

## WORLD CHAMPIONS CUP MEDIA EVENT October 3, 2023

PETER JACOBSEN  
ERNIE ELS  
DARREN CLARKE  
JIM FURYK

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**JASON LANGWELL:** Good morning, everyone. For those of you here in Jacksonville with us in person and for those down the street in Bradenton or in the virtual world, wherever you may be, thanks for being with us. Good morning and welcome to the World Champions Cup media event.

My name is Jason Langwell. I'm executive vice president at Intersport and I have the pleasure of serving as the executive director of the inaugural World Champions Cup set to take place December 7 through the 10th at Concession Golf Club in Bradenton, Florida.

I would like to begin by thanking Jim and Tabitha and the entire FURYK & FRIENDS team for allowing us to hold this World Champions Cup event during your tournament week. Know it's a busy week, a lot going on, so we appreciate everything your team does to be able to make this happen. Thank you, Jim.

And I guess speaking of Jim, let me introduce our three captains and our chairman, frankly all of which need no introduction, but to my left, captain of Team USA, Jim Furyk; captain of Team International, Ernie Els. Darren Clarke of Team Europe is joining us remotely, and our chairman, Mr. Peter Jacobsen, is joining us remotely as well. Thank you, gentlemen, for being with us today.

I'll start by giving a brief overview of today's event, share a little bit of background on the World Champions Cup. I'll then turn it over to the captains to make their announcements about their teams, and then I'll turn it over to our tournament chairman, Peter Jacobsen, for a fun little Q and A, and then finally we'll take some questions from the media that is here with us in the room and also with us by Zoom.

By way of background for the World Champions Cup, we announced this event and our ambitious vision for it back in April. That vision being become the fourth global team major in golf joining the Presidents Cup, the Ryder Cup and the Solheim Cup as a legacy event in the game of golf. We're excited to be the only of those that are now going to be featuring three teams all competing at the same time, Team International, Team Europe and Team USA.

When you're building a legacy event like this, you've got to have the best of the best. You have to have the best competitors, you've got to have the best partners, you've got to have the best host facility, and we're excited to have that. Obviously with captains of this caliber we've clearly accomplished that. We've got an amazing television partner in ESPN and ABC,



who only do majors, and we're excited to be the third major golf championship on ESPN and ABC, and we've also got an amazing host facility in the Concession Golf Club.

We also have some unique elements for the World Champions Cup. We'll be playing a unique scoring format that will have full nine-hole matches being. So all nine holes will be played, there will be no close-out. We'll be playing -- over the first two days we'll have sixsomes playing. So we'll have in the morning six-ball matches, in the afternoon we'll have a Scotch sixsome, match each day, Thursday and Friday. The final two days will consist of a unique on Saturday, first of its kind Saturday pro-am that our sponsors and guests will enjoy followed by Sunday singles matches. There'll be two nine-hole singles matches on Sunday with the raising of the first World Champions Cup at the conclusion of that.

Each team, as a remainder, is going to be made up of six players with playing captains, and so far we've announced two of the six players on each team. Recently announced the first automatic qualifiers. On Team International, Ernie's going to be joined by Vijay Singh. On Team Europe, Darren's joined by Bernhard Langer. On Team USA, Jim has announced he'll be joined by Steve Stricker.

And right now I'm excited to turn the microphone over to our captains who are going to share the second automatic qualifiers on each team, and I will start to my right with the captain of Team International, Mr. Ernie Els.

**ERNIE ELS:** Thank you very much, Jason.

My next selection is very easy, it's Retief Goosen. Obviously Retief and myself go back a very long time, all the way from junior golf. Most of us have played together since junior golf and we're still going at it on the Champions Tour. So very excited to announce Retief Goosen, is very excited also to be playing in this inaugural event, so good times.

**JASON LANGWELL:** Thank you, Ernie. I will go to my left, Mr. Jim Furyk, I'll turn it over to you to announce your next automatic qualifier.

**JIM FURYK:** Yeah, our selection for Team USA, the second one is David Toms. David and I go back as well, been on a lot of Presidents Cup teams, Ryder Cup teams together. He's got a steady game, great ball-striker. He's a great guy in the team room, very likeable. Couldn't be more excited to have him on this team. He's had a great year and hopefully we can keep that momentum in December.

**JASON LANGWELL:** That's great. Thanks a lot, Jim.

Darren, Team Europe, we'll turn it over to you for the next automatic qualifier for your team.

**DARREN CLARKE:** Yes, Jason, delighted to announce that Colin Montgomerie is going to be the next selection for our team. Monty's been a talisman for Europe for many, many years. He's played singles Ryder Cup matches, he's won six and halved two, so he's always



led for Europe, and to have him on our team, he's a huge addition. We all know Monty, he's a fiery competitor, he's determined and I think he's going to be a great addition to our team. Delighted for him to come and join us.

**JASON LANGWELL:** Thanks, Darren. Appreciate that.

**DARREN CLARKE:** There he is in all his glory.

**JASON LANGWELL:** There he is, doing commercials all over the place.

**DARREN CLARKE:** Oh, I know, but his fiery character on the golf course is a huge part of why he's been so successful. Hopefully he'll bring that fire and success to Team Europe at the end of the year.

