



Michigan Ontario Golf Teachers Tour



MARCH NEWSLETTER 2015



POINTS TO PONDER

"The first day of spring is one thing, and the first spring day is another. The difference between them is sometimes as great as a month." ~ Henry Van Dyke

"Life will always throw you curves, just keep fouling them off... the right pitch will come, but when it does, be prepared to run the bases." ~ Rick Maksian



MOGTT NEWS - NOTICE FROM OUR PRESIDENT – CHARLES HENRY

THE FOLLOWING IS A MUST READ FOR ALL MEMBERS:

How to Register for an Event in 2015:

1. Go to the website: www.mogtt.com

a. If you are new to the Tour, click on the "Join The Tour" tab and complete a Tour Agreement form. Click Submit.

2. Click on "Register" tab and complete the form. Click on the circle for all the events in which you're planning to play. If you plan to compete in the Prize Money game and/or the Skins Game, click on the appropriate circles. Click Submit.

3. Send a \$50.00 check for each event in which you plan to enter to the Tour Director in your country.....Charlie Henry in the USA; Grant Gulych in Canada. If you have to withdraw from an event prior to the entry deadline date, a refund check will be sent to you. Otherwise, your entry check will be converted to host country cash based on the current exchange rate. A credit will be given at check-in against your total fees for the event. Pre-paid entry fees will not be refunded if cancellation occurs after the entry deadline. These fees will be added to the prize money pool for that event.

How to Pay the Annual Tour Fee

The annual tour fee is \$15 U.S. if paid at or before the 1st event and \$20 U.S. if paid after the 1st event.

If you've registered for the 1st event at Devil's Ridge, you can merely bring \$15 U.S. to the event, along with enough host country currency to enter the skins game, prize money pool, etc.

If you're not playing in the 1st event and would like the early payment discount, send a \$15 U.S. check to Charlie Henry in the U.S. Or you can send a \$19 check (Canadian) to Grant Gulych in Canada. (The current exchange rate, CAD – USD, is .7940. The conversion calculation is $\$15/.7940=\18.89)

2015 REGULAR SEASON EVENT SCHEDULE

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

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

(Starting times are 12 noon – registration between 10:30 and 11:15)

KELLY CUP

Sunday, Sept 13 **Noon Start** Shepherd's Hollow GC, Clarkston, Mich. Holes 1-18

Monday, Sept 14 **9:00 AM Start** Shepherd's Hollow GC, Clarkston, Mich. Holes 10-27

Note: - The \$125 includes all golf & prize money fees for both days.

IMPORTANT INFO REGARDING TRAVEL - The construction work on the Bluewater Bridge may interfere with travelling time for those having to cross the border at that site to attend our first two events. The work is scheduled to start in April and be completed by July 1. This could affect travel time for these events. You would be wise to allow extra travel time to accommodate any possible delays.

To find out more about the construction and crossing procedures please visit the site below:

<http://www.theobserver.ca/2015/01/20/westbound-span-of-sarnia-port-huron-bridge-to-close-for-three-months>

Now on to the rest of the newsletter.



RULES QUESTION: - Obstruction

Jerry and Phil were playing a match for the club championship. The course that they were playing had concrete markers imbedded in the fairway at the 150 yard distance from the center of the green. Jerry hit his tee shot on the 4th hole which caromed off the marker and rebounded 6 feet straight back towards the tee. When Jerry was preparing to play his next shot he said to Phil "The

marker is in the flight path of my ball so I am going to take a free drop; do I get one club length or two?"

Phil replied "You have to play it as it lies, there is no free drop." And then the fun began!

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

- a) Play the ball as it lies
- b) Take a free drop with a one club length limit no closer to the hole
- c) Take a free drop with a two club length limit no closer to the hole
- d) Jerry must play the ball as it lies and is assessed a two stroke penalty for asking for advice

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



SIDESPIN – Counting Sheep

A farmer wants to know how many sheep he has in his field, so he asks his border collie to count them.

The dog runs into the field, counts them and runs back to the farmer.

The farmer says, "How many?" The dog says, "40."

The farmer is surprised and says, "How can there be 40 - I only bought 38!"

The dog says, "I rounded them up."



DID YOU KNOW THAT.....MISINFORMATION

Unfortunately, there are many examples of misinformation which is passed on to golfers by Media, Book manufacturers, Magazines, and yes, golf instructors. Much of this information comes from "Cliches" that are passed on and down unintentionally by those who are supposed to be "in the know" and thus are accepted by the masses. I refer to this information as "MYTHS". I would like to give you a few examples here (there are more) – you may have some of your own that you might like to send to me.

