



From the editor

Gang,

Welcome to the Winter edition of the Thong Adjuster! In this issue, you'll find a golf quiz (with answers!), rules on OBs and muddy balls, a little golf history, and famous golf quotes.

You'll also find advice on fixing that slice called "Say adios to the banana ball once and for all!"

There's also a special recap of the 2010 ITG year called "The ITG Top 10 Best, Worst List for 2010." Believe me, you may or may not be happy to see your name on those lists!

We're also starting a classified section titled "Fore Sale!" Right now, it's just full of golf stuff that I happen to have for sale, but if you have anything golf-related you'd like to sell to other ITG members, email me at svanwert2@satx.rr.com and we'll get it in the Adjuster.

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Articles including for sale items, can be submitted at any time. Send them to the editor at svanwert2@satx.rr.com.

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From the editor



Continued from page 1

It's a new year and we officially welcome in 2011. It's going to be a great year, with a series of top-notch courses scheduled at bargain-basement prices. Your job is to play as many rounds as you can in 2011. That way, we can get even lower prices for next year.

Also coming soon, probably in March, are our elections. We'll be electing new officers for 2-year terms. They'll take office after our Spring tournament in April. If you'd like to run for office and be a larger part of running our club, make sure you watch the website and let us know you're interested. We have a lot of new members who joined during 2010. We'd like to see you'all be a part of the decision-making process to bring our group into a successful future.

Speaking of the tournament, your officers are working on scheduling the April tournament. We're having a meeting next week (Jan. 13) where we'll finalize our plans. We'll let you know the results in a "State of the Iron Thong" letter coming soon.

That's all for now. I hope you enjoy the Thong Adjuster!

Steve

The Thong Adjuster Golf Quiz

How Many ...

1. Pimples on a golf ball?
2. Strokes would you have to take to get par on a 197-yard hole?
3. Greens at St. Andrews?
4. Golfers are invited each year to compete in the World Matchplay Championship?
5. Golfers represent their continent in each Ryder Cup?
6. Strokes did Hoerman Tissies take at the Postage Stamp, Royal Troon, during the 1950

British Open?

7. Majors did Ben Hogan win?
8. Holes were there on the original St. Andrews course?

Who's nickname is ...

1. The Walrus
2. Super Mex
3. Champagne Tony
4. The Maestro
5. The Golden Bear
6. Himself
7. Tiger
8. The Car Park Champion



What is ...

1. The diameter of a golf ball?
2. The maximum number of clubs a player can carry?
3. The number of holes over which the British Open is played?
4. The minimum depth of a hole?
5. The albatross on a par 5 hole?
6. The number of Majors played in a year?
7. The yardage for Carnousite, the longest on the British Open list?
8. A woman's maximum handicap?

The answers are ...

How many?

1. 336, 2. 3, 3. 11, 4. 12, 5. 12, 6. 15, 7. 9, 8. 22

Who's nickname?

1. Craig Stadler, 2. Lee Trevino, 3. Tony Lema, 4. Henry Cotton, 5. Jack Nicklaus, 6. Christy O'Connor, 7. Eldrick Woods, 8. Seve Ballesteros

What is?

1. 4 1/4 inches; 2. 14, 3. 72, 4. 4 inches, 5. 2, 6. 4, 7. 7,066, 8. 36

Slice No More! Say adiós to the banana ball once and for all!

1. *Align & Visualize*

To draw the ball, the first thing you need to have is the right image. Begin by setting your sights on a spot to the right of your target. This is your starting line. Now, imagine your ball beginning on that line (illustrated in white) and curving left, back to the target. Visualizing your shot will send valuable information to your muscles and help turn that image into a reality.

When setting up for a hook, it's a good idea to close your stance a touch, as well. (Note how the left foot is slightly closer to the ball than the right.)

