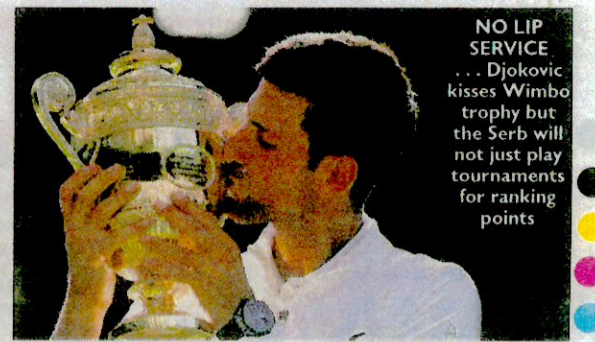


GOLF THE 150TH OPEN

WAD A DAREDEVIL



IAN POULTER just loves to LIV dangerously — as he takes on this daring leap at St Andrews. The Englishman has controversially hopped it on to Saudi Arabia's megabucks rebel tour. And he caused another stir yesterday by jumping over the Swilcan Burn on the first hole of the Old Course. Looks like Poulter must have burned his bridges...



NO LIP SERVICE ... Djokovic kisses Wimbo trophy but the Serb will not just play tournaments for ranking points

Djokovic is on a break

FRESH from winning his seventh Wimbledon title, tired Novak Djokovic will not go out of his way to get the world No 1 ranking back. Victory over Australian superbrat Nick Kyrgios on Sunday moved Djok. 35, one behind Roger Federer's record Wimbo tally.

It was his 21st career Slam in total and took him just one off Rafa Nadal in the all-time stakes. Yet the next time the Serb swings a racquet in the Major action could be the French Open in ten months' time.

Indeed, the two shots he refuses to take — the Covid jabs — are the ones that should ultimately decide if he ever catches and overtakes Nadal.

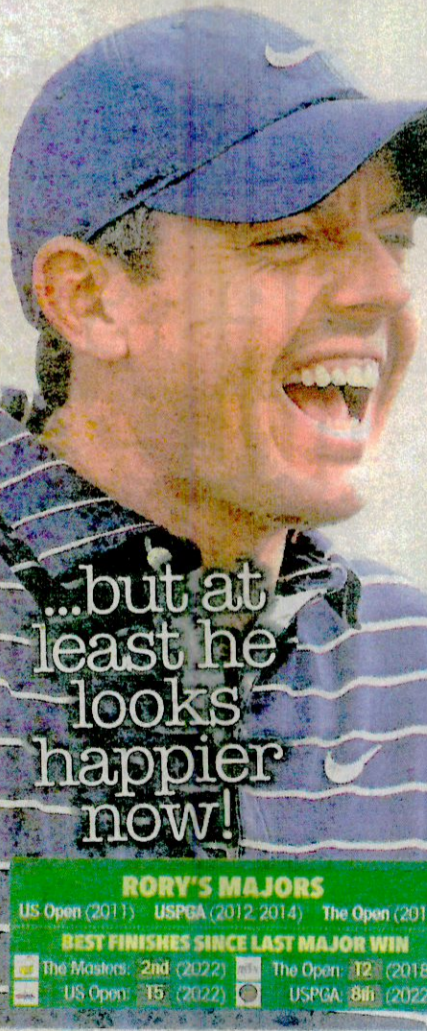
The 35-year-old is barred from Australia for three years after January's infamous deportation row in Melbourne and, as it stands, unless there is an exemption or the immigration rules change, he cannot play next month's US Open as he is unvaccinated.

Taking a two-month holiday, the next time he will appear is likely to be against Nadal in Davis Cup action in September, and Djokovic said: "I'm on vacation now. I'll definitely be resting for the next couple of weeks because it has been an exhausting and demanding period. Then I'll wait hopefully for some good news from USA because I'd really love to go there."

Djokovic has fallen four places in the world rankings to No 7 as the ATP stripped Wimbledon of its ranking points. He added: "I doubt that I'll go to chase points. I won't burden myself to go to play tournaments and get points. In the last year, I achieved those historic weeks for No 1 that I worked for all my life. Now that's done and dusted, I prioritise Slams and big tournaments and where I want to play, where I feel good."

RORY'S OPEN GOAL WOES

Football injury KO'd 'invincibility'



...but at least he looks happier now!

RORY McILROY still curses the football injury that prevented him from defending his title the last time The Open was played at St Andrews.

But the Hollywood star insists he cannot allow himself to think about it as 'the one that got away' as he bids to prevent his Major drought stretching into a ninth year. McIlroy, favourite for the 150th Open this week, was seen as the man to beat in ANY Major before he ruptured ankle ligaments in a kickabout with pals back in July 2015.

That happened a week before he was due to head to St Andrews bidding to continue a hot run that had seen him win The Open at Royal Liverpool and the USPGA the previous year.