- a) Myth 1 – **You should finish your swing with your belt buckle facing the target.** Hogwash!
If one were to finish like that then the result would be a big block or push requiring that one would have to roll the forearms tremendously to get the ball to travel down the target line . Just take a look at any of the pros to see where they finish their swings – Rory, Tiger etc. More correctly, one should say that you should finish your swing with your hips rotated forward at least 90 degrees (preferably more) to your target line!

- b) Myth 2 – **You need to have your eyes over your putting line to properly putt.** Also hogwash. While this may help some putt better it is not necessary. Ben Crenshaw, one of the PGA tour's best all time putters always had his eyes inside the putting line. How about Sam Snead's sidesaddle stroke? If it helps you to putt then, of course, have your eyes over the putting line.
- c) Myth 3 – **The grip should have the V's between the thumbs and forefingers of each hand pointing between the rear shoulder and the rear side of the face.** While this may be desirable as a relative position for most golfers, the grip position should be related to one's ball curvature. Some golfers would be better served with the V's in a more neutral or weaker position with the V's pointing at their chin (especially the lower hand). All Hookers please take note!



NEW! MEMBER'S FORUM – a submission by *John Goodman*

I am pleased to be able to include in my newsletter this month the following submission by John Goodman. It is my hope that others of you will follow with submissions on all types of topics concerning golf and our Tour. The following from John is unedited!

“After working with many clients regarding ball position I have found that it is quite unique to each person. On the range I place an alignment rod aiming to the intended target. The rod has several painted markings about a quarter inch apart.

I use the markings to place the range balls at different positions relative to their forward foot. Using a mid- iron my client hits shots from different ball positions. After the shots we look at the divot marks and compare where the back of the ball was and where the divot is starting. Naturally, the ideal strike is little ball first big "ball" after. I have several clients who hit very well with a more forward position while others are nearly centre of their stance.

When we get to the big sticks the ball position process really helps players to find the place where the club makes solid contact using fairway / hybrid clubs.

With the driver I also have clients experiment with tee height. I have several balls on the tees at various heights all lined up ready to hit. It usually takes only a few minutes to find the right tee height for their club.”

Thanks for the submission John – Carl

Now, how about the rest of you?

Let's have some more submissions! Don't hesitate to offer rebuttals on anything that I have written in these newsletters. I sometimes am stretched to figure what to write and would welcome criticisms or opposing views.



TIPS – THE PERFECT SWING

What every golfer needs to know is that there is a PERFECT SWING. What they also need to know is that they will never be able to keep it if they find it. On a rare occasion a golfer will hit what appears to be a perfect shot which indicates that the swing was also perfect but, trying to mimic that shot every time is impossible. What every golfer needs to do is strive to find THEIR perfect swing which brings out their best golf and keep working on that swing to make it the best it can be. Chasing the perfect swing is a useless task if, in the process, one forgets their own best swing while trying to incorporate some or all the NEW theories that golfers are bombarded with from time to time. Where are the following now?

- a) square to square
- b) reverse C
- c) natural golf
- d) gravity golf
- e) etc.

We all know that it is not how good your good shots are in golf that tell the story but rather how good your bad shots are. Strive to improve your bad shots. Turn your worst club into your favorite club.



COMPUTER CORNER – MY WONDERFUL MOUSE

How many of you I wonder, when trying to open a picture or document, first right click on the item and then wait for the pop-up menu to appear and then click on OPEN. Next time, just try a double left click on the item to open it – much faster and easy to do.



CONCLUDING REMARKS

It certainly was nice to receive a submission for this newsletter from one of our members – that assures me that it is being read! I really hope that this will be a beginning of something beneficial to our members. Feel free to send me anything you think might be newsworthy. I will reply to all who do and hopefully, very little editing will need to be done by myself before inclusion into the newsletter.

Did anyone notice that Keegan Bradley was assessed a 2 stroke penalty on the final day in the Arnold Palmer event for brushing aside sand on the fringe of the green? He should have read my newsletter a couple of months back on the Rules Question. It pays to know the rules!!



RULES QUESTION ANSWER –

The correct answer to the Rules question is:

A – Jerry must play the ball as it lies. Relief from an immovable obstruction is granted only if it interferes with your stance or swing NOT the flight of the ball. As for asking for advice, that is permissible when the advice asked for pertains to a ruling in golf.

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 btkadvies@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