

Michigan Ontario Golf Teachers Tour

JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2015



POINTS TO PONDER

"The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing." ~ Albert Einstein

It's not what you eat between Christmas and New Year you should worry about, it's what you eat between New Year and Christmas." ~ Unknown



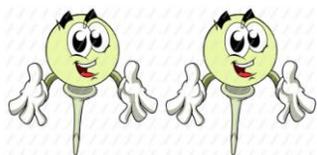
MOGTT NEWS

Before getting to the news, I would like to send to everyone, on behalf of our Tour, best wishes for a wonderful year in 2015.

We have some great sites for this year's regular season tour events and a very special venue for the Kelly Cup. For those of you who may not have played Shepherd's Hollow yet, you will be delighted with the challenge and layout of the courses. The courses have always been in great shape and it is one of the finest venues around to play. It will be a disappointment for anyone trying to make the Kelly Cup this year who might not make their team and thus miss two rounds at Shepherd's Hollow in September – a great time of year to play the course. I, for one, will be trying to earn as many points as possible during the regular season so as to make my team – boy it sounds great to me to be able to say that I am physically able, at this time, to once again set my Tour playing schedule for 2015 with intentions of playing. It has been a couple of years now since I have been able to play in an event and at age 77 I am eagerly looking forward to getting back on Tour.

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 I have already got a jump on things by filing my own entries. Be sure to note the new registration instructions (also explained fully later in this newsletter).

We have a number of “NEW” members for our 2015 Tour already and hopefully, that will translate into even larger fields in 2015. We welcome all our new members to the Tour and also to this newsletter



ADDITIONAL MOGTT NEWS - A MUST READ FOR ALL MEMBERS!

Charle Henry, our Preident, has sent me a synopsis of the results from the Annual Executive Committee meeting that was held during and after the 2014 Kelly Cup. All members should read what follows as there are some important changes as to how the Tour will function in 2015.

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING SYNOPSIS:

Number of Regular Season Events to remain at 4--Much discussion was held between Executive Committee members this fall regarding participation levels at 2014 tour events. Some thought reducing the number of events from 4 regular season events to 3 might increase participation. It was decided to continue with 4 regular season events plus the September Kelly Cup.

2 for 1 to continue—It was also decided to continue the 2 for 1 member incentive program for another year and to encourage each tour member to recruit one new member from their circle of friends in the golf biz-----coaches, teachers, pros, golf reps, course superintendents & greens-keepers.

More Sundays-- It was also decided to schedule for Sunday events so members with other full time jobs wouldn't have to take vacation days to attend.

Pre-payment Checks required—Last minute cancellations and no-shows have been creating havoc for tour Directors, not to mention the potential cancellation cost charged by golf courses. Again after much discussion, it was decided to require a \$50 registration fee to be paid by check prior to the registration deadline. Checks will be sent to the Tour Director from their home country. i.e. Michigan members will send checks to Charlie Henry and Canadian members will send checks to Grant Gulych.

Members can send registration checks for the entire season if they'd like. Cancellations made in a timely manner (more than 1 week before an event) would get a refund. Late cancellations would result in a forfeiture of the pre-payment and the funds would be added to the prize money pool unless the golf course charges a cancellation fee.

Mailing instructions will be posted on the website along with the procedure Tour Directors will follow regarding currency exchange rates.

Kelly Cup Site Survey

In late November, a survey was sent to former Kelly Cup participants, asking them to rate 5 possible venues for the 2015 event. Background information was supplied for each venue. Shepherd's Hollow was the preferred choice of the respondents, with Gateway GC and Verona Hills in the top 3 picks.

2015 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**
(\$125 includes all golf & prize money fees for both days)

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]



RULES QUESTION: - Loose impediment

While playing a stroke play event, on the 15th hole Bob's ball landed just short of the fringe between a bunker and the green. When Bob approached his ball, he decided that he would putt from there. When it came his turn to play, Bob noticed that there was some sand from the bunker from a previously played shot lying on the fringe just in front of his ball. Citing the loose impediment rule Bob brushed the loose sand aside with the back of his hand and putted his ball onto the green.

Bill, one of his playing partners, had made the green with his approach shot close to the same bunker. Before putting, Bill saw some sand from the bunker on the green between his ball and the hole so he also casually brushed the sand aside with the back of his hand (just like Bob).

After the hole was completed, Sam (a 3rd member of the group) said to Bob "Be sure to add a 2 stroke penalty to your score for the hole". And then the fun began! Bob was adamant that he had not violated a rule but, if he had, then Bill should also be penalized for doing the same thing.

Which of the following is correct?

