

Golf

British Open officials draw line at hitting over grandstands

By DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press

SOUTHPORT, England (AP) — Jason Day's caddie presented British Open officials with an interesting option on the par-4 ninth hole at Royal Birkdale. Colin Swatton wondered about hitting a tee shot onto the adjacent 10th fairway for a shorter, clearer shot into the green.

The R&A responded with an invisible white line in the turf.

In a decision aimed primarily at spectator safety, R&A chief rules director David Rickman issued a notice of a local rule for the week: "When playing the ninth hole only, a ball on or beyond the 10th fairway (defined by the edge of the closely-mown area) is out of bounds."

Out-of-bounds stakes typically are on the boundary of a golf course. It is rare a links course to have internal out-of-bounds, especially when it involves the golf ball landing in short grass.

R&A chief executive Martin Slumbers said officials were concerned because the only way to drive from the ninth tee onto the 10th fairway is to hit a drive over the top of the grandstand, and then hit over the gallery to the green.

"And we felt that was just dangerous," Slumbers said. "So that's been put in there to protect the fans and the players."

The ninth hole, with the wind at the players' back,

requires a blind tee shot to a fairway and bends sharply to the right toward the green. A shot onto the 10th fairway also would be a blind shot.

It was reminiscent of the 1979 U.S. Open at Inverness, when the USGA planted a tree overnight after Lon Hinkle found a way to shorten the first hole by going down an adjacent fairway. The R&A opted for a local rule instead of going to the trouble of planting dozens of trees.

Day thought it was an overreaction, especially with no one even attempting such a shot. What troubled him was someone blasting one far to the right on accident and getting penalized two shots for being O.B.

"I don't think anyone was going to go down there, anyway. We just asked," Day said. "I can understand if guys are actually going to think about going there. But I understand the safety issue, as well, because if you're hitting a driver and guys are walking straight up 10 fairway, you can hit someone or injure somebody pretty badly. But if you lose one in the wind or something like that, and it bounces awkwardly and you're a foot on the fairway or an inch on the fairway, you're out-of-bounds. It's a little unfair."

TIGER EFFECT: No Tiger, no problem.

British Open organizers say they are expecting big crowds this week at Royal Birkdale that will rival the



Australia's Jason Day prepares to play a shot on the 3rd hole during a practice round ahead of the British Open Golf Championship, at Royal Birkdale, Southport, England Tuesday, July 18, 2017.

AP Photo/Peter Morrison

attendance records set at the Open when Tiger Woods was in his dominant prime.

More than 220,000 people are expected on the course set on the northwest England coast by the time play ends Sunday. That ranks high among recent Opens, some of which was blamed on Woods not being in the field.

"I think the sport should be eternally grateful for the transformation he drove in golf," said Martin Slumbers, chief executive of the R&A. "I hope he tees it up at The Open. He'd be extremely welcomed. But the game moves on."

Slumbers said the crowd this week should rank No. 4 among biggest crowds since the R&A started keeping attendance figures in 1960. The two biggest crowds were 239,000 at St. Andrews

in 2000 and 237,000 on the same course in 2010, followed by 230,000 at Royal Liverpool in 2006.

Woods won the Open in both 2000 and 2006.

"I think there are some wonderful players out there now that people want to come and watch, and the game is moving forward," Slumbers said.

BUDDY SYSTEM:

Dustin Johnson is close friends with Brooks Koepka and called him the night before Koepka won the U.S. Open to share some advice. They live close to each other in South Florida, practice together and spend plenty of time in the gym.

Johnson was on his own for a few weeks when Koepka headed from Wisconsin to Las Vegas to celebrate.

"He had a good couple weeks," Johnson said. "There was nothing for me to celebrate. I've been working pretty hard the last month. He had a few weeks off, which was well deserved. But yeah, he's back on it now."

If they are competitive on the golf course — they are the last two U.S. Open champions — they apparently are competitive in the gym, too. Johnson said they train at the same place.

"I usually get to the gym a little bit earlier than he does," Johnson said.

RORY'S MAJORS:

Rory McIlroy has gone 10 majors without winning, and he still hasn't won a tournament this year. He's in one of his mini-slumps at the moment, though he only has to go back to his British

Open debut to realize it's not all bad.

McIlroy played Carnoustie in 2007 as an amateur, opened with 68 and tied for 42nd as an 18-year-old. He turned pro later that year and quickly earned a European Tour card, and he was on his way.

He tried to imagine what he would have taken for a career 10 years later.

"If someone told me, 'You're going to be a four-time major winner and you won the Open and you're one leg away from the career Grand Slam, you've played on three winning Ryder Cup teams, you've won the Order of Merit three times in Europe, you've won the FedEx Cup in the State,' I'd be like, 'Yeah, I'll take that.'"

DIVOTS: The R&A plans tributes around the 18th for two of its former champions who died since the last British Open — Arnold Palmer, who won at Royal Birkdale in 1961 and Royal Troon in 1962, and Roberto De Vicenzo, who won at Royal Liverpool in 1967. ... Mark O'Meara, who hits the opening tee shot Thursday morning, is playing in his final British Open. He won at Royal Birkdale in 1998 for his second major that year. ... Jason Day received the Mark McCormack Award for spending the most weeks at No. 1 in the world in 2016. Day lost the No. 1 ranking to Dustin Johnson in February. The Australian now is No. 6.

