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The LET star talks trolls, morals
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Subscriptions

12 issues (incl. P&P) UK £42

Europe £50 World £65

Online offers available at

nationalclubgolfer.com

ISSN 1369 4790

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welcome

Get your in game shape with a little help from the first issue of Lady Golfer in 2020

The new season is finally here! At Lady Golfer HQ, we can't wait to dust off our golf shoes, take the clubs out of the garage and hit the fairways with – hopefully – some sun on our backs.

To help you get in the mood for the season ahead, our first 2020 issue of Lady Golfer is packed full of great content. Inside we have everything from instruction tips designed to help you hole those crucial putts to the best waterproofs on the market.

Our cover feature is a fascinating interview with Ladies European Tour star Meghan MacLaren, while our Society Golf Guide is the perfect resource for planning your trips this year.

Lady Golfer Team



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Make golf 12 holes?

We're constantly told golf takes too long, so if we're all time starved then reduce the number of holes. But is it really as simple as that? Steve Carroll investigates.

INSTRUCTION

Choose the right tee shot

Improving your on-course strategy is an easy route to better golf, as elite coach Dan Whittaker explains in the latest video in his series of instruction tips.



COURSE RANKINGS

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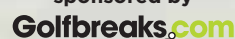
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CLASSIC TIP

KEEP IT IN THE PALMS

Tour star Holly Calvert: quieten down your hands

THERE are so many ways to grip the putter but one key is to make sure that the hands don't take over in the process of the stroke.

I like to have my hands close together to help my chances of having more control. I have both thumbs down the grip, with the left going on first and slightly left of centre on the grip and then the palm of my right hand goes on.

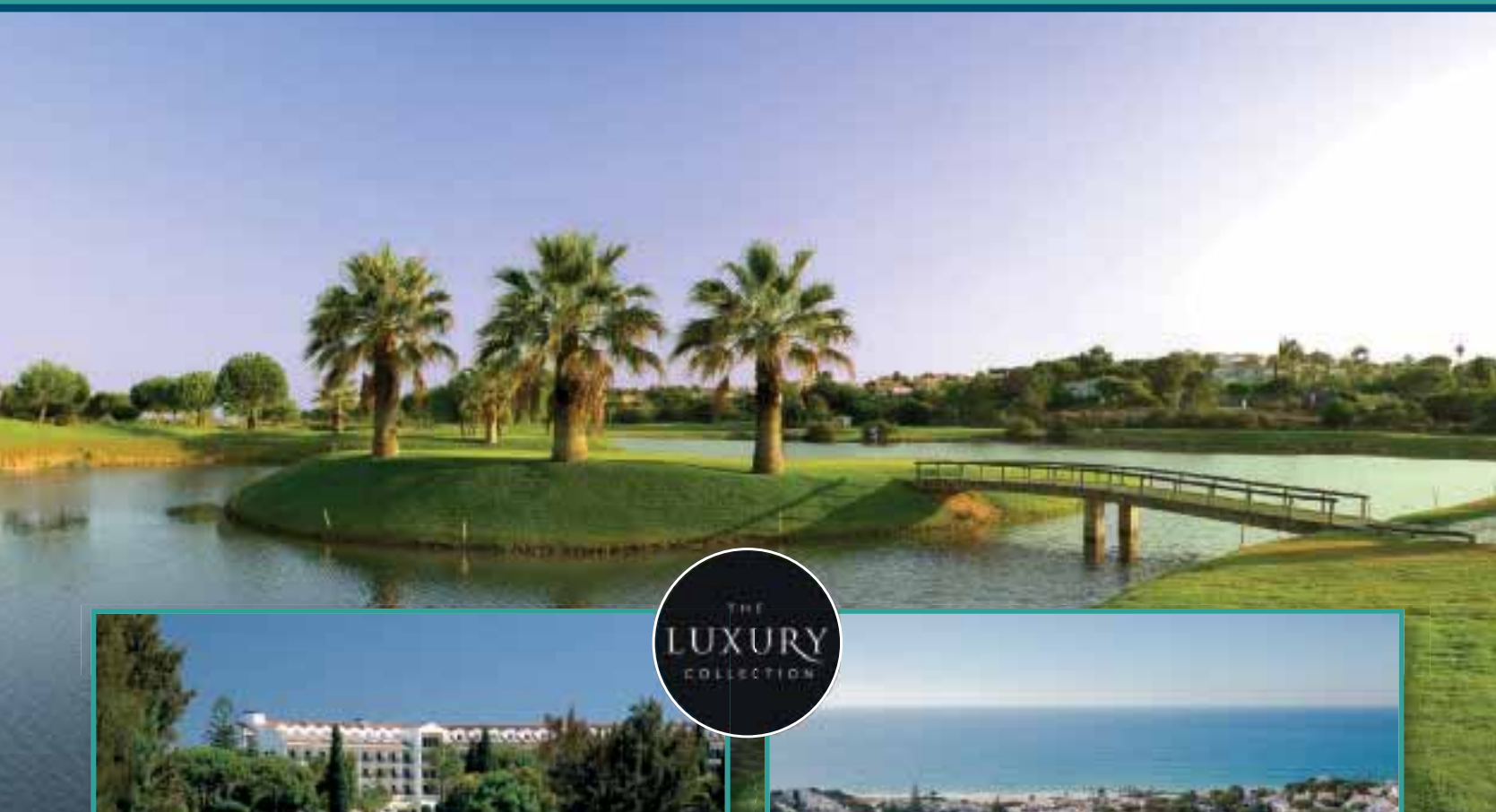
I really concentrate on having the grip in the palms of my hands, rather than in the fingers, as this is where it is so easy to lose some control. Your fingertips should feel like they are pushing the club into your palms.

Because we have taken the fingers out of things it should help you to keep a fairly light grip on the club.

If you think of when you grip the club with an iron that would be around 7/10, for putting we want it to be a 4/10. And rock the shoulders, not the hands! ●

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CLASSIC TIP

make that CLUTCH PUTT

Holing more short putts will lower
your handicap, says tour star
Amy Boulden

KEEPING your putter low to the ground is crucial when holing out. To do this I concentrate on my set-up and posture and pay attention to keeping my hands high so the putter sits flat on the ground. That helps keep the putter low – if you arch your wrists or lock them you will put in some wrist hinge on the way back.

This gets me in a great, balanced position; my eyes are over the ball, my elbow positions similar and so the forearms are level. Having everything parallel is the best way to keep the putter low to the ground. ●

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CLASSIC TIP

FREE UP YOUR PUTTING

Amy Boulden on improving your focus by not obsessing about the hole

LOTS of us think too much about the hole on all lengths of putt and that can lead to tension. When we are tense we tend to make a bad stroke, which results in a poor connection, and generally you come up short. To help improve your pace putting pick a point two-thirds of the way to the hole and just concentrate on rolling your ball at that spot with a nice pace. You'll be amazed how many putts drop or at least threaten when you're not thinking solely about that hole.

