

SCATTERED GOLF® 19.0

by Massimo Gessi

The history of St. Andrews', Golf's holy ground, it is fascinating but also revelatory of modern civilization's impacts from 1800 until today on the people's movement and, circumstantially, it measured through the creation's sequence of its 6 golf courses the flow's trends of people coming there to play golf.

For over 6 centuries people played golf on the same course, the Old course that stood alone until the last quinquennium of 1800 when the New course and the Jubilee courses were created, then the Eden in 1914; 70 years go by before, 1993, the Strathtyrum was born; 15 years more until the Castle course, 2008.

Obviously, the rapid raising of green fee demand had been the reason why they had been created, but the time frame elapsed from the opening of a course to the next is really meaningful.

Until the end of '800 golf courses were scattered over Scotland, each one as a function of their own 'functional' catchment area, that is: a variable area as a function of the distances dependent on the roads serving it.

Young Tom Morris as soon as one of the most renowned match was over in 1875 at North Berwick, to return home to his dying wife in St. Andrews, hired a sail boat to run 42 km. at sea. How many hours? 4 - 5?

Here is why in those time golf courses were scattered on the territory and great players only moved from one to another to play great matches for big money; they were reported on the press and trains were organized to bring fan and gamblers on that golf course.

Whoever wanted to play golf then, he had to build his own golf course since then mobilization was very limited or requiring time and means not available to all.

Then trains reached the entire Great Britain while St. Andrews became the navel of the golfing world at the end of '800 when he was the recognized leader.

The St. Andrews 'functional' catchment area expanded dramatically, it included all of Great Britain, with London and St. Andrews getting closer; this raised the green fee demand so much that the New and the Jubilee courses had to be created; all side by side because trains brought masses from a town to any other, but from arrival stations to the golf courses, transports were in very short supply thus making a necessity that golf courses had to be within a walking distance.

From the beginning of '900 the 'functional' catchment area included already both sides of the Atlantic Ocean but transport were only by ships, slow and expensive. The number of potential golfers has increased tenfold; even if Americans do not come in droves; the Eden course was born, wedged between the other three golf courses; those four courses are enough until the '80s of last century.

In the '80s of last century, civil aviation may transport people to/from any continent, the 'functional' catchment area becomes the world. A 5th golf course becomes necessary, the Strathtyrum that fills up the St. Andrews' 'horn of Africa'.

After the millennium, the low cost civil aviation gets started, the real mass transportation between the continents; the 'functional' catchment area becomes the world that may swarm everywhere; despite skyrocketing green fee, a 6th course has to be added: the Castle, a little out of town but easily reachable thanks to the spread of public transports and low cost car hiring.

Now the last part of the equation: time to catch a plane, a train and a car to reach St. Andrews, that in the meantime had become the dream destination for 60 million people.

Money, however, it is not a factor because out of 60 million there are for sure and ever a couple of hundred thousand golfers capable to meet the travel, accommodation and green fee expenses. It is not given to know the number, but it is well known that, on line, the Old course is sold out up to 2 years in the future; if somebody really wants to play it, there is the daily lottery or to go to the starter's shed on first hole, putting himself in standby and pleading Montezuma to turn his gaze over some golfer in the playing list. Personally, I failed three times the lottery, then, at the starter's shed, Montezuma lent a helping hand to me.

The resulting equation from all the above considerations is:

given a center of attraction, its development is determined by the 'functional' catchment area: how many inhabitants, the roads leading there and from the transport's easiness and speed while the 'endurable' time necessary to reach it, is commensurate to the attraction's power of that center.

The 'endurable' time necessary to reach that center is that of an Australian willing to catch a plane, a train and a car to reach St. Andrews to play the Old course, while, never, a Scot would be willing to take the opposite route to play White Cliff, the Australian deep outback course without a single blade of grass; a course that I believe it is the exaltation of Golf played in the purest form because there is not one single condition requested to play golf; a Golf played against the hostile environment.

The best example that Golf is not only a sport but also the need of the mind to have a challenge to vanquish at every single shot, no matter the environment.

Horse and carriages, 'functional' catchment area: Scotland; the Old course is enough, its attraction power depends only on the money (purses and gambling) running with the big matches that take place there. Only the great players of each Club travel from one venue to another (Professionals are still to come). Then, come the low cost civil aviation and the computer age, transportation means become very capacious, fast and widespread, 'functional' catchment area: the world; life becomes frenetic everywhere and, misquoting Einstein, with speed, time slows down and shrinks to the point that there is no more enough to waste it in commuting or in playing 18 holes in the actual 6 hours, if not more.

Talking of today, in Continental Europe and in Central – Southern Americas, where Golf did not develop according to their 'functional' catchment areas because of their birth histories: Golf Clubs were born only as private Golf Clubs, the more exclusive, the older they were.

When since 1970, started almost everywhere the era of popular Golf spreading, the format did not change: only private Golf Clubs, popular in the intentions but still exclusive in the way they made people approaching Golf, both for the psychological atmosphere and the way the beginners had to approach training and the course.

No one ever have had the chance to try Golf as they tried Tennis with a friend.

I will take the Italian Golf as an example, valid also for all other Countries of the above areas, since initial conditions and reasons are almost the same.

Italian Golf growth is good in the Northern area because of the large Po Valley, good roads, high population density, that is: the basic components for a good 'functional' catchment area; this concept is confirmed by Roma, Italian capital city, 500 km. south of Po Valley, almost all through Apennines' mountains that open up into the Tiber valley around Roma, 7 roman consular roads, modern highways and 4 million inhabitants are the conditions that led to a good Golf development.

Golf took over 20 years, till the '90s, to fill up, sparsely, the gap between Po and Tiber Valleys.

South of Roma the conditions are even worst, population is mostly along the coasts with a lot of mountains from coast to coast, so Golf took until 2000 to reach all of Italy with a density that should be named rarefaction, for 90% made of Golfing Resorts, too many built in areas with too poor communications; though transports become more and more cheaper and faster and climate is one of the best in the world. So why? Infrastructures are the solution for Resorts but they are not enough to raise the number of local Golfers since Golf Resort are not Golf Clubs, they are just touristic industries and the world is their catchment area.

When I say a “good” development, I intend an estimated growth rate of 4-5 times from the '70, but when the initial number is less than 20 thousand, the final total is ‘insufficient’, to be polite.

Golf was born “local”, the more local, the lesser the infrastructures and the larger the catchment area to get a sufficient population to sustain it.

Southern Italy, 14 million inhabitants with two golfers for one thousand inhabitants and an average (the wild average of the two chickens) one golf course every 70 kilometers, poor and few infrastructures, sparse population, condensed along the coasts.

