



# Deer Tracks

Deerfield Members Association Newsletter

April, 2012

## Eddie's Tips:

### KEEP PUTTING PRACTICE FUN

Develop better rhythm on the greens by benching your putter during practice.

Most golfers over analyze their putting strokes. That's easy to do because there is so much information out there and sometimes that causes you to lose your natural rhythm for putting. The best drill I know to develop your natural stroke is to put a little fun back into putting by practicing without your putter. Take a three-iron or wedge to the practice green and mix up the length of your putts just as you would during normal practice sessions. When using a three-iron, choke down on the grip to the steel so it becomes of similar length to your putter. Here's what you'll learn:

#### FEEL

While putting with a three iron or wedge (or even better a really old blade iron or putter with a tiny sweet spot if you have one) pay close attention to the feel of the ball off the clubface iron forces you to hit the ball squarely to achieve a good roll. Feel the off-centre hits and watch how the ball bobbles towards the hole.

#### TECHNIQUE

Since these clubs have loft, your hands will automatically want to get ahead of the club head to produce a tighter roll.

With some practise you will see the ball roll more smoothly, because you are developing a more natural stroke and a proper release. Using a wedge is best here. Try warming up with a three iron or wedge for 10 minutes the next time you play and then switch back to your regular putter.

**You'll be amazed by the fluidity of your stroke.**



## A Message from Our President

Hope springs eternal as we bring our sticks out of hibernation for another year of golf. Just as baseball players gather for spring training with dreams of winning a world series so too do we golfers dream of lowering that handicap and winning a few bucks and bragging rights from our buddies in that Nassau or skins game.

Ah yes, there is nothing sweeter than the smell of freshly cut grass as we walk down the fairways of our beautiful track slowly shedding some of that winter bulk that appeared around the waist over the winter.

Welcome home old friends and welcome aboard new friends. See you on the course.

Hit Them Straight,

Mike

## Pro Shop News:

ROBBIE GOT A JOB!! My son, Robbie, will start a new job Apr.2nd with The Sporting Company right here in Oakville. Mother is very happy. My other son, Ryan, who attends Western University in London, should be able to fill in seamlessly for Robbie. Virtually the same face just an inch shorter and a few pounds lighter. Rishi Thakker is also moving on. He is taking a position at the Cutten Club in Guelph. I'm sure you would all join me in thanking these two young men for their time at Deerfield and wishing them good fortune at their new positions. Bob Caldwell will also join the 2012 staff. Bob is looking at a career change after, among other endeavours, working as a sales rep with the Spalding golf company. Be sure to welcome both Ryan and Bob when you see them.

The early warm weather has resulted in Sun Ice offering some deals on outerwear. Watch for some great pricing on sun Ice products arriving late March. A new line, Paige and Tuttle, will make an appearance in April with some apparel in both men's and ladies



## DMA News

### Changes to our Handicap Factor-ESC

#### WHAT IS EQUITABLE STROKE CONTROL (ESC)?

Equitable Stroke Control (ESC) is the downward adjustment of individual hole scores for handicap purposes in order to make Handicap Factors more representative of a player's potential scoring ability. It sets a maximum number that a golfer can post on any hole depending on the player's Course Handicap.

#### HOW IT WORKS:

The modification to the current Equitable Stroke Control calculation is illustrated in the ESC table below:

<u>OLD ESC</u>		<u>NEW EQUITABLE STROKE</u>	
0 or Plus Course Handicap	Maximum of 1 over par	<b>9 or Less Course Handicap</b>	<b>Maximum of 2 over par</b>
1-18 Course Handicap	Maximum of 2 over par	<b>10-19 Course Handicap</b>	<b>Maximum score of 7</b>
19-32 Course Handicap	Maximum of 3 over par	<b>20-29 Course Handicap</b>	<b>Maximum score of 8</b>
33 and over Course Handicap	Maximum of 4 over par	<b>30-39 Course Handicap</b>	<b>Maximum score of 9</b>
		<b>40 and Over Course Handicap</b>	<b>Maximum score of 10</b>

#### WHY THE CHANGE TO ESC METHODOLOGY?

The RCGA Handicap & Course Rating Committee approved the change after commissioning statistical research which revealed that the current Equitable Stroke Control (ESC) method causes differences in Handicap Factors that are not necessarily commensurate with a difference in ability, particularly for golfers in the higher half of each range of handicaps within the ESC table.