So, pick a point and roll the ball through it. ●

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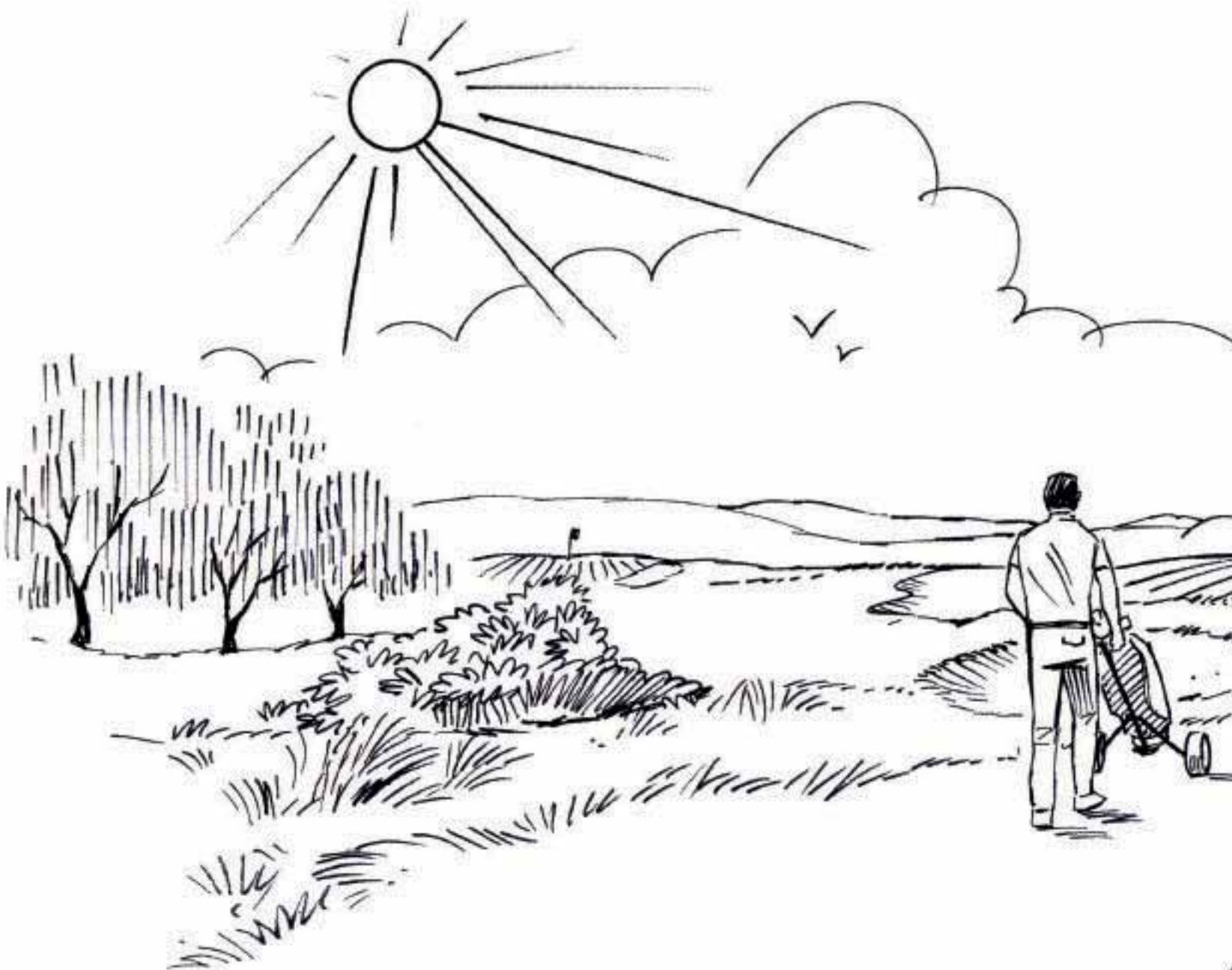
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T was a wonderful spring afternoon. The ground was beginning to dry out after a harsh and wet winter and the trees looked like they were ready to start flourishing for another year. It was easy to feel the sense of optimism spring brings with it each year.

As I walked the back nine I noticed a wooden bench next to a tee. There was a brass plaque with an inscription on the bench. It was a commemorative plaque that said: 'To The Tuesday Boys'. Underneath the title were the names of four golfers and their years of birth and death.

I began to think of how many times they would have set out on a round of golf. How many times it would have been just another Tuesday. This ritual obviously went on week after week, year after year. Then suddenly they had run out of Tuesdays. One by one, the Tuesday Boys must have got smaller in numbers as a group until they didn't have any Tuesdays left. The last putt had been holed and the opportunity to enjoy another round had gone forever.

This experience really reinforced to me the utter preciousness of each and every chance we have to play this wonderful game. The incredible way we all take for granted the fact that for us all there are unfortunately only a certain number of Tuesdays left.

Without being alarmist or a doom merchant, it is so important to embrace a vital key in the quest to unlock and reshape your golfing story and get the most out of this human experience. That is the skill of gratitude.

Be grateful for this opportunity to play. The opportunity to walk around a golf course, in nature with the company of others. The opportunity to move your body, to test yourself and see what you can achieve.

The outcome will be what it will be but you are providing the conditions to allow a good performance to emerge.

● This excerpt was taken from the book **The Lost Art of Playing Golf** by Gary Nicol and Karl Morris, which is available now at thelostartofgolf.com in hardback (£19.95) and Kindle (£9.99) formats

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BREAKING FROM TRADITION



The architect of the idea to turn the Berkhamsted Trophy into a mixed-gender event has lauded the club's "brave" decision

PETER McEvoy has hailed Berkhamsted's 'brave' decision to make the long-running Berkhamsted Trophy a mixed tournament. The prestigious early season event will feature both sexes for the first time in its six-decade history – and McEvoy, who steered GB&I to two victories over the USA as Walker Cup captain, was the idea's architect.

He told LG he'd originally suggested it to Copt Heath, where the Peter McEvoy Trophy is staged each year, but a clash of dates with the Helen Holm, at Royal Troon, meant they weren't viable hosts.

McEvoy, who is also a renowned

course architect as well as a stalwart of the amateur game, was carrying out some consultancy work at Berkhamsted and said the club leapt at the idea when presented with the opportunity.

"The thing that has impressed me with Berkhamsted, particularly, is that this tournament has been going 60 years," he explained.

"It's got a long history. Almost the longer it goes, the harder it is to do something like this.

"You're not going against the history but you are making a move away from what's always been. That's quite a brave thing to do, I think. They really need to be applauded for it."

McEvoy believes the new Berkhamsted Trophy is a world-first for elite amateur golf and the 72-hole event takes centre stage from April 2 to 4.

The club are currently working on a flexible teeing system with the R&A and England Golf, which will ensure both sexes compete on an equal footing, and McEvoy says it is vital "we get this right".