These conditions seem to sentence a territory to the golf desertification. It is a fact that continuing with the ‘continental’ policy through the Golf Clubs, their golf Coaches, driving range or ‘pitch and putts’ Clubs only, that desertification will take hold and remain forever, nor the global population of a continental nation may raise significantly, with the commendable exceptions of the Scandinavian Nations that, however, benefit from their populations’ low numbers.

Nonetheless, the alternative exists already in other parts of the world, in Western Australia for example. Australia is much bigger than its actual already very large geographical dimensions; down there, ranches are just a little smaller than Belgium, livestock round up is made with small helicopters; the last row of a classroom is in Brussels, Belgium, while his first row is in Tunis, Tunisia, as shown at the School of the Air in Alice Spring, lessons were radioed; Flying Doctors answered their house calls with airplanes and the White Cliffs catchment area reached over 250 km West and almost a couple of thousand kilometers North, with a population surely below one thousand inhabitants, not counting the Aboriginal population.

It is a fact that driving 200 km. for a dinner or a golf round was a normal activity down there, as the old Lady at the White Cliff’s ‘Club house’ told me to explain why I could only play the first hole because a competition was in progress and all ‘neighbors’ gathered from such distances.

All this folkloristic narration is to illustrate what kind of catchment areas there are in the kangaroos’ Land, nonetheless they succeeded in getting a ‘golf course’ in every Community with a total population higher than few tens of heads within 100 km, just using good sense: little population, few economic resources but great wish for golf resulted in a bush clearing as the hole from tee to green and wet sand green’s surfaces; according to the number of golfers they built three or six or eight holes on which anybody could play just putting 5 dollars inside a former metallic biscuit’s box inside which I often did find the fees of the previous golfers.

Gathering all these experiences: Golf is played everywhere, no matter the White Cliff’s stony hard ground or the Bombay’s sun burnt ground or the Middle East oiled sands; no matter the green surface that just needs to be fairly uniform, no matter with what; no matter how many holes there are until play flows; the self-made USA or Scots golfers. I made a cocktail of them all that resulted is my SCATTERED GOLF® that like ‘scattered hotels’ that have their rooms scattered in the village, so my golf holes, even only one at the least, are scattered in a large territory.

SCATTERED GOLF® is independent from infrastructures and population density thus it may take root anywhere with an high possibility to become a strong attraction power; let’s take a SCATTERED GOLF® hole in a small village in the mountains with the nearest golf course 70 mountainous km. away; in the beginning the three or four golfers would be thought of as extravagant people hitting small white balls to be holed at an incredible distance from where they start; after a while curiosity about them would arise and one of their friend would ask to try it, helped by the player, his friend; the initial curiosity would easily become a passion for two main reasons: HE WOULD LEARN GOLF TRYING WHILE PLAYING ON THE COURSE WITH A FRIEND; yes, one single hole IS A REAL golf course.

I already wrote it: ONE hole, ONE ball, ONE club, ONE rule are more than sufficient to play an entire golf round.

Golf is strongly attractive initially but that attraction is easily and quickly extinguished by the prospective of 6 - 8 months of lessons to be paid, of course, with a very limited course's frequentation and the temporary or full membership of a golf club or a stray golfing life from a course to the next, once a week.

The above villager must also drive back-and-forth for 140 km. each lesson.

Here is why, in Italy, we have one golfer every 700 inhabitants.

That SCATTERED GOLF® hole of mine in that lone village is a real golf course:

A – reachable by car in 15 minutes: I can have a few holes before or after work

B – it lasts as long as I want, 15 minutes, an hour or more

C – learning, training, playing are compounded in the very same activity, all together while I enjoy myself on a course that with little implementations becomes a perfect training course, a test course for my golf equipment, a competitions course where I choose which hole to play depending on which clubs I intend to play more.

Absolutely nothing to do with a driving range where a golfer can do nothing but continuously shooting balls into the void, balls that nothing have to do with a real golf ball.

D – that hole in a small village has a potential to create new golfers a 100 times stronger than any traditional golf course.

What do you need and how is it made?

LAND, if you are not a blacksmith and you do not expect players or beginners who can hit like a blacksmith: 210 by 40 meters = 0.84 hectare (2 acres) will suffice, otherwise you need 250 by 40 mt. = 1 hectare or 2.5 acres.

It is reasonable to think that for long rental period, cost should be a little less than the agricultural income since the rent would be a secured income.

GROUND, it may be of different kinds, depending on the budget and the aim for which to build it.

NATURAL GROUND, depending on the budget it may range from cultivated grassy essences to natural grass like the very strong and resilient crabgrass, not much thirsty, easy to maintain. The best is the natural vegetation growing on site, strong and slowly growing.

NATURAL GROUND QUALITY, it could be absolutely unimportant because there is an alternative solution that I will only copy from none other than St. Andrews' Old course, where they are used between November e February, they are the small mat, thinner than those of because in my TOMORROW GOLF® minimal limitations. Golf do not agglomerations at every shot. ground maintenance, an item that construction.



fairway mats (in picture); players bring along this the practice range, place the ball on it, licitly, a ball may always be placed, bunker excepted, with consist in extracting the ball from vegetal This system would solve all problems inherent the should never be forgotten while planning its

ARTIFICIAL GROUND would be the optimal solution, but costs are the same of a grassy hole, remaining the advantage of the minimal maintenance costs. That budget would be really heavy for a limited number of participants; unless while I am dreaming of it, Sporting Authorities, instead, would wake up and participate with promotional loans or even with a good quote of contribution to grant; why would they? Because wherever in the world, golfers are by the millions, they grow in a totally different way from what is done in the Continent where new golfers starvation rages, no wonder; below the explanation.

Far-sighted Sponsors would obviously be most welcomed, but especially far-sighted would be that Golf Club who would build a TOMORROW GOLF® hole in the neighborhood if not beside the venue because the self-made golfers born on that hole would naturally be their future members, of course the fee for that TOMORROW GOLF® hole has to be almost nominal, just to cover maintenance costs.

THE GREEN is the most important part of the hole, half the shots of a round are played on it; a good quality and well-designed green is what makes tolerable to play 9 time the same 'fairway' because it transforms it in 93 different holes for length and approach angles and distances depending from which holes are in use. Green area may not be too small both for boredom and wearing; 20 meters long and 15 wide is the minimum acceptable size to maintain the interest in the game; 30 by 20 would be the optimum to accept any kind of approaches: chips, chip & run. lobs, etc. It must have at the least 5 different holes with only 2-3 opened at each time to differentiate the holes; a Stimpmeter between 7- 9, no more, no less; raised 40-50 centimeters above ground level, two slopes not above 5%.

The green has to be equipped with 2-3 flags and 5 cups.

GREEN SURFACE must be SYNTHETIC because even the most roughing natural green would only apparently be cheaper, since following maintenance costs would overcome the synthetic costs in a very short time. An enlightening motto: no green, no party! This is the point where the Sport Authorities or Sponsors should come in play.

