



Seniors Section Newsletter Lockdown 3, April 2020



This edition will focus heavily on golf at home and provide some very useful tips and advice on how to play the wonderful game of golf whilst staying safe and isolating. Every item used can be sourced from within the home, garden shed or garage. No lives must be put in danger sourcing the materials. Other than your own, when the lady of the house notices what you have used. Do not put access to the bedroom at risk!! Some parts of the game need the best of conditions, be it selecting the ideal carpet or preparing the lawn, others quite simply a means of stopping the ball killing someone down the street or five gardens away. This special edition of the Newsletter will guide you on your mission.

Prompted by a reaction to the "stint meter" from an avid reader, during the follow up research the ED realised that putting and the quality of the putting surface is paramount and should be to the forefront of "Isolation golf" but not exclusively so. Read on.

Golf at home

1) Putting

Putting, part of the game that deteriorates very quickly without practise, but for practise to be meaningful, indoors or out, it is vital to know the characteristics of the putting surface

Evidently what's needed is a STIMPMETER.

It seems there is no such thing as a stint meter. Explains a lot, searched Amazon for one without success and believed I had made history and found something they don't sell. Perhaps everyone in the section knew that, except the editor!!! So researched a Stimpmeter. Expecting a very elaborate measuring device with rollers, friction plates, levers and electronic measuring things, none of it, **you** can make your own. To help all those with a putting green project, or need to find the ideal carpet in your house, below is what you need. Hint the spare bedroom carpet is not a bad place to start, at least you will know your course when the inevitable arrives.

Warning all materials must be found in the garage or shed, nipping off to B&Q does not qualify as essential travel and the N/L can not condone irresponsible behaviour

Materials,

1 piece of disused gutter.

3 golf balls (good condition not ex-range balls)

1 tape measure that can measure in inches.

3 golf tees, any size.

Tools

Marker pen

Saw

Note book

Calculator

Method Cut drain pipe to 36 inches, use pen to put mark 6" from one end. Job done.

How to Measure the green speed.

Hold gutter at 20 degrees, release three balls from spot onto flat area, mark each ball with tee and measure distance from base of gutter, calculate average. Carefully reposition and measure again in opposite direction. Average of the averages is your reading. Couldn't be easier. Target is 10ft.

As a conscientious isolation golfer, you have now realised that not consistently achieving 20 deg. introduces variable and you are now wondering how do I guarantee the angle of dangle of 20 deg. and where do I find the gutter. In the case of the latter, in Ed's situation plenty fallen down from neighbour's house, won't miss a piece at dead of night. As for the 20 deg. For the engineers out there something to do with weird maths but for the more practically minded there is a solution. If you look hard, you might still have that geometry set and for the first time in your life find a use for a protractor (see fig). That's the half-moon piece of plastic normally stored in a tin together with a hinged pin thing and a pencil in it, used for drawing circles. Please retain the pin thing for future use as at some point there will be the need to cut a hole in your lawn or spare room carpet. By the way 20deg that's angle not temperature.

The picture shows one the editor made earlier, green coming on well, don't you think? Honed the cutting blade of 20 year old Honda to tolerance of 1mm. No green bin collection for a while, ah well tip daily cuttings over neighbours' fence, will never be noticed, adds to the jungle.





Seniors Section Newsletter



2) Chipping and irons

Good to see one member is isolating AND keeping up the practise. Looks like he has built his own flight scope equipment, is that a screen on the right? Warning, the straightness of John's play is legendary but for those with a greater tendency to hook the ball the use of a hard hat (no advertising logos) and cricket box (worn beneath trousers) are strongly advised. Alternatively, the John Lewis towels in store ready for a flooded kitchen can be draped over the fridges to prevent ricochet or denting.

A suggestion to further develop John's indoor/outdoor practise area. (patents applied for), put a target on the back-drop, keep a score of every 20 shots. Each 20 constitutes a game. Then submit it as a qualifying competition towards your new handicap due in November. Under the new rules the best 8 games of the last 20 will determine your handicap. Cope with that Mr Woodward, members will expect your letters around October. However, do not forget to adjust for the degree of difficulty better known as the "slope". The "slope" of John's garage is obviously very high. The approach to the target is clearly narrow and surrounded by hazards. In the current crisis officials of the County will not be able to attend and measure your facility so all members are respectfully asked to adjudicate their own facility with fairness.



John, good to see appropriate footwear, no shorts and an approved Ping top, standards are being maintained, well done sir.

3) Driving and big irons.

Build your own driving net (a loose description)

Materials

Old or new sheet depending on negotiation skills.

Washing line

4 bricks

Piece of astro turf, carpet square or similar.

Lightweight practise balls.



Warning, unless a very high quality sheet is used, (JL purchases not recommended) your best balls should not be used. Even allowing for the "seniors factor" penetration risk can be high.

Created by Grandson's dad in isolation on behalf of Newsletter
Need a word with his coach, what do you think Graham, head up a little early???

Looking at lawn all around to theirs, sorry can't do that.

Next time: - make your own hole cutter.