He added: "We've got to get the tees right and make sure it's the same difficulty and test for both men and women. There's work to be done yet.

"I've some experience of doing this. We did a number of mixed gender events with PowerPlay Golf and I had to organise events with different tees for seniors, men, and women.

Most of all, McEvoy hopes to see a strong field and tough competition.

"Firstly, I want as good a field as possible – so that we've got some of the best men playing against some of the best women," he said. "I think the main thing is that it is competitive and everybody gets a chance to win." ●



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FOR those who do not know better, rumours of a “beautiful wilderness” just to the north of Birmingham might be thought of as fanciful. But to anyone who has had the

good fortune to visit Beau Desert, near Cannock, it is an entirely appropriate description.

How this charming corner of Staffordshire came to be so exotically titled, we must thank the Sixth Marquess of Anglesey, one Charles Henry Alexander Paget.

Beau Desert lies within land that once belonged to the family and in 1911 the Marquess, a keen golfer, instructed Herbert Fowler to lay out a course on the present site of Hednesford Hills.

It proved to be an excellent decision. A place of calm that seems completely separated from the modern world, Beau Desert can be thought of as old-fashioned in many senses – all of them to its credit.

Length is not the main issue here, though its 6,300 yards has a tight par of only 70 and almost all the par 4s are worthy two-shotters. Rather, keeping your ball in play between the banks of heather and gorse is a prerequisite.

So too is judging the strength of your approach shots, many of which are played downhill to greens that run away from the direction of play. Notoriously, grass bunkers act as collecting troughs beyond many of these greens.

Try chipping back from the downslope of one – which is where balls invariably seem to finish – to an elevated green and you will quickly learn the lesson.

Rather than a course with a couple of stand-out holes, Beau Desert is consistently strong with few weaknesses.

CONTACT

Call the club on 01543 422626 or email enquiries@bdgc.co.uk. Follow @BeauDesertGolf on Twitter and Facebook. ●

JOINING *forces*

The Ladies European Tour has merged with the LPGA in a bid to increase playing opportunities and rewards

THE Ladies European Tour Q School took place at La Manga at the start of the year. In recent years the optimism will have been somewhat tempered by the limited opportunities to play should they be successful – now the future looks considerably brighter.

This season the Ladies European Tour will offer record prize money of £15.2 million, a rise of nearly £4m on 2019, with the merger/takeover with the LPGA Tour, there are now 24 events, 15 of which are in Europe and seven that are new.

The real fillip is the arrival of the Saudi Ladies Championship in March, the Scandinavian Mixed Hosted By Henrik and Annika and a new event in the UK in August which all offer prize pots of \$1m or more.

In among all the good news, and this is a world apart from the dark days of a few years ago, the UK event on August 6 is the real head-scratcher.

It clashes with the women's golf in the Olympics and with the space on the European Tour calendar for that week a TBC, the assumption is that there will be another collaboration.

Preceding this is the Evian, the week after is the Ladies Scottish Open which already, given its co-sanctioning with the LPGA, offers \$1.5m and that

precedes the Women's British Open. So in the space of four weeks there is over \$10m to play for.

Come the end of the year there will be the Race to the Costa del Sol which will mirror the men's Race to Dubai and offers €250,000 between the top three finishers.

Europe's Solheim Cup captain Catriona Matthew said: "I committed myself to playing on the LET last year and I couldn't be more excited about what's been achieved to improve the schedule. This is a tour that existing players and those joining for the first time should be proud to be part of."

Alexandra Armas has been confirmed as the permanent chief executive of the LET, having done the job previously from 2005-12, and she will be mentored by the head of the LPGA Tour Mike Whan. The LPGA Tour will this year offer a prize pot of over £57m and their commissioner Whan was unsurprisingly buoyant about the two tours' early ventures.

"The LET and the LPGA only began working together in September 2019, but we've been blown away with the results and the positive response from across the golf industry," he said. "With overall purse increases and seven new events, our athletes will have more opportunities for success."

"It's exciting to think what we can accomplish after a full year of working with our new board. We have a long way to go, but I'm so happy to say that this is the best position that European women's professional golf has ever been in." ●





THE WAR AGAINST BACKSTOPPING

Did you know that golf's governing bodies added a clarification on backstopping? Steve Carroll tells us more



WHAT IS BACKSTOPPING?

Backstopping is the when a player, deliberately or not, does not mark their ball on the green. The ball can then act as a 'backstop' for other players. If a ball played onto the green hits another ball that is already on the green, the stationary ball will be replaced while the ball played onto the green can stay where it comes to a rest.

BACKSTOPPING is the rules drama that just won't go away. While we know intentional backstopping is covered under Rule 15.3a, if there is no agreement

to leave the ball in place to help any player, there is no breach of the rules.

This might have passed you by but, in their latest clarifications to the 2019 Rules of Golf – a quarterly review process that was updated by the R&A and USGA at the start of the year – guidance and best practice was issued.

"The R&A and USGA take the view that 'backstopping' fails to take into account all of the other players in the competition and has the potential to give the player with the 'backstop' an advantage over those other players," they wrote.

"Consequently, the R&A and USGA offer players the following guidance and explanation of best practice:

"In strokeplay, the competition involves all players and, because each player in the competition cannot be present to protect his or her own interests, protecting the field is an important responsibility that all players in the competition share.

"Therefore, in strokeplay, if there is a reasonable possibility that a player's ball close to the hole could help another player who is about to play from off the green, both players should ensure that the player whose ball is close to the hole marks and lifts that ball before the other player plays.

"If all players follow this best practice, it ensures the protection of the interests of everyone in the competition."

There may still not be a compulsion for players to remove a ball that may interfere, but the two bodies are making their preferences pretty plain.

A player, of course, can ask for a ball on the green to be lifted if they think it will help anyone's play, under Rule 15.3a, and refusal to comply would result in disqualification for deliberately ignoring a rule. ●

A SHORT HISTORY OF BACKSTOPPING

Ariya Jutanugarn and Amy Olson (2019)

At the Honda LGA Thailand, Ariya Jutanugarn, with her ball on the green, gestured to Olson to ask if she wanted her to mark her ball. Olson says it's OK then chips her ball into Jutanugarn's. The pair then fist bump in mock celebration.



Ben An and John Huh (2018)

The pair appeared to help each other during the FedEx St Jude Classic.

It prompted Jimmy Walker to controversially speak up in their defence on Twitter.

He said: "I try to help everyone. Especially if they got a bad break or got short sided. I've asked, 'Do you want me to leave the ball?'"



Tony Finau (2017)

Finau was two shots off the lead at the Safeway Open when he hit into a greenside bunker at the 12th hole. After Jason Kokrak chipped up to about a foot behind the hole, Finau didn't wait for Kokrak to mark his ball.

