

**With the end of the golfing season fast approaching in many northern European countries, Tony has been busy travelling, spending time with associations, organisations and governing bodies, helping to define strategies and policies for subsequent years.**

## **Golf Forum – Faro, Portugal**

**“This a very important incentive in growing the game in Portugal”**

Sr.Martins, 2007

a hundred people almost everyday, with more than six hundred taking lessons from a PGA qualified professional and a team of introducers, and culminated with over 1500 people coming in touch with golf. Additionally Golf Forum invited pupils from schools and associations to book a free golf experience. For a full review of the event, published in the Lisbon / Algarve Resident, on Friday the 14<sup>th</sup> of October, use the following link, "Golf fun for all".

“Golf Forum”, an event created by Tony and developed by Forum Algarve aimed at providing the community and users of the Forum an opportunity to have a first touch with golf or improve established golfing skills, was completed on the 7<sup>th</sup> October. The event attracted well over



**7<sup>th</sup> of October: Skills Challenge**

## **European Teaching and Coaching Conference**

Most of the leading coaches in Europe came together in Malmo in early October. The bi-annual event, this year organised by the PGA of Sweden and licenced by the PGA's of Europe attracted over 600 professionals to the three day conference. Tony as a member of the Board and active member of the Education advisory panel of the PGA's of Europe commented, “ in most countries it is now a requirement that golf professionals continue to learn and remain current with new research into coaching and teaching. The PGA's of Europe actively promote 'further education' and are constantly looking to find the best coaching practices”.

## **Player Development**

Tony who works with elite performers all over the world has been working with many players as they finish the 2007 seasons in preparation for the new year. Tony would like to congratulate Brazilian Rafael Becker on winning the Brazilian U18 order of merit.



**Rafael Becker: Order of Merit Winner**

## **Glenmuir renew sponsorship agreement**

Leading European golf clothing brand and official clothing to the European Ryder Cup Teams (Glenmuir) have announced they will continue to be the official apparel chosen by Tony Bennett for a further year. Tony is proud to be associated with a company who is renowned for their focus on fashion, style and colour along with the company's trademark for quality and performance. For further information on Glenmuir products visit [www.glenmuir.co.uk](http://www.glenmuir.co.uk) .

# TONY'S COMMENT

11/ 2007

**"The final full field event of any European Tour season is always full of winners and losers and 2007 was no exception". (PGA European Tour news)**

Those players that finished in the top 117 places on the Order of Merit were rewarded with full playing privileges for the 2008 season while those who fell outside the magic number return to Tour school.

Sam Little and Richard Finch were outside the 117 and so needed a good week to climb up the ranking, Little who finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in Mallorca and Finch who finished 7<sup>th</sup> both did enough to secure their cards for 2008.

Jarmo Sandlin perhaps was the most relieved with his final round of level par 70, which was completed with three consecutive pars, being just enough to gain the final card. His earnings of €212,658 put him just €77 in front of Lee Slattery who had the disappointment of finishing 118 on the list.

## In context

To gain some perspective on how the European Tour has grown over the last twenty-three years it might be worth considering that the winner of the 1984 European Tour Order of Merit was two times Masters Champion and inspirational former Ryder Cup Captain Bernard Langer who took home the equivalent of €210,000 for his efforts in that year.

## The Value of a single shot?

We have all heard that golf should be played one shot at a time, that we should stay in the present and focus on what is happening now, not be distracted by the past or the future. Well there is no doubt that throughout the course of the season all of us will play a few shots with our mind some place other than where it should be and it is safe to assume that unfortunately for Lee Slattery there will have been at least one occasion through the season when he played a shot without being completely in the present. One shot may have made the €77 difference that would have put him into the top 117. The one shot may not have been in the final event but instead in a tournament played earlier in the year. In any case I hope that Lee goes onto to gain his playing privileges for 2008 and know that he will fully appreciate the value of a single stroke and am convinced that he will strive to ensure each shot will be played one shot at a time, in the present. Kjell Enhanger at the recent PGA's of Europe Teaching and coaching Conference says that "staying in the present is a gift", that is perhaps the best present of all.



Sam Little  
Ross Kinnaird/Getty Images



Lee Slattery  
David Cannon/Getty Images

## Official World Rankings

1. Tiger Woods (22.95)
2. Phil Mickelson (09.26)
3. Jim Furyk (07.64)
4. Ernie Els (07.31)
5. Steve Stricker (07.05)

## European Rankings

1. Ernie Els
2. Padraig Harrington
3. Justin Rose
4. Henrik Stenson
5. Niclas Fasth

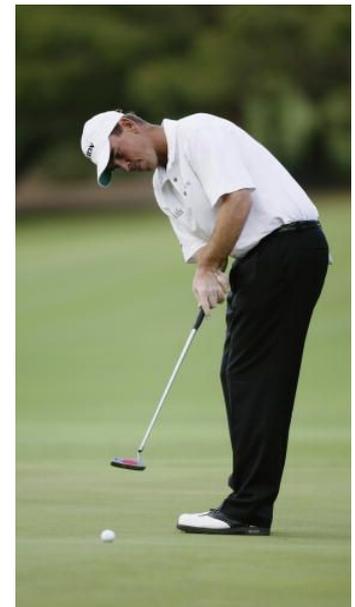
Last updated on 28<sup>th</sup> October

## Hole more putts

Have you ever had a putt from a couple of metres to win a event, beat your playing partners or to complete the best round of your golfing career? My guess is that you have and that for most it was a moment that they will remember for many years.

