

EAGHC - 14th Annual Meeting



Rosendaelsche GC – Sept. 16, 17 / Bleijenbeek Sept. 18, 2019

“The Impregnable Quadrilateral”

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EAGHC – 14th AGM – Rodendaelsche GC 16, 17 Sept. – Bleijenbeek Golf Museum 18 Sept. 2019



- “The Impregnable Quadrilateral “ – The History of Majors and the Grand Slam of Golf
 - Based on an article for “Golf Journal”
 - Question: How was the idea of a “Grand Slam of Golf” developed and why became those four tourneys the “majors”?



- Majors Today
 - British Open (1860)
 - US Open (1895)
 - PGA Championship (1916)
 - Masters (1934)
- Major Tournaments Beginning 20th Century
 - British Open, US Open, British Amateur, US Amateur
 - No clear distinction between major and minor tournaments
 - e.g. Canadian Open
 - e.g. Baden-Baden “German” Open 1911-12

- No concept of a “Grand Slam”
 - Only amateurs could compete in all four important tournaments
 - Pros were better golfers
 - Between 1898 and 1923 only two amateurs won the US Open
 - No amateurs won the British Open in that period
 - That changed with...

- ... Bobby Jones
- 1902-1971



- Jones announced he was going to win British Amateur, British Open, US Amateur and US Open
 - In 1930, he did it!
- International Press celebrated him
 - Master of the World!
 - The Impregnable Quadrilateral!



- ...and also “The Grand Slam”
 - He was said to have won all “major tournaments”
- Jones ended his career
 - Again, no competitive amateur
 - 1934: W.Lawson Little, jr. “Little Slam”
 - 1934-1959: Pro-Golf, no clear concept of major tournaments again
 - Jack Nicklaus considered his US Amateur win “Major Titles”

- 1960: Arnold Palmer
 - Arnold Palmer compares winning British Open, US Open, PGA Championship and Masters to Bobby Jones' Grand Slam



Die beiden letzten Sieger in der Masters. Links Arnold Palmer und rechts der Vorjahressieger Art Wall jr.

Title

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- Public recognizes the four tournaments as “Majors” and possibly winning them as “The Grand Slam”
 - Pro Golf recognizes this with better qualification conditions
 - 1979-2014: PGA Grand Slam of Golf
- “The Grand Slam” has not been done again



Thank you for your attention