HOLE'S DIMENSIONS must be 120 millimeters in diameter to reinstate the original ball/hole proportion. It is a necessity because the actual proportion makes putting a too challenging activity, with too few chances of holing also at professional level. Putting must be a fair challenge, not the challenge for a record.

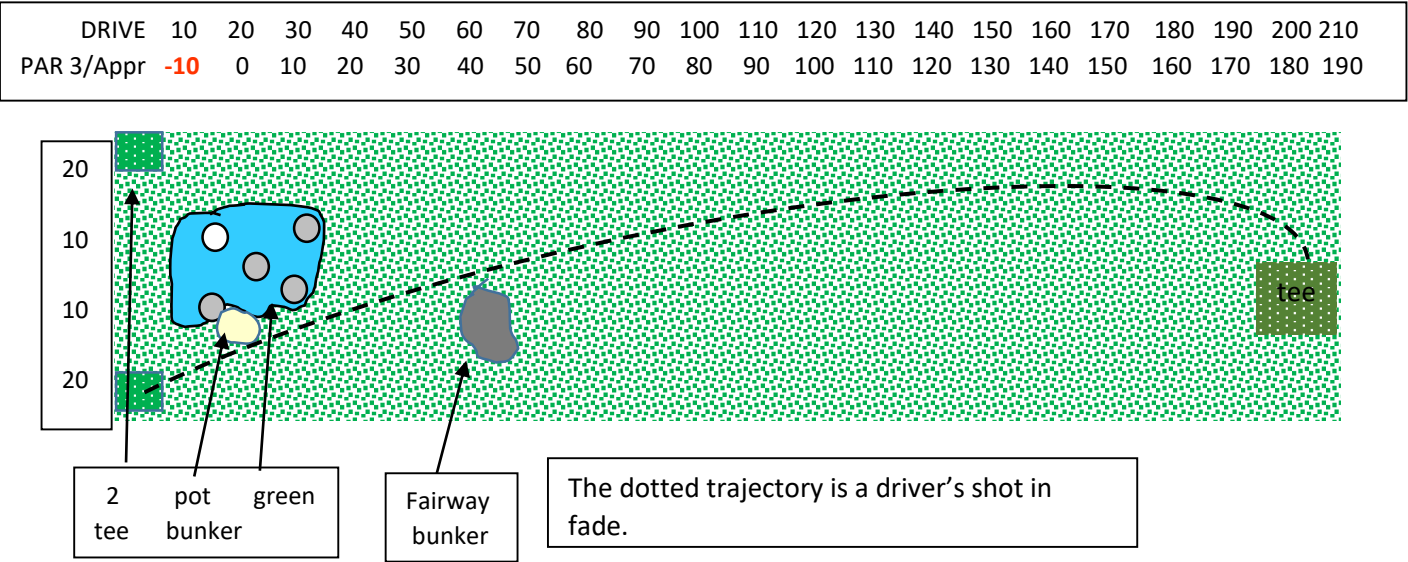
BUNKERS, are not strictly essential; about costs: a fairway bunker is cheaper than a greenside bunker, because being shallow and not needing sand it may be built by the players themselves; an unsophisticated, natural bunker relying on nature and sun to be emptied when flooded. A completely different story is a greenside bunker; it is not a bricolage feat; it is costly because it can only be a pot bunker to contain sand consumption because of the wind, and may not be 'natural' because of its depth that requires good drainage; bunker's sand may not be sea sand, thus costly, no alternative materials since it is the sand wedge kingdom that has become the killer of bunkers as hazard; greenside bunker, today, is a secondary target for rough approaches, for golfers as well.

In conclusion, such a bunker is a luxury item in a SCATTERED GOLF® hole of mine; an easier, cheaper but more selective solution for players is a good rough around the green.

TEEING GROUNDS are three, two on green's side corners to make possible driver's shots in fade or draw and one teeing ground on the opposite side for par 3 play; all synthetic mats for the same reasons of the green.

TRAIN MEANWHILE PLAY COURSE, during play it is possible to measure each shot, so getting accustomed with the real distances each club plays, trough 20 signs indicating to/from green's distances; should those signs be on both sides would be better.

Here is a sketch of a SCATTERED GOLF® hole:



On this hole, 93 different holes may be played: 51 par 5, 27 par 4 e 15 par 3, that is, all possible combinations of the 13 clubs and two more: a chip from 20 mt. and the sand wedge from the fairway's bunker.

Par 5 are unusual, much more instructional and play aimed. Below there are the tables defining all 93 holes and the way they are to be played.

The last component of the cocktail that brings to life my SCATTERED GOLF® are the self-made golfers, American, Scottish, Australian, etc. Each one of those golfers had very few, if any, golf lessons from a golf Coach; they learnt to play golf as children by their parents or friends on public golf courses.

In USA, around 2000, on the total 24 million golfers, only 7 million were in possession of an official handicap. In Europe, excluding Great Britain and Ireland, golf was born as a socially exclusive sport and its development continued to stay confined inside those exclusive Golf Club; even when it had been tried to open it to all social classes with new 'open' Golf Clubs, the conception of a secluded institution based on ancient ideas of a group of persons bound by special codes and rituals where neophytes had, mandatorily, to take lessons and get special permission before playing on the course, the knowledge of complex many Rules and Etiquette and, finally, the achieving of a playing ability level necessary not to be a disturbance to other members, continued undeterred.

In other words, a neophyte would spend the good part of a year before playing on the course; also the millennium idea to raise the entry handicap at 54 shots did not succeed in multiplying new golfers for a very obvious reason: a golfer needing 54 more shots is not a golfer, but for the name; he cannot make his ball flying that is the grain of sugar on the tip of a golfer's tongue; frustration overwhelms enjoyment, so only very determined persons may start golf that way; final result: very few new golfers, not even enough to maintain balanced the Italian golfing demography.

This is not a talk of social redress nor a blaming criticism to the world we all longtime golfers are coming from; myself as a Golf Referee, I had always been a strong defender of those Golf values, but now those values are in urgent need to move with modern times, refusing their loud and trivial manners, but Golf must accept the absolute necessity to speed up its pace, to liberalize the access to the course, not necessarily a traditional Golf Club, then, finally and mainly, the relaxation of the Rules, become asphyxiating, costly for the course maintenance and preparation for competitions, too often almost too hard to be understandable and applicable on the course in the middle of a competition.

My SCATTERED GOLF® is not in competition with Golf Coaches world, on the contrary, it is an extremely favorable chance because the true reasoning is as follows: 100 players bring 100 friends to try Golf on a SCATTERED GOLF® course, let's assume that 10 continues the trial and error process with their friends and become self-made golfers.

