

**Q. Soggy, wet is how you called it, but you've had a chance to see it. Just a few thoughts on being back.**

**RORY McILROY:** Even though it's obviously a wet day, I don't think they've had much rain up here so the course is playing really, really well. It's firm, it's somewhat fast, the greens are beautiful. They're probably the best greens I've puttied on in a while. So yeah, no, it's good to be back. It's a course that I enjoy. I always enjoy coming back here, playing. I feel like it's a course that sort of suits my style of play, so looking forward to getting back out there tomorrow and trying to post a few good numbers.

**Q. How do you feel about the putter right now?**

**RORY McILROY:** It's a work in progress, like I'm trying to work on a few things and trying to change a few things. Last week was a case of I was really concentrating too much on what I was trying to do with my technique rather than just trying to hole putts. So hopefully it can start to begin to feel a little more natural this week and moving forward. But, as I said, it's a work in progress and I'm taking a long-term view of it. As long as I feel like I can see improvements each and every week and feel like I'm on the right path, then I feel like that's the right way to go.

**Q. What sort of things (inaudible) in relation to your putting?**

**RORY McILROY:** A few things. The same things we saw at the start in terms of my miss was left, usually the putter sort of handle going left and up, and then trying to hold onto it with my body and it just wasn't good.

So trying to feel like there's more loft on the putter on the way back, and on the way through trying to sort of get my right side to work better. And I guess as well, because my miss with the putter was left so that meant like I was under-reading left-to-right putts. I was starting to read putts like trying to compensate for how I was putting as well. So green reading's different, setup's different, aiming the putter's different, so everything is, as I said, it's a work in progress. But obviously I'm in constant touch with Phil and working him, I feel like he's obviously the way to go for me right now and we'll see how it goes and work hard at it and hopefully I start to see little improvements each and every week.

**Q. What's your opinion on the new tee box at the fourth?**

**RORY McILROY:** I'm not a big fan of it. I think the way that green is, it doesn't really -- if you're not -- the only way you can hold that green is to lay way back, and if you lay way back you've got a hazard literally two yards off the fairway to sort of try and land it into with your

layup. I think that green's designed for a drivable par 4, I think it was good the way it is or the way it was. I think they're contemplating two days moving it up and two days playing it back. For me, you would need -- I think there's certain pin positions you could put the tee back, but there's certain pin positions you just have to put the tee up and just let guys go for it. I don't see anything wrong with a drivable par 4. I think they're fun holes to play and we don't really get that many of them anymore, so it'd be good to see a (inaudible) at least for a couple days anyway.

**Q. Back to your putting for a moment, when you talk about changing sort of everything, what's the process for you like in terms of deciding yeah, I'm going to try this, or how long do you kind of give it?**

**RORY McILROY:** Longer than a week anyway. It's been a week so far. As I said, I'm taking a view of it where if I can see improvements up until the end of the year and then I've got a nice little break there in December where I can work on it, I don't have to -- I can work on it at home, I can work on it -- I can set up stuff at home, wherever.

As I said last week, if I can be really comfortable with my putting going to Augusta next April, that's my timeline, so that's a seven- or eight-month period where I can sort of try to get it right.

**Q. What are your thoughts on the Ryder Cup, the captain's selections for Team Europe?**

**RORY McILROY:** I think they're good. With the lack of experience that we had in the automatic qualifying positions, we had four pretty experienced guys and five rookies. I feel like the experience, we needed a little bit more experience in there so I thought Lee and Martin were good picks; obviously former World No. 1s as well. And then the last pick was really a tossup between a few guys. If I was Russell Knox right now, I'd be feeling very hard done by with the year that he's had, but if you look at what Thomas Pieters has done over the last few weeks and I feel he made a mark and he played with Darren the first couple of days in Denmark and Darren could see how well he was playing. I said earlier I wouldn't have wanted to be in Darren's shoes trying to make that call on Sunday. He made the decision that he thought was going to most benefit the team and I think Thomas will fit right into our team pretty well.

**Q. You got on a hot streak here in 2012, won a couple times. A lot of guys have done that, why do you think, what's the secret to getting on a hot streak here?**

**RORY McILROY:** I guess you get on a run of events, the top guys I think nowadays, we don't play in bunches anymore. Especially this year for me, it's felt like week on, week off, week on, week off. So to get a nice run of events, you can carry the momentum from one week to the next. I think because it's -- you don't really look at it as four four-round events, it's sort of like a 16-round event where it's like if you play well a given week, you get to start right back up again.

Like when I won here in '12, you end on a Monday, you probably take Tuesday off, you play the pro-am Wednesday and you're straight back out competing again on Thursday. So there's not much time in between so don't have much time to really dwell on a win or celebrate any success, it's just sort of from one week to the next and you can just keep going.