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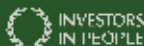
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WELCOME FROM THE EDITOR



Well Done All Round

A well known philosopher, I believe it was Forest Gump, once said “Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you are going to ‘git’.” Well I think, following on from Turnberry this year, we should tweak that saying to, “Golf is like a box of chocolates...”

No-one could have foreseen the events of the 138th Open Championship, where there was only one thing that could have been accurately predicted – the quality and conditioning of the golf course.

Who could possibly have envisaged that Tiger Woods would miss the cut? Not Tiger, that's for sure, because one of Friday's newspapers including a breakdown of what the World Number 1 would be wearing on each of the four rounds. I did feel at the time that it was tempting fate a bit, but didn't give it another thought.

Then we had the prospect of a 59 year-old winning The Open breaking the previous age record by almost 14 years and of any Major Championship by over 11 years.

Tom Watson's opening 65 was seen as a spectacular round by one of golf's legends but probably a one-off hurrah. Two more solid rounds saw him enter Sunday a shot clear but the knowledgeable among us still felt it was beyond him. When he was still leading with three holes to play those doubters became believers.

It suddenly became probable when he sat in the middle of the final fairway needing a par to win. He struck a superb 8-iron into the final green, but unfortunately it was too well struck and skipped through the green. The up and down from the back, with no shots in hand, was very awkward – too awkward as it happened and all of a sudden the dream, and the hopes of the gallery, were dead.

What Watson did at Turnberry will never be forgotten. Even Stuart Cink admits that it will be known as Watson's Open and that he lost in a play-off shouldn't detract from the fact that a man who would be 60 six weeks later had tied first in an Open.

Among the greenkeeping fraternity it will be known as Brown's Open, as George had a swansong only a few could even dream of. After nearly 25 years at the helm the 2009 Open was George's final event – no Captain's Day or Monthly Medal to bow out on for him.

Despite the pressures he still took time to talk with the Support Team on the Wednesday evening and was a regular visitor to the BIGGA marquee.

He was justifiably proud of what he and his experienced team had achieved and everything fell right for them. The weather in the lead up was ideal and the week itself, the odd heavy shower but bright and breezy in the main, showed the course off at its very best. The aerial pictures provided by the BBC were simply amazing and the feedback from the players – even Tiger in the early part of the week – was positive without exception.

George will still be involved with Turnberry after his retirement but he will take a bucket load of memories with him from this Open alone.

Well done George. Well done Tom. Oh, and not forgetting, well done Stuart.

Scott MacCallum
Editor