

WHEN THE BALL HITS BACK

I think Ernie's win was a great achievement but he just hung in there and finished as well as he could and then some players dropped back and all of a sudden Ernie was the winner. With the Ryder Cup the situation was really "mission impossible" but some great play by all the European players brought the "impossibility" into "reality" and the most amazing win ever. So sorry to Ernie and my vote is to the Europeans and the Ryder Cup

Bob

Quite simply Ernie deserves it for the following reasons:

1. He was doing his thing on his own – more difficult than a whole team effort
2. The year certainly produced its problems what with his putting difficulties
3. A major remains a major – especially 'The Open' where the pressure is enormous with such quality in the field
4. And lastly so nice to beat an Aussie (although Scottie is a nice guy...)

Neil

Although I'm a huge fan of Ernie Els, Adam Scott has been adjudged to have lost The Open Championship, whereas the European team won the Ryder Cup with some determined play, emotional support for Seve and phenomenal putting on the back nine at Medinah. My vote therefore goes to the European Ryder team.

John

I love, and have the utmost respect for ERNIE the golfer.....but my choice has got to fall on the RYDER CUP TEAM!! Reason.....for one guy to pick himself up and fight back is great, but for a whole team of guys to fight the way they did was absolutely phenomenal! Secondly, seeing how Seve's memories got the guys emotions and adrenalin pumping was just such a blast for me to be part of albeit at home in front of the TV!! P.S. Poulter should get some kind of War decoration!

Lourens

Both were fantastic achievements the difference being that Ernie was handed his victory by an imploding Adam Scott whilst it is difficult of any of the Americans that faltered badly in the singles. The Europeans played magnificently to beat them from behind. Not really a contest.

Personally, I don't think Ernie "won" the Open, as much as Adam Scott "lost it"....literally. It wasn't like his first Open win when he kept it together with fierce opposition to eventually win; when he holed out this time, I don't think he really gave himself a chance, and in his mind was probably already half-way to the airport! Also, it seems to have been a "one off" thing, not having really featured too well since then. My vote is for the European Ryder Cup team. An amazing performance, with the individual players performing well since then.....Tiger who??

Anthony

Definitely the Ryder cup team, from so far behind to do the almost impossible seemed out of their reach. Magnificent team effort.

Billy

There is no contest for the comebacks
The 2012 European Ryder Cup team will win hands down
...Ernie did not have a comeback ... Adam Scott imploded

Quinton

Ernie Els given the problem he has had with the putter in the last 2 years

Eddie

And on to other things...

Thank you for a brilliant interview with Simon Hobday. I thought you may be interested in more on the incident that you discussed on the 14th hole (not the 15th as Hobday stated) at Mowbray (were Hobday thought

the ball had hit him in the bunker and initially wrongly wanted to penalize himself 2 shots). The signature hole the 15th had no bunkers in those days.

Player lying second was in brilliant form in the last round and birdied from the 5th to the 14th (check it up I think it is still an SA record for consecutive birdies in an Open or PGA event). Poor Hobday who started a few shots ahead appeared to manfully absorb this tremendous pressure until the 14th when tragically the news came, Hobday had made 7. The whole gallery had watched Gary and when Simon played the 18th a par 5 he seemingly needed a 3 to tie and the crowd were on their way home.

Interestingly Gary had hit his second moments earlier through the long green and although the pin was at the back he elected for safety to use a "Texas Wedge" as he thought he only needed a five. He duly took 3 shots Hobday hooked his second almost stone dead behind the big tree on the left of the green. Gary did not go to change yet but always meticulous stayed at the top of the stairs going into the clubhouse just to make sure he had won. Hobday hit a miraculous shot out of the 4 bush to find the front edge of the green some 40 meters away from the pin for his third. His gallery consisted of his few Bishops mates and two or three others (15 at most). Everybody within reach congratulated Gary and he went into the clubhouse to have a shower and change into his very resplendent crimson jacket.