If you holed the putt you will remember how good it felt to pick the ball out of the hole and all the things that go along with success, the sound of the gallery, the feeling of satisfaction for a task well done and the congratulations of your playing partners. If you missed then the feelings of disappointment tend to kick in followed by mental replay of the offending putt.

Successful putting is about positioning the body in a neutral and comfortable position and allowing the movement to determine the direction of roll while the length of the swing determines the distance. This article will not tell you how to stand but rather will encourage you to stand in a position of your choice that has you with your eyes +/- over the ball, your hands +/- under the top of your spine (the pivot), your arms, specifically the trail arm hanging from your shoulders and the body well balanced, after that the choice is largely yours, the stance can be as unique as your signature. In all learning you need feedback; although the putting stroke feedback is at best unreliable as the knowledge of results is dependent on whether the ball enters the hole, but this is not 100% reliant on the stroke.



**Thomas Bjorn**  
Averages 29.1 putts per round

### Stats Leaders (PGA Tour)

#### Scoring Average

1. Tiger Woods (67.79)
2. Ernie Els (69.29)

#### Driving Accuracy Percentage

1. Jose Coceres (75.47%)
2. Fred Funk (75.26%)

#### Greens Regulation Percentage

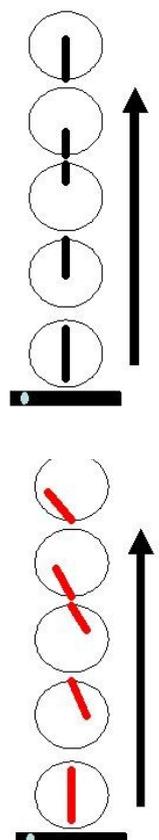
1. Tiger Woods (71.02%)
2. John Senden (70.33%)

#### Putting Average

1. Fredrik Jacobson (1.726)
2. Jonathan Byrd (1.728)

You could make a perfect stroke but misread the green, get the speed wrong, or hit a bump on the green, in each case the stroke was good but the result was failure. Likewise we have all hit putts that we thought would miss and yet somehow the ball finished in the hole, in these cases the result was successful.

A better feedback is to assess how the ball rolls and this can be done easily with a ball and marker pen. Many people draw a line on their ball and use it to act as a guide to alignment, this same line if made a little wider will act as a feedback device and allow you to see if the ball rolls purely or wobbles as it makes its way towards the hole, if the putting stroke is efficient then the line on the ball will continue to point in the same direction as the ball rolls towards the target see the model above. If the stroke is flawed then the line will look more like the model below as the ball rolls towards the target. As with all learning this should be performed at the practice area and once you are comfortable, transfer your learning to the course.



## New for the Fall of 2007



To find out more about Zen Putters and the various feedback drills, speak to Tony or visit [www.zenoracle.co.uk](http://www.zenoracle.co.uk)

### Product News: Zen Oracle "RDE" Mallet

Many of our readers will have already been introduced to the Zen series by Tony, who has been using the product for nearly four years. The Zen Oracle Putter series designed by Nick Middleton is the world's first R&A and USGA Conforming "Train & Play" system. The slightly larger than golf ball sized aperture enables a "Training" mode to conduct a comprehensive range of direct feedback drills that programme perfect putting mechanics; while in the "Play" mode the same construction provides a face-balanced putter with extreme high movement of inertia (MOI) resulting in less head twisting at impact.

The Zen Oracle "RDE" Mallet (pronounced "ready") now incorporates the scientifically validated Micro Ridge face technology which is proven to reduce dimple error, the adverse effect that can knock the ball off-line even with perfectly struck putts. The new Zen Mallet range is the full embodiment of Nick's mission to create putters that integrate superior training with Tour-Proven performance as the design also incorporates the patented Zen training aperture used by over 200 tour pros over the last 5 years to improve their putting.

### International Golf News and Insider Information: Portugal Masters



Steve Webster Winner of the Portugal Masters at Oceânico Victoria

Steve Webster claimed his second European Tour title, by finishing with a final round 64 to win the Portugal Masters in October. Steve led the putts on GIR for the four days with a impressive average of 1.589, while using the Zen Oracle Putter, showing that good putting pays and helps you achieve success. Webster's other win had come at the 2005 Telecom Italia Open.

### The lighter side: Heaven and Earth

Near the end of a particularly trying round of golf, during which the golfer had hit numerous fat shots, he said in frustration to his caddy, "I'd move heaven and earth to break a hundred on this course." "Try heaven," said the caddy. "You've already moved most of the earth."

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## Notice

Tony during the month of November will travel from Portugal to Italy, Iceland, United Kingdom, Spain and will visit Lisbon towards the end of the the month.