

Augusta Masters 2020

Jonathon Fleming

30/10/2020

The delay of the 2020 Augusta Masters by five months due to all things Covid 19, has raised some interesting questions going into what may be one of the most anticipated golf tournaments in quite some time.

Firstly, the seasons have changed, meaning this year the iconic tournament will be played in drier, cooler, conditions making the course firmer with more run out on undulating fairways. Subsequently the greens, although controlled by the sub air system, may not hold as well. Combined, these factors could bring into play some of the shorter hitters and even out the playing field.

The Bryson Factor.

Since the postponement of the Masters, Bryson has gone on to win the US Open by crunching golf balls further than we have ever seen before. In a recent post 'the golf scientist' revealed he had achieved a ball carry of 401.3 yards. It will be fascinating to see how this new way of playing golf pans out on a course that continues to make changes to keep up with the modern game.

Will there be any strategic course tweaks instore come November 12?

Tiger remains golfs ultimate drawcard, and after last year's heroics at Augusta, is it too much to ask for a repeat? Who can forget the chilling and iconic moment when Tiger walked off the 18th green alongside his son through those electrifying crowds. Given the year that has been, his preparation has not been ideal, and you would think that his chances of defending would be slim. Last year coming into the Masters, Tiger showed some impressive form reminiscent of years gone by in the World Golf Championships Match Play, and the Mexico Championship. This made his win in 2019, not a total shock as it had some trending merit.

The Masters is known as much for the crowd roars echoing through the tall Pines, as it is for its manicured green landscape and florescent azaleas. With no patrons this year, Augusta will look and feel very different. We have all had a year to try to get used to having no crowds, but Augusta's atmosphere is like no other. It is just too much of a coincidence to say these crowds have had nothing to do with the countless, jaw-dropping moments that have defined this tournament.