None of those 10 beginners would ever have tried golf in a Golf Club, with a resulting zero new golfer both for the Club and its Coach; but out of those 10 self-made golfers we take out the Americans proportion of handicapped golfers toward self-made golfers, that is a gross 3 out of ten; the result is that three self-made golfers will be interested in achieving a higher skill game, a target achievable only through coached lessons. SCATTERED GOLF® cannot be detrimental to Golf Caches world, on the contrary it will be one more font of new golfers looking for refinement, not absolute beginners.

Golf Coaches ready to travel the countryside, attending the sparse little SCATTERED GOLF® courses or holes would find a very larger basin of golf students.

In my vision, SCATTERED GOLF® world is to traditional Golf world what rain's drops are to a pond; a rain's drop forms because a very small particle of dust catches the vapor inside a cloud until it becomes a rain's drop falling, one by one, into a pond so filling it up. So the golfer and his friend are the dust particle and the vapor that continuing their attendance of a SCATTERED GOLF® hole will form a new self-made golfer that sooner or later will fall into the thirsty pond of today Golf world.

HOME

It is only possible to play scratch, since traditional handicap may not be applied due to the compression of the distances, but playing according to my TOMORROW GOLF®, the game returns to be fair with all competitors on an equal footing.

Average club's distances in meters, first read the right box..

Colonna >	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Driver mt.	200	190	180	170	160	150	140	130	120	110	100
Wood 3	193	183	174	164	154	145	135	125	116	106	97
Wood 5	175	166	158	149	140	131	123	114	105	96	88
Wood 7	157	149	141	133	126	118	110	102	94	86	79
iron 5	138	131	124	117	110	104	97	90	83	76	69
iron 6 mt.	129	123	116	110	103	97	90	84	77	71	65
iron 7	121	115	109	103	97	91	85	79	73	67	61
iron 8	112	106	101	95	90	84	78	73	67	62	56
iron 9	100	95	90	85	80	75	70	65	60	55	50
Pitch w.	91	86	82	77	73	68	64	59	55	50	46
Gap w.	83	79	75	71	66	62	58	54	50	46	42
Sand w.	70	67	63	60	56	53	49	46	42	39	35
Lob w.	62	59	56	53	50	47	43	40	37	34	31
chipping	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
Sand w.	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30

Find your 6 iron distance then climb to the top of that column finding the expected driver distance, example: my 6 iron = 123 mt, at that column's top it reads 190 mt. for the driver while my 5 iron reads 131 mt.

Both the driver's and 5 iron distance are an unreachable utopia for me; to reach the 5 wood distance I need my 3 wood. Now let's draw some conclusion:

In my "THE BAG" I explained why and when a golf ball does not fly, a too slow backspin spin will make the ball to follow a gravitational trajectory, the ball 'looks' launched, but it follows the parabolic trajectory of a cannon ball, low and short compared to a 'flying' golf ball.

A suggestion: MEASURE all your shots, an easy thing to do one a SCATTERED GOLF® hole, a different thing is to do it on a driving range or on the course; experience tell to me that meters measured by sight are very much shorter than actually measured meters; how many times did I SEE my 3 wood at 190 meters then discovering it at 160 measured meters; Einstein relativity affect time, on a golf course it affect meters' length, the longer is the shot, the more 'by sight' meters become shorter.

Reading the table above, the iron's distances may look too short compared to their driver length; those are average distances, play at least ten shots then measure the average; that table is pretty accurate.

My average distance with a 'normal' driver is 150 meters but my 6 iron is 123 mt. all measured; searching the 150 mt. driver, the column says that the 6 iron distance is 97 mt. but searching my actual 6 iron 123 mt, that column says that its driver shoots 190 mt. My combination driver 150 and 6 iron 123 does not exist on the same column, why? Because my 6 IRON BALL FLIES WHILE MY DRIVER'S BALL DOES NOT! In my 'THE BAG' there is the full answer.

The unforgiving life tells me that my energy is decreasing, while the energy required to make a driver's shot to fly did not change and now there is a negative gap between required and available energy; it is time to let go those clubs, driver is the first to leave, with a grain of salt.

6 iron's shot flies even at 80 years old, it is a proven fact; now search your 6 iron column, then search your driver column; if the driver column is RIGHT of your 6 iron column, the time has come for your driver to retire; the more the columns to the right, the longer is the elapsed time since when your driver stopped to fly.

Make this same procedure for all your clubs above the 6 iron and find all those more than 1 column to the right; from the second column on, they should be retired; the downfall is not the same for all clubs, so try them all, one by one.

The decreasing club's number is not a tragedy related to aging, on the contrary, for each club that leaves the bag, other clubs will sensibly increase their performance, it is an observed fact; it would seem a psychologic compliance with the driver supremacy; for driver distances that decrease, all other clubs as well must proportionally decrease their distances, it is a reality caused only by the golfer's mind, not by Physics that say instead: each club needs its own minimal force that is not directly connected with the golfer's aging; in youth the golfer's maximum force is very near to the minimal force required by his driver but it is enormously bigger of the minimal force required by a 6 iron, so true is it that at 80 years old it still flies for 110 meters. Take a pinch of intelligence and a little more of courage to find again a golf that was already in your memories, whereas it is still available for you to play.

In my TOMORROW GOLF® it is possible to play concurrently with a full bag or an iron only bag, starting from 6 iron.

In DOWNLOADS there is my program SCATTERED GOLF® that prints the score with the holes chosen by the player from time to time, choosing also the full or the irons bag only; on this hole he will know all his club's distances by the meter and playing 'unusual' club's sequences he will learn to play a lot more solutions for the same situation.

Due to the 93 different holes available on a single SCATTERED GOLF® hole, players must literally create their score choosing, one by one, the nine holes composing the score that will be printed on a single A4 sheet for all the 4 players of the flight so on its back will be printed a summary of the TOMORROW GOLF® Rules.

Holes must be played, mandatorily, by all players that will use the same clubs stated in the score even when the distance is not right for the stated 2° shot club; the cause can only be either a bad first shot or to the wind; the scope; the objective is to learn how to play in unusual situations or how to use a club for different distances.

The table below assign also what clubs MUST be used by all players and in what sequence that MUST be observed, even because first shots for par 4 and 5 are played backward, from the mats on the back of the green toward the starting side from where the par 3 are played; the par 4 second shot and the par 5 third shots are played toward the green. What clubs and their sequence MUST be observed only for 1° and 2° shots, the par 5 third shot is free about the club's selection.

When the first shot length is below 200 meters or concurrent full and irons only bags are played, for some club's combinations it will be required to advance the starting position, when and how much will be reported on the scorecard.

The holes are 93 because all combination of the 13 clubs will be played, creating few unusual and apparently meaningless combinations, why to shoot a driver then a pitch and approaching with as 5 iron?

