

The Captain's Report – Duke's Divot

Fellow Nomads,

It just seemed like the other day that we concluded our 2008 calendar and now we have already played our first game in 2009. Our game at Walmer Country Club 11th January was enjoyed in good weather, but low in numbers. Gerrie Hoekstra and his staff once again laid on the facilities in order for our day to be a pleasant one. Walmer Country Club really make Nomads feel comfortable when we go there, we will miss them next year.

Joining our field on Sunday was Walmer Country Club Captain, Dave Worthington, and we thank him for playing with us, fortunately he was my partner and we managed to extract some money from John Wilcock and Tim Mason. Thank you for your company.

It was a reasonably uneventful day until we encountered a pair Boomslang. On the 12th hole Dave hit his ball off the "pipe" into the right hand side trees. On having a quick look for his ball we came across the two snakes (a male and female) and you can only guess what they were doing, yes, discussing the weather. We nearly stood on them, one shot up the tree and the other slithered away out of our way. Needless to say we left Dave to look for his own ball, which he very quickly conceded that it was lost!

Well done to our winners on Sunday, Benji Zhang, Foetie Malherbe and Earl Berman, all went through the forty-point barrier! It will be a pleasure to hand over the silver ware at our next game. Talking about silver ware, I had the pleasure of presenting Ken Russell, Robbie De Schande and Dennis Byron their salvers from late last year.

Other presentations went to Chris Lessing, 100 game badge, and Stuart Mclver a five-year tie. Well done and keep up your participation.

As I have mentioned before, 2009 is going to be a tough year (you would not think so if you saw the boys around the pub late on Sunday night!) but nevertheless we will endeavour to maintain a reasonable prize table and urge you all to make an effort to play your games. Our printers have advise us that they can no longer waiver the printing costs as in the past, as a result we may be forced to publish our newsletter on the website like many other clubs. We have two sponsorships open on our prize sheet, namely the "Two Clubs" and "Captains Folley", anyone wishing to sponsor, please contact me.

Two very special games coming up soon is the Old Mutual Pairs, please get those entries in as this game takes place on the 22nd February, remember, you needn't play with him on the day, just nominate your partner and your scores will be added together for your points. Please pay this money on registration on the day. Last year our two Nomads, Dennis Jones and Stuart Mclver came close to winning the South African leg, which would have meant a trip overseas, you never know your luck, so enter!

The other event is the Gary Player Knock out tournament; enter with your partner for some good and enjoyable golf, first round.

Each of the above carries a R50,00 per player entry fee.

Please also note: The Forward Tees Referendum, each and every Nomad in the Eastern Cape is requested to respond to the question re forward tees, please let Jean have those answers, this is very important.

Look forward to seeing you all at the Port Elizabeth Golf Club on the 22nd February.

Yours in Nomads,

Duke Nel

The Vice's Version

Fellow Nomads,

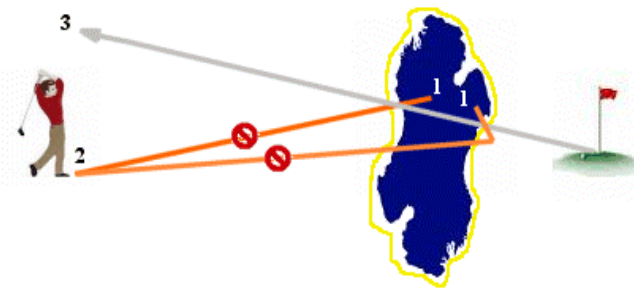
I wish you and your families all the best for 2009, and may it be the year that you reach your personal and golfing goals, be it breaking 100, 90, 80 or 70! The Walmer Country Club was a treat as our first game for the year; the weather was great and the company even better. I partnered Peter Pitsiladi and we were grouped with Bill Anderson and past Captain, Jeremy Barton – I thoroughly enjoyed the day! To Dave Worthington, Captain of Walmer CC, thank you, and your committee, for looking after us so well - I've never parked in a "reserved" parking bay before! It is a huge privilege for us as Nomads to be hosted at clubs like this.

Passing on the "Bells and Milk" baton to Eddie Kruger, our Junior Vice Captain, was emotional to say the least, but he guarantees me that the Bells will never be late and that the milk will always be full cream! What a RESULT!