**JASON LANGWELL:** Thanks, Darren. Thanks, captains, for all those exciting announcements. We appreciate that.

Hard to believe we're a little over 60 days away from the first tee going in the ground. Between now and then we'll have three more players announced. We've now got half of the teams determined. We'll have two more chairman selections that'll be made solely at the discretion of our chairman, Mr. Peter Jacobsen. I'm sure that all of our captains will be in his ear a bit as those selections get made.

Then at the conclusion of the Charles Schwab Cup, we'll have the highest finishing player not on the team otherwise will earn a spot to compete and fill out the six-player teams that we have for Team International, Team Europe and Team USA.

Speaking of our chairman, with that in mind, I would love to turn it over to you, Peter, and hand you the mic to maybe put the captains on the hot seat a little bit here and go through a little fun Q and A.

Peter, the floor is yours.

**PETER JACOBSEN:** All right, Jason, thank you very much. These are going to be softball questions for my three good friends.

Ernie, I want to start with you. What is it about this inaugural World Champions Cup that you're excited about? We've been talking about this, the four of us, for a couple of years now and finally we're off the ground.

What excites you about this first competition?

**ERNIE ELS:** Well, Peter, it's really the brainchild of yourself, you know. You've been coming with this idea for quite some time now, as you say, and I think this is my third or fourth year on the Champions Tour now and every year we've had a discussion about this.



It's wonderful to see it come to fruition now. With all these great names that, as we've said, we've competed against each other for such a long time, now to actually play in an event which really makes sense, you know. We're going to have great matches. We're going to have formats that the people at home can actually know what we're doing. We're going to be playing Scotch foursome, we're going to play greensome, we're going to play singles matches at the end.

So it's going to be friendly, I'm sure, but it's going to be very competitive as the Champions Tour is. We've come a long way with each other, but we love competing. So this event is just an unbelievable event that people can really relate to and really have some fun with us.

To have the television that you guys have organized with ESPN and ABC, it's just going to be a great showcase for our tour. People can relate to us. We've been around for a long time; in many cases, as you say, since amateur and junior golf. People can really relate to us, especially that time of the year which is a really festive time in the year.

Well done to everybody involved.

**PETER JACOBSEN:** Darren, I want to go to you next. We talked before the Zoom conference here, we talked about how fired up Europe was on Sunday after that Ryder Cup victory.

What is the difference, what's the main difference between individual competition like you're going to be playing this week at Constellation FURYK & FRIENDS and a team competition? It's got to be a totally different animal.

**DARREN CLARKE:** Well, you know, I think, Peter, I think the team aspect is something that we as professional golfers don't get to experience too often. Obviously we are our three teams, International team, U.S. team and European team. As individuals, we're all trying to beat each other and then all of a sudden we get together whenever the team matches arise and we're all pulling for the guys that we're trying to beat, not only our teammates but the opposition. We're trying to win our matches, and because of that the guys get so fired up. And the ladies get fired up, we've just seen the Solheim Cup as well.

It's a team thing for us. A lot of us grew up playing team sports. Certainly I grew up playing a lot of rugby, Ernie did as well. I don't think Jim did (indiscernible.) Then to get the opportunity to do it as professionals is very, very exciting.

You know, this year Solheim Cup, Europe retained the Solheim Cup. They obviously won last week. Sorry, Jim, but they won last week in Rome, so Europe is trying to do the same thing come December at Concession.

**PETER JACOBSEN:** Speaking of Jim, you've played on multiple Ryder Cup teams and been a captain, and Presidents Cups teams, so you are equally the most experienced of the



three of you and the most tired because you play a team competition every year. So you're probably best to answer this question.

What's it like to represent your country, to be able to put on, in your case, the red, white and blue and stand up there, put your hand on your heart and watch the United States flag be raised?

**JIM FURYK:** Personally, I think it's an advantage for the U.S. that we get to play in one of these events every year. It gives us an opportunity to kind of see pairings, get these guys together to get them closer, to bond each and every year.

I just, I can't tell you how these are my favorite events that I ever played in. To represent something bigger than yourself, to wear the American flag on your sleeve, to be a group and play for a team is something I've always admired.

I did not play rugby and at 6'2", 195, I'm the smallest of the captains, I want no part of them. But I did play football, basketball and baseball growing up and still have some great friends from those teams in my life.

It's an honor and I'm inspired coming off the Ryder Cup last week as a vice captain, cheering on our team. I saw some amazing golf from both sides. I think all of us, we enjoyed these events.

Now that we're in our 50s, and I haven't played on one of these teams since I think 2014, it's been nine years, I miss 'em, I really do. I've been a part of them as a captain or vice captain, but I miss competing in these, so this opportunity I think we're all grateful for.

As Ernie said, I think the matches are going to be really friendly. We're around each other each and every week, but they're going to be highly contested and extremely competitive because we're getting together 18 of the best players in the world now over the age of 50. These guys are highly competitive, they hate to lose and you have three teams that are going to want to win the Cup.

