

The Presidents Cup is a battle between the US team and Internationals, but it is time to include the women, like I.K. Kim (near right), in the competition.



ALL THE PRESIDENTS MEN... AND WOMEN

To those who don't know golf, it would almost sound ridiculous.

Twelve of the best players from one country versus 12 of the best from the rest of the world (minus Europe).

It should be a mismatch, right?

Well, it was, but in a very, very sad way.

Over the last week of September, at a course in New Jersey, the 12 from the US absolutely crushed the 12 from the rest of the world (Internationals).

If you think I'm being cruel by using the word crushed, look at what Adam Scott, who played for the Internationals, said.

"It was a bit of a slaughtering. But we've got to stand up, take our ass-whipping like men and walk out with our heads high," said Scott, a veteran of the Presidents Cup.

The final tally was 19-11 to the slaughterhouse, and the ass-whipped were one point away from not even needing to

play the Sunday singles to decide the winners.

Since I live in International territory, I was firmly rooting for "our" team but found it difficult to keep my head "high" watching the Americans fist-pump and even dance and sing their way to a lopsided victory.

Inevitably, after such humiliating defeats, you have to wonder if it is a competition worth keeping.

Since the Presidents Cup started in 1994, there have been 12 editions. The US have won 10, with one draw and a sole victory for the Internationals in 1998.

To be fair, in the much more contested and popular Ryder Cup, the US dominated proceedings until the Great Britain and Ireland team turned into the European team in 1979.

So what needs to be done for the Presidents Cup?

Future Internationals captain Ernie Els suggested an overhaul of "logistics, sched-

uling, selection process and course set-up" for the next installment at Royal Melbourne in 2019.

Karen Crouse of The New York Times has mooted a more radical change – the adding of women to make it a mixed-team event.

Pointing out that eight of the top 10 women players in the world are International, Crouse suggested that it would even the balance and also give women's golf a big boost in the process.

I think she is right.

Although the Internationals came close in 2015 in South Korea, this event needs a real "ass-kicking" to make it relevant to players and fans.

Just like the 1979 switch to Europe helped make the Ryder Cup a real contest, perhaps the addition of women can breathe life into the almost exhibition-like Presidents Cup.

For sure, watching another International team get hammered by the Americans isn't going to raise the pulses any.

The time for women to perform as equals alongside men on one of the grander stages in golf is now.
— NEW YORK TIMES COLUMNIST KAREN CROUSE

**SWING
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