Finau's ball collided with Kokrak's, stopping two feet from the hole. Finau managed to save par.

telling it LIKE IT IS

Alex Perry sits down with Meghan MacLaren to discuss
Twitter trolls, morals and her Solheim Cup ambitions

GOLF – indeed, all sport – needs people like Meghan MacLaren. In a world of “yeah, no, just got to hole a

few putts over the weekend” soundbites, MacLaren is a breath of fresh air – mainly through her excellent blog. Whether she’s tackling Tiger Woods or women’s rights, MacLaren doesn’t so much grow

the game as she does drag it kicking and screaming into the 21st century.

“I’ve been asked that quite a bit and I still don’t have an answer,” she says when asked why she keeps her blog. “You would think I’d at least made something up by now.”

The reason, it transpires, is simply a love of language coupled with a desire to take on golf’s toughest and often taboo subjects.

“I’ve enjoyed writing for a long time and studied English in college,” MacLaren explains. “I was writing a lot and the whole process of trying to make sense of what you’re trying to say by putting





“At what point does the money mean more to you than what you might stand for or what you believe in?”

it in a structure on paper just stuck with me. I just think a lot. I needed somewhere other than my brain to process that and that's how it ended up in a blog format.”

In the men's game, there's only really Eddie Pepperell in the blogosphere, though he hasn't written anything for more than a year.

“I remember somebody tweeting that and I had a bit of backlash. People were saying that it wasn't fair, although I like it as I think Eddie is an incredible character who makes people take notice of golf,” MacLaren says when asked how she feels about the comparison between the two.

Which begs the question, does MacLaren ever write something and then delete it? “Not so much in my blogs as they tend to be more about golf or the stuff that happens to me,” she explains. “But sometimes I'll tweet something and know the sort of thing that will get some backlash. Now I know exactly the kind of comments that will happen but I accept that because it's worth tweeting anyway.”

Which must be demoralising?

“It is,” she adds. “The more I've felt this way and the more some of the stuff I think of isn't even worth tweeting now. I think firstly that people are understanding that this is the reality with pay and things like that so there's only so many things you can





say and so many things you can prove over and over again.

"Every time it happens you get the same arguments back so if I'm not completely willing to spend hours responding to everybody with what I think then it's a bit of a waste of time."

One subject on which MacLaren is outspoken is the European and Ladies European Tour events hosted in Saudi Arabia.

The Saudi International at the end of March is one of just six tournaments on the 25-strong LET schedule that will carry more than \$1 million in prize money. In the men's version, the likes of Dustin Johnson, Brooks Koepka and Phil Mickelson pocketed several times that between them in appearance fees alone. MacLaren has already decided she won't play though.

"There are a lot of different ways to look at it," she explains. "It's five times the amount of money we'll be playing for in a regular event – and you can't just ignore that, but that's not that different to some of the men taking appearance fees."

"At what point does the money mean more to you than what you might stand for or what you believe in? Some people can separate those two things – their morals or their human being side and their athlete identity – but for me, in my career, I've tried not to separate any of my identities and that's one of the things that I enjoy doing, showing that you don't have to have all of these different roles, you can be whoever you are in everything that you do, and a situation like this complicates things a lot."

Although MacLaren is keen to stress she won't push her decision on anyone else, she says she'll be surprised if many others pull out for the same reasons.

"It's slightly different in the female game as none of us have won \$15 million in the space of a week, or even an entire career," she says, referring to the bonus cheque written to the winner of the PGA Tour's FedEx Cup. "So that has to be a factor. But at the same time where do you draw the line on certain things?"

"Different players will believe different things on the event and about where



the money comes from and what the intention is. None of us can possibly prove that what we think is accurate but different players will go by different things. It's not a black and white issue but it's one I wish sport didn't get involved in."

One big positive in the women's game, certainly on this side of the world, is the LET's merger with the LPGA Tour which, in its simplest form, means more money, more exposure, and more opportunities.

"Women's golf in Europe and the rest of the world is in a stronger place than it has been for the last few years," MacLaren says. "The LPGA has grown massively since Mike Whan took over and hopefully that will benefit us in Europe too. The Solheim Cup was something else – that took the understanding of women's golf to a different place. But it's applying that to the week in week out exposure of women's golf and understanding what women's golf is about."

And it could mean more mixed-

gender events, for which there have been many calls.

"Any time that we as women get the chance to be on the same stage as the men it's a big deal for us because it's a different environment than we're used to and we know that there are more eyeballs on us," MacLaren explains. "There's also an additional pressure because we want to display the best side of it. We don't have 40 opportunities to do that throughout the year, we only have one or two. I hope that will start to change and we'll move forward. It doesn't happen in any other sport. It's something that golf can build on and use as a marketing ploy if nothing else."

So what has MacLaren set out in her plans for 2020?

"My goals are always the same," she says. "I want to get better. If you can put emphasis on getting better day in day out, week in week out, or tournament by tournament, then the rest will hopefully take care of itself."

"I won't pretend that I don't want to

win tournaments, produce things in the majors, and be playing against the best in the world. That's where I want to be eventually."

Which inevitably leads us into the Solheim Cup, but at first MacLaren didn't quite take to the Gleneagles showpiece like the rest of the world.

"I didn't know whether I wanted to watch it or not because I wasn't a million miles away from qualifying for the team," she explains. "When you know you had a chance to be there it's sometimes hard to watch it unfold."

It didn't last long.

"I couldn't stop myself from watching it because it's everything that golf is about. All of those team events add this other dynamic. Whether you're in them or watching them, you can see the level of everyone's game rise and the level of competitiveness rise."

Meghan MacLaren was talking on 'Not Another Golf Podcast' with NCG's Alex Perry and SportingLife's Ben Coley. Find it on iTunes or Spotify. ●



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remembering MICKEY WRIGHT

Mark Townsend looks back at the life and successes of the player described as “Nicklaus, Palmer, Woods and Lopez rolled into one”, who has died at the age of 85

It is almost impossible to put into context quite how successful Mickey Wright was. At the Australia Open Inbee Park, the undoubted player of the last decade, claimed her 20th win on the LPGA Tour.

Annika Sorenstam, who seemed to win at will, has a staggering 72 victories.

Wright, who died of a heart attack at 85, recorded 82 wins – and she retired at 34.

“I maintain that she could have won 100 tournaments if she hadn’t quit early,”

Kathy Whitworth, the only player above her on the list with 88, said.

The numbers that go alongside this are equally as startling:

- 13 major championship titles, second only to Patty Berg (15). These wins came over just an eight-year period and five were by five shots or more
- 13 victories in a single season (1963), which is a tour record. She is also second, along with Sorenstam, on this list with 11 wins the following year – 44 of those wins came in a four-year period
- 14 years straight with a win on tour, the





first coming at the age of 21 and she topped the money list from 1961-64

But these figures don't even begin to start telling the story of Mickey Wright. "She had the finest swing I ever saw," Ben Hogan once said. As compliments go this is probably as good as it gets. Byron Nelson agreed. To watch it nowadays on YouTube it's a thing of power and beauty. She credits it to Harry Pressler who began working with

her at 15.