McIlroy, 33, admits the lay-off caused by that setback dented the "sense of invincibility" he used to take into the top events. And he has clearly struggled to recapture that swagger.

That 2014 USPGA victory remains his most recent Major win, and the world No 2 said: "It certainly halted my momentum in the Majors. After what I did in 2014, I finished fourth in the 2015 Masters and I made a run at the US Open that year.

"So for four Majors in a row, I won two and was close in the others.

"That sense of invincibility in the Majors, the sense of giving myself chance after chance. I don't want to say it disappeared but I used to turn up and always feel like I had a good chance.

"It's a mindset thing, a confidence thing. Maybe my confidence was just dented a little

bit from that episode. And I have very deliberately avoided playing football ever since. I don't want to do that again. I pride myself on not making the same mistake twice. I have played other sports but never football."

That week off means it is now 12 years since McIlroy made his only previous Open appearance at the Old Course — one of his favourite tracks.

He shot a course-record 63 in the opening round and followed that with an 80 before recovering to finish joint third behind runaway winner Louis Oosthuizen.

And 13 months later, McIlroy was celebrating the first of his four Major triumphs, at the US Open.

McIlroy has been back to St Andrews since then, partnering his father in the pro-am at the Dunhill Links Championship.

But he can hardly believe it is so long since he competed for the Claret Jug here.

He added: "Twelve years ago, is that what it is? Wow! It just gets me excited to get back to St Andrews to play an Open.

"I should have been defending champion in 2015. But I can't approach it like I've got unfinished business at this golf course. There's enough pressure on me without putting more on myself."

McIlroy prefers to concentrate on the memories of that opening 63 in 2010.

He added: "It's up there among my best rounds. St Andrews has always been a golf course that I've played well. I've always had a certain level of comfort on the course.

"The way I'm playing I feel like I'm going in there with as good a chance as I've had at an Open since I can remember.

"St Andrews this time will feel like the defence I never had. And then, hopefully, I'll be defending at Royal Liverpool in 2023."



LEGENDS ... Rory, Tiger and Jack Nicklaus yesterday

By DAVID FACEY

RORY'S MAJORS
US Open (2011) USPGA (2012, 2014) The Open (2014)

BEST FINISHES SINCE LAST MAJOR WIN

The Masters: 2nd (2022)	The Open: 3rd (2018)
US Open: 15th (2022)	USPGA: 8th (2022)

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SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL
We JMC Van Trans Ltd. intend to apply for Planning Permission for ALTERATIONS to an existing granted planning application (previously granted permissions Reg. Ref. SD18A/0314 [ABP-304148-19], SD19A/0408, SD20A/0187, SD21A/0239) for development at Kingswood Business Park, Baldonnel, Dublin 22. The subject alterations for which Planning Permission is sought for are as follows: 1. Elevation alterations; A. Change of cladding colour of the security hut from Guilt Grey to Anthracite; 2. Site plan alterations; A. Omission of the business park existing sliding gate, sliding in to the proposed development carpark area; B. Provision of a new boundary fence Type A to the southern and eastern site boundary (details of proposal shown at enclosed CGI pictures); C. Provision of a new security hut disabled car parking space to the west of the hut at HGV access/egress to the development. All other details such as site access, landscaping, external surface finishes, water supply, drainage, attenuation systems etc will remain as per the aforementioned granted planning applications. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the Offices of South Dublin County Council during its public opening hours of 9am - 4pm, Mon-Fri, and a submission or observation may be made to South Dublin County Council in writing and on payment of the prescribed fee (€2000) within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by South Dublin County Council of the application.

Voluntary Strike-Off Notice
Gois Abhainn Killeen Limited, having never traded, having its registered office at Dunkereen House, Upton, Innishannon, Cork, Ireland, and having its principal place of business at Dunkereen House, Upton, Innishannon, Cork, Ireland, and has no assets exceeding €150 or liabilities exceeding €150, has resolved to notify the Registrar of Companies that the company is not carrying on business and to request the Registrar on that basis to exercise his/her powers pursuant to section 753 of the Companies Act 2014 to strike the name of the company off the register.

Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council
Sheila Nowlis is applying for Planning Permission to construct a single storey side and rear extension to an existing bungalow dwelling at 14 Honeypark Cottages, Sallynoggin, Co. Dublin, A96 HD94. The works also propose the part demolition of an existing single storey side extension and the widening of the existing vehicular entrance to 4M to allow for safe, manoeuvrable access to off street parking on the narrow Honeypark cul de sac, together with all associated site works and internal alterations as indicated on the submitted plans. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of the Planning Authority, County Hall, Dún Laoghaire during its public opening hours. A submission/observation may be made on payment of €20 within a period of 5 weeks from the date the application is received by the planning authority.