Murphy's Law is one of the few humanity's certainties and will for sure happen a short lay up to be played after a drive in a par 5, too often I had seen golfers in trouble having to play a pitch not aimed to the green, even approaching a green with a 5 iron is not a very practiced activity by golfers.

Learning to approach a green consistently with a 5 iron (any long iron) is what makes Francesco Molinari to be named Laser Frankie, that is: a top player who has no chances but to be perfect, since too often he has to play two clubs more when approaching a green with a Tiger or a Dustin that, meanwhile, can enjoy a bogey.

The difference between a long iron versus a pitch approach is so big that establishes a ranking order in my TOMORROW GOLF®, a bogey on a 100 meters par 3 has a difficulty rate 0.2, while a bogey on a 160 meters par 3 played with a hybrid is valued 0.6, this way the 160 mt. par 3 is ranked ahead of the 100 mt. par 3.

Where is the sense to play a par 4 with a sand + a lob wedges? First to train with sand wedge at full force to reach the expected distance, otherwise the return shot will not have a full lob distance to be played.

As I said in the beginning, this TRAIN MEANWHILE PLAY COURSE is a place where training is much more effective and enjoyable, where a par 3 played with a gap or a lob wedge is still a challenge.

SCATTERED GOLF® is played the same way as in TOMORROW GOLF®, see HOW TO PLAY section.

From the bottom of this page, there are the 93 holes' tables.

SCATTERED GOLF® table's index:

Drvr = driver Wd = wood ir = iron L = hole length in meters

Gap = iron between pitch e sand, about 52° loft Lob = iron after the sand, about 60° loft

When the 2°/3° shot are a negative number, indicate a ball ended X meters BEYOND the center green.

A par 3 played with the driver it's a serious practice to get accustomed to a specific small target since the thought 'far and true' is not the best instruction for the brain that always necessitates a precise target.

	1/2 green depth 15			D 200						TOT	93	PAR 3	0	PAR 4	18	PAR 5	27				
Nr.	return to green distance								185	L		return to green distance								178	L
1	par 4	Drvr	+	Wd 3	200	193	-8	393	13	par 4	Wd 3	+	Wd 5	193	175	3	368				
2	par 4	Drvr	+	Wd 5	200	175	10	385	14	par 5	Wd 3	+	Wd 7	193	157	21	371				
3	par 5	Drvr	+	Wd 7	200	157	28	385	15	par 5	Wd 3	+	ir 5	193	138	40	371				
4	par 5	Drvr	+	ir 5	200	138	47	385	16	par 5	Wd 3	+	ir 6	193	129	49	371				
5	par 5	Drvr	+	ir 6	200	129	56	385	17	par 5	Wd 3	+	ir 7	193	121	57	371				
6	par 5	Drvr	+	ir 7	200	121	64	385	18	par 5	Wd 3	+	ir 8	193	112	66	371				
7	par 5	Drvr	+	ir 8	200	112	73	385	19	par 5	Wd 3	+	ir 9	193	100	78	371				
8	par 5	Drvr	+	ir 9	200	100	85	385	20	par 5	Wd 3	+	pitch	193	91	87	371				
9	par 5	Drvr	+	pitch	200	91	94	385	21	par 5	Wd 3	+	gap	193	83	95	371				
10	par 5	Drvr	+	gap	200	83	102	385	22	par 5	Wd 3	+	sand	193	70	108	371				
11	par 5	Drvr	+	sand	200	70	115	385	23	par 5	Wd 3	+	lob	193	62	116	371				
12	par 5	Drvr	+	lob	200	62	123	385		return to green distance						142	L				
	return to green distance								160	L	34	par 4								4	295
24	par 4	Wd 5	+	Wd 7	175	157	3	332	35	par 4	Wd 7	+	ir 6	157	129	13	299				
25	par 5	Wd 5	+	ir 5	175	138	22	335	36	par 5	Wd 7	+	ir 7	157	121	21	299				
26	par 5	Wd 5	+	ir 6	175	129	31	335	37	par 5	Wd 7	+	ir 8	157	112	30	299				
27	par 5	Wd 5	+	ir 7	175	121	39	335	38	par 5	Wd 7	+	ir 9	157	100	42	299				
28	par 5	Wd 5	+	ir 8	175	112	48	335	39	par 5	Wd 7	+	pitch	157	91	51	299				
29	par 5	Wd 5	+	ir 9	175	100	60	335	40	par 5	Wd 7	+	gap	157	83	59	299				
30	par 5	Wd 5	+	pitch	175	91	69	335	41	par 5	Wd 7	+	sand	157	70	72	299				
31	par 5	Wd 5	+	gap	175	83	77	335	42	par 5	Wd 7	+	lob	157	62	80	299				
32	par 5	Wd 5	+	sand	175	70	90	335		return to green distance								114	L		
33	par 5	Wd 5	+	lob	175	62	98	335	51	par 4	ir 6	+	ir 7	129	121	-7	250				
	return to green distance								123	L	52	par 4	ir 6	+	ir 8	129	112	2	241		
43	par 4	ir 5	+	ir 6	138	129	-6	267	53	par 4	ir 6	+	ir 9	129	100	14	243				
44	par 4	ir 5	+	ir 7	138	121	2	261	54	par 5	ir 6	+	pitch	129	91	23	243				
45	par 4	ir 5	+	ir 8	138	112	11	261	55	par 5	ir 6	+	gap	129	83	31	243				
46	par 5	ir 5	+	ir 9	138	100	23	261	56	par 5	ir 6	+	sand	129	70	44	243				
47	par 5	ir 5	+	pitch	138	91	32	261	57	par 5	ir 6	+	lob	129	62	52	243				
48	par 5	ir 5	+	gap	138	83	40	261		return to green distance								106	L		
49	par 5	ir 5	+	sand	138	70	53	261	58	par 4	ir 7	+	ir 8	121	112	-6	233				
50	par 5	ir 5	+	lob	138	62	61	261	59	par 4	ir 7	+	ir 9	121	100	6	227				
	return to green distance								97	L	60	par 4	ir 7	+	pitch	121	91	15	227		
64	par 4	ir 8	+	ir 9	112	100	-3	212	61	par 5	ir 7	+	gap	121	83	23	227				
65	par 4	ir 8	+	pitch	112	91	6	209	62	par 5	ir 7	+	sand	121	70	36	227				
66	par 4	ir 8	+	gap	112	83	14	209	63	par 5	ir 7	+	lob	121	62	44	227				
67	par 5	ir 8	+	sand	112	70	27	209	79	PAR 3	Drvr			200			200				
68	par 5	ir 8	+	lob	112	62	35	209	80	PAR 3	Wd 3			193			193				
	return to green distance								85	L	81	PAR 3	Wd 5		175			175			
69	par 4	ir 9	+	pitch	100	91	-6	191	82	PAR 3	Wd 7			157			157				
70	par 4	ir 9	+	gap	100	83	2	185	83	PAR 3	ir 5			138			138				
71	par 4	ir 9	+	sand	100	70	15	185	84	PAR 3	ir 6			129			129				
72	par 5	ir 9	+	lob	100	62	23	185	85	PAR 3	ir 7			121			121				
	return to green distance								76	L	86	PAR 3	ir 8		112			112			
73	par 4	pitch	+	gap	91	83	-7	174	87	PAR 3	ir 9			100			100				
74	par 4	pitch	+	sand	91	70	6	161	88	PAR 3	pitch			91			91				
75	par 4	pitch	+	lob	91	62	14	167	89	PAR 3	gap			83			83				
	return to green distance								68	L	90	PAR 3	sand		70			70			
76	par 4	gap	+	sand	83	70	-2	153	91	PAR 3	lob			62			62				
77	par 4	gap	+	lob	83	62	6	151	92	PAR 3	chip			28			28				
	return to green distance								55	L	93	PAR 4	bunk		33			33			
78	par 4	sand	+	lob	70	62	-7	125													