**PETER JACOBSEN:** Ernie, back to you. Your two members of your team that have been announced, Retief Goosen and Vijay Singh, give me a quick comment about Retief's game. I know that he's powerful, he's long, he's steely and his composure on the golf course week in and week out is extremely impressive.

**ERNIE ELS:** Yeah, Peter, couldn't be more happy to have those two guys on the side. Vijay with all his experience, and then obviously Retief, I just said I've known the man since we were 13 years of age. You know, he hasn't changed as a person. Back in the day he was competitive, and he still is today. He's got a wonderful game, he's got an all-around game, he's won U.S. Opens, he's won tournaments in Europe, South Africa, here in the U.S., so he's won at the highest level.



He was in the top-10 of the World Rankings for a very, very long time, so he's an absolute quality player. His putting touch is wonderful, he's a great player under pressure.

I'd love to actually partner with him at some stage on the weekend. But he's a great guy in the team room, loves a glass of wine like most of us, so I'm sure the team spirit will be just right on par. It's really going to be enjoyable to have my fellow South African with me on the side, it's going to be great.

**PETER JACOBSEN:** I think it will be interesting to see how you pair your teammates together against the other two teams. That will be very interesting.

Darren, Bernhard Langer has had a career that is -- it's unlike anybody we've seen in sports. If you had to compare Langer and his dominance and his perseverance to anybody else in sports, who might that be?

**DARREN CLARKE:** That's a really good question, Jakes. I'm probably going to go, and this is a bit of a misnomer, but I'm probably going to go to Michael Schumacher, one of the legends of Formula One racing.

Formula One is very fast, Bernhard isn't, but in terms of their preparation, the mental fortitude that you've got to concentrate so long in those Formula One races. And Michael Schumacher's won 92, 93 Grands Prix, I believe, and his career was so successful and so focused over so many years until he had unfortunately an accident which stopped him from racing. But his dedication and the way he looked at it was tunnel vision and that's what Bernhard does, that's what Bernhard brings to the table. The way he's performed obviously since he got to the Champions Tour but before that as well. His single-mindedness, his determination, his focus and everything I think is an inspiration to us all. It's the way Bernhard does things. I'm sure he will do the same again when he's on our team and preparing himself to win points for Europe in December.

**PETER JACOBSEN:** And you touched on Colin just briefly. He won a record of eight European Tour Order of Merits, including seven consecutive. That blows your mind when you think about that. Between Langer and Colin, both of their experience and their tenacity has got to be something that you're happy about having them on your squad.

**DARREN CLARKE:** Oh, definitely. The two of them are quite far removed in terms of the way they look at things. You just asked me about a sports personality, which other athlete would I compare him to.

Somebody like Monty, he would be a John McEnroe. He could lose it with the best of them as we all know, but that fires him, that fires him to perform better and he's done that over so, so many years. That's his thing that tunes him back in again.

But again, both of them, as I said, they're two different ends of the spectrum, but when push comes to shove and they need to dig deep, they dig deep. So you know if they're coming



down the stretch in one of those matches at the World Champions Cup and you need a shot to be played, you're digging deep to do it, those two guys are as good as it gets whenever a shot is required.

**PETER JACOBSEN:** Jim, I think we would all agree what Steve Stricker has done on the PGA Tour Champions circuit this year is remarkable. He's played 15 events, he's finished top-10 in all 15 of those events, he's won six times and almost \$4 million in earnings for the season.

We have seen so many players have dominant seasons in their career -- Tiger many times, Jack, Faldo, Byron Nelson, Tom Watson, Trevino -- but this has got to rank as one of the most dominant seasons I think certainly on the Champions Tour, but maybe in the history of the game.

**JIM FURYK:** Definitely I think on the Champions Tour. Strick, he's relentless, he doesn't have any weaknesses, he drives the ball well, an unbelievable iron game, we know he can chip and putt and he's super focused. He's a competitor, he's gummy and he's tough to beat. He's been whipping us all this year. He's the guy we've been chasing and it's an honor to have him on the team.

We've become very close over the years playing on these teams together, captaining these teams together, and I was on his staff two times for both the Presidents Cup and the Ryder Cup. He's a fiery competitor and couldn't have a better guy by my side.

**PETER JACOBSEN:** And David Toms, who you announced this morning, David Toms, we all know his game, but what's most impressive to me is when he won the 2001 PGA Championship at Atlanta Athletic Club. He laid up short of that par-4 18th. There's a creek that runs in front and he got it up and down to win that major championship.

That goes to show me a player with supreme confidence and also a lot of smarts. He understands the strategy aspect so that he may not be the longest hitter on your team, but he's probably going to be one of the smartest.

**JIM FURYK:** I agree, I agree. David's a southern gentleman. You look at him, he's quiet, reserved, but man, he is fiery on the golf course. A Competitor, and as you mentioned a very smart player. He drives the ball very straight.