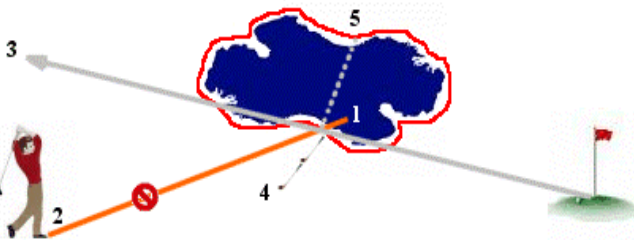
This year my function, as Vice Captain, is to co-ordinate the AMEF fundraising efforts and I have assembled a formidable team; Duke Nel, Eddie Kruger, Jonathan Oates, Paul Bester, Ian Goodan, Nick Koumpan, Marcel Roux and Glen Blom to assist me. The two main fundraising days are the Race Day at Arlington Race Course on 3 July, and the AMEF Day on Thursday, 20 August. I look forward to you Nomadic support with these two events.

In a recent game it became apparent that we all weren't 100% certain of the rules relating to the colour of the stake markers. The out of bounds markers are **white** and should you hit it there you are required to "reload" from the spot where you stuck the wayward culprit. Remember that when stakes (or a fence) indicate out-of-bounds, then out-of-bounds begins at the nearest inside point of the stakes at ground level (excluding any kind of angled supports). When a line is used to indicate out-of-bounds, the line itself is out-of-bounds.¹ This is the same for other coloured stake too.

For a regular water hazard, marked with **yellow** stakes or lines, there are three options: 1) play the ball as it lies; or, under penalty of one stroke, 2) play another ball from where the original ball was struck into the hazard; or 3) drop behind the hazard, keeping the point where the ball last crossed the margin of the hazard between the hole and the spot on which the ball is dropped.



For a lateral water hazard, marked with **red** stakes or lines, there are five options; the first three are the same as for a regular hazard. The other two options are also under penalty of one stroke, 4) drop 2 club lengths from the point of entry into the hazard; or 5) drop 2 club lengths from point on the opposite margin, equidistant from the hole.² There are also other types of stakes; Double (yellow and red frequently tied together), Blue stakes (GUR), Green (Environmentally sensitive), Blue with green tops and Red with green tops, but these are for a discussion another day.



Arnold Palmer once declared, "Golf is deceptively simple and endlessly complicated; it satisfies the soul and frustrates the intellect. It is at the same time rewarding and maddening - and it is without a doubt the greatest game mankind has ever invented." With this in mind, I look forward to the Nomadic comradery in 2009 and the next game at the Port Elizabeth Golf Club on 22 February 2009. See you there!

Yours in Nomads,

Greg Clack

¹ About Golf website available <http://golf.about.com/od/rulesofgolf/a/stakesandlines.htm>

² Monarch Dunes Golf Club website available at <http://www.monarchdunesgolfclub.org/mens/2008/05/basic-usga-rules-of-golf.asp>

Eddie's Eagle

Fellow Nomads,

It is a great privilege and an honour to submit this as my first report as JVC in 2009. I look forward to this year with enthusiasm, anxiety and anticipation. My main aspirations and goals are to continue the good work already done with respect to junior golf, as well as the general furtherance of golf. Marcelle Roux has agreed to accept this challenge and will be representing Nomads with respect to Junior Golf, a very important portfolio.

I would also like to ensure the growth and success of all the away tours as in the past starting with the Easterns Challenge scheduled for 28th February at Bloemfontein Golf Course. This should be another one to remember and I'm sure most of us are looking forward to this trip.

The one of the other two "away tours" is the rough Ryder Cup and Frontier Trophy played at Fish River and Port Alfred respectively, played on the weekend of the 11 & 12 July. It would be great to send a full complement of participants and I believe we will emerge victorious this time round. The other is the Seaboard in the Southern Cape at Goose Valley from 9 to 10 August. My request is that we all make a concerted effort to participate in these away tours as this is in my opinion one of the best ways to build new and long lasting friendships that make life just that more fulfilling.

The first game of the year at Walmer Country Club was most enjoyable. Both the weather and the course were great, as were my playing partner Michael Bezuidenhout and opponents Michael Creighton and Renier van Niekerk. After playing very little golf over the festive season the golf swing wasn't bad at all and I had visions of scoring my best round ever after 9 holes. Sadly this was not to be, however there is always next month.

Based on my experience as detailed above I console myself with legendary inspirational quotations that keep me coming back and I leave you with a few examples that might also inspire you to greater heights:

"I have a tip that can take five strokes off anyone's golf game: it's called an eraser." ~Arnold Palmer
"Golf is a game that is played on a five-inch course - the distance between your ears." ~Bobby Jones
"I'm about five inches from being an outstanding golfer. That's the distance my left ear is from my right."
~Ben Crenshaw

All the best for 2009 and remember the Gary Player quote, "The more you practice the luckier you get"

Yours in Golf

Eddie