

BANG THE DRUM SLOWLY:

Written by TMAC GOLF

Wednesday, 07 August 2019 09:32

Frank Nobile [recently tweeted](#) : "I'm worried about the game. I think we have lost our way in so many aspects. Golf is too expensive. The courses are too long. We have equipment that is really designed for the recreational player, but which produces unhealthy distance for the elite players." Its a view that seems to be widely held. With no disrespect intended to Nobile by singling him out, but he's right on two out of three.

The average driving distance at last week's Wyndham Championship was 300.1 yards (vs 310.3 in 2018) for a difference of -10.2 yards, according to TOUR sources. The average driving distance in 2019, year-to-date, is currently -2.3 yards shorter than in 2018 on the PGA TOUR.

The average driving distance at last weeks Ellie Mae Classic on the Korn Ferry Tour was 307.6 yards (vs 310.0 in 2018) for a difference of -2.4 yards. The average 2019 driving distance for the Korn Ferry Tour is currently -2.2 yards shorter, year-to-date, than in 2018.

How about the over 50 guys? The average driving distance on the Champions Tour in 2019 is currently -8.0 yards shorter, year-to-date, than in 2018! Across the pond on the European Tour, the average driving distance is currently -0.9 yards shorter, year-to-date, in 2019 than in 2018.

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The outlier happens to be the ladies. The average driving distance on the LPGA Tour

in 2019 is currently 6.6 yards longer, YTD, than in 2018.

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We can debate several ways that would make the game healthier but if anyone thinks rolling back the distance a golf ball travels will excite and encourage people to continue to play or intrigue others to try it, they're dreaming. Anyone want to go back to dial up service for the Internet?

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m=s.getElementsByTagName(o)[0];a.async=1;a.src=g;m.parentNode.insertBefore(a,m)
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