My memory of that '01 event is he barely missed the fairway, kind of had an iffy lie. Some players may take a gamble and try to go for the green. I think David had a lot of confidence in his wedge game, his putting, was playing great. He wasn't going to lose the tournament with that second shot, and then with a good third shot, a good putt, he ended up winning the PGA TOUR.

He's a very smart player, a guy that I love. Like when I was playing in Presidents Cups and Ryder Cups, I was always hoping the captain would pair me with David, especially in the



alternate shot format. I feel like our games, when we were playing well, had some similarities. When he hit shots, we were very similar distance off the tee. While he was hitting the ball, felt like I was hitting the ball. It was always kind of just a good transition from player to player.

So love to have him on the team. I think as I said before, he's that southern gentleman, but he's sneaky because he's a fiery competitor and he's gutty out there on the golf course. I always love playing with him.

**PETER JACOBSEN:** One last question for each of you.

Ernie, you touched on it earlier, the format that we're going to be playing. I believe this is the first time in an international team competition in golf where all three teams will be playing together. Talk a little bit about the format. It's exciting, but maybe confusing at the same time with each hole being worth a point. So I think it's going to be fun for our fans and probably your teams to wrap your heads around that.

**ERNIE ELS:** Yeah, I think it's a fun format. We're going to play a four-ball format and the Scotch foursomes format. Just getting corrected, yeah.

Basically, you're going to get two drives from each team and then you choose your best drive and then you play out from there. I think it's a great format. It keeps everybody involved in a particular hole. Everybody has to play their shots and you're playing stroke play. Basically, the best score on the hole wins the hole or gets the most points on that particular hole. We do that for nine holes and at the end of the day the team that scores the best in stroke play, the team basically playing out, wins the most points and you go accordingly.

So everybody stays in it, everybody plays for nine holes, nobody gets eliminated. If you -- say you go down three holes or something like that, you still play out and you have a chance to redeem yourself as a team. You can have a strong finish and win some points at the end of the nine holes and get with it if you're a little bit behind.

It reminds me a little bit of the old format of the Alfred Dunhill tournament back in the day when that was a team competition, we used to play stroke play against each other. And playing St. Andrews, for example, 16, 17, 16's kind of a birdie hole, but 17, you can make 3 or you can make 9. So you're never really out of it.

I feel we have a great format here where everybody's going to be in play right till the death. Then you take it into singles on Sunday, we'll be playing 18 holes of stroke play and anything can happen. We saw how exciting the Ryder Cup was recently. It was close there for a little bit, I know Darren will not think so --

**DARREN CLARKE:** It was.

**ERNIE ELS:** -- but I was watching that. If Rickie Fowler, that match, if he could have turned



that, that thing would have come down to the wire. But as it is, in straight match play, Rickie couldn't quite swing that game and the matches were over early. In this regard, I think you're going to have a lot more excitement.

**PETER JACOBSEN:** Darren, speaking of the Ryder Cup, now the pressure is on because of European ladies won the Solheim Cup, your brothers over in Europe, they just won the Ryder Cup. So now the pressure is on you to bring home the World Champions Cup.

**DARREN CLARKE:** Like I didn't know that. Yeah, I know. Europe's been strong. That being said, both those victories were on European soil. We're obviously playing in the U.S. this year, but it's going to be exciting. It's going to be exciting to represent Europe certainly on the road.

Both those European teams played unbelievable golf, but the ladies and the men, it wasn't -- I don't know if you could say that the other team didn't play well, just Europeans played sensational golf. I think that's what I took away from watching nearly every shot of both tournaments.

So I think we have our hands full with the legends that we're going to be competing against and playing against trying to win those points, we certainly have our hands full.

But Ernie, the point he made there about having to finish out every hole in the nine holes, if you're getting hammered, you're having a bad day, if you win the couple of last holes, that could make a huge difference come Sunday afternoon, that point. So everybody's going to be battling hard no matter what's going on to win points if you're bad day or if you're having a good day because it's all about your team, it's all about what those points will be on Sunday afternoon.

**PETER JACOBSEN:** Jim, one last question for you: Are you going to require all of your team to wear a hat during the competition? Is that going to be written into your contract with all these players?

**JIM FURYK:** Absolutely not. Team USA is about comfort.

Not wearing a hat for me is not comfortable, I just pass red and go straight to purple up here. No, I think -- I was already talking to Jason about the hat wear company making sure we had plenty of styles.

Pat, he's got a big noggin, we have a hard time getting him in a hat. He hasn't worn one for three or four years in the Presidents Cup or Ryder Cup. If he's going to birdie 16, 17 and 18, he can wear whatever he wants, I'll say that.

**PETER JACOBSEN:** I was going to say that noggin of his is pretty big and filled with a lot of great stuff because what Cantlay did down the stretch is really impressive.



You three, I know speaking on behalf of all of the World Champions Cup, Ernie, Jim and Darren, we are so proud to have you involved as our inaugural captains and hopefully captains for a very long time.

Jason, I'm going to turn it over to you. Thanks to you three and thanks to everybody for this, for joining us on this media day. Jason, back to you.