- A. Sam is almost correct but Bob should be penalized only 1 stroke
- B. Neither player is penalized
- C. Only 1 player is penalized and that is Bob who is penalized 2 strokes – Sam was correct
- D. Sam was completely wrong and both Bill and Bob are penalized 1 stroke

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



SIDESPIN – BLONDE GUY JOKE - Lunches

Three steelworkers, one of which was blonde, were doing construction work on scaffolding on the 20th floor of a building. They were eating lunch and the 1st worker said, 'Corned beef and cabbage! If I get corned beef and cabbage one more time for lunch, I'm going to jump off this building.' The 2nd worker opened his lunch box and Exclaimed, 'Burritos again! If I get burritos one more time I'm going to jump off, too.' The blonde worker opened his lunch and said, 'Bologna again! If I get a bologna sandwich one more time, I'm jumping too.'

The next day, the 1st worker opened his lunch box, saw corned beef and cabbage, and jumped to his death. The 2nd worker then opened his lunch, saw a burrito, and jumped, too. The blonde guy opened his lunch, saw the bologna and jumped to his death as well.

At the funeral, the 1st worker's wife was weeping. She said, 'If I'd known how really tired he was of corned beef and cabbage, I never would have given it to him again!' The 2nd worker's wife also wept and said, 'I could have given him tacos or enchiladas! I didn't realize he hated burritos so much.'

(Oh this is GOOD!!)?

Everyone turned and stared at the blonde's wife. The blonde's wife stared right back and said,

'Don't look at me. He makes his own lunch.'



DID YOU KNOW THAT.....What are we about?

MOGTT! Is there any other advantage of our Tour other than a competitive playing field being offered for pleasant competition amongst ones peers? Was this the only consideration when the Tour was formulated? I like to think not.

One aspect of the Tour that has been overlooked in past years, in my humble opinion, is the opportunity to discuss with one another thoughts about golf in general and innovations in teaching the game as years pass us by.

I'm sure we all are aware of the modern teaching of the swing that leans toward restricting hip rotation on the backswing and using the lower body parts to enable the upper body to increase torque while rotating during the backswing which then can be released and used in the forward swing. However, is this really the reason that the pros today hit the ball so far? Is this really true OR could it be that course conditions, equipment improvements, the ball, physical trainers, larger and stronger players, etcetera are mostly major influences? Should our teaching methods change?

Is this lower body restriction the best way to teach our students? Should we modify our thinking to justify discarding proven past teaching techniques to adapt to the progressive ideas of today?

Perhaps we need to have more time to discuss these things with one another but, of course, after a day's play at an event there never seems to be much time left over. That is why I want to begin a new section of the newsletter called "MEMBER'S FORUM". I would like YOU, yes YOU, our members to become more of a part of this newsletter by contributing YOUR thoughts on the swing, equipment, etc. I will be looking forward and will be trying to get some of you to put ideas you have in email submissions to me for inclusion in future newsletters.

To start things off, I will be putting down my thoughts on one aspect of the "BASICS" of golf in this newsletter. Hopefully, this will trigger a response from others to send along their contributions. I hope that my initial submission to the "MEMBERS FORUM" section in this newsletter will stimulate discussion and be interesting to you. Please pass along your comments to me regardless if you agree or disagree – I would love to hear from some of you.



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

How many times have we heard that "My game is off so I have to go back to the basics"? Well, just what are the basics?

One of the most important basics is Ball Position – it affects both the novice and the accomplished player in various ways. If someone had read all the books on golf they would have probably recognized that there are two accepted methods of determining ball position for full swings. One method states that the ball should remain in one position for all shots whereas the other advocates moving the ball position to accommodate the different clubs.

Our parent affiliation (USGTF – just a reminder) advocates a ball position somewhere between the center of the stance and the inside of the heel of the front foot (one closest to the target when at address). They are not really sitting on the fence here by this wide variance.

It is my opinion that **the best ball position is the ball position from which you strike the ball best!** In all my years of teaching, I have never told anyone where exactly to place the ball for their swing! WHAT! HERESY!

You may think this is highly irregular and a disservice to my students but bear with me. What I did tell my students is that they had to find their own best ball position for their swing and, as their swing changed they might possibly have to alter their ball position to accommodate the changes. I did tell them (amongst other things) that the ball position for full swings would be somewhere between the center of their stance and the instep of the front foot. We started from there!

Have YOU ever gone to a practice range with the intention that today I am going to find my best ball position? If not, I would recommend it. I would suggest that you go about this by doing the following:

1. Separate your golf balls into piles of 5 (try to use similar quality balls).
2. Start with a short iron and mark your regular ball position and hit 5 shots from there.
3. Move the ball position 1 inch either backward or forward and hit another five balls
4. Move the ball position 1 inch in the other direction from your regular position and hit another five balls.
5. Do this from as many positions as you like but note which position you strike the ball best.
6. Repeat steps 2 to 5 with a mid iron, then a long iron, then a fairway wood, and finally the driver.

Be careful to pace yourself while doing this test – don't rush it.

HINT: It is best to mark your feet positions so that they are always in the same place during this test. I personally use a yardstick to measure the inch increments (I then use tees placed in the ground – red for my regular position and whites for the inch increments to mark the different ball positions).

