

Michigan Ontario Golf Teachers Tour

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2015



POINTS TO PONDER

Friendship is like a BOOK. It may take years to write but it takes only a few minutes to burn. ~ unknown

The only people whom you should try to get even with are those who have helped you." ~ John E. Southard



MOGTT NEWS

JUST A REMINDER

You can check out our Tour info, the sites and schedule for 2015, and register for one or more events at our website www.mogtt.com . The website has been updated and is waiting for you.

Fill out your 2015 calendar dates now! The schedule is also included in this newsletter below.

NOTICE FROM OUR PRESIDENT – CHARLES HENRY

Remember to send a \$50 check to the state or province Tour Director where you live for each event you'd like to enter, to secure your spot. You may want to send a follow-up e-mail to your Director to ensure your entrant info has been received and recorded (see addresses below).

Annual Tour Fees of \$15 (U.S.) can be sent to Charlie Henry or Grant Gulych at the following addresses:

Michigan Golf Teachers Tour
% Charlie Henry
P.O. Box 2081
Caseville, MI 48725
clh3@comcast.net

Michigan Golf Teachers Tour
Grant Gulych
3 Jacklin Court
St. Thomas, Ontario N5P 0C3
grant@golfs.com

2015 SCHEDULE

2015 REGULAR SEASON EVENT SCHEDULE**

Sunday, May 17	Devil's Ridge, Oxford, Michigan	Base entry fee \$35.00
Sunday, June 14	Greenhills G & CC, London, Ontario	45.00
Sunday, July 26	Verona Hills GC, Bad Axe, Michigan	42.00
Sunday, Aug 16	Tarandowah near London, Ont	45.00

** Each regular season event has optional entry fees: Prize Money - \$50; Skins - \$10

[Registration is from 10:30 to 11:30 with Starting times at 12 noon]

KELLY CUP

Sunday, Sept 13 Shepherd's Hollow GC, Clarkston, Mich. Holes 1-18 **Noon Start**
Monday, Sept 14 Shepherd's Hollow GC, Clarkston, Mich. Holes 10-27 **9:00 am Start**
Note: - The \$125 includes all golf & prize money fees for both days.



RULES QUESTION: - Ball in bunker moved during search

While hitting an iron towards the green, Gerry saw his ball fly into the greenside bunker. Upon reaching the bunker, Gerry began looking for his ball which had completely buried in the sand. Gerry inadvertently stepped on the ball and it squirted out of the sand and became totally visible.

Which of the following is the correct procedure for Gerry to follow?

- a) replace the ball with no penalty and completely cover it with sand to restore the original lie
- b) replace the ball with no penalty but leave a small portion of it visible
- c) replace the ball and completely cover it with sand and add a one stroke penalty to his score
- d) replace the ball leaving a small portion of it visible and add a one stroke penalty to his score

And the answer is....**for the correct answer read the section "Concluding Remarks" at the end of this newsletter.**



SIDESPIN – So Lonely I Could Croak

A lonely frog, desperate for any form of company telephoned the Psychic Hotline to find out what his future has in store. His Personal Psychic Advisor advises him, "You are going to meet a beautiful

young girl who will want to know everything about you." The frog is thrilled and says, "This is great! Where will I meet her, at work, at a party?"

"No" says the psychic, "in a Biology class."



DID YOU KNOW THAT.....SOON!

Hey everyone – it's the end of February (almost). That means Spring is not too far from now and you know what that means – that's right TAXES!!!

Really what I meant to say was GOLF! Get ready because the season will be upon us fast. Snowballs will soon become golf balls – YEAH!

Is it time to start stretching those golf muscles? Probably! Remember also, it is a good idea to make golf swings both from the right side as well as the left side to balance out swing muscle development – this also will help the backswing as well as the forward swing. Further, you never know when you might have to try and hit one from the other side so this could be useful sometime.



NEW MEMBER'S FORUM – Ball position: a submission by *Carl Abel*

PART TWO

Last month I left you with the line:

To be continued.....next month – “Was Jack Knicklaus wrong about ball position?”

Who the heck is Jack Knicklaus? Of course that was a typo and should have read Jack Nicklaus. I wonder how many of you noticed that?

Now that we have that out of the way let me resume my submission. Of course we all know that for Jack Nicklaus he was correct **for himself** with his ball position but what about the masses?

Let's consider a couple of things about Jack. His ball striking was renowned for the fact that he struck his long irons and driver very high with a soft fade – his desired shot pattern. Due to his tremendous power and clubhead speed, Jack could concentrate on accuracy and did not have to strive for distance – JUST THE OPPOSITE OF AMATEURS AND MERE MORTALS!

Now let's consider iron play for a moment. To strike an iron properly, one should take a divot ahead of the ball after it has been struck. This would indicate that the ball is being struck while the club is still descending. Now if one plays all their shots from this same ball position then it would indicate that all shots would be hit with a descending blow including the driver.