**JASON LANGWELL:** Thank you, Peter. Thanks for being our chairman.

Speaking of questions, we'll take some from the media now not only in the room but on Zoom. For those of you on Zoom, I'm reading some directions for you here. With that, I'll open the floor for questions.

**Q. Good morning. For Jim and Ernie, do you think that this event could possibly demonstrate that the Ryder Cup could one day be opened up to more than just the U.S. and Europe?**

**ERNIE ELS:** No, I don't think the Ryder Cup should do that. The Ryder Cup is, it's got some really good history now and those two teams, the way they played against each other this last week and the competitiveness and the bit of needle that was involved, that's unique to what the Ryder Cup's all about.

You know, HatGate, whatever you want to call it, I was just watching like you guys on television and all the rumors surrounding that and the way the celebration on the one match went -- I mean, it's almost like it was any team that needed more fuel to the fire, they used every little bit of what they could to really get their players up. So I think that horse has bolted. I think it's a wonderful competition in its own right.

But I think what Peter and the team has done with this event is so unique also and I think this is -- this type of team event, we've been calling for this type of thing to happen, for the three tours to play against each other, or the three entities, Internationals, Europeans and the U.S. So this is going to be a different animal on its own.

I think this one, with the history that's going to follow in this event, is going to stand on its own. I think that's the way it should be. I think the Presidents Cup, I know the U.S. has been dominating the Internationals for quite some time, but that's another event which has proven itself and its own history. I think they all stand alone now. I think that's my point of view.

**JIM FURYK:** I honestly don't think I could add any more. I thought Ernie hit the nail on the head with the history of the Ryder Cup.

And I think the Presidents Cup is now creating its own history as well. Started in the early '90s and it's, I don't know if it's picked up momentum, but I do think it's a standalone event. I think Ernie's era of player did a great job, those scores have been a lot closer than they've looked at times, too, and that's a big part of Ernie Els as captain, Trevor Immelman as



captain, now Mike Weir. So I think the world of golf where it stands having the Ryder Cup and Presidents Cup, at least in men's golf, and now I think this World Champions Cup is going to be very unique.

I think the timing's right now for the over-50s and I don't see a need for any change in the future, but I'm really looking forward, especially being over 50, to see this event grow and create its own history and become a big event.

**Q. I must add might I'm liking the fact that your new logo looks like the Scottish flag for starters. Can I ask each of the guys a Ryder Cup question. Let me start with Darren if that's okay.**

**Darren, obviously the result on Sunday came after a 19-9 hammering a few years ago. Did you see that coming, and what are your thoughts and speculation that we've might do the job again in a few years' time?**

**DARREN CLARKE:** Yeah, in the aftermath of Whistling Straits when America put on such a strong performance, Martin, did I see it coming? If you'd have asked me then I would have said no, but I think the way that Luke rallied the guys, and they all showed a lot of form coming the past six months. The European guys really started playing a lot better. I know their stats improved massively. So Luke went in obviously with his team with a lot of confidence going into last week.

With that being said, they obviously played brilliant golf. They holed the putts, they chipped in. It always seemed like the home (indiscernible) with the fans right behind them.

But as Ernie pointed out earlier, I watched every shot of it, and I was watching the singles on Sunday and it did get a little bit nervy there for a while. And he was right, there was a lot of red on that board, and Rickie Fowler's game and everything about it, I know the end score maybe wasn't quite a reflection of what was going through certainly of my mind middle way through the singles on Sunday.

So I think it was wonderful to see it, but Martin, home turf advantage is such a big thing these days. The crowds are a huge part of it. What was the second part of your question?

**Q. The speculation that we might --**

**DARREN CLARKE:** Yeah, of course, exactly. Well, as we all know with the current situation with some of the LIV guys that were potential captains coming up, whether that's resolved and we move forward with some of those guys with unbelievable Ryder Cup histories, whether they get the opportunity. But certainly Luke from the outside, the way he captained this time, he would be a sensational choice going forward to Bethpage.

I think if the rumors are to be believed, it's going to be maybe Tiger for the U.S. If that happens, Bethpage is going to be a rowdy place to say the least for the Europeans to step



into. I played a major there. But it's going to be another unbelievable Ryder Cup. So if Luke gets the opportunity and he's asked, it's probably going to him, but I certainly would think that he would do the same job. He'd do a good job again.

**Q. Jim, just a quick one for you. Obviously you touched on it there, the speculation about the hat, et cetera. Were you frustrated that there was claims that there was unrest in the American camp? Was that not the case?**

**JIM FURYK:** Absolutely not the case. I'm not sure exactly where that came from, but especially after you saw the support that Patrick had with the guys kind of raising their hats in front of the green. He took a lot of beating that day from, whether it was from the media, from the fans about not wearing a hat, the speculation that maybe he didn't want to wear the American flag, whatever it may be. I think you saw the support from the players.

I was in that team room each and every day and night. Those 12 guys really bonded, really got along well. I know they're disappointed that we didn't bring the cup back to the United States, but I can say and I'll stand by it, those 12 guys really got along well and supported each other. As captains, we couldn't have asked for anything more.