"I could hit it so well. I used to say the second-greatest feeling in the world was a high 2-iron to a well-trapped green.

"I swung the club. That's it. The key word is swing, not turn. Not ground your feet like they were in cement so your body doesn't move. That's not a swing to me."

Whitworth added: "She was the best I've ever seen, man or woman. I've had the privilege of playing with Sam

Snead, Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, and all of them.

"And some of our ladies had wonderful swings.

"But nobody hit it like Mickey, just nobody."

Another peer and Hall of Famer Betsy Rawls summed it up even more simply: "Mickey was the best golfer we've ever had and that I've ever seen."

She was so important to the women's game that sponsors would pull out if she wasn't playing. It meant she would

13 WINS

Wright holds the LPGA Tour record for the most wins in a single season – 13 in 1963

27

She won all four of the women's major crowns by the time she was 27

82

She won a whopping 82 LPGA Tour titles between 1955 and 1969.

13

The number of major titles Wright won in her career, two behind Patty Berg's 15.

\$368,770

Wright pocketed nearly \$400,000 in prize money in her short but illustrious career



always play.

Take the record-breaking 1963 season, a year when she was also president of the tour, when she won 13 times including a third straight success in the Mickey Wright Invitational – the year began at Sea Island on February 3 and concluded, 32 tournaments later, in Mississippi in mid-November.

There were also endless interviews, clinics, cocktail parties and any means of promoting the women's game.

For her efforts Wright topped the money list with \$31,269.

Wright once said of her outlook to the game: "I'm not a gut-level, gritty competitor in any way. Perfection motivated me, doing it better than anyone had ever done it, just as simply as that. I would practise for hours and hours. I beat balls and beat balls and beat balls.

"I played very much more than I could

physically and emotionally handle. I got winning and golf and myself very closely tied up. Golf was me, and I was nothing without golf. Really, I took it to an extreme for a while.

"The pressure of the press can be very brutal. If you don't win, if you come in second or third, there are comments such as, 'What happened to you? Is your game falling apart? Are you over the hill?' This bothered me very much and for a time made me very cynical, which was a trait I did not like in myself."

By 1969 she was done and stepped away from the game, although her final win came four years later at the Dinah Shore in the days before it was a major.

Reports say she had an aversion to sunlight and flying, tallied with foot problems, but Wright was quick to point out that she wasn't a recluse and she would still hit balls in her back yard

'She was Nicklaus, Palmer, Woods and Lopez all rolled into one'

in Florida. She felt no pull back towards the public eye.

In 2006 she overcame breast cancer and, five years later, she would become the first woman to have a room named after her at the USGA museum.

The last word goes to Whitworth, the only player to have won more events but she is under no illusions as to who was the absolute stand-out superstar.

"She was our Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Tiger Woods, Nancy Lopez all rolled into one. She was it." ●

TEARING UP THE GOLF RULE BOOK

Nothing about Stanedge is what you would describe as a typical golf club. And that's just how owner Fame Tate wants it

THE three-hole loop that's offered takes golf to those who are time-constrained to a whole new level. During the weekly 'Six at 6'

in the summer, you're as likely to be teeing it up with a visitor in the club competition as a member.

And if you're worried you've left your dress shoes at home then fear not, you'll have no issues in the clubhouse.

Different, isn't it? It's basically driving a horse and coaches through what most of us consider the stereotypical view of how a golf club operates. But, for Fame Tate, life at Stanedge Golf Club is about turning the sport's traditions upside down. It's a strategy that's paying off.

The former Ladies European Tour player saved her local Chesterfield club last year and then ripped up the rule book concerning what the sport is perceived to be like.

"Stanedge is not your typical golf club," she said. "We want it to be a warm and welcoming environment where you can walk in and there's no stuffy dress code.

"I feel we're pitching this at a slightly different market.

"We are for the members here, but we're also for the visitors and everyone else."

The last few months have been a labour of love for Tate, who was so involved in revitalising the 80-odd year old institution she even mowed the greens.

It was a big gamble, one that entailed a loan and a substantial financial



commitment. That hard work, though, has been rewarded not only with a steady rise in membership but, just as importantly, the club regaining its place in the community.

"We started 'Six at 6' and that was every Wednesday," Tate added. "It was open to members and non-members. In theory it was 6pm, although tee-times started at 4pm.

"They played six holes, paid £6 and got a meal after. I know it sounds ridiculously cheap but it wasn't about that.

"It was about getting people in and showcasing what we were all about. We did 20 weeks of that. It was absolutely full every week.

"One evening, I was teaching and I was looking back at the clubhouse and there were so many people sat outside on the benches and on the seating. Do you know when you can hear laughter? That was such a rewarding thing to see and what we had created. My mantra from day one has always been we are about more than just golf.

"When the dark nights came, we started doing a quiz on a Wednesday and we've kept the same time and the day.

"People are creatures of habit and we've also got different people in.

"We've started getting some of the residents in, which is brilliant."

With the help of Peter Ball, the coach who nurtured Danny Willett, Tate's coaching academy is expanding all the time, while the clubhouse is like the "Forth Bridge".

She's also hived off the restaurant as a separate part of the club to build Sunday lunch and weekday trade as part of a concerted effort to shift the 'golf club' title she fears is still a deterrent to so many.

"It's still not where I want it to be," Tate said of the future. "There's so, so much that I intend to do, and want to try and do, and I've got loads of different ideas.

"But it's just thinking outside the box. I don't see it as rocket science. It's incredible what we've done in a few months." ●





WHO IS FAME TATE?



An exceptional amateur golfer who represented Great Britain & Ireland on two Curtis Cup teams, Fame played professionally on the Ladies European Tour and Asian Tour. Forced to retire because of a shoulder injury that required a succession of surgeries – she has had her shoulder replaced three times – she worked for Faldo Events before setting up the Fame Academy and working at both Tapton Park and Barlborough Links, in Derbyshire. The current PGA Female Assistant of the Year, the GCMA member was presented with the Beverly Lewis Trophy during her graduation ceremony and she bought Stanedge Golf Club only months after completing the course.



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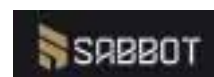
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Skechers Go Golf

women's range

For hitting the range or giving you that extra stability in your swing, look no further than the Walk Sport and Pro 2, writes equipment editor Hannah Holden



Go Golf Walk Sport

First impressions: I think the trainer style of this shoe will attract a lot of people, especially in this attractive blue colour. Personally, the pink laces were a bit too much for me so I swapped them for the blue pair that also come with this shoe.

Technology: Themed on Skecher's popular athletic walking shoes, the Go Golf Walk Sport is perfect for walking the golf course, rather than playing it, or for general outdoor wear. It features an ultra-lightweight design combined

with the spikeless outsole and Goga Max cushioning for maximum comfort.

