



March '09

Hi

Gee the month is slipping away again ... it'll be Easter before we know it and Summer Time will be a memory until the end of the year.

Tassie

Unfortunately there was not much time for golf while I was in Tassie (Thank you Kevin for your email) and I did not get to Riverside as much as I'd have liked to. Nor to Barnboogle. Played 9 holes at Ulverstone and 9 holes at Seabrook which if I remember rightly was David Graham's first appointment as a Club Pro in the late 60's before he went on to win the '79 PGA Championship and the '81 US Open. Also played 9 at Coles Bay. It's a great little course and, would you believe, maintained by one person on a voluntary basis.

Rules Quiz

Bill is one of those players who can strike a ball a mile. Playing in the Monthly Medal he is all square with the card. The next hole is a long par 5. With the wind at his back, Bill is intently focused on blasting a monstrous drive. He'll be on in two. He addresses the ball, takes his backswing, starts the downswing and the clubhead breaks free of the shaft before impact with the ball.

What is the ruling? Relative to his swing; is it counted as a stroke?

Handicapping System Change

Golf Australia has announced a further revision to the requirements necessary to be awarded an Australian Men's Handicap. As mentioned last month, effective January 1 '09, to "Retain" a handicap it is necessary to have 3 'live' score cards. This has now been extended, effective April 1, to those players seeking a 'New' handicap - only 3 (previously 5) cards will be required. Again the intention is to provide uniformity with the Ladies Handicapping and to fall in line with overseas golfing bodies.

IT'S THE LAW

Golfers who try to make everything perfect before taking the shot, rarely make a perfect shot.

Fatherhood is a great thing

Geoff Ogilvy is an under-statement. He hasn't got flowing golden locks - a la Norman. It's easy to miss seeing him in the crowd. He's impassive. He doesn't wear his emotions on his sleeve. But that wasn't always so. When Geoff wasn't getting the results he expected in his first four years on the US PGA Tour, no one was more critical of his game than Ogilvy. It wasn't so much anger as the inability to keep his emotions from dragging him down. But that's what stood out during his victory in the World Match Play Championship. He never flinched, even when on the verge of losing in the second round. Whether he was trying to

retrieve his ball from a cactus or watching his tee shot on the 312-metre 15th hole stop two paces from the cup, he looked the same.

"I think she changed him," said his wife, Juli, as Ogilvy mowed down two opponents to reach the championship match for the third time in four years. She was referring to Phoebe, their two-year-old daughter, (SMH – Doug Ferguson))

Swish Drill



Turn a club upside down holding the shaft just below the clubhead. Keep both hands on the club in a normal grip. Take a normal swing and listen.

There should be a swishing sound from the fast-moving grip end of the club. Swing a couple more times and note the point in the swing arc the sound is loudest.

The swishing sound will start at the bottom of the swing arc if you are swinging properly. This drill will help you build the clubhead speed necessary to hit the "long ball."

Purpose

1. **To generate the clubhead speed necessary to hit the "long ball".** This is a great drill for new golfers, and those of smaller physical stature who need help in hitting the ball longer. You get instant feedback from the noise level, or volume of the "swish" sound the grip end of the club makes as it goes through the air. The faster the swing the louder the sound. The swishing sound should begin near the bottom of the swing arc. If the swishing sound begins earlier in the downswing you probably have some premature wrist action. This will prevent you from generating maximum clubhead speed at impact.
2. **To test your clubhead speed.** Distance is a direct result of clubhead speed. We all want to hit the ball farther. A few minutes swishing a club back and forth can give you the feedback necessary to increase your clubhead speed and therefore your distance. This drill can be used to show how swing changes, such as a bigger shoulder turn, better weight transfer, or proper wrist action can influence your clubhead speed. Try your normal swing first. Then try the drill again, this time including the swing change. Note any difference in sound between the two swings. The louder the sound the more clubhead speed you are generating. (Golf Help)

HE SAID

"My handicap? Woods and irons." - Chris Codioli

NB

Nearly forgot. New clubs for 2009 are beginning to arrive. Pop in and have a look
Until next time - Keep 'em down the middle.



Cliff Nunn

Rules Answer:

Rule 14-1 states that the ball must be fairly struck at with the head of the club, which would tend toward no actual "stroke" having been taken. However, a stroke is partially defined as the forward movement of the club (downswing). Rules Decision 14/3 states that, in this situation, a stroke was taken as there had been forward movement of the club before the clubhead separated from the shaft.

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