



January '09

Hi

Here it is nearly half way through the month and I haven't yet got started. Black mark Bentleigh! I'd better get my finger out.

### **A New Year Resolution**

To play better! So what do you need to do? First, identify your weakness (slicing, hooking, lack of distance, etc.). Verify the problem by videotaping yourself or asking a knowledgeable golfer to watch you hit a few balls. Find the cause of the problem. Start by reviewing your fundamentals of grip, stance, balance, alignment, etc. Plan your course of action. Commit to implementing your plan. Repetition will help you build confidence. Give it time to work, but, if it is not going well, seek additional help.

If you cannot identify and solve your own problems to your satisfaction, seek help from your local PGA professional. They are trained to recognize and solve golfing problems. Remember, well meaning playing partners are only amateurs.

### **Tiger Looses a Sponsor**

General Motors is bailing out on Tiger Woods who has been carrying the Buick logo on his golf bag for the last nine years. With one year left on his contract, General Motors Corp. was looking to cut costs and hoard cash while trying to survive the worst sales downturn in a quarter-century. It was also said the world's No. 1 golfer wanted more time for himself, especially with a second child on the way.

### **Rules Quiz**

John blasts a superb drive from the tee but, trouble is, it takes an unfortunate bounce and disappears toward a water hazard surrounded by deep rough. As John cannot be certain that the ball is in the water hazard, he rightly nominates to play a provisional ball, which he plays into the same area as his original ball. However the provisional ball is indistinguishable from his original ball and both balls (Pro V's #4 with John's green mark) are found in the water hazard. What must John do?

1. As his original ball had been found, take a drop at the point of entry of the ball into the hazard. He will be playing 3
2. He must select a ball as his Provisional Ball and proceed as in 1 above. He will be playing 5.
3. John must return to the tee and play another ball. He will be playing 3.

### **How good are your legs?**

In the course of a season, the average European Tour member will walk 900 miles of fairway; cross 60 time zones and spend up to 700 hours practicing his swing. Martin Blake

### **Six professional rookies to be added to AIS Golf program**

The Australian Institute of Sport (AIS), and Golf Australia have announced a new and exciting component to its successful golf program with six rookie PGA Professionals to receive scholarships. The AIS Golf program currently consists of eight amateur players with six rookie PGA Professionals (in their first three years as professionals) to be added thanks to a \$500,000 four-year sponsorship arrangement brokered by Golf Australia and the Australian Kinghorn Foundation.

The AIS will shortly be calling for applications from rookie professional golfers for scholarships with a view to commencement in February 2009.

### **He Said**

"The ardent golfer would play Mount Everest if somebody would put a flagstick on top." - Pete Dye

### **Ball Finder**

Well our introduction of the BallfinderSCOUT has created a lot of interest. A combination of a video scanner and a digital analyser which examines, pixel by pixel (32.000 of them), each picture looking for the distinctive white of a golf ball (any make) and then directing the user to the ball. World famous Sanorff Laboratories developed the device and Nick Faldo adds his endorsement. ( NB. Such a devise is not permitted in tournament play – Rule 14-3a)

[CLICK HERE](#)

### **Compact Swing**

I gave you this one last month and forgot to give you the link

We're often told to keep it all together to not let our arms and hands get away from us. I wonder is this an example of what they mean? [CLICK HERE](#)

### **John Daly**

John Daly's best days on the course may seem to be behind him but that will not worry Australian golf officials who have done very well out of his recent stint Down Under. Daly's recent month-long trip, in which he participated in The Australian Masters, PGA and Open tournaments for the cost of a plane ticket and hotel rooms, is believed to have benefitted the game Down Under to the tune of more than \$3 million.

Harold Mitchell (media guru) "If Tiger Woods is looking for three million bucks, perhaps

Daly didn't ask for enough."

### **How to become confused.**

Geoff Ogilvy when asked about the Titleist Ball he is playing:

**Q.** Any difference in the playing characteristics of the ball you are trying that you need to get used to?

**GEOFF OGILVY:** I haven't -- the new-new one, I'm not going to use this week. And the new one, of the old one, if that makes sense, that one is fine. I don't notice a difference. I'm going to play these two weeks, with the new version of the old one, and then do a bit more testing, and I'll probably -- the new one, there's good reports about the new-new one. So I've got a whole month in Phoenix to test them all out. They never make a bad ball. They are always pretty good.

**Q.** New version of the new one, or just the new one?

**GEOFF OGILVY:** Well, the new-new one -- there's a new-new one, because the new-old one --

**Q.** Kind of redundant.

**GEOFF OGILVY:** There's a new-old one, and there's a new-new one, which is the new one -- (laughter) -- which is the model in front of the old one. The other one is a 2007 ball and this is a 2009 ball. There's a version of the 2007 ball, but doesn't breach the patent, so I'm using the non-patent-breaching version of the 2007 ball, these two weeks.

**Q.** There's still an '05 ball, too, right?

**GEOFF OGILVY:** Yeah, I don't think there's any patents on that. And there's still a bunch of guys using the X-ball from '05.

NB I believe Geoff used the new-new ball when winning the Mercedes Benz Championship.

### **Greg Norman is preparing for his return to Augusta**

Norman, who has received confirmation of his qualification for the US Masters this year, won't restrict his preparation to hitting balls on the range. He also wants to make sure he is fit enough to handle four rounds at a course which has both tormented and titillated him throughout his career. His preparation will include the Johnnie Walker Classic, to be played at The Vines in Perth in February.

Until next time - Keep 'em down the middle.



Cliff Nunn

Rules Answer:

3. As neither ball can be positively identified as the original ball or the provisional ball, both balls are lost. John must return to the tee and play a 'second' ball (Decision 27/11)

