



# THE THONG ADJUSTER



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## The Putter speaks

A word from the editor

Ah, spring! The days are warmer, the rough is rougher, the traps are sandier and the greens are, well, greener. What a great time to play golf!

During the last few weeks and the next few to come, The Iron Thong has moved around to some new courses (Who cares how much gas costs – this is more important than mpg!). We've already been to The Golf Club of Seguin and are scheduled to play Starcke Park in Seguin on May 10. There's even some talk of putting together another field trip and going out to Bastrop to see how many pine trees we can hit.

It's also getting close to vacation season for most of us, so for the next month or so we may not have as many foursomes hitting the links as we have in the past. I know a couple of us (Mike Fisk and I) are heading down to Myrtle Beach to play in the National Retired Military Golf Classic. It's four days of great golf on great courses, all sandwiched around the gorgeous South Carolina coast. What a week!

**New member:** We have one new member since last Adjuster issue. We welcome Ed "Not So" Sharpe to our midst. Hit 'em good, Ed!

Speaking of new members, here's a 2008 challenge to everyone: bring in one new member this year. We have about 35 people in our group now and most of them are active and come out most weeks to play. If we got just one more from everyone, we'd up our membership to 70!

See ya next month.  
Steve





The Thong Adjuster is published online monthly for The Iron Thong Golf Group members.

Go to <http://www.IronThongGolf.com> to view the current issue.

Articles, including for sale items, can be submitted at any time. Send them to the editor at [stevevanwert@hughes.net](mailto:stevevanwert@hughes.net).

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# Just 'fore' laughs



*"Hey, this place looks familiar! Isn't this Epcot Center?"*



*"Excellent swing! Great form! Too bad you missed the ball."*



# FAQ

## Frequently Asked Questions about Golf What you need to know about the equipment in your bag

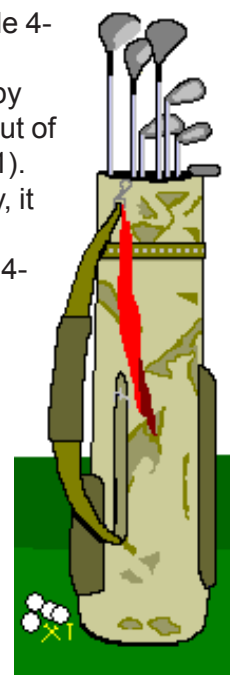
Excerpted from Golf Digest, May 2008

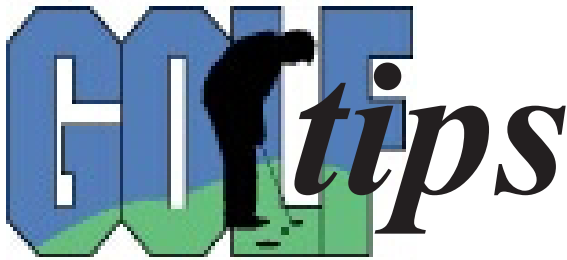
(Editor's note: I try to run rules articles that concern things that actually happen to us on the course. One of our guys asked me about this rule concerning clubs because someone in his foursome replaced a broken club during the round. Was that legal? Here is the answer.)

### Rule 4: Clubs

Although Rule 4-4 (carrying a maximum of 14 clubs) seldom has to be enforced, Ian Woosnam received a two-shot penalty during the 2001 British Open when his caddy left two drivers in his bag. This is just one of several important rules dealing with clubs that golfers should memorize. The others:

1. You can't alter the playing characteristics of your clubs during the round (Rule 4-2a) or apply anything to the clubface with the intent of changing your ball flight (Rule 4-2b).
2. If you accidentally damage a club during a round (includes damage caused by hitting a shot with it, dropping it, leaning on it, using it during a search or pulling it out of the bag, you can repair it, replace it or continue to use it (Rule 4-3a, Decision 4-3/1).
3. If you intentionally damage a club other than during the normal course of play, it can't be used or replaced (Rule 4-3b).
4. If you damage a club, you can't borrow someone else's on the course (Rule 4-3a[iii]).
5. If you began a round with 14 clubs, you can't replace one during the round (Decision 4-3/10).
6. If you have 14 clubs and find a lost club during a round, it's okay to keep it in your bag. Just don't use it (Decision 4-4a/8).
7. It's okay to put lead tape on a club, but not during a round. However, it's okay to replace lead tape that has become detached during the normal course of play (Decisions 4-1/4, 4-2/0.5).
8. It's okay to carry a weighted training club during a round, but it has to be a conforming club and count as one of your 14 clubs (Decision 4-4a/7).
9. Wet grips cannot be replaced during a round (Decision 4-3/5).





## Fighting the wind

This is from the "The Golfer's Manual" book, by W. Meredith Butler.

