



April '09

Hi

I'm getting off to a good start this month, it isn't even here yet. So much has been happening and the Masters is only a few days away/

Milestones

Congrats to Colin Montgomerie who made his 500th start on the European Tour last week. And an early congrats to Mark Calcavecchia, whose next made cut will be his 500th on the PGA Tour.

Rules Quiz

It happens at many clubs most weekends. Tee times have been allocated by the Committee. It's a stroke round and John, Jack, Tom and George are to play together at 9am. The starter calls them to the tee ... but where is George? Jack and Tom tee off and, just as John finishes his shot, George turns up at 9.04, walks on to the tee and takes his shot.

What penalty has George incurred?

- a) There is no penalty
- b) George must add two penalty strokes to his score for the first hole
- c) He is disqualified

Words of advice

If your opponent is playing several shots in vain attempts to extricate himself from a bunker, do not stand nearby and audibly count his strokes. It would be justifiable homicide if he wound up his pitiable exhibition by applying his niblick to your head. ...

Harry Vardon

Putting Practice

The key to becoming a better putter is developing a consistent putting stroke that you can rely on. Putting is one of the few shots in golf that should not change significantly based on distance and ball lie. The best part about practicing your putting is that it can be done virtually anywhere, whether it be on the course, on a practice putting green, on a practice turf mat, or even on the carpet. Though the surfaces you practice on may be different, and may cause the ball to roll differently, there is no replacement for the muscle memory that your body will gain with each practice stroke. If you watch the pros putt, you will notice that they are perfectly still over the ball, and their heads do not move. A good drill to help you keep still is to lean your head against a wall while you take some putting strokes. You will feel your forehead move against the wall if you are not perfectly still. This perpendicular alignment to the wall will also show you if you are taking the putter head on a straight line back and forth. Playing a game called "golf ball bocce" is a good practice drill, and one you can play at home; take about five or six golf balls, including a coloured ball. Putt the coloured ball a distance away from you, and then try to hit the coloured ball with the other white balls. Hit the

coloured ball and it moves – you’ve got to revise your aim and your distance. This is a good drill to gauge speed and distance on flat surfaces, but it gets really fun on practice greens that have undulations that will force you to read the break of the green.

Golf Bags

We’ve managed to snap-up a number of last season’s golf bags from an importer at a favourable price. It’s the old story – ‘We save ... you save!’ There’s only a few but they are selling for approx. half retail price. <http://www.golfclubsdownunder.com.au/product.asp?pID=480&cID=6>

Australia Adopts USGA Course Rating System

Golf Australia says decision follows a lengthy period of review and will see the existing Australian Women’s Course Rating System and Australian Men’s Course Rating System be replaced by the USGA Scratch Course Rating System. Golf Australia CEO Stephen Pitt said Australian golfers could look forward to the benefits of the new system. “The USGA Course Rating System is considered world’s best practice and is the result of significant financial and scientific investment. It is exciting that all Australian clubs and handicap players will now be exposed to the benefits experienced by most golfers around the world.” Golf Australia Handicapping & Course Rating Committee Chairman Ian Read, explained the finer points of the system: “Fundamentally this will see the ‘actual measured length’ of a course being replaced by ‘effective playing length’, and that’s important because the course rating will now reflect what it is that the golfer encounters. This means giving greater consideration to the factors we all know make such a difference. And I’m talking about the obvious things such as roll, elevation, prevailing wind, altitude and forced lay-ups caused by dog-legs and dams or streams, etc. It really is a major step forward.” Clubs will use the new scratch ratings immediately their course has been re-rated : September 2009, begin rating courses with an initial concentration on new and changed courses and by the end of 2011 it is expect that all courses will have been completed, with most metropolitan courses to be finished by the end of 2010. The USGA have primer which explains the system simply:

http://www.usga.org/playing/handicaps/course_ratings/course_rating_primer.html

It’s the Law

It's not a gimme if you're still away.