If this is fact, then Jack's driver and long irons would be putting increased spin on the ball due to the descending blow - this adds height to the ball's trajectory. Further, the clubhead would be slightly open at impact because the bottom of the swing arc was not yet reached leaving the clubface not having squared completely at the moment of contact – this of course would result in a fade. Thus, in my opinion, Jack's ball position directly resulted in his high fades that he was renowned for. Of course, Jack had the power and clubhead speed to take advantage of that.

This striking of the ball with a slightly open clubface and descending club is just the opposite of what the average golfer needs to create speed, square contact, power, and less spin on the ball with the driver for more roll after landing. It is my contention that only the best of golfers could succeed from using one ball position for all full swings ala Jack Nicklaus.

It is my opinion that there should be TWO ball positions because there are two distinct events occurring when playing golf. The ball is either a) lying on the ground, or b) raised in the air sitting on a tee. Now how can one ball position accommodate both factors unless you are supremely talented ala Jack and hope for the results that Jack got?

Most golf instructors, magazines etc. promote that a driver should be struck either at the exact bottom of the swing arc or on a slightly upward motion which would require a ball position more forward than that for iron play. Remember, drivers today are manufactured with smooth sweet spots to reduce spin for further distance. Hitting down with a driver results in greater ball spin, higher trajectory, and less roll on the ball when it lands thus hindering maximum distance.

Most amateurs play the ball position too far back in their stance with the longer clubs to make good contact. With the ball teed up for a driver, the ball is best struck when the driver is moving upwards thus the maxim – “TEE IT HIGH AND LET IT FLY”.

Conclusion:- If any of your students are complaining about lack of distance with the driver and hitting it too high then perhaps you should take a look at their ball position! **MOVE IT FORWARD!** This gives the clubhead more time to square up, gives the player more time to get better weight transfer from the rear side to the front side, and will create less spin on the ball which will allow further roll on landing.

The above submission contains my own personal beliefs and may or may not agree with others connected to the MOGTT or elsewhere. Please feel free to comment or re-buff any of these thoughts of mine. I would be pleased to hear from you.

Carl Abel cabelusgtf@bell.net



TIPS – PUTTING

If you like to putt straight back and straight through then now would be a good time to work on that stroke indoors. If you put a 2X4 (or some such thing to protect the wall) against a straight wall in your living room or basement or MAN CAVE and place the toe of your putter against the 2X4; by keeping the toe in contact with the 2X4 while making strokes you will ingrain your desired straight back and through motion. Of course, you can have a ball there as well to test for speed if you have a carpet such as indoor outdoor material. If you don't care about the wall then forget the 2X4 – your choice.



COMPUTER CORNER – GET SMART – about almost anything

This is a great site to scroll around in and find knowledge about almost anything. Much of this can be quite useful. There is a search box to type in items of interest OR there is a very complete menu on the left side of the site to explore. There are videos on topics that concern us all. I have included also a second URL from the Auto topic in the menu just to give you an idea of what is there. I just finished searching the “COMPUTING” section and got smarter about using EXCEL!!! I didn't think that was possible for me but it just goes to show you (ha ha – just kidding).

MAIN SITE: <http://video.about.com/>

MENU ITEM: <http://video.about.com/autos.htm>



CONCLUDING REMARKS

Another month another Newsletter – am I running out of material after about 5 years of this? Perhaps! Maybe some of you will be able to help me out here by sending me a submission for the MEMBERS FORUM section of this newsletter.

If I don't receive any submission in time for next months newsletter then I will have to resort to racking my brain once again to throw out another topic for you. That sounds almost like a threat so if you are tired of hearing from me then send me something of yours – that would be appreciated.



RULES QUESTION ANSWER – Answer on next page

The correct answer to the Rules question is:

B – Gerry incurs no penalty but must replace the ball leaving only a small amount of the ball visible so that he can see the ball and know from where to play his next shot.

2014 MOGTT Executive Committee Members are:

President (also Michigan Director) – Charles Henry clh3@comcast.net
Dennis Babcock dennisbabcock77@yahoo.ca
Grant Gulych, Ontario Director - grant@ggolfs.com
Jim Helmke jhelmke@comcast.net
Paul Kelly pkelly@interhop.net
Brent Davies btkadavies@comcast.net

Other office holders are:

Communications Officer – Carl Abel - cabelusgtf@bell.net



As a reminder to all recipients of this newsletter; if you no longer wish to receive this newsletter and wish to have your name removed from my directory then just please send me an e-mail requesting same to:

Carl Abel – cabelusgtf@bell.net

Be advised that doing so means that you are no longer informed of scheduling and important news about the MOGTT unless you go to the website www.mogtt.com .

Carl Abel



MOGTT Communications Officer