Verdict: The Go Golf Walk Sport was extremely comfortable but in a different way to the Pro 2. It is lightweight and makes you feel lower and more connected to the ground. The style of this shoe is great for those who want a casual shoe that can be worn both on and off the golf course.

RRP: £79

Colour options: Grey; Navy; Black



For more
information, visit
[skechers.com](https://www.skechers.com)

Go Golf Pro 2

First impressions: The high structure of this shoe really caught my eye when I took them out of the box. The simplified clean styling is also something I prefer.

The technology: This spiked shoe is designed for unparalleled traction in all conditions. The shoes are completely waterproof thanks to synthetic leather uppers. As with the rest of the Skechers range, they feature the brand's lightweight Ultra Go and Goga Max cushioning.

Verdict: When I'm playing a competition I want a shoe that really supports my foot and feels stable throughout the swing. The stability this shoe provided is second to none, helped by extra details such as the raised heel and more support under the arch of my foot. The sole cushioning is extremely comfortable and the spiked sole gave me great traction.

RRP: £99

Colour options: Navy; White; Black

Best waterproofs

2020

Don't buy your next suit until you read Hannah Holden's ultimate guide



Abacus Swinley Rain Jacket

After seeing Team Europe battling the elements at the Solheim Cup wearing Abacus waterproofs I was excited to test this out. If you want to stand out on the course then this pink jacket will do the trick. The shaping is really flattering, helped by the black panneling. This is a great winter jacket as it is thick enough to provide warmth in the cold weather but is still lightweight and provides plenty of flexibility to swing.

More information:
abacussportswear.com

Style: 4
Comfort: 5
Performance: 5



Callaway Ladies Liberty Waterproof Jacket

The two-toned colour and styling of this jacket was really flattering and I really liked the bold blue colour. The material was really soft to wear and I found it easy to swing whilst wearing the jacket. This is definitely more of a winter jacket being thicker than others I tested to keep you warm throughout the off-season.

More information:
callawayeuropeapparel.com

Style: 4
Comfort: 5
Performance: 4

Adidas Women's Climaproof Jacket

The shape and styling of this jacket is very stylish, pinched in at the waist and then slightly flared at the base of the jacket. The lining to this jacket is super soft and probably the most comfortable I tested. The lining is also removable to provide a thinner jacket on warmer days but extra warmth on colder days.

More information: adidas.co.uk/golf

Style: 4 | Comfort: 4 | Performance: 4



Ping Avery II Ladies Waterproof Jacket

From a styling point of view, this has to be my favourite. The shaping is just so flattering. I also love the additional detailing that gives this waterproof a modern trendy feel, so much so I would be happy to wear this on and off the golf course. The comfort is fantastic and I still felt able to swing freely. It is worth noting that this is on the thin side – perfect for summer but you may need an extra layer underneath if you are trekking round the course this winter.

More information: pingcollection.co.uk



Style: 5
Comfort: 5
Performance: 4



Style: 5
Comfort: 5
Performance: 4

FootJoy Ladies HLV2 Rain Jacket

Straight away this jacket suited me to a tee and I found the white detailing really adds to the overall styling of the jacket. This is a lightweight jacket, which was great for wearing over a T-shirt when it is warm but also to layer over jumpers in winter. It has kept me dry on numerous occasions in unfavourable weather and really quickly dries off so it can be packed back into your golf bag. It has quickly become one of my go-to jackets when playing in bad weather.

More information: footjoy.co.uk

ProQuip Tour-Flex Lite Katrina

The colouring on this jacket makes it pop instantly and gives you a really fresh look, perfect for those who like to stand out on the course. This is one of the thicker jackets I tested so is perfect for keeping you warm in winter but also exceptionally comfortable.

More information: proquipgolf.com

Style: 4 | Comfort: 5 | Performance: 4



Style: 4
Comfort: 4
Performance: 4

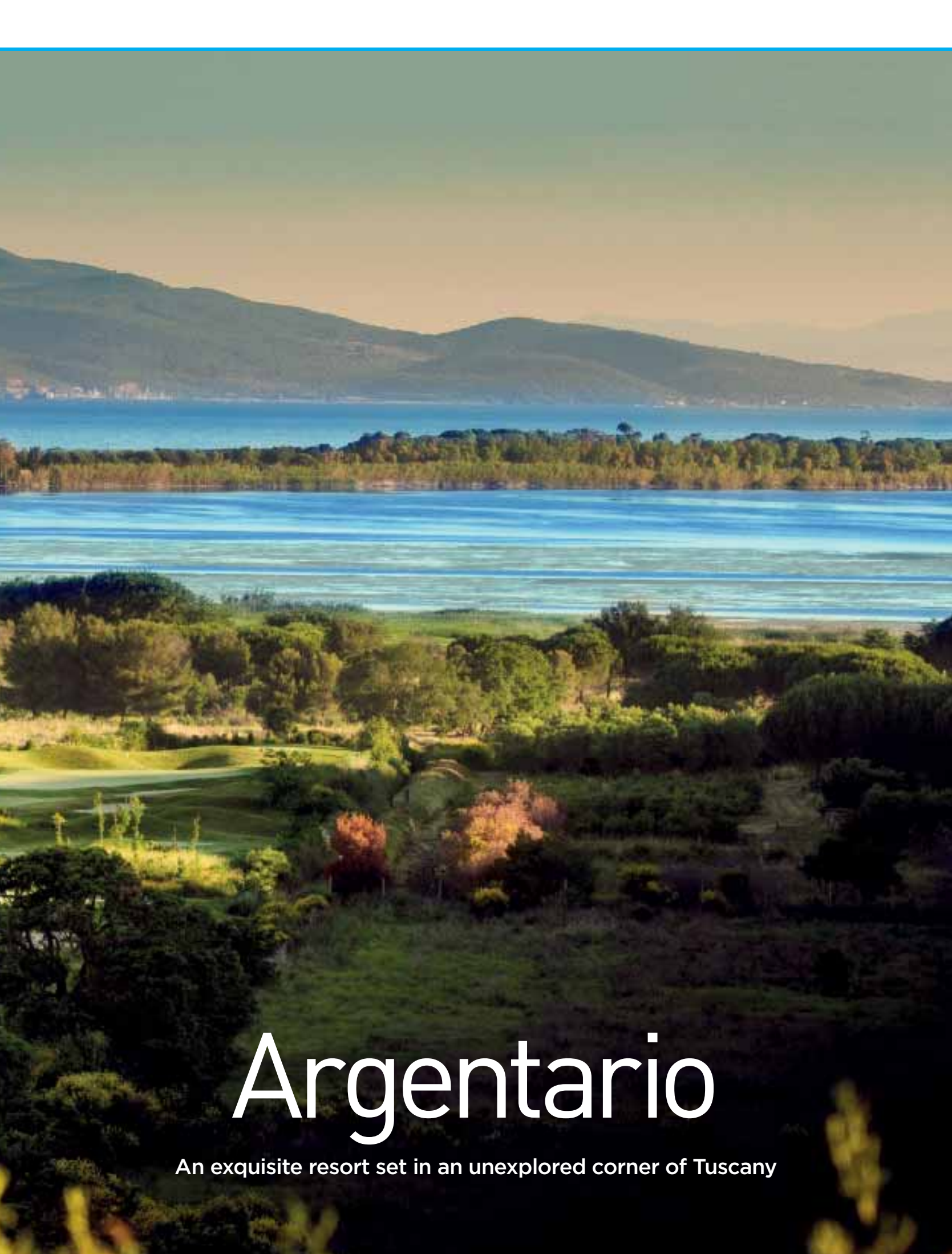
Under Armour Elements Rain Jacket

This jacket is quite plain in colouring but has a very flattering style and is perfect for people who like to keep their outfits simple out on the course. It also folds down really small for those of you who are short on space in their golf bag.