2. *Bend Forward*

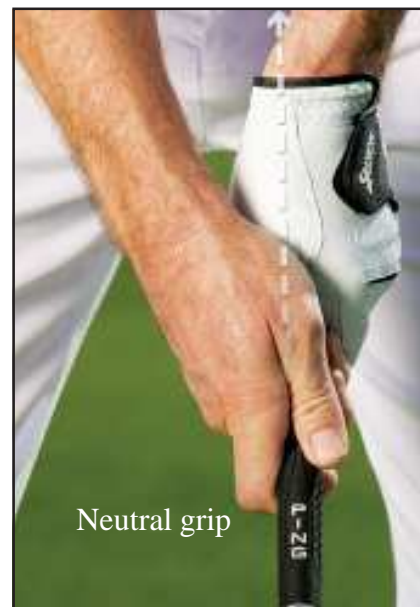
A steep swing encourages an open clubface and, thus, a slice. To fix this, you have to swing on a flatter plane, and that starts at address.

Begin by bending over more during setup. This steepens your shoulder plane. Your arms now will swing on a flatter plane, allowing you to create a neutral, shallow hit. A flatter arm swing also will encourage your clubface to close through impact, thus bending the ball to the left.

3. *Check Your Grip*

Improper grip position and grip pressure are two of the biggest factors that cause a slice. To ensure that you keep the ball out of the right rough, first make sure your hands are in a position that encourages a closing clubface. This means adopting a neutral or strong grip where both hands are rotated more to the right on the shaft.

Secondly, realize that the harder you squeeze, the more likely you'll slice! If you really want to bend it left, make sure you adopt a grip where the hands and arms are soft and relaxed. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the tightest pressure, feel that a hook would happen at a level "3."





4. Counterbalance

To keep yourself in balance and swinging on plane, it's imperative that you "counterbalance" your body tilt and arm swing. In your followthrough, your eyes, arms and club shaft should mirror the club's original address plane. Your spine angle will tilt to the right 90° to the swinging shaft.

A swing that has momentum to the left, along with a spine that tilts to the right, will create stability "up the middle," allowing you to swing aggressively and in balance.



5. Shoot For The Corner Pocket

Most people think a solid strike is into the "back of the ball." In reality, a solid hit that curves left strikes the ball's "inside" corner. To help visualize this, imagine you're standing on a pool table.

As you swing, strike the inside of the ball as if you were driving it into the table's right corner pocket (denoted by the red "pushpin"). This gets the club traveling on a path from inside the target line to outside the target line, encouraging a right-to-left spinning shot. Most golfers do the exact opposite, striking from the ball's outside corner, thus pulling or slicing the ball from left to right.

As long as your clubface continues to close through impact and you hit the ball's inside corner, your slice will be gone forever.

Jeff Ritter, PGA, is director of instruction at the ASU Karsten Golf Academy in Tempe, Ariz., and one of Golf Tips' senior instruction editors. He's the author of Golf by Design and the forthcoming book Your Kid Ate a Divot.

Courtesy of Golf.com

What's the rule? O.B. stakes and muddy shanks

I was playing a par 5 edged with an endless row of white stakes. I hit my tee shot right, directly in front of one set of O.B. stakes and to the left of another. I was in bounds, but also in an unplayable lie. I knew I was supposed to drop my ball in line with the flag, but that would have put me out of bounds. My buddy told me I had to go back and hit my shot again with a penalty. What should I have done?

— *Cam Miller, New York, N.Y.*

You're right that you can't drop your ball beyond the white stakes, but you're wrong that it was your only avenue of escape. Yes, Rule 28b forces you to keep your drop in line with the pin and your ball, but the Rules give you two more options. One is to proceed under Rule 28a and drop your ball where you took your previous shot — but giving yourself the associated stroke-and-distance penalty is too harsh. Instead, follow Rule 28c, take a stroke and drop your ball within two club-lengths of your ball (but not necessarily in line with the pin), no nearer to the hole.



I hit a ball into the rough and had to pick it up in order to identify it. It was my ball, but there was a glob of mud stuck to one side. When I put it back down I decided to put the mud on the far side, so I wouldn't hit it at impact. I didn't clean my ball, but I couldn't shake a guilty feeling as I finished my round.

— *Mike Beucher, Princeton, N.J.*

Don't worry, Mike, you're clean on this one. According to Decision 21/5, as long as you replaced your ball where you found it, you were completely entitled to rotate it however you wanted — with one exception. If you had put the mud side face down to create a sort of natural tee, you would have been in violation of Rule 20-3a and subject to a one-stroke penalty. But since you kept it clean, you're in the clear.