EASTERN OREGON marketplace

Place classified ads online at www.eastoregonmarketplace.com 1-800-962-2819

<p>Bargain Bin! 4</p>	<p>Special Notices 10</p> <p>LAST CHANCE to sign up for your Tour to Australia AND/OR New Zealand in October! Sign up for your trip of a lifetime DOWUNDER, October 2017. The tour is made to fit the group! References available. Call Kerry 541-377-6855 TURN HERE REALTY & TRAVEL (541) 377-6855</p>	<p>Personals 20</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>Email or Call Dayle classifieds@eastoregonian.com 1-800-962-2819 to place your classified ad!!</p> </div>	<p>Homes for Sale 100</p> <p>\$219,000 GRAND SE Byers Avenue home. 4bed, 2bath, 3625sf +/- w/style and character. New exterior paint, new roof, original leaded glass windows, original woodwork/built-in's. Kevin 541-969-8243. Coldwell Banker Whitney (541) 276-0021</p>	<p>Homes for Sale 100</p> <p>\$384,900 - PILOT ROCK 4acre mini-ranch w/water rights. 4bed, 3bath, open floor plan, large family room. Custom cabinets, hardwood floors. 30x40barn, tack-room, livestock amenities. Farm deferral. Marsha 541-377-5152cell. #17400097 Coldwell Banker Whitney (541) 276-0021</p>	<p>Homes for Sale 100</p> <p> EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination. Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women, and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.</p>
<p>Special Notices 10</p> <div style="background-color: yellow; padding: 5px;"> <p>CLASSIFIED LINE AD DEADLINES</p> <p>East Oregonian 3pm the day prior to publication</p> <p>Hermiston Herald 10am Tuesday</p> <p>1-800-962-2819 classifieds@eastoregonian.com</p> </div>	<p>PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD ON THE FIRST DAY OF PUBLICATION. While we are happy to make any necessary correction, we cannot be responsible for errors appearing for multiple days. Thank you!</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>You Can Find Your Dream Home</p> <p>Check out our Real Estate listings in Classified!</p> <p>1-800-962-2819</p> </div>			
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Buy It! Sell It! Find It!</p> <p>The East Oregonian Classified</p> <p>1-800-962-2819</p> </div>					

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

YOUR GUIDE TO LOCAL PROFESSIONALS

YOUR BUSINESS SHOULD BE HERE! Call 541-278-2670 for details!

2nd Hand Store

We Sell Stuff

2nd Hand

342 SW 1st St.
Pendleton, OR
(541) 969-3073

Book Store

Pendleton Book Co.

125 S. Main St.,
Pendleton
541-276-9292

Chiropractic Services

balance
CHIROPRACTIC & MASSAGE

Car Accident Specialist
Dr. Julie Chambers • Dr. Bianka Munoz
Accepting New Patients
Major Medical Insurance
Workman's Comp
Medicare and VA benefits
Car Accidents • Cash Patients
Si habla Espanol

541-289-9966
1155 W Linda Ave, Ste B Hermiston

Collection Service

CREDITS
INCORPORATED

- Licensed
- Bonded
- No Collection
- No Fee

461 E. Main Hermiston, OR 97838
(541) 289-9107
www.creditsinc.com

Concrete Specialists

CONCRETE SPECIALISTS

Driveways, patios, sidewalks, decorative. Excavating. Free Estimates!
541-969-0069
541-938-9375

Licensed and Bonded
CCB#195323

Flooring & Design

Satisfied customers

- Golden Rule Service
- Friendly Designers
- Experienced Staff
- Quality Materials
- Trusted Installers

509-522-0178

Conner's
FLOORING & DESIGN

836 NE C Street
College Place, WA 99324
ConnersFlooringandDesign.com

Heating & AC

HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION
COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL
LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED

24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE

Heat Pumps Furnaces

THEWS SHEET METAL
541-276-3751

1816 N.W. 48th St • PENDLETON
EMAIL: thews@thews.com
STATE CONTRS#66036

Insurance

WHEATLAND
INSURANCE CENTER, INC.

www.wheatlandins.com
800-243-8918

Leasing & Sales

Aarons

1625 N. First St. • Hermiston, OR

Lease to own furniture, electronics, appliances, smartphones

Always accepting employment applications in-store

Painting

A SHARP PAINTER...

PAINTING GREAT HOMES FOR 28 YEARS!
Excellent Color Advice
Free Bids

(2009 Business of the year*)
541-276-9679

www.asharppainter.com
CCB#132851 WA LLC#ASHARPL022QF
Pendleton Chamber of Commerce

Shoe & Boot Repair

Service & Repair at a Price That's Fair!

"Providing You With Quality Service For 40 Years!"

DESERT COBBLER
SHOE & BOOT REPAIR

120 NE 3rd St., Hermiston
541-567-2008

Opportunity

YOUR BUSINESS SHOULD BE HERE!

Call
541-278-2670
for details!

REDUCED! EXTRAORDINARY
Custom 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath home on 9.85 acres surrounded by wildlife & scenic views. Featuring high-end finishes of Granite, Marble, and Hardwoods, Wrap Around Deck, Outbuildings. Now 549,000, MLS: 16185886, Call Matt Vogler
John J. Howard & Assoc. (541) 377-9470

ATTENTION INVESTORS!
Reduced Price, Modern Duplex built in 2012, Stucco Exterior with great city views. 3 bedroom and 2 bedroom units. Now \$179,900. Call Matt Vogler, 541.377.9470.
John J. Howard & Assoc. (541) 377-9470

BIRCH CREEK! Impressive Custom Built one level Home, 5+ acres, Tack room, Barn, Water Rights, 36x47 Shop. Soaring wood ceilings. Upgraded kitchen, Exercise room. \$435,000, Matt Vogler, 541/377/9470. MLS:17216714
John J. Howard & Assoc. (541) 377-9470

EASTERN OREGON
REAL ESTATE
& HOMEBUILDERS GUIDE

OVER 1200 Homes For Sale
eastoregonrealestate.com