Tiger hits a winner for Horsham

Tiger Woods has thrown his support behind reconstruction of the fire- ravaged Horsham Golf Club, which was destroyed by fire on February 7. Tiger has signed and donated a pin flag from his last major title, the 2008 US Open at Torrey Pines in June last year, to lift the spirit of Horsham club members after the local paper contacted IMG, his management. When told of the gesture Horsham Golf Club president John Konings was overcome; “Pffft !!! ... That is amazing.” “It is just wonderful that he has seen fit to recognise the plight of the golf course with a specially signed memento.” “It would be wonderful if the autographed flag could be privately purchased, but then be held for posterity at the club. However we are also sure it would be a very valuable private collector's item as well. “

New Clubs

Here's one that we're quite excited about. Dynacraft have just released their Avatar XMOI Hybrid Irons, possibly the first hybrid to take on a truly progressive appearance throughout the set. The #3 and 4 irons have a wider footprint sporting an increased breadth and shallow face which positions the center of gravity much lower and more rearward within the design to give less skilled players added confidence and the ability to easily get the ball airborne and also increase solidness of contact. The mid-irons progressively become narrower (as less game improvement is required) and bridge the gap between a conventional iron appearance. The scoring clubs starting with the #8 look traditional at address. The additional loft beautifully hides the hollow-body but still helps to increase the moment of inertia. The inclusion of three wedges provide for better course management by eliminating distance

gaps.<http://www.golfclubsdownunder.com.au/product.asp?pID=490&cID=71>

Turn up the sound

The drama for golf on television comes from players hitting remarkable shots over water, from a bunker or out of the trees. Occasionally, on-course microphones catch some good banter between players and caddies. Those microphones are mics held by TV staff positioned on the fairway. The PGA Tour thinks there is a chance that broadcasting more player-caddie dialogue could make for better television. With that in mind, at this week's Houston Open, the tour is going to mic some caddies to see if this is a worthwhile investment for the future.

Houston Open Site: <http://www.shellhoustonopen.com/>

Greg Returns to Augusta

So much has been written about Norman's reappearance at the Master, it would fill a book. Suffice to quote his words "I love the tradition and the heritage of Augusta. I grew up on the golf course, and my length was really a huge advantage for me in the early 80s. So that's why every time I go back there, I put away all of the negative stuff, because I love all of the positive stuff. It's such an easy thing for me."

Masters Site: http://www.masters.com/en_US/index.html

How's your game ?

Can your clubs actually cause your bad shots? Sometimes they can. If you are interested in expert club fitting just go visit our web site and fill out our custom fitting form. The club fitting process is more than picking a model or style of club and the material it is made of, but is also getting the details of length, loft and shaft flex correctly sorted out. Our endeavour is to fit clubs to your person and to your game so that square, firm contact with the ball can be made without having to strain against your equipment with every shot.

<http://www.golfclubsdownunder.com.au/Fitting.asp>

Tiger is coming!

Tiger Woods may be curtailing his schedule in the U.S., but he is extending his globetrotting reach [by playing](#) the Nov. 5-8 HSBC Champions in China before coming to Melbourne the next week for the Australian Masters. "This is the only place that doesn't

have appearance fees," Woods said of the PGA Tour. "Most of the guys get appearance fees to play around the world. I've played all around the world and I've thoroughly enjoyed going. Obviously, there's some controversy behind it, but I'm really looking forward to getting down there and competing."

Strikes me he was an international before he was born: "His father is half African-American, quarter Chinese and quarter Native-American,' said China Central Television. "His mother is half Thai, quarter Chinese and quarter Dutch. This makes Woods one-quarter Chinese, one-quarter Thai, one-quarter African-American, one-eighth Native-American, and one-eighth Dutch."

HE SAID

"If you watch a game, it's fun. If you play it, it's recreation. If you work at it, it's golf." - Bob Hope

Until next time - Keep 'em down the middle.



Cliff Nunn

Rules Answer:

c). George is disqualified for failure to start at the time established by the Committee. (Rule 6-3a)
All competitors must be present and ready to play at the time established by the Committee,
However, if the club has adopted the Note to Rule 6-3, which allows 5 minutes grace, George would incur a two stroke penalty b). instead of disqualification. Decision 6-3a/2

Golf Clubs Down Under – ABN 59 138 143 711 - 2/5 Volitans Avenue, (P.O. Box 205) Mount Eliza, Victoria, Australia 3930
<http://www.golfclubsdownunder.com.au> Tel: +61 3 9775 3998 email: sales@golfclubsdownunder.com.au

This Newsletter is intended for valued visitors and/or subscribers to Golf Clubs Down Under.com.au and for golf lovers everywhere. We apologise if you have received this in error

If you would prefer to be removed from our mailing list please respond to: remove@golfclubsdownunder.com.au

Some material in this newsletter licensed from the Different Strokes Golf Newsletter published by www.GolfHelp.com