A golfer with a 1 handicap, for example, should not be subject to the same ESC score adjustments as a player with an 18 handicap when their abilities are so different.

#### IMPACT OF THE NEW ESC METHODOLOGY:

## John's Corner

The new equitable stroke and course ratings will be addressed elsewhere in Deer Tracks but be sure to have anyone in the pro shop help you with any questions you may have ... as soon as we figure it out ourselves.

Dave Marsh was leading the Golf Draft at last look.

Rory McIlroy and Mark Wilson being a couple of wise picks, but it's still early.

Ian McIsaac reports the course is in great shape.

Cuttings began in mid-March which is the earliest ever so we expect to have a terrific spring.

### **IMPACT OF THE NEW ESC METHODOLOGY:**

Using maximum numbers (rather than adjustments being based on hole-par) facilitates simpler application and comprehension of the Equitable Stroke Control (ESC) procedure. It also mitigates the affect of courses not allocating the proper par to holes as per RCGA guidelines.

Currently, in a head-to-head match, the lower handicap player has a better than 50% chance of winning. The new ESC will bring the odds closer to 50%.

The new ESC brings an RCGA Handicap Factor and USGA Handicap Index into virtual equivalency – an important consideration with the number of ‘snowbirds’ playing golf in certain parts of the United States during the winter months.

Canada will continue to use ‘**Handicap Factor**’ as the proper terminology related to handicapping.

Golf Canada will be communicating the changes to Equitable Stroke Control methodology to all Canadian golf industry groups including golf clubs that use Golf Canada’s Handicap Network and golfers that track an official handicap in advance of March 1, 2012.

### **CANADIAN GOLF HANDICAPPING – BY THE NUMBERS:**

In 2011 alone, more than 350,000 golfers who maintain an official RCGA Handicap Factor posted close to 7 million scores through the Handicap Network portal on [www.golfcanada.ca](http://www.golfcanada.ca).

## **UPCOMING DMA EVENTS**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event Name</b>
Apr 7	Early Bird Scramble
Apr 14	Ladies' Season Opening Luncheon
Apr 21	Opening Day Tournament - Best 2 Ball Foursomes/ <b>SPRING GENERAL MEETING</b>
Apr 28	Better Ball Match Play - 2 Man Teams - First Rnd.
Apr 28	Ladies' 4-Ball Match Play, First Round
May 6	Couples Better Ball Match Play - First Round
May 19	President's Cup - 2 Man Team Better Ball Net
May 19	Ladies' Charity Ball
May 27	Les Estey Memorial - Mixed 2 Ball / Better Ball

### **Deer Tracks Information**

Deer Tracks will be a monthly publication and will be published at the beginning of each month. We have emailed to start but you will be able to access them directly via this link to our website.

<http://www.golfdeerfield.com/membership/memberarea.html>

Login: **deerfield** Password: **dfgmember**

We will also have some printed for the loft. This issue is our April Issue and our next issue will be published by May 5<sup>th</sup>. Therefore we will need all the conveners’ write up’s for the April events by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Please send them to [dharris@focusedsolutions.ca](mailto:dharris@focusedsolutions.ca) as just content in an email or word document. I will then copy and paste into the newsletter.

Thanks & All The Best for a great season.

## **FROM THE GALLERY:**

What if you were playing in the club championship tournament finals and the match was halved at the end of 17 holes?

You had the honour and hit your ball a modest two hundred fifty yards to the middle of the fairway, leaving a simple six iron to the pin.

Your opponent then hits his ball, lofting it deep into the woods to the left of the fairway.

Being the golfing gentleman that you are, you help your opponent look for his ball.

Just before the permitted five minute search period ends, your opponent says: "Go ahead and hit your second shot and if I don't find it in time, I'll concede the match."

You hit your ball, landing it on the green, stopping about ten feet from the pin.

About the time your ball comes to rest, you hear your opponent exclaim from deep in the woods: "I found it!".

The second sound you hear is a click, the sound of a club striking a ball and the ball goes sailing out of the woods and lands on the green, stopping no more than six inches from the hole. **Now here is the ethical dilemma:**

Do you pull the cheating bastard's ball out of your pocket and confront him with it or do you keep your mouth shut?