I hit a ball into the woods, just short of a string of O.B. markers down the right side of the fairway, while my opponent hit one even farther right and out of bounds. As he searched for his ball, I shanked my second shot and hit him in the leg, with the ball coming to rest out of bounds. Thankfully, he was all right, but I wasn't sure what to do. I felt that since I hit another player, I should be allowed to retake my shot, but he said my ball was O.B. I wasn't about to argue, so I took the penalty stroke. Was that right?

— *Emit Lackey, Burrsville, Md.*

Even though you shanked your shot, you pured the ruling on this one. Decision 19-3/1 spells out exactly what to do in this situation. According to Rule 19-3, a ball in motion that is stopped or deflected by your opponent through the green can be canceled and replayed from the spot of the original stroke without penalty. Despite your buddy's complaints, the fact that he was out of bounds when he was struck does not change the fact that you get a mulligan. Cancel and replay your shot, then get your friend an ice pack.



David Mulligan's Do-Over

In the late 1920s, four golfers played fairly regularly at the St. Lambert Country Club near Montreal. One of the men had an automobile, and it was his job to drive to the course with the other members of the group. The route included driving over a bridge with cross ties, constructed that way to take care of horse-drawn wagons.

They would rush to the tee upon arrival, but the driver, shaken by crossing the bridge, usually hit a poor shot. Since he was the only one with an automobile, it was a common practice to allow him to hit a second tee shot. After all, they didn't want to lose their transportation. The golfer's name was David Mulligan, manager of the Windsor Hotel in Montreal, and the hitting a second shot off the first tee became known as "hitting a Mulligan."

Sensational Journalism

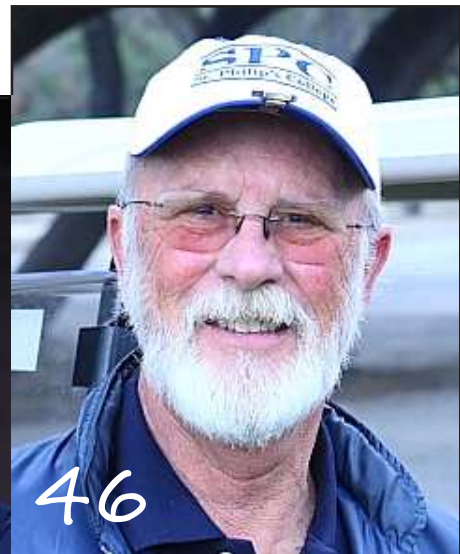
Golf writer Doug Mintline of the *Flint Journal* once worked for the better part of a year to stage an annual team event between area golf clubs near that Michigan city. He ran into a number of snags along the way before all agreed that such a tournament would be possible. Doug wrote an article about the multiclub event, which was approved and scheduled to run in the Sunday edition. It was turned over to someone to write the headline, and when it appeared, the story's banner came out: "INTERCOURSE TOURNEY SET."

The ITG Top 10 Best, Worst List for 2010

Golfers love numbers. We all know that. So here are some numbers that some of our ITG members are going to love ... and some are going to hate. Yup, it's the 2010 ITG Top 10 Best and Worst List!

Most Rounds Played in 2010

1. 48 – Jamie McBride
2. 47 – Louis Menchaca
3. 46 – Pete Cliburn
4. 44 – Mike Fisk
5. 43 – Steve VanWert
6. 39 – John Hernandez
7. 33 – J.R. Williams
8. 28 – Al Menchaca
- T9. 27 – Derek Frank
- T9. 27 – Mike Linares
- T9. 27 – Richard Roberts
- T10. 26 – Johnny Berner
- T10. 26 – Ed Chrismer



Lowest Gross Score

1. 70 – Karl Meyers
2. 72 – Tim Swanson
- T3. 73 – Gene Burroughs
- T3. 73 – Dominick De La Garza
- T5. 74 – Mike Fisk
- T5. 74 – Todd Mumford
- T7. 77 – Tony Bishop
- T7. 77 – Ed Chrismer
9. 78 – Brad Gildea
- T10. 79 – Gary Crenshaw
- T10. 79 – Melissa Faires
- T10. 79 – Steve VanWert



