

# COLUMN

## Three's Company

**Compleat Golfer's playing editor is South Africa's Louis Oosthuizen. Apart from providing regular instruction, his monthly column takes you into his world**

**The big event coming up in the next few weeks is the second Major of 2016, the US Open, at Oakmont Country Club, and I'm looking forward to it immensely.**

Last year I finished in a tie for second alongside Dustin Johnson and only one shot behind Jordan Spieth, and played the final 54 holes in 11 under par. So that first-round 77 probably cost me the Major, but this year gives me another chance.

The South Africans did well at Chambers Bay last year - Branden [Grace] finished on three under and Charl [Schwartzel] on two under, so all three of us were in the top seven. Here's hoping we can do something like that again - but go a little better this time.

It helps having those guys around on a week-to-week basis while on tour. Charl has a house just 250m away from mine in Old Palm, Florida, and last year Branden bought one just around the corner from us too. Our schedules are pretty similar throughout the year so we do tend to stick together and fly the South African flag.

It also helps that our better halves get along, so they keep one another company while we're out there doing our 'golfing' things.

The reality is that while some of the other players, the Americans for instance, also follow a lot of sport other than golf, we tend to talk about the sports that South Africa is heavily involved in and which we grew up with. The subject

of the Springboks, the Proteas or Bafana Bafana won't get you very far when you're all standing around the braai in Old Palm - or even Manchester United for that matter, as the US guys tend to get more involved in talking baseball and basketball and other sports that are closer to them than us.

And then, when the likes of Ernie [Els] and Retief [Goosen]

Ernie and Retief have both won the US Open so hopefully now's the time either myself, Branden or Charl can join that elite company

come round they also join in the chilled conversation and we generally set the world straight when we all get together. Ernie and Retief have both won the US Open - in each instance twice - so hopefully now's the time either myself, Charl or Branden can join that elite company and kick on from what we did last year. ☺



### CUT A DRIVE

This month you'll see I'm using an alignment stick, so with the cut I'll aim towards the left side of the fairway. I want to have my feet and everything else aimed that way. My club is going to release a little bit to the left, which creates the cutting action. The biggest thing here is to not drag the face of the club. If you do it will result in a block fade, which will leave you way out on the right. You still want to release the clubface, but you want to release it down the line to the left. So, by putting down the alignment stick, you definitely don't want to cut across it. But by letting it go down the left it will cut [to the right] just where you want it to be.