putts	SCORE	hole	mt.	clubs	tee 6			PAR	D	2°	3°	D
		1	346	Drvr	2	+	ir 5	5	180	124	42	180
		2	346	Drvr	2	+	ir 6	5	180	116	50	M a c h i a v e l l i
		3	347	Drvr	2	+	pitch	5	180	82	85	
		4	332	Wd 3	2	+	Wd 5	4	174	158		
		5	334	Wd 3	2	+	sand	5	174	63	97	
		6	119	sand	8	+	lob	4	63	56		
		7	141	Wd 7	141			3	141			
		8	116	ir 6	116			3	116			
		9	82	pitch	82			3	82			
		TOT										
putts	SCORE	hole	mt.	clubs	tee 6			PAR	D	2°	3°	ir
		1	349	Drvr	4	+	ir 5	5	180	124	45	123
		2	349	Drvr	4	+	ir 6	5	180	116	53	M a c h i a v e l l i
		3	351	Drvr	6	+	pitch	5	180	82	89	
		4	332	Wd 3	2	+	Wd 5	4	174	158		
		5	340	Wd 3	7	+	sand	5	174	63	103	
		6	119	sand	8	+	lob	4	63	56		
		7	141	Wd 7	141			3	141			
		8	116	ir 6	116			3	116			
		9	82	pitch	82			3	82			
putts	SCORE	hole	mt.	clubs	tee 6			PAR	D	2°	3°	ir
		1	349	Drvr	4	+	ir 5	5	180	124	45	123
		2	349	Drvr	4	+	ir 6	5	180	116	53	M a c h i a v e l l i
		3	351	Drvr	6	+	pitch	5	180	82	89	
		4	332	Wd 3	2	+	Wd 5	4	174	158		
		5	340	Wd 3	7	+	sand	5	174	63	103	
		6	119	sand	8	+	lob	4	63	56		
		7	141	Wd 7	141			3	141			
		8	116	ir 6	116			3	116			
		9	82	pitch	82			3	82			
putts	SCORE	hole	mt.	clubs	tee 6			PAR	D	2°	3°	D
		1	309	Drvr	24	+	ir 5	5	150	124	35	150
		2	308	Drvr	23	+	ir 6	5	150	116	42	M a c h i a v e l l i
		3	303	Drvr	18	+	pitch	5	150	82	71	
		4	332	Wd 3	2	+	Wd 5	4	174	158		
		5	318	Wd 3	2	+	sand	5	174	63	81	
		6	119	sand	8	+	lob	4	63	56		
		7	141	Wd 7	141			3	141			
		8	116	ir 6	116			3	116			
		9	82	pitch	82			3	82			

TEE 6: when it is necessary to guarantee the return distance for the second or third shot, in this column appear the meters that the starting tee has to be advanced, his position is found on the lateral distance signs toward the opposite side.

CLUBS: it is MANDATORY to use only those indicated even when they are not suited for the distance. The 3° shot of a par 5 is free. Here you train meanwhile playing, including adapting to unusual situations.

No handicap, play is scratch. Medal play limited to the double bogey.

Ball unavailable for play, it is placed on the next GPS point, after an approach to the green shot, it is placed on the center of the collar on the farthest point from the flag, adding a virtual shot to the score.
Drive is out of bound, place a ball on the 2° shot GPS point; 2° shot is lost, place a ball on the 3° shot GPS point for a par 5 or in a par 4, place a ball on the center of the collar on the farthest point from the flag.

Wrong ball, continue to play it, add a virtual shot to the score.

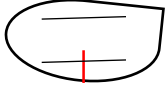
by Massimo Gessi

It means: check each club for eventual technical specifications not well suited for you and the distance of each club.

First specs to check is the LIE (the angle between the shaft and the head) of each club; we are not Professional so it often happens that one or two clubs do not play well in our hands because their lie is not good for our way of swinging it; there are not defective lies, it is "that specific player/ that specific club's lie" relation that's not good.

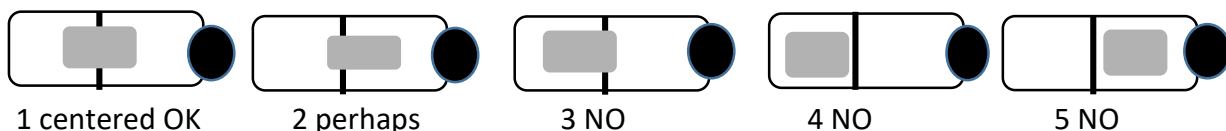
It is an easy check that you can make yourself, the following apply both to right and left handed players: Have a paper adhesive tape, not too wide, like the one used as a protection before painting, a NOT permanent marker, a ruler 10 centimeters long and a wooden board two palms long and less than a palm wide, less than 6 millimeters thick to put on the practice range mat, otherwise the same board but as thick as the mat to be put on ground beside the mat, because it is very important that the plane of the board be flat or within 5 millimeter depth with your feet's plane.

The ruler may be substituted by a paper sheet and a pencil; put a corner of the sheet on the initial point of the bottom groove on the face of the club then with the pencil put a sign where that groove ends; now fold the sheet, meeting the sheet's corner with the pencil sign, press the folding point so to have the sheet neatly folded; now putting the sheet's corner on the bottom groove's beginning, the folded line identifies the center line of the club's face. Now:

- 1- with the paper tape cover the bottom of the club head, paying attention not to cover the club's face, doesn't matter the back or the sides of the club
- 2 - with the ruler or the point with the marker,  folded sheet find the bottom groove center and sign that prolong that sign to the bottom of the face (red line), it is vertically; to make it easy, keep the groove horizontal with the ground.
- 3 – now reverse the club resting the grip on the ground, maintain horizontal the bottom groove of the club head and prolong over the tape the line on the face.
- 4 - move the club head so to check that the line on the face is aligned with the line on the tape, making a single straight line, now thicken the line on the tape so that it is clearly visible.

