one of the few clubs to have hosted this impressive group of competitions.

Mr. Scheffler will be a favorite to win the PGA Championship at Oak Hill. It is a strong, demanding course originally designed by Donald Ross. Indeed both courses at Oak Hill were designed by Mr. Ross in 1921. Robert Trent Jones made alterations in the 1960s, as did Tom Fazio in 1989 and 2003. A general restoration was undertaken by Andrew Green in 2019.

The 123rd U.S. Open Los Angeles C.C. [North]



The USGA is expected to follow the leads of the Open and the Masters in determining who will qualify to enter this year's U.S. Open field. Echoes have been heard of such an approach. The USGA in recent years has come to only insinuate leadership. More typically it depends upon the judgement of the R&A and Augusta National, which usually ends in a better result.

The Los Angeles C.C. was originally organized over nine holes in 1897. By 1911, 36 holes [North & South] were laid out at a new location nearby. Founders and members designed the original courses. The North course was refined in 1921 by the insightful and talented efforts of Herbert Fowler (The Berkshire - Red & Blue; Saunton - East & West; Walton Heath - Old & New...) and George C. Thomas, Jr. (Riviera, Bel-Air, Ojai, Stanford...). In 1927-28, the North was again altered by Mr. Thomas and William Bell; and again, in 1996-97 by Gil Hanse and Geoff Shackelford.

The Los Angeles Open has been played over the North course five times. No major championships have been played here. In 2017, as a prelude to the US Open, the Walker Cup was hosted. The U.S. won with 19 points to GB & I's 7.

The Club, as would be appropriate, is an iconic California venue with dozens of apocryphal stories and a number of makeovers, both of which seem appropriate considering its location. For whatever reason Will Zalatoris seems like the fitting favorite to contend.

The 151st Open Championship Royal Liverpool



Next month the details of the R&A's Championships Committee exemption and qualifying criteria for the 2023 Open Championship are expected to be released.

As Mr. Slumbers stated before the 150th Open "... 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."

Regional qualifying takes place in late June; and final qualifying the following week. We like Mr. McIlroy for the Champion Golf of the Year following his exceptional performance last year at St. Andrews and his presumptive win at the Masters this April.

Excepting St. Andrews, is there a more competitively important club than Royal Liverpool anywhere in the world? We will answer that question fully later this year. Established in 1869, the First Amateur Championship was played here in 1885. Member John Ball won the Amateur at Prestwick and the Open here in 1890. Member Harold Hilton won the Open here in 1897 and the Amateur here in 1911. The first international match was played here in 1902 [England vs. Scotland]. Bobby Jones

won the Open here in his Grand Slam year (1930). Peter Thomson, Tiger Woods, and Mr. McIlroy have all won the Open at Royal Liverpool.

The 49th Walker Cup St. Andrews

George Herbert ("Bert") Walker†, who attended an English public school in this youth, broached the idea of an international golf competition with his Executive Committee toward the end of his year [1920] as the USGA's 14th president.

As described by Gordon G. Simmonds in his authoritative and erudite history *THE WALKER CUP 1922 TO 2003 - GOLF'S FINEST CONTEST*, Mr. Walker saw an expanding American interest in international competition as exhibited by a match between the U.S. and Canada that was played as a home-and-away format in 1919 and 1920. He also traveled to the [British] Amateur Championship—played at Muirfield in 1920—where he informally discussed his idea with the chairman of the R&A Championship Committee. Mr. Simmonds writes:

Walker was an internationalist and wanted the proposed championship to be multi-national in dimension, much along the lines of the Davis Cup in tennis (1903), if only because of his vision to have golf play a part in furthering international relations in the aftermath of the First World War.

The USGA liked and accepted the idea. Mr. Walker commissioned Tiffany's to produce a large—36 inches high, 20 inches wide—silver trophy engraved as *The United States Golf Association International Challenge Trophy*. The press, according to Mr. Simmonds, quickly re-named it The Walker Cup.

