

Linda's Monthly Friendly Tip

May 2017

Happy May! Let's talk Putting.....I know, I know! I always manage to bring it up. But surely you have to admit that this little stroke is the most important thing you will do all day.

Just to refresh: "Regulation Putting" is considered to be 2 strokes per green. If there are 18 holes in a round of golf that means $2 \times 18 = 36$ strokes. If Par is listed on your card as 72 – well, then, my friends – that means your putting counts for $\frac{1}{2}$ of everything you do out there – YIKES!!!

Perhaps we should spend some time learning how to putt better. I always tell my students that Good Putting is NOT an accident. It is a FINE ART. And we just witnessed at the finish of the Masters how it ALWAYS comes down to putting. Tour Players are such excellent putters because they leave nothing to chance. They are fanatical about their set-up.

Let's start at the beginning: (1) Grip (I prefer "Reverse Overlap" with very light pressure); (2) Stance; (3) Balance (Key to a proper set-up); (4) Arm Hang (you need to let your arms hang down naturally); (5) Ball Position. These are just the things you need to do to get READY to putt. Please don't think that you do not need to have a properly fit putter – your putter is the most important tool in your bag. Don't you think it's worth a few minutes to make sure that it is the right length for you? Most people never consider this possibility. Don't be one of them!

Now you are ready to make a stroke. What is involved in a proper putting stroke? Well, you need to start the ball rolling on line – end-over-end – in order to give you the most predictable roll distance. In order to do this you have to be able to see the line correctly. There is something called "Parallax Error". What, you may ask, is this? It is about your perception on how you see the line. It can have an effect on how you do or do not make a solid strike, enabling you to roll that little ball end-over-end.

Here's a few things to think about: Do you have shaft lean at address? This can affect your "Dynamic Loft" at the moment of impact. Believe it or not, this could possibly cause sidespin, backspin or hopping when you stroke through the ball. This definitely can affect the proper roll distance. Confused? I told you this was a fine art, not an accident.

There is SO MUCH involved in the putting stroke. If you would like to try and "Up" your game by some serious work on your putting, please come see me for an in-depth look at what's going on in your stroke. I know there are many things that need to happen in order for you to be able to putt your best, and, that my friend equals Lower Scores. This is why I LOVE short game lessons. We are all after dropping off some strokes from our game.

Take care – and, as always – "Swing Happy"!

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