**Q. Ernie, should players be paid to play in events like the Ryder Cup and the Presidents Cup?**

**ERNIE ELS:** No. I think -- I mean, we'll do it for absolutely nothing. We are getting money, we're getting money to donate to our respective charities, which is a wonderful gesture from the tournament.

But it's all about pride, it's all about your teammates, it's all about the history of the event, it's all about really other people who have made the event what it is.

On the European side, you know, Seve comes to mind instantly and all of the other guys that played and started turning it around for Europe was back in the day with Sam Torrance and obviously Tony Jacklin as captain and all those players, Faldo and Lyle and all of those guys, and then through the 90s and 2000 with Darren and his guys, with Bernhard and Ian Poulter and all of these type of guys. On the U.S. side, the same thing, you have stalwarts in Lanny Watkins and Fred and Davis, Jim, all these type of guys who have really come to the fore.

It's all about playing for that Cup, you know. I think there's enough money in professional golf that goes around, so you make a good living. There's a lot of effort that goes into these team events. I know from my experience in Ryder Cups, Presidents Cups, sometimes you play five matches in a week, walking a very hilly golf course and giving it your all and getting it from the crowd the way the U.S. team got it last week in Italy.

But you take that and you move on and you just try your best to try and get something out of it. It's all about pride and it's all about the team camaraderie, playing for that flag and for the



history of the match.

So I'll be totally against anything like that. And I think it's just a rumor that came up again. I think Jim is right, I think Patrick, the cap just doesn't fit, OK? I've had the same back in the day when I played Presidents Cup, I didn't wear a hat because my -- look at my head, you know what I mean? It's just the way it goes sometimes. Today's day and age, there's a lot of things swirling around and unfortunately he got the brunt of something false in my view, so that's my case.

**Q. To whoever wants to answer them, are any of the three of you allowed to be a playing captain, and would you be?**

**JIM FURYK:** For this event? We all are, all three of us are. We're one of the six players that's playing as well and we'll each have a vice captain as well, or assistant captain. What's the proper name, vice captain or assistant captain?

**JASON LANGWELL:** We went with vice.

**JIM FURYK:** Ryder Cup's vice, Presidents Cup is assistant.

**ERNIE ELS:** If one of us gets hurt, another can step in.

**JASON LANGWELL:** The vice will serve as a sub should any of the six players during the competition --

**Q. Throw out a back?**

**JIM FURYK:** It happens.

**ERNIE ELS:** It's the PGA Champions Tour, there's injuries that do happen.

**DARREN CLARKE:** Mental injuries don't count though.

**JIM FURYK:** They don't count, we all have those.

**Q. I think this is going to be more for Ernie and Darren because I don't think Jim ever played with Seve. I was wondering if you could give us a couple of good memories of playing with Seve?**

**DARREN CLARKE:** I was fortunate to play with Seve a lot of times. You know, my first win on the European Tour was in 1993, a place called Knokke-le-Zoute in Belgium at the Dunhill tournament. I was paired with Seve in the last round, last group out on a Sunday and he was doing all his Seve things. The boys would know this. He was moving his white shoes that he always wore on Sunday, and he was coughing, and he was rattling his tees around his pocket.



I hit a shot, I was leading by two playing 17, two shots ahead of him on a par-5, 650 yards. The young kids would reach it these days, but we had to lay up. He layed up maybe 10 yards ahead of me and I had 100 yards, 110 to the flag. He walked all the way up to the green -- his ball was in front of me. He walked all the way up to the green and all the way back in the middle of the fairway so I couldn't hit. Seve did everything he possibly could within the laws of the game to try and win.

And it was brilliant to play with him, he was a genius. He had everything. He had the touch, he had the personality, he had everything. It taught me back then that that's what was ahead of me playing professional golf. He was a genius. You know, we hold geniuses in high esteem and his legacy rightly is held in such highest steam.

**PETER JACOBSEN:** Let me add to that real quick.

I played -- he and I were the same age and the one thing you said, Darren, was he had the touch, he had the personality. Seve also had the charm. He would do something -- I played matches in the Ryder Cup against him and I played tournaments with him. He would do some bad boy thing that he was known for, but you'd look over at him and he would give you that sheepish little grin where you'd say, OK, I still love ya.

He was such a unique personality that I think the game misses him. The game misses him as it misses Payne Stewart. I just wanted to add that.

**ERNIE ELS:** Absolutely right, Peter. What a dresser. I mean, those events he won at The Open Championship with the navy blue sweater and the white shirt with the white FootJoy shoes. I mean, just iconic. For me to play with and again him, he was kind of phasing out a little bit, he had a lot of back problems, but in 1994 that was my career here, you know, and I was in Europe, played the German Masters and I was leading by many shots and I had a poor final day, ended up in a playoff with Jose and Seve, and Seve won the playoff. I was more excited for Seve winning again because he hadn't won and he knew he was struggling.