Simon took (an almost hypocritically) long time over the putt and nailed it. He and the few spectators and players all hugged him and he was overjoyed. I thought at the time it was quite a celebration for coming second by one shot. Hobday spent a long time in the caravan with the officials and was declared the winner. Hobday remained in his golf attire but borrowed a sloppy Joe from one of his mates to keep warm. Some few beers later, the prize giving took place outside with Hobday beer in hand making the winners speech. He started with his lousy rendition of a Frank Sinatra song (something about how nice it was) and then told an off color joke which had as its punch line "the jawbone of an ass" It had had some biblical connotations although not sacrilegious in any way.

Next day the local Newspaper "Die Burger" roasted him on the front page for his speech and in particular the inappropriate joke in their view -skandaal. Nothing about his great win or Gary's efforts just his speech and how with his nightclub attitude he would be soon forgotten!!

Chris

Dale replies... *It was 43 years ago so we will forgive Simon – who is now a very old man – for getting a hole out of place now & again. No, seriously, you are quite right, it was the par 5, 14th hole at Mowbray. Brilliant memory you have for detail. After Simon's speech, he was banned from making any more speeches by Brian Henning, the boss of the Sunshine Tour. I think another of his stories ended with "If you feel the bottom falling out of your World, take a zum-zum pill and feel the World drop out of your bottom." He's a true character.*

Read this letter regarding the Handicap Network Africa handicap survey which should be food for thought – and I hope you are all taking part in the survey! You can [Click Here](#) to access it: -

I just completed the handicap survey and felt the need to send you my suggestions.

- 1) No player should be allowed to enter a score using any method. Only clubs should enter scores! The internet, smart phone application and terminal access should be blocked.
- 2) Only clubs should be allowed to open a round via a "supervisor card" and only when competitions are played.
- 3) Only competition rounds should count for handicapping purposes.

The above suggestions will mitigate handicap manipulation and to some extent cheating by the player and will go a long way to ensure that all rounds are captured no matter where the player played thereby ensuring that exceptional rounds are recorded every time. This can be done by recording the SA player ID at entrance of the competition for utilization of entering score by the club. This will reduce the noise of people complaining about the same players winning too frequently and level the playing field giving more players the opportunity to win competitions. We will get rid of the "trophy hunters" at competitions no matter where the competition is.

- 4) For statistical purposes, functionality should be added for clubs where they choose the competition of the day. The dependency on clubs to supply information to Handicaps is not working as a small number of clubs send information for statistical purposes. More accurate stats e.g. on the winning frequency of handicap divisions will be obtained or the number rounds per year or even the type of competitions mostly played.

5) Revert back to the 85% calculation method. When the new 96% was introduced the below 4 handicaps did not benefit at all whereas a 18 handicap gained 2 strokes thus widening the gap.

6) No handicap above 24. Coupled to that is that if a person double stroke on a hole they can only take a 3 over. If a player is stroking on a hole only a 2 over can be taken and if a player do not stroke only a 1 over can be recorded. This will help to speed up play especially in competitions and is in my opinion a more fair option. This could have the benefit that players are encourage to work on their games to improve. More revenue for the golfing industry, more healthy players due to more exercise and the biggest advantage better and more competitive players.

I believe if the suggestions above is taken seriously and implemented the criticism of the system will greatly be reduced and benefit all players. These suggestions will make the system simple and un-biased because the player do not have the power to manipulate scores when entering it on the system and an un-biased 3rd party is entering the scores.

If you can please try and influence Handicaps to listen to this as part of the problem I identified while reading comments on the handicaps website was that people are not listen to when making suggestions and the replies are more of a defensive nature.

They keep on saying that golf is a game of integrity and the players should be held accountable and that a small percentage of players are cheating and that cheating cannot be completely eradicated. I agree on the complete eradication of cheating, but if you limit the opportunity players can use then it is most certainly a benefit to all.

What Handicaps do not grasp is that it is this small percentage of cheaters that is causing the biggest frustration due to the fact that they can manipulated the system by entering scores incorrectly or entering scores on courses they haven't even played on as long as the score is entered within 72 hours. I believe that no club is monitoring players that closely!!!! Again my suggestion of only using competition rounds and only clubs to enter the scores will go a long way to alleviate the problem.

Also why can't the handicap recalculation not be done weekly???? I am sure it is only a matter of changing the program or frequency of calculation on the system.

Anton