Lowest Net Score

1. 54 – Brad Gildea
- T2. 59 – Gene Burroughs
- T2. 59 – Karl Meyers
- T4. 60 – Melinda Faires

- T4. 60 – Jamie McBride
- 6. 61 – Derek Frank
- T7. 62 – Johnny Berner
- T7. 62 – Dominick De La Garza
- T9. 63 – Jesse Flores
- T9. 63 – Caleb Groom
- T9. 63 – John Hernandez
- T9. 63 – Louis Menchaca
- T9. 63 – Ed Sharpe
- T9. 63 – Tim Swanson
- T10. 64 – Gary Crenshaw
- T10. 64 – Mike Fisk
- T10. 64 – Mike Linares
- T10. 64 – Dan VanWert



Highest Gross Score (And we do mean “gross”)

- 1. 156 – Josh Howard
- T2. 134 – Steve School
- T2. 134 – J.R. Williams
- 4. 131 – Ed Sharpe
- 5. 129 – Jamie McBride
- 6. 124 – Cris Pappas
- T7. 121 – John Butler
- T7. 121 – Richard Roberts
- T7. 121 – Katherine Golas
- 10. 120 – Darren Howard



Highest Net Score

- 1. 114 – Josh Howard
- 2. 110 – Buck Buchanan
- 3. 107 – J.R. Williams
- 4. 104 – Steve School
- T5. 98 – John Butler
- T5. 98 – J.J. Montanaro
- 7. 97 – Cris Pappas
- T8. 96 – Scott Fritts
- T8. 96 – Darren Howard
- 10. 95 – Jamie McBride



Largest Handicap Improvement

1. 22.0% — Jamie McBride (30.9 to 24.1)
2. 12.6% — Pete Cliburn (21.4 to 18.7)
3. 12.5% — Dominick De La Garza (9.6 to 8.4)
4. 12.0% — Tim Swanson (7.5 to 6.6)
5. 7.1% — Leon McLin (21.2 to 19.7)
6. 3.1% — Jeff Konop (19.5 to 18.9)
7. 2.9% — Jesse Flores (17.2 to 16.7)
8. 2.3% — Darren Howard (21.4 to 20.9)

We had two golfers who finished the year with the exact same handicap they started with – Louis Menchaca (8.7 to 8.7) and Josh Howard (36.4 to 36.4). Everyone else either saw their handicap go up, or first established their handicap during the year.



Largest Handicap Increase

1. 48.4% — Matt Schapman (12.8 to 19.0)
2. 27.5% — Paul Tenner (12.0 to 15.3)
3. 26.0% — Mike Fisk (7.7 to 9.7)
4. 16.7% — Steve Schlemmer (15.3 to 16.7)
5. 15.4% — John Hancock (14.3 to 16.5)
6. 15.2% — Gary Crenshaw (13.2 to 15.2)
7. 13.9% — Ronny Copeland (17.3 to 19.7)
- T8. 13.1% — Hershel Krigbaum (18.3 to 20.0)
- T8. 13.1% — Steve School (28.2 to 31.9)
10. 11.5% — Sergio Rosales (9.6 to 10.7)

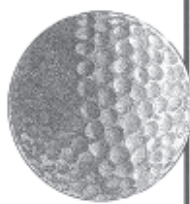


Highest percentage of pars

1. 55.1% — Karl Meyers
2. 50.0% — Gene Burroughs
3. 48.6% — Tony Bishop
4. 46.2% — Todd Mumford
5. 44.8% — Tim Swanson
6. 41.0% — Mike Fisk
7. 40.2% — Ed Chrismer
8. 38.2% — Louis Menchaca
9. 37.8% — Dominick De La Garza
10. 36.1% — Sergio Rosales



Fore Sale



If you have any golf-related items for sale, send them to svanwert2@satx.rr.com (with photo, if possible) and they'll be in the next Thong Adjuster

LONG PUTTER – A 50-inch Turbo Plus 3-ball center-shaft putter; used; with headcover; \$20