"The wind one morning sprang up from sleep, Saying, ' Now for a frolic, now for a leap; Now for a madcap galloping chase, I'll make a commotion in every place.'"

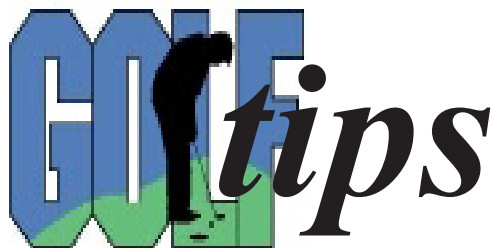
That the wind is a formidable obstructionist goes without saying, and many are the strange freaks it has played upon uninitiated golfers. One of the stories tells us how a novice, having carefully constructed a high tee, drove his ball into the teeth of a high wind; and, after soaring to a considerable height, the ball fell a hundred yards behind the tee! We need not believe the story in its entirety, but we can deduce a useful moral from it.

It may be interesting to note that, apart from the wind's influence upon the stroke, it gives variety to a golf-course. After playing for several successive days on the same links in a dead calm, the advent of a breeze comes almost as a relief with its effect upon the length of the respective holes. Different clubs and strokes are invoked to meet the altered conditions, hazards that are usually regarded as *betes noirs* are "carried" with ease, and your short holes that are meant to be within the compass of the iron or mashie, can barely be reached with the driver; "out of bounds" claims many a victim, and shares in ball-manufacturing companies go up with a jump! Be that as it may, the influence of the wind upon the play is a matter for serious consideration, if we wish to maintain the steadiness of our game. Of the three kinds, the rear, head, and cross-winds, the first is the least troublesome, and the last the most disturbing — to both the stroke and one's equanimity.

With the cross-wind, the best working principle to go on is to take very little notice of it, and to lay yourself out for a steady straight shot with just a shade of allowance to the right or left as the case may be. Experience shows that in spite of a preconceived alarm concerning the wind's influence, these fears are quite ungrounded; a straight-driven ball is practically unaffected by it. Yet some players will persuade themselves that now is the time to baffle the wind's baneful opposition by an intelligent policy of counter-action, and they attempt to put into force their somewhat unpractised knowledge of the "pull" and "slice." The wind, however, appears to take a diabolical pleasure in contributing to the allowance made and so to indicate that, in this case, desperate ills do not need desperate remedies. There is one useful precaution however: let the tee be a little lower than usual.

Both rear and head-winds require some variation in the swing, tee and stance. From whatever quarter the wind may be blowing, its tendency is to produce unsteadiness. A shortened swing is desirable to secure a greater control of the club and to give more confidence. With the wind behind, the object is to get its full benefit; a high tee and a stance which places the ball much nearer to the left foot than the right will help to get the additional elevation. But here a word of caution is needed: don't press.

This advice applies equally to the stroke against the wind. All that is needed, in addition to the modified swing, is a low tee and a stance which finds the ball rather near the line of the right foot. It is useful, too, with a head wind, to take an easier swing, and to direct the eye, with the hope of the club co-operating with it, towards the top of the ball. A well-executed stroke will find the ball skimming away a few feet above the ground, and cheating the wind of much of its force. But, over-done, the result will be a disappointing "top." By way of digression it may be added that this fault of "topping"



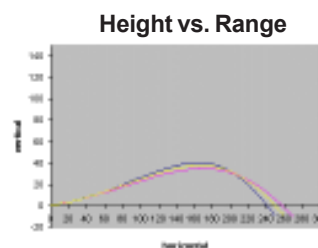
## A frolic, a leap and a commotion in every place

Continued from page 4

the ball is a common one. It is due to the straightening of the trunk and legs during the up-swing, thus producing an unsteadiness of the head that disturbs the necessary “fixity” of the eye. The prevention lies in the maintenance of the slight relaxation of the knee-joints which is assumed at the beginning of the stroke.

## How does the wind affect the golf ball?

The speed of the wind varies with height above the ground. A golfer is able to measure the speed of the wind at ground level. The golf ball moves at a higher point, and therefore the wind speed is greater. The higher the ball moves, the greater the wind speed. The physics of fluid motion models how the speed changes with height. It is well understood. Unfortunately, the wind changes (gusts) and thus adds uncertainty to the golfer’s measurement of wind speed.

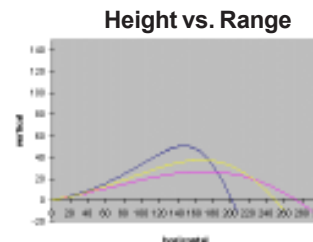


Left is a graph showing the path of 3 different drives. The shortest represents hitting into a 5 mph wind (about 240 yds). The longest represents hitting with a 5 mph wind (about 260 yds). The middle length drive is with no wind (about 255 yds). A 5 mph wind is very minimal, thus the effect is low, yet significant. Note as well the different trajectories created by the wind.