More information: underarmour.co.uk







Argentario

An exquisite resort set in an unexplored corner of Tuscany



Argentario is one of the Top 100 golf resorts in Continental Europe

The back story

Argentario Golf Resort & Spa is located in the heart of beautiful Maremma in Southern Tuscany. It is only 90 minutes north of Italy's capital, Rome, yet is achingly remote, sitting like an island among forested hills that climb high above the neat, eco-friendly resort. It is edged by the Tyrrhenian Sea, the Orbetello Lagoon – a WWF-managed nature reserve – as well as vineyards and pristine sandy and rocky beaches. The boutique hotel at the centre of the resort is the epitome of opulence.

What to expect

The course was designed by former Tour player Baldovino Dassù and architect David Mezzacane. In keeping with the environmentally-friendly nature of the resort, the course has been set down on natural terrain so has plenty of idiosyncrasies and character. The 16th green – tiered and contiguous

with a centuries-old tree – is one of the funkiest you'll ever three putt on.

Where you stay

The hotel has 73 rooms and is the only golf resort in the Design Hotel group. It mixes breathtaking style with state-of-the-art facilities to offer a preposterously decadent Tuscan retreat. Facilities include a heated indoor pool, an elegant outdoor pool area, gym, tennis and a huge spa. The Dama Dama restaurant serves authentic Tuscan cuisine with many ingredients grown on site.

Off the course

On Monte Argentario you have tiny-but-adorable Porto Ercole – perfect for an Aperol Spritz at sunset then a pizza in one of the handful of restaurants – and slightly bigger Porto Santo Stefano, with a stately castle and captivating narrow streets to

browse. In two hours you can soak up the iconic sights of Florence, while UNESCO World Heritage site Siena and the incredible skyline of towers at San Gimignano are even closer. All five are an Instagrammer's utopia.

Getting there

Rome Fiumicino is 90 minutes away. Ciampino is south of the city so is an extra 30 minutes' drive.

THE DETAILS

In addition to the hotel, villas on the course are available for sale or holiday rental at Argentario Golf Residences.

For further details...

e: booking@argentarioresort.it

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Society Golf Guide 2020

The essential resource to plan your away days and trips across England, Scotland and Wales





Abersoch Gwynedd

Lady Golfer says

Described by visitors as a 'jewel on the Welsh Riviera', Abersoch is a course that has to be on your must-play list. A challenging mix of traditional links and parkland holes, the Cambrian Coast location provides memorable views.

Course information

-  18 holes, Par 69
-  Seaside
-  01758712622
-  manager@abersochgolf.co.uk
-  abersochgolf.co.uk

Club key features

-  Food served
-  Buggy hire
-  Trolley hire
-  Practice facilities
-  Pro shop

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One in eight go free.



Bamburgh Castle Northumberland

Lady Golfer says

If you are a fan of seaside golf then a trip to Bamburgh Castle should be on your bucket list. With views of Lindisfarne, the Cheviots and Bamburgh Castle, this is a truly memorable experience.

Course information

-  18 holes, Par 68
-  Seaside
-  01668 214321
-  sec@bamburghcastlegolfclub.co.uk
-  bamburghcastlegolfclub.co.uk

Club key features

-  Food served
-  Buggy hire
-  Trolley hire
-  Practice facilities
-  Resort facilities

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OFFER

Twilight rates after 2pm
and 4pm.



Bentham North Yorkshire

Lady Golfer says

Bentham is a diamond in the Dales, just a short drive from Kendal, Morecambe, Skipton and Windermere. The beauty of this course is it sits right where lake, forest and dale collide, with the views offering a glorious distraction.

Course information

- 18 holes, Par 71
- Parkland
- 015242 62455
- golf@benthamgolfclub.co.uk
- benthamgolfcourse.co.uk

Club key features

- Accommodation
- Food served
- Buggy hire
- Practice facilities
- Lessons available

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Society green fees from £12.50 on a Monday, £16 midweek and £18 at weekends.



Berkhamsted Hertfordshire

Lady Golfer says

If you enjoy a natural golf course then you will love playing at Berkhamsted. There are no man-made hazards at this course located 600 feet up in the Chilterns, within one of the largest expanses of heathland in Hertfordshire.

Course information

- 18 holes, Par 71
- Heathland
- 01442 865832
- admin@berkhamstedgc.co.uk
- berkhamstedgolfclub.co.uk

Club key features

- Food served
- Trolley hire
- Practice facilities
- Pro shop
- Lessons available

SPECIAL
OFFER

Eighteen-hole society deal: £82 per person including coffee and bacon roll plus a two-course meal after golf.

27-hole, 36-hole and winter deals available.



Breadsall Priory Derbyshire

Lady Golfer says

On the edge of the Peak District and spread across 300 acres of parkland, Breadsall Priory is home to two championship courses. A range of comfy rooms and suites, restaurants, a spa and fitness room complete the offering.

Course information

- 36 holes, Par 70
- Parkland
- 01332 832235
- joshua.d.stevens@marriott.com
- marriott.co.uk

Club key features

- Accommodation
- Food served
- Buggy hire
- Practice facilities
- Pro shop

SPECIAL
OFFER

Tea/coffee and bacon roll on arrival, including 18 holes of golf, from just £25 per person.



Brokenhurst Manor Hampshire

Lady Golfer says

Brokenhurst Manor was designed by the great Harry Colt and sits in the heart of the New Forest. Surrounded by wildlife and a beautiful landscape, this championship venue offers year-round golf due to its excellent drainage.

Course information

- 18 holes, Par 70
- Heathland
- 01590 623332
- Secretary@brokenhurst-manor.org.uk
- brokenhurst-manor.org.uk

Club key features

- Food served
- Buggy hire
- Trolley hire
- Practice facilities
- Pro shop

SPECIAL
OFFER

For the club's latest offers, call 01590 623332 or visit brokenhurst-manor.org.uk



Canterbury Kent

Lady Golfer says

Designed by Harry Colt, Canterbury is a beautiful course that boasts several areas designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Over the years, the heathland nature of the course has altered with the maturing of trees.