ODYSSEY PUTTER – White Hot; center shaft; Tiger Shark P-Squared jumbo grip; 35 inch; used; with headcover; \$40

HEAVY PUTTER – Heavy putter, model B-1; center shaft; 35 inch; used; with headcover; \$40

AFFINITY PUTTER – Affinity VR7 putter; center shaft; 35 inch; used; no headcover; \$20

WILSON DRIVER – Wilson HyperTi driver; 460cc; regular shaft; used; with headcover; \$20

SQUARE TWO DRIVER – Dual weight system; 10.5 degree; regular shaft; used, with headcover, \$20

ADAMS INSIGHT DRIVER – 8.5 degree; regular shaft; 460cc; used; with headcover; \$40

EXOTICS DRIVER – Tour Edge Exotics XLD driver; 10.5 degree; regular shaft; used; with headcover; \$40

TOUR SONIC DRIVER – Tour Sonic Square driver; 525cc; 10.5 degree; regular shaft; used; with headcover; \$30

GREEN MONSTER DRIVER – Nextt driver; 10.5 degree; 520cc; regular shaft; used; with headcover; \$20

WILSON DRIVER – Wilson Dd5 driver; 10 degree; Wilson Staff Grafalloy regular shaft; used; with headcover; \$40

TOUR EDGE DRIVER – Tour Edge HP driver; 10.5 degree; senior shaft; used; no headcover; \$20

COBRA SPEED LD DRIVER – 9.0 degree; regular shaft; used; no headcover; \$30

SHADOW BOX — 11 ¾ X 13 ½ inches; shows golf workbench, balls and shoes; still in box; \$10

SHADOW BOX – 8 ½ X 10 ¾ inches; shows vintage clubs; still in box; \$5

WALL CLOCK – battery not included; shows vintage golf scene titled “Putting for Dough;” used; \$5

GOLF LITHO – 25 X 30 inches; framed; golf scene titled “Challenge;” used; \$20

GOLF LITHO – 25 X 30 inches; framed; golf scene titled “Agony;” used; \$20

GOLF LITHO – 25 X 30 inches; framed; golf scene titled “Achievement;” used; \$20

GOLF LITHO – 14 ½ x 27 ½ inches; framed; golf scene with vintage photos, clubs; used; \$20

Contact Steve VanWert at 210-0317-0736 for more info.



You can quote me ...

“Golf is 20 percent mechanics and technique. The other 80 percent is philosophy, humor, tragedy, romance, melodrama, companionship, cussedness, and conversation.”

-- Grantland Rice

“Golf combines two favorite American pastimes: taking long walks and hitting things with a stick.”

-- P.J. O'Rourke, *Modern Manners*

“The game can be played in company or alone. Robinson Crusoe on his island, with his man Friday as a caddie, could have realized the golfer's dream of perfect happiness.”

-- Henry E. Howland

“Golf is so popular simply because it is the best game in the world in which to be bad.”

-- A. A. Milne

“You're only here for a short visit. Don't hurry. Don't worry. And be sure to smell the flowers along the way.”

-- Walter Hagan

“The man who can putt is a match for anyone.”

-- Willie Park Jr.

“I play in the low 80s. If it's any hotter than that, I don't play.”

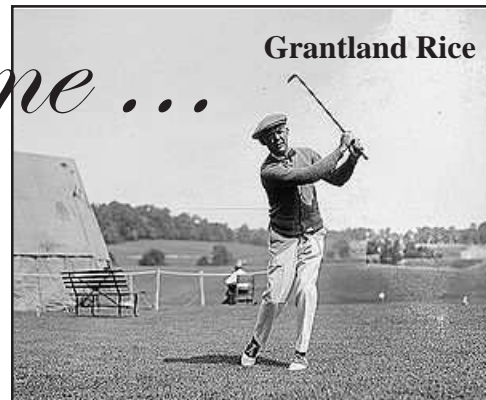
-- Joe E. Lewis

“Golf and sex are about the only things you can enjoy without being good at it.”

-- Jimmy Demaret

“I'm hitting the woods great, but I'm having trouble getting out of them.”

-- Harry Toscano



Grantland Rice



Joe
E.
Lewis



Walter Hagan