

'BEST' GOLF LINK

A special one-off shotgun built by British craftsmen has taken pride of place in this year's famous Ryder Cup golf clash.

A stunning Holloway and Naughton sidelock O/U specially commissioned to celebrate the sporting links between shooting and golf is on display at the Ryder Cup centred on The Celtic Manor Resort in Wales.

The tournament - a biennial shoot-out between the top golfers of Europe and America - is one of the biggest events in world sport with a global TV audience of one billion viewers.

To mark its first ever staging in Wales, specialist gunmaker Holloway & Naughton was commissioned to create a best grade 12-bore game gun.

The gun features intricate engravings from world-renowned Welsh engraver, Phil Coggan. These include a detailed portrait of Samuel Ryder, the seed merchant who created The Ryder Cup back in 1927. And depicted in gold is a Welsh dragon, national symbol of Wales, along with a bald eagle to represent the American visitors. The Ryder Cup features in fine detail on the gun's top lever and a striking European flag is blued onto the trigger guard accentuated by gold stars.

"It's a work of art but also a fully functioning sporting gun hand-built to the very highest specifications," said Andrew Harvison, Holloway & Naughton's managing director. The gun took more than 1,200 man-hours to build.

"There is a beautiful feel to the gun which has been enhanced by the wonderful, detailed artwork of Phil Coggan. It was a real honour to have been granted this commission and we are very proud of the end result."

The gun has demiblock 30-inch barrels, a single inertia trigger and a tapering solid rib.

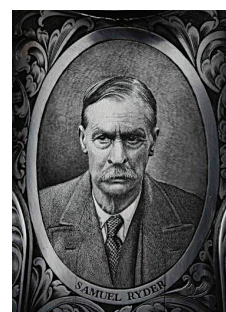
Simon Gibson OBE, Chief Executive of Wesley Clover, the holding company that owns the hotel resort, said: "Staging the Ryder Cup will cement Celtic Manor's reputation as a world-class golfing venue but shooting

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is another popular outdoor pursuit we offer here for our leisure and corporate clients.

"Many people enjoy both sports and there are certainly similarities between the two. The importance of technique and maintaining your powers of concentration are key elements of shooting and golf.

"The gun is a celebration of Wales hosting The Ryder Cup for the first time and the Welsh and British craftsmen involved in its design and construction have created a truly magnificent shotgun worthy of the occasion."



ABOUT THE MAKERS...

Holloway & Naughton was founded in 1909 since when it has created an enviable reputation for top notch hand-built best guns - a reputation that has been enhanced by shooting instructor and champion shooter, Andrew Harvison.

Fifteen years ago he began designing a complete new range of guns focussing on exceptional handling characteristics, mechanical detail and extreme artistic beauty. Each one is built by expert British craftsmen.

Today the company is based at Turners Barn Farm, Kibworth Road, Three Gates, Billesdon, Leicestershire, LE7 9EQ. Telephone **0116 259 6592**. www.hollowaynaughton.co.uk