Course information

- 18 holes, Par 71
- Parkland
- 01227 453532
- office@canterburygolfclub.co.uk
- canterburygolfclub.co.uk

Club key features

- Food served
- Buggy hire
- Pro shop
- Lessons available

SPECIAL
OFFER

For the club's latest offers, call 01227 453532 or visit canterburygolfclub.co.uk



Flamborough Head East Yorkshire

Lady Golfer says

Dubbed the 'friendliest club on the coast', you'll be hard pressed to find better views than from the clifftops of Flamborough Head with panoramic scenes of the North Sea and lighthouses.

Course information

- 18 holes, Par 71
- Seaside
- 01262 850333
- enquiries@flamboroughheadgolfclub.co.uk
- flamboroughheadgolfclub.co.uk

Club key features

- Accommodation
- Food served
- Buggy hire
- Practice facilities
- Resort facilities

SPECIAL
OFFER

Stay and play for £60 pp pn including breakfast.



Heacham Manor Norfolk

Lady Golfer says

Located on the coast, the course at Heacham Manor offers great variety. The front nine closely resembles an American links-style course, while the back nine enters parkland terrain. Lakes and large fairways add to the fun.

Course information

-  18 holes, Par 72
-  Seaside
-  01485 579825
-  info@heacham-manor.co.uk
-  heacham-manor.co.uk

Club key features

-  Food served
-  Buggy hire
-  Trolley hire
-  Pro shop
-  Lessons available

**SPECIAL
OFFER**

For the club's latest offers, call 01485 579825 or visit heacham-manor.co.uk



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Ladybank Fife

Lady Golfer says

Ladybank, found less than 45 minutes from Edinburgh airport, is a heathland set among heather, pine trees and silver birch. It is a course to tease into submission rather than overpower; if you stray off the fairways, heather awaits.

Course information

- 18 holes, Par 71
- Heathland
- 01337 830814
- info@ladybankgolf.co.uk
- ladybankgolf.co.uk

Club key features

- Food served
- Buggy hire
- Trolley hire
- Practice facilities
- Pro shop

SPECIAL
OFFER

Visit ladybankgolf.co.uk for the club's golf and food packages.



Leeds Castle Kent

Lady Golfer says

Don't get confused by the name, Leeds Castle is in fact located in the South of England, in Kent. The historical 9-hole, par 34 course was built on 500 acres of the Leeds Castle Estate in 1931 by Sir Guy Campbell.

Course information

- 9 holes, Par 34
- Parkland
- 01622 767828
- golf@leeds-castle.co.uk
- leeds-castle.com/Golf

Club key features

- Accommodation
- Food served
- Practice facilities
- Pro shop
- Lessons available

SPECIAL
OFFER

All memberships receive a complimentary annual admission ticket to Leeds Castle.



North Shore Lincolnshire

Lady Golfer says

North Shore provides excellent value for a quick getaway, family holiday or golfing break on the stunning Lincolnshire coast. With a mixture of links and parkland-style holes, this par 71 course could be a golfer's paradise.

Course information

- 18 holes, Par 71
- Seaside
- 01754 763298
- golf@northshoregolf.co.uk
- northshoregolf.co.uk

Club key features

- Accommodation
- Food served
- Buggy hire
- Resort facilities
- Pro shop

SPECIAL
OFFER

Fourball special summer
£99.



Shaw Hill Lancashire

Lady Golfer says

Shaw Hill is set in a beautiful location near Chorley and offers unrivalled golf breaks in a glorious stone mansion that was built around 1700. The scenic charm of the course belies a stern test for every golfer.

Course information

- 18 holes
- Parkland
- 01257 269221
- golf@shaw-hill.co.uk
- shaw-hill.co.uk

Club key features

- Accommodation
- Food served
- Buggy hire
- Resort facilities
- Pro shop

SPECIAL
OFFER

One in 12 goes free and
10 per cent off in Shaws
Bar. The club offers
afternoon tea and has
excellent spa facilities.



Sherwood Forest Nottinghamshire

Lady Golfer says

Most of the holes at Sherwood Forest are set in glorious seclusion, with flanks of firs and banks of gorse providing natural obstacles. The tight, springy turf is indicative of an inland course of the very highest quality.

Course information

- 18 holes, Par 71
- Heathland
- 01623 626689
- info@sherwoodforestgolfclub.co.uk
- sherwoodforestgolfclub.co.uk

Club key features

- Food served
- Buggy hire
- Trolley hire
- Practice facilities
- Pro shop

SPECIAL
OFFER

Winter deal until April 30, 2020 from £170 per fourball, including breakfast | August offer: four for three.



Ufford Park Suffolk

Lady Golfer says

If you enjoy risk-and-reward holes then Ufford Park's testing course will be right up your street. Water comes into play on no fewer than 12 of the holes so you will need to use your head as well as skill in order to score well.

Course information

- 18 holes, Par 71
- Parkland
- 01394 382836
- golf@uffordpark.co.uk
- uffordpark.co.uk

Club key features

- Accommodation
- Food served
- Buggy hire
- Practice facilities
- Lessons available

SPECIAL
OFFER

Winter Warmer, November 1 – February 28, Monday – Friday, coffee and bacon bap and 18 holes for £29pp.



Tehidy Park Cornwall

Lady Golfer says

Tehidy Park is a picturesque parkland with panoramic views over the Cornish countryside. It offers a mixture of open holes and tree-lined fairways, with water coming into play at several points.

Course information

-  18 holes, Par 71
-  Parkland
-  01209842208
-  secretary-manager@tehidyparkgolfclub.co.uk
-  tehidyparkgolfclub.co.uk

Club key features

-  Food served
-  Buggy hire
-  Trolley hire
-  Practice facilities
-  Pro shop

SPECIAL
OFFER

Bespoke group discounts.

Christine Wolf

Thirty-year-old Christine Wolf plays on the Ladies European Tour. She turned pro in 2012 and was on the LET Access Series from 2012 to 2013. She has played on the main tour since 2014 and won the 2019 Hero Women's Indian Open. She represented Austria at the 2016 Olympics.



Who are the best female and male golfers of all time?

Annika Sorenstam. She has definitely done her part to grow the game. I'm still a big Tiger Woods fan. I also like Rory McIlroy and the young ones that are coming through now.



christine wolf on golf

The Austrian star on Tiger, Annika and the Solheim Cup



What would be your dream fourball?

Probably Tiger Woods, Marcel Hirscher (the Austrian alpine ski racer) and Chris Hemsworth (the Hollywood actor), but not the Chris Hemsworth from the last Avengers film!



Would you rather play in the Solheim Cup or Olympic Games?

Both! I don't know if you can choose between the two. I have played in the Olympics, so now I would probably say the Solheim Cup.

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