But then the week after we played the World Match Play at Wentworth and I played him in the semifinal and I'm playing my absolute hero. It's like you guys playing Arnold Palmer or Jack or somebody, or Tiger, and I was playing Seve. I mean, we had an epic match. I believe I made -- out of the eight par 3s, I birdied seven of them. Think about it, seven of the eight par 3s and I only won two of those holes. So he made five 2s on the par 3s. I think we were 16 or 17 under and I finally got him on the 35th hole when I chipped the ball down there to almost a give and he gave me the putt.

My dad, who was as big a fan of Seve as me, he was in the locker room and I was busy with interviews and stuff. When I got back to the locker room, my dad had tears in his eyes, and my dad's not a cryer at all. I said, what's going on here, and he told me what Seve told him. You know, how really good he played and how special the day was for him, you know. He said really some really nice stuff to my dad. I'm not going to mention that now, but that was



the type of guy he was. He would play you to death, but then he'll, you know, he'll show respect. Just loved the guy. He was one of the best.

**Q. Guys, my 1-year-old daughter Charlotte wishing the captains all good luck.**

**I did want to say, though, getting a chance to be playing captains, I know Tiger got to do that at 2019, it's such a rare thing, but to be able to do that in this new competition, how special is that for Jim and Darren and for you, Ernie, as well?**

**JIM FURYK:** I think it's pretty amazing. I think for Tiger to do that at the Presidents Cup and kind of manage 12 guys overseas, he had to have a lot of help as far as assistant captains, vice captains. They had to be his eyes and ears while he was on the golf course. Being able to micromanage, play in the event and also captain the team in an event that big is amazing. I think our staff's here a little smaller, of course, with six players. I know we're going to lean on those other five guys that are playing, we're going to lean on our assistant captain. For me, that's going to be Billy Andrade. He's going to be my eyes and ears. A little smaller staffs and I think it's something we're all prepared for and we all have to do.

In Tiger's case, he's playing against the team that doesn't have that same thing going on. I think we're all prepared for it. I think we all know it's coming and I think it's exciting. Kind of playing captain and -- but we have so much experience on these teams and so many captains. You know, Bernhard Langer, Colin Montgomerie have captained teams, as well as Darren. You're really kind of putting a bunch of heads together on each team and relying on all six guys and kind of the assistant captain to kind of make these decisions together.

**ERNIE ELS:** Yeah, I agree. Six players, so it's much easier to manage. And you have so many players, as Jim says, with so much experience on your respective side to make decisions and to make pairings is a little bit more simple in this format than a Presidents Cup.

Yeah, I mean, Tiger was playing great back then. And that was the one mistake I made. I put my hot guy against Tiger, which backfired against me. I should have put a softer guy against Tiger. Anyway, that's the one regret I have. But anyway, that's Tiger.

We got a different event here and it's going to be so much fun to lean on the rest of your team who's got so much experience. And it's going to run on its own almost, there's so much experience.

**DARREN CLARKE:** Yeah, what the boys have just said. I think it's the guys that are there on the team are so experienced, it's not as if you've got to look at stats and look at this and look at that to try to come up with the best pairings. There's a couple of natural pairings. I can see it in the other two boys' teams already, there's natural pairings. Bernhard and Monty have been such a good Ryder Cup pairing in the past.

It's not as though you're looking for magic, the magic's already in those guys. They know



what they're doing. And to be a captain and have an opportunity to play, you know you'll be relying on the info coming from those guys as well.

To be playing, it's obviously a huge honor to be playing, but also in the captaincy to have your vice captain there to help us see maybe things that we can't see while we're out playing.

**Q. Jim, we've had all these great golf exhibitions over the years and then we've had this great international competition where you have people crying and fights in the parking lot.**

**Where will this first one of this competition land? Where's the needle pointed toward? Is this more of an exhibition, is this more very competitive, and will it take time to get that intensity to evolve over the years?**

**JIM FURYK:** Well, if it comes down to fights, I want it to be Ernie and Darren. I don't want any part of that. I'm 6'2" and I still want no part of that.

**ERNIE ELS:** I played in the back line.

**DARREN CLARKE:** Jim could run faster than us, though.

**JIM FURYK:** I think the word "exhibition" is starting to get thrown around a lot in these events. I don't know, it's used in a negative way, I believe. I think you would admit to that.

I think we said it earlier in our presser that we can be friendly. I mean, Darren and Ernie are two of my better friends on tour and we get paired together all the time. If I'm not paired with Ernie one week, it seems like it's Darren the other. We're good friends, our families know each other. Liezl and Tabitha do a lot of things together.

We're friendly, but we get on the golf course, we want to beat each other. That's part of our mentality, that's why we've had successful careers and we're put in these situations. I think it can be both ways.

I just can't foresee -- I know big events bring out emotion and guys get a little chippy with each other. Darren got chippy with some of my teammates in the Ryder Cup and vice versa, but we always afterwards kind of shook hands, we realized it was part of the Ryder Cup and you move on.