Now you are ready for the test, rest the wooden thin board on the practice range mat or the thick board on the ground beside it, make 4-5 full swings also hitting a couple of balls with each club, each time consistently grinding the board to wear out the paper tape on the contact area, do or repeat it until you see the club head metal.

The result will resemble one of the below designs (to the left is the head's toe; to the right the heel with the shaft, grey areas are the contact's zones):



- 1 club's lie is perfectly suited for you. Eventual mistakes are not to be found in the club, see my THE SHOT
- 2 club's lie is a little closed. It could need an adjustment, but only if that club alone, none of the other, has a propensity to shoot left of the target (right for a left-handed).
- 3 club's lie is a little open. NOT acceptable because a club's toe hitting the ground first may cause disasters, while a heel (n.2) will any cause only troubles.
- 4 club's lie too open e 5 lie too closed. They MUST be adjusted since those clubs are at the limit of playability.

These are the considerations to be made on each club, but before to act, other considerations on the entire set are necessary, from 5 to lob wedge they are 9 irons.

All 9 clubs are between 1 e 2, the set is good, read n. 2 instructions.

All 9 clubs are between 1 e 3, adjust n. 3 and follow instruction for n. 2.

Should you have 4 or even all 5 contact typologies, either your irons set ended up under a train or you are a beginner; wait, take a picture of each of the contacts then, in a few months, take again this test and only then you will decide what to do; should the 4 or even all 5 contact typologies belong to an established golfer would mean that a SINGLE LENGTH set is a must.

Club's adjustments will be done by a good club maker to whom you can also just show the pictures, provided they are recent; they would be enough to understand the direction and amplitude of the adjustment.

Once all irons are perfectly suited to you, you are ready to play a better golf, because woods are not adjustable but for the new variable shaft and hosel assembly.

HOME

TRAINING PLAY[©] 19.0

by Massimo Gessi

These are active training sessions taken while you actually play and check by the meter your clubs distances, they are to be done in different terrain conditions: dry and hard, wet and soft, either with wind calm, light and strong.

Every session must be monotype, woods only or irons only; it is important to keep them apart, not to mix the swings, they can also be made together but in sequence, one after the other.

To optimize times and fatigue of the session, I suggest to prepare 10 balls, ALL OF THE SAME BRAND, TYPE AND COMPRESSION (it is of paramount importance), put on each of them the identifying mark reported on the table below for two reasons: should you do it with other players and because you will shoot more than one from the same position, mark them at least in two positions with an indelible marker according to the below pattern, keep them for future use. Since each session last 30 – 40 minutes, 9 of the 10 balls are used by three different club in each session.

MARK	clubs	lie	MARK	clubs	lie
T1P5	driver / PITCH	TEE	T4L8	wood 7 LOB	TEE
1P5	iron 5	ground	4L8	iron 8	ground
T2G6	wood 3 / GAP	TEE	T 9	IRON 9	TEE
2G6	iron 6	ground			9
T3S7	wood 5	TEE	T = on TEE, First number = wood Letter = wedge last number = iron		
3S7	SAND iron 7	ground			

First, all session's ball will be played both from tee then from ground. Balls with a T from the tee, without a T from the ground. After all session's balls are hit, their distance will be measured with the side signs and recorded, then all balls will be played till holed out.

IMPORTANT. Play each ball only with the marked club otherwise, later, you will never know which club hit which ball.

A skilled golfer, when changing the ball compression: 100 – 90 – 80 or the ball type: spin or distance, must check again his club's calibration to know the new distances. It will be a really instructive experience, probably surprising in different ways, depending on the player's skill changes and on the seasons of life.

THIS TRAINING DEDICATED SCORE IS IN DOWNLOADS: 'CLUB'S TEST ', keep and file them, they will be a valid help to understand you golfing evolution.

IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE THE METHOD WITH WHICH YOU WILL SHOOT THOSE BALLS.

There is nothing, absolutely nothing, more deleterious of the behavior all golfers assume on the practice range; they keep doing what they did in the beginning with the Coach or they copy the Pro as they see them on TV before starting the tournament.

I refer to the destructive golfer's habitude to keep on bursting balls without even moving their feet position. As a beginner you did it because Coach had to correct your bad attitudes, beside the fact that then, time was costly; Professionals do it because they are not training but only loosening their muscles.

TRAINING means to PRACTICE EVERY SINGLE SHOT that it is much more than just hitting the ball.

The golf shot is a 'long' (max 20 seconds) and sophisticated mental process; it is not the golfer the one who actually hits the ball, the golfer just feeds his brain with environmental data: the target, shot's type, slope, length, wind, wet or dry grass, etc. then, when specific conditions are satisfied (stance, club's-ball's position, etc.), finally the brain, when 'triggered', will command all concerned muscles to execute the swing.

I wrote (max 20 seconds) because a golfer getting used to those 20 seconds, could also reach 30 seconds, but a sense of urgency would set in, in the absence of valid reasons.

The more time you spend motionless on the ball, the more your brain gets confused, the same happens when you try to calculate all possible variables of a putt (slope at the beginning of the ball's run, then at midway and on the last part to the hole, then again the grass' nap, plus the wind factor, etc.). The more variables you consider, the more variables asking to be considered will arise, meanwhile the first considerations are already gone forgotten.

Experience will teach you which are a must and which are of no impact, but keep your routine within the 20 seconds and you will get the most from your brain that can stand as a maximum, one single thought while on the ball. The slightest second thought or doubt will destroy your shot.

Above I used the expression "when 'triggered'; any human action has to be triggered to start any action, like a runner that will start his run only after the starter's gunshot. The golf swing, as that runner, needs a sort of starter's gunshot; that is, any small conscious movement chosen by the player to communicate to his brain that it is time to spring into action; the best I know, that is also fully described in my THE SHOT, is to loosen all fingers around the club's grip, this way all body's muscles will be relaxed at the start of the swing, the best sought after situation.

The worst is the 'forward pressing', the hand's forward displacement that delofts the putter, that is: it reduces the putter's loft; a lethal habit, so dangerous that players who use it had to increase their putter's loft of a few degrees, having then to deloft it with their 'forward pressing'; how many chances' to deloft of the exact amount?

The 'triggering' is the conclusion of the 'routine', the process that starts AFTER the conclusion of the preparation of the shot, the phase where the player takes in all environmental data, wind, slope, obstacles and type of shot he wants to play, at this point the player takes his stance, the aim to the target, relaxes all muscles and empties his mind, finally 'triggering' the swing.

