Henrik Stenson perd la Ryder Cup

Depuis ce mercredi 20 juillet, le Suédois Henrik Stenson n’est plus le capitaine de l’équipe Européenne de Ryder Cup !

La raison : son départ pour le circuit dissident Liv Golf, où il va rejoindre d’autre anciennes gloires du PGA Tour comme Phil Mickelson, Brooks Koepka, Sergio Garcia, Ian Poulter ou Louis Hoosthuizen.

Il l’a lui même officialisé la nouvelle en publiant cette lettre

After much consideration I have decided to join several of my fellow professionals and play in the LIV invitational series starting at Bedminster in a week or so's time. My interest in this concept has been well documented over the past few years and despite some of the unfortunate and ongoing tension between LIV Golf, the DP World Tour & PGA Tours, ultimately, the opportunity to play in LIV events moving forward is something that I want to experience. Like many of my fellow professionals, my hope is that my decision to play in LIV events will not restrict me from playing on any tour. Playing on multiple tours around the world is something I have done throughout my career, and I very much hope I can continue to do so. I have been fortunate to win some of the biggest championships, serve on various committees and compete on various teams throughout my career on different tours. I fully intend on supporting multiple tours in any way I can moving forward.

As many of you will have already seen, unfortunately my decision to play in LIV events has triggered Ryder Cup Europe to communicate that it is not possible for me to continue in my role as Ryder Cup Captain. This is despite me making specific arrangements with LIV golf, who have been supportive of my role as Captain, to ensure I could fulfil the obligations of the Captaincy. While I disagree with this decision, for now it is a decision that I accept. I have huge respect and admiration for the Ryder Cup and those individuals behind it who I know are doing their utmost to act in the best interests of the historic event. I want to thank everyone I have worked with to date to prepare for Rome in 2023, I am hugely disappointed to not be allowed to continue in my role but wish you all the best in your ongoing preparations.

It is a shame to witness the significant uncertainty surrounding the Ryder Cup, who will be eligible to play etc. I sincerely hope a resolution between the tours and its members is reached soon and that the Ryder Cup can act as a mechanism for repair amongst various golfing bodies and their members. It goes without saying that I remain on hand to support Ryder Cup Europe in any way I can and very much hope the opportunity to represent Team Europe in some capacity will come my way again at some point in the future.

In closing, clearly a part of my decision to play in LIV golf events has been commercially driven but the format, schedule and caliber of player were also significant factors. I am committed to growing the game and using the game as a force for good. I am proud to have partnered with the R&A to deliver on my 'Paragolf series' for disabled golfers in Sweden, to have worked with my long time caddy and friend Fanny Sunesson to establish the Stenson Sunesson Junior Challenge and to have had the honour of co-hosting the innovative Scandinavian Mixed tournament on the DP World Tour alongside my friend and golf legend Annika Sorenstam. I am committed to the pursuit of sharing this wonderful game around the world and to continue to see the positive impact it can have on people's lives. I am confident that LIV golf, just like the DP World Tour and PGA Tour, will be a force for good and am excited to be a part of it just like I am excited, and hopeful, to continue to be a part of the DP World Tour & PGA Tour.

Sincerely,

Henrik

Le Suédois de 46 ans ne sera pas à la tête de l'équipe challenger, à Rome en septembre 2023. Une mise à l'écart « *avec effet immédiat* », comme l'a précisé ce matin un tweet publié par Ryder Cup Europe. Nommé en mars 2022, il avait pourtant déclaré :

> « Lorsque j'ai débuté en tant que golfeur professionnel, je n'imaginais pas qu'un jour, je suivrais les traces de légendes du jeu telles que Seve (Ballesteros) et que je serais le capitaine européen de la Ryder Cup. Mais aujourd'hui prouve que, parfois, les rêves se réalisent. »