Right is a graph showing the path of 3 different drives, similar to the one above, except the wind speed is 20 mph.

Note that into the wind the drive flies 200 yds, with no wind it flies 250 yds and with the wind, it flies 275 yds. The effect of the wind is much more significant when hitting into it than when hitting with it.

Hitting into the wind actually causes the ball to balloon higher into the air.



Of course the effect of the wind depends on your ball trajectory. Players that hit the ball higher have their shots more greatly effected. That’s why better players tend to hit knock-down shots when playing in the wind. As well, how far a player hits his/her various clubs will have an effect of how many more or less yards the wind will provide.

## *5 golf tips for playing in the wind*

*By Chuck Evans*

For the past few days I have been watching golfers play in extremely windy conditions. Now these players are not PGA Tour caliber but they do have something in common: they must learn how to control their golf ball in the wind.

Here are a few things you'll need to know about playing in the wind.

**1. Take more club** - Your normal "150" club probably isn't going to go that far when hitting into the wind. But down wind you could take a smaller club and get the same distance.

**2. Swing easier** - The harder you try and hit the golf ball the more spin you put on it. The more spin the more the wind affects the shot.

**3. Take a wider stance** - The wind can move you around and affect your balance. To counteract that, widen your stance. This lowers your center of gravity and helps to maintain a solid base into the ground.

**4. Shorten your stroke** - The longer your backstroke the more chance you have of over swinging and having balance problems. By keeping the backstroke shorter you'll have more control.

**5. Let the golf ball "ride the wind"** - This one is a source of controversy. Some players like to try and "work" the ball into the wind, which straightens out the flight. But almost all great wind players let the ball ride the wind. If it's blowing right to left then they will hit a shot that goes in the direction of the wind.

You'll also notice that the European players use a much wider stance for putting than do their US counterparts. This wider stance does help make the players foundation much more solid and since the Europeans usually play in these conditions we should take a page out of their notebook.

The next time you're playing in windy conditions use these tips and have a more solid ball striking round.

*Chuck Evans is one of only 31 teachers worldwide designated to hold a "Doctorate in Golf Stroke Engineering." He is Executive Director of Instruction for the Medicus Golf Institute and has served as Director of Schools for the PGA Tour Golf Academy and the Director of Instruction for the United States Golf Institute and The Golfing Machine.*



# Lee Trevino Quotes

## Great Quotes from Lee Trevino

“I’ve been hit by lightning and been in the Marine Corps for four years. I’ve traveled the world and been about everywhere you can imagine. There’s not anything I’m scared of except my wife.”

“You can make a lot of money in this game. Just ask my ex-wives. Both of them are so rich that neither of their husbands work.”

“If you are caught on a golf course during a storm and are afraid of lightning, hold up a 1-iron. Not even God can hit a 1-iron.”

“You can talk to a fade but a hook won’t listen.”

“There is no such thing as a natural touch. Touch is something you create by hitting millions of golf balls.”



“You don’t know what pressure is until you’ve played for \$5 a hole with only \$2 in your pocket.”

“One of the nice things about the Senior Tour is that we can take a cart and cooler.

If your game is not going well, you can always have a picnic.”

“I’m in the woods so much I can tell you which plants are edible.”

“I’m not saying my golf game went bad, but if I grew tomatoes they would have come up sliced.”

I’m a golfaholic. And all the counseling in the world wouldn’t help me.”

“I still swing the way I used to, but when I look up the ball is going in a different direction.”

## *What are the odds of making a Double Eagle?*

The double eagle, also known as the albatross, is a rare bird on the golf course -- much rarer than the hole-in-one. To make a double-eagle requires aing a par-4 hole or scoring 2 on a par-5 hole. But are exact double-eagle odds known?

No, at least not definitively. However, the figure of 6-million-to-1 is commonly quoted on the Web and in some print articles. The problem with this figure is that no source is given for it.

A 2004 article in *Golf World* magazine quoted Dean Knuth, inventor of the USGA's slope rating system for golf courses and handicaps, as saying the 6-million-to-1 figure was a little too high. Knuth put the odds at 1-million-to-1. Knuth is such a smart guy, we're inclined to go with his figure.

Regardless, it's clear that the double-eagle is a much rarer feat on the golf course than the ace: hole-in-one odds are in the neighborhood of 13,000-to-1 for the average golfer.

The *Golf World* article included a great assortment of facts about both double eagles and aces

Among those facts are:

- Between 1983 to 2003, there were 631 aces on the PGA Tour but just 56 double-eagles - and never more than 6 albatrosses in one year.
- From 1971 to 2003, there were 24 double-eagles on the LPGA Tour.
- Approximately 40,000 aces a year are made in the U.S., compared to just a couple hundred double-eagles.

## Sign of the times