Having recorded the best ball positions for yourself, you may find that you tend to agree with one of the 2 stated position methods above i.e. one ball position or changing the position for various clubs.

It doesn't really matter which one you believe in as long as you strike the ball the best from the method you have chosen.

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



TIPS – Sayings (think about the underlying meanings)

How you set up determines how you end up.

You can't hit long shots straight if you can't hit short shots straight.

If you are not consistent with your routine you won't be consistent with your ball striking.

What you do before you swing determines how you swing.

Swing with effortless power not with a powerful effort.

Relaxed muscles are fast muscles whereas tensed muscles are slow muscles.

The most important thing to change to improve your game is your mind.

Keep doing what you're doing and you will keep getting what you're getting.

A round of golf should be thought of as 18 separate competitions; each hole against par.

Forget your score when playing; you can add it up when you are finished and you will score better.

To remove tension SMILE before you swing – it really works.

It is okay to get frustrated but don't be the cause of your playing partners being frustrated.

The most important shot is the one you are playing.

You “WORK” on your game at the range but you “Play” on the course.

Slow play is obnoxious play – keep up a steady pace with others in your group and the group in front of you.



COMPUTER CORNER – MOUSE CONTROL?

DOUBLE YOUR CLICKS; DOUBLE YOUR FUN

The mouse double-click has been around for ages. You use it every day on icons to open programs and files. That's not all it can do, however.

Say you're writing a document and want to select a word. Instead of holding down the left mouse button and dragging the cursor to select a word, you can simply double-click on the word to highlight it instantly.

SHIFT INTO HIGH GEAR

Once a word is highlighted, right-click on it for more options.

Take it to the next level: Instead of double-clicking, try a triple-click. It highlights the entire section or paragraph you're working on. You don't even have to triple click rapidly - most programs can figure out what you want.

What if you need to highlight more than just a paragraph of text? Maybe you want to select several paragraphs, a large selection of cells in a spreadsheet or a group of file icons.

You can combine the Shift key with your mouse to quickly highlight anything.

Just double-click at the start of the text you want to highlight, then hold down the Shift key on your keyboard and click at the end of the text you want to highlight (you don't have to press Shift until you're ready for the second click). Then let go of the Shift key.

All the text you want will be highlighted and it just takes a second. With cells and icons, click on the first cell or icon hold Shift and click the last cell or icon you want to select. It makes life so simple.

Want to add more to a selection or select less? Hit Shift again and click before or after that last thing you clicked.

Take it to the next level: triple-click on text to select a full paragraph. Then hold the Shift key and start single clicking other paragraphs. They'll be highlighted as well.

TAKE FULL CONTROL

Using Shift to highlight text, cells and icons does have a drawback - you can't select things that aren't next to each other.

That's where the Control (Ctrl) key on your keyboard comes in handy. In a word processor or browser, hold Ctrl and start double-clicking on various words to select them.

For files in Windows, hold Ctrl and single click on each item you want. You can release the Ctrl key at any time and then press it again to add more items.

Did you accidentally highlight something you didn't mean to? Hold Ctrl and click the highlighted item again. It will be deselected.

In fact, you can highlight an entire group of items using the Shift + click trick above and then deselect individual items using Ctrl + click.

There are other things that you can do with your mouse – some are set up for scrolling but you will have to check out the mouse you have and play around with it to see what it will do for you – that is if it interests you. I have suggested enough for you here to cope with if it is new to you.



CONCLUDING REMARKS

It's 2015! EGADS! The years now seem to be flying by like weeks used to. I guess as one gets older and realizes that there is only so much time in one's life left then each year's passing seems a little more important than the year before,

I hope that all of you will appreciate the time that you have and make the most of it. I for one, am going to try to fill 2015 with as many important and FUN things that I can do. That, of course, includes taking part in our regular season events and spending time with my friendly peers from MOGTT. I hope to see many of our previous members at our events and hope to be able to introduce myself to any new members. If you don't know me and see some old guy dragging some golf clubs don't hesitate to come up and say Hi.

May all who receive this newsletter have a great 2015 filled with happiness, health, prosperity, and wonderful golf!

Recently, in the November Newsletter I published a listing of all the awards won by our members while competing in Federation events such as the USGTF Cup, CGTF Cup, World Cup etc.

It was quite an undertaking and there were a few updates and a couple of corrections that came along after the November Newsletter was sent out. I will include the updated version as an attachment with this e-mail for those of you who might want to take another look.



The correct answer to the Rules question is:

The answer is C – Bob incurs a two-stroke penalty.

The definition for loose impediments clearly states that sand is only a loose impediment if on the putting green. Thus, since Bill's ball was on the green then he was not penalized whereas Bob violated Rule 13-2 Ball played as it lies - (removing or pressing down sand).

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
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Other office holders are:

Communications Officer – Carl Abel - cabelusgtf@bell.net



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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 .



MOGTT Communications Officer