I don't really foresee that happening in the World Champions Cup, but I guess you never know. But at the end of the day, we're all buddies. We get along, we spend a lot of time with each other out here on the road. It will be hypercompetitive, it's just -- I just don't see Bernhard Langer laying down. I don't know if any of you all do. I don't see that happening. He's 66 and he's still working harder than anyone out here. I think you can have it both ways and have some fun, but be competitive.



**DARREN CLARKE:** Let me just intersect for one second there. To borrow the words of Kevin Kisner, bless him, "This ain't no exhibition."

**Q. Jim, do you know much about The Concession? Have you played there? What are you expecting from that course?**

**JIM FURYK:** I don't. You're asking the wrong guy right now. I will get there before the matches and do some homework before the golf course. I think Darren has been there. I don't think Ernie's been there yet. Imagine all of us will get a chance to get there, learn more about the golf course, or at least learn more about nine holes since we're playing holes 10 through 18 each day.

**Q. Darren, can you say what you know about The Concession, please?**

**DARREN CLARKE:** Yeah, I was there earlier this year. I think the course is fabulous. The whole facility's fabulous. The practice range, short game area, everything about it is wonderful.

The golf course is a few risk-reward holes. There's a couple stout holes on the back nine that you're going to have to hit some shots. The greens are sectional and very undulating, so if you get on the wrong side of some of the slopes with the speed that they're going to be at, it's going to be tough. You're going to have opportunity to make some birdies with the risk-reward ones.

But also the last thing you want to do in a team format is to lose a hole to a bogey, but that's a possibility with some of the holes we're going to play. But it's as wonderful venue. It's going to be very exciting coming down the stretch there and playing those back nine holes.

**Q. Question for all three of you, if you could give an answer. Rickie Fowler obviously conceded that I believe it was 2'8" putt on the 16th hole to Tommy Fleetwood that ended up being the clincher for the Europeans. Did he make the right call in conceding that putt?**

**And then kind of a second part to that question, if you're Tommy Fleetwood, do you want that putt conceded to you, especially given the irony of where you guys are playing this match coming up?**

**ERNIE ELS:** Yes, I believe watching it Rickie Fowler needed to win that hole to get to one down playing 17. I believe he was two down playing 16.

**JIM FURYK:** He was one down going to 16, I believe, and I think that putt was for Tommy to win the hole, is that correct?

**ERNIE ELS:** Yeah, so Tommy hit it on the green in one, that was 30 feet. Rickie hit a



beautiful third shot, because he drove it in the water, to probably four, five feet. So in Rickie's mind, you know, he's got a putt for 4. If he makes 4, you know, at best he's getting a half out of it, so he goes to 17 one down.

I thought he was two down playing 16. Listen, you've got to ask Rickie that. How far was the -- how far was Tommy's putt, you say?

**Q. Two feet, eight inches.**

**ERNIE ELS:** You know, I mean, two feet, eight inches, I think the guy's going to make it nine out of 10 times and he goes to 17 two down.

**JIM FURYK:** I was behind Rick. I was with Wyndham Clark at the time on 15, so I did not see it live. I know the two feet, eight inches because I read about it.

Again, not knowing kind of how the sequence of events went, I don't know how far Rick had for par, I didn't even know Tommy drove the green at the end of the day. I was back there kind of cheering Wyndham on and trying to help turn those last three matches. So it's hard to actually really reply on it since I was out on the golf course. We.

Didn't talk much about it at all actually as a team, and at the end of the day the other matches didn't work out, so I've got no fault with Rick there and I got no issues, but I need to kind of go back and see.

One thing about being a captain is you don't see a lot of golf. You see a lot more golf watching television than we do on a golf course. That whole back nine I kind of went around with Wyndham and was cheering him on as much as I could, and he kind of started to flip his match late in the day there halving it at 14 and driving it well at 15, and by the time he got to the green, that Fleetwood match went dormie and that was the extra half point, and then chaos ensued and Wyndham ended up losing, somehow lost 15 and 16 although he was in great shape on 15. Things snowballed from there.

**ERNIE ELS:** The Europeans were at 14 points, so they just needed basically a half a point. It was going to be very, very -- nearly impossible for Rickie to turn that match around. If he makes that putt, Fleetwood makes his birdie, the match is over in any case because they just needed a half a point. He goes dormie, two up with two to go, you know, Europe's got a half a point at least. It's tough to get on to Rickie saying that he might have cost -- it's just not true.

**JIM FURYK:** It's the good thing about the World Champions Cup, there's no gimmees. It's stroke play, so got to watch the old guys shake it in from two feet, eight inches.

**JASON LANGWELL:** Thank you for those questions for Tommy on Zoom and in the room. Thanks for being here. We're excited. As I said, a little over 60 days away from the first playing of the World Champions Cup. Hopefully to see everyone there. You can go to



WorldChampionsCup.com to learn more information. Of course if you're in the Jacksonville area, look forward to seeing you out here this week for FURYK & FRIENDS.

**JIM FURYK:** Please come visit the Constellation FURYK & FRIENDS, absolutely.

**JASON LANGWELL:** Please come out as well. Thanks everyone again for being here. Great day.