The original idea was that for a multi-nation competitive field but a sagging world economy saw none able to afford the expense of attending. In 1921 the Amateur Championship was played at Royal Liverpool. During practice before the competition, American amateurs played an unofficial match against the best British players. The Americans won. An earlier suspicion that American players did not match the accomplishment of British players was dispelled and, more importantly, again according to Mr. Simmonds "the seed was thus sown for Walker's bequest to be established as a competition, not amongst several nations but simply bilaterally, between teams of top amateurs from Britain and the United States".

On August 28-29, 1922, the first playing for The Walker Cup took place at The National Golf Links between teams selected by the R&A and the USGA. The

stunning story of The National is for another time, but suffice it to say the course was revered by knowledgeable golf enthusiasts from both sides of the Atlantic—just as it is today. It also could not have hurt that Mr. Walker was a member.

In an extraordinary turn of events, Bernard Darwin, grandson of Charles Darwin, the greatest golf writer God has yet given us, traveled with the British team as a correspondent for THE TIMES. The British team captain, Robert Harris, fell ill just before the match. Mr. Darwin was chosen not only to play but to captain the British side. In the first day foursomes, Jesse Guilford and Francis Ouimet defeated Cyril Tolley and Mr. Darwin, 8 and 7. The following day, in singles competition, Mr. Darwin defeated William Fownes, Jr. 3 and 1. The first Walker Cup was won by America with 8 points to Great Britain & Ireland's 4 points.

This founding story is by way of acknowledging that 2022 marked the 100th anniversary of the founding of The Walker Cup. This will be celebrated a year late by its 49th playing this September 2-3. The match will take place at St. Andrews for the ninth time. While the competition is intense, the results are an aside to the amateur and international spirit that Mr. Walker foresaw.

† *Maternal grandfather of George Herbert Walker Bush and great grandfather of George Walker Bush, the forty-first and forty-third Presidents of the United States respectively.*

The 44th Ryder Cup Marco Simone-Roma

Rome and the Ryder Cup ... go together like NASCAR and Ricky Bobby. This end-of-September raucous-



For H.:

*"The best way to learn about fakes
is to get in touch with a forger."*

Thomas P.F. Hoving

Metropolitan Museum of Art Director
who estimated that 60 per cent of all the works
offered to him during his sixteen-year tenure [two
terms] were "not what they appeared to be".

ness promises a spectacle that never palls and an appropriate ending to perhaps another baleful season. ❁

IMPORTANT 2023 CHAMPIONSHIPS

Latin America Am.	Grand Reserve, Puerto Rico	Jan 12-15
THE 87th MASTERS	AUGUSTA NATIONAL	APR 6-9
105th PGA CHMPNSHP	OAK HILL, N.Y.	MAY 18-21
120th [British] Wmn's Am.	Prince's	Jun 13-18
123rd U.S. OPEN	LOS ANGELES C.C.	JUN 15-18
128th [British] Amateur	Hillside and Southport & Ainsale	JUN 19-24
U.S. Senior Open	SentryWorld, Wis.	Jun 29-Jul 12
U.S. Women's Open	Pebble Beach	Jul 6-9
[British] Senior	Woodhall Spa	Jul 11-14
Men's and Women's Amateurs		
U.S. Girl's Junior	Air Force Academy	Jul 17-22
THE 151st OPEN	ROYAL LIVERPOOL	JUL 20-23
[British] Senior Open	Royal Porthcawl	Jul 26-30
U.S. Jr. Amateur	Daniel Is., S.C.	Jul 24-29
U.S. Women's Am.	Bel-Air C.C.	Aug 7-13
U.S. Amateur	Cherry Hills, Col.	AUG 14-20
Eisenhower Trophy-Men	Dubai, U.A.E.	Oct 18-21
Eisenhower Trophy-Wmn	Dubai, U.A.E.	Oct 25-28
Tour Championship	East Lake	Aug 24-27
U.S. Senior Am.	Martis Camp, Calif.	Aug 26-31
Walker Cup	St. Andrews	Sep 2,3
U.S. Mid-Am.	Sleepy Hollow, N.Y.	Sep 9-14
U.S. Women's Mid-Am.	Stonewall, Pa.	Sep 9-14
Ryder Cup	Marco Simone, Rome	Sep 29-Oct 1

Yours vy truly,

Gary A. Galyean
Editor & Publisher

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