All this is a ROUTINE, an ORDERLY series of searches, thoughts and actions to be established the sooner the better because without a PERSONAL routine no player will ever be able to achieve the real essence of a golfing ability: REPEATABILITY of his shots.

A routine longer than 20 seconds has ABSOLUTELY NO REASONS TO EXIST, unless for peculiar environmental situations and even then, 30-40 seconds are more than enough; forget Professionals because: first they are wrong in taking so long time for over 70% of the times, second, when they are correctly using all that time, none of us has the slightest idea of how or of what they are really looking for; for last: none, but a few, SPEND ON THE BALL more than a few seconds, 2 or 3; to stay on the ball for longer means to lose all the essential data we took in consideration an age ago.

On a practice range, unless you are working on a specific aspect of your swing, it is really dangerous to burst tens of balls without even changing your feet's position.

TRAINING may only happen through the routine's REPETITION on every single shot; the other way, it is highly possible to pick up 'swing's virus' instead of improving it.

30 balls properly hit after 30 routines are ten times more useful.

REPEATABILITY of shots is not repeatability of swings; the REPEATABILITY of all the process is what a golfer is looking for: a routine that starts acquiring data and ends hitting the ball.

That is also why on my SCATTERED GOLF® hole it is easier to learn all the process because you are actually playing while you train.

USE ALL YOUR CLUBS, so you will see first-hand that not all clubs fit all ages or all skills, particularly in the beginner stage.

Acquired data will show that many golfers would play better delaying the entry or leaving home that specific club whose performance are not to scale with all other, either in length or in reliability.

You must believe in those data because they are the result of your actual playing; read them in the light of my THE BAG.

Let's start the training session:

ALL THE TIME, EVERY SINGLE TIME, FOR EACH SHOT YOU **MUST** EXECUTE YOUR **FULL** ROUTINE; if you don't feel like, forget about the training, those obtained data would be misleading.

Session woods/hybrids: start from the green side with driver and 3 wood, both shots are teed up, but LEAVE AT LEAST ONE MINUTE IN BETWEEN, spend it while registering wind and terrain data; then hit only the driver with the ball on the mat; it doesn't matter that no-one will be able to pull out a half decent shot, its only reason is to practically show how difficult, if not impossible, is to shoot a driver from the ground, so persuading every golfer to forget it once and for all.

Obviously, the driver and the ball ON the tee, you used the ball marked T1P5, while the driver from ground it was the ball marked 1P5; 3 wood on the tee it was T2G6, then you will use for the 3 wood from the ground, the ball 2G6, etc.

FOR EVER AND ON EACH SHOT OR IN MY "TRAIN MEANWHILE PLAY COURSE", choose the shot's type and its target that must be the smallest and more accurate possible; do it from the beginning since the brain do not understand "true and far", it needs an actual target and the way to reach it.

It does not matter that you won't succeed every time, that is only caused by lack of experience that will come in time, in the meantime train your brain to discern the ROUTINE.

NOW REACH THE THREE BALLS, RECORD ALL REQUIRED DATA AND PICK THEM UP.

Read the 3 wood distance and look for the same given distance TO the center of the green on the lateral sign, there tee up the ball for all the following clubs and shoot to the green, after shooting the 3 wood, advance 10 meters and shoot the 5 wood, advance 10 meter more and shoot the 7 wood; now return to the 3 wood distance and repeat this sequence shooting all 3 balls from the ground.

OBSERVE THE SEQUENCE! It builds up your routine and the repeatability of your shots and avoids the mechanical destructive repetition of nothing but the swing.

For players with only hybrids, consider hybrid 1 = driver, 2 = 3 wood, etc.

At this moment you find yourself with 6 balls all around the flagstick now after waking up, look for your 6 balls, but do not pick them up; record all of their data then play them starting from the farthest from the flag and play it until holing it out, then start again from the new farthest till holing it out and so on, each time recording its total score and putts.

DO NOT PLAY ALL BALLS to the green and then putt all them together, it would distort the resulting data because putting all together would help a lot more than when you putt one ball, return to another and play

it. This way it becomes the mechanical destructive repetition of nothing but the swing first and the putts then.

It's important, only playing a hole in a normal way with each ball, you can reach the correct conclusions about the use of each club.

NEVER EVER REPEAT A SHOT, NO MATTER HOW BAD IT WAS; PUT UNAVAILABLE FOR PLAY BALLS ON THE COLLAR ON THE FARTHEST POINT FROM THE FLAG, ADDING A VIRTUAL SHOT TO THAT SCORE then record an X on the 'quality' cell; for the very bad shots still playable, record a P = POOR.

Driver and first 3 wood shot, all other 6 balls play par 3 holes.

IRONS session: divide your irons in two groups and play TWO different session to avoid playing a chaotic session.

Play from the distance to the center green you think your club will do and repeat the same sequence of the woods, don't forget to associate the correct ball to each club.

After the session, in front of a good beer, take the standard distances table at the start of SCATTERED PLAY above that you systematically brought with you for these sessions; for each club look in which COLUMN is the distance you did, having to round your distance, be humble, take the one to the right, finally write the column number beside the club's distance.

On the 'score check the bag', below, record all following data:

WIND, first record with a number its direction from the target line according the scheme reported at the bottom of the score, then its intensity with a code letter: C = calm; L = light, a breeze; S = strong, so 5L = light wind from the rear

TERRAIN to record as: H = hard or W = wet

DISTANCE in meters obtained from the lateral signs; estimated accuracy ± 2 meters.

DISPERSION (lateral): in meters measured by bands, 0 = 0 - 5, 5 = 5 - 10, 10 = 10 - 15; 20 = 15 - 20, these measures are obtained by eyes from the signs at the bottom of the green: 10 and 20 meters.

L or R = left or right of the center green

QUALITY of the shot: P = poor, almost near miss or just a little more, M = medium for at least 80% of the expected distance; V = Very Good, X = for a lost or unplayable ball.

After few shots it will be easy to assess that quality. Be OBJECTIVE if you want to obtain the maximum from this your fatigue.

Number of PUTTS, from the collar included. Holing from outside the collar insert zero putt.

TOTAL number of shots taken with that ball.

Once finished, start the review of the entire score; leave out shots with X and P. They will be considered if in the next session they happen again, it would mean that club needs to be checked and considered.

First check regards driver versus 3 wood:

They are in the same column. Perfect.

They are in the next column with the driver the longer club; some golf lessons could help to play better your woods from the ground.

The number of in between columns are more than two or 3 wood is equal or longer than your driver; have one more session for these two clubs; should those result be confirmed, there is a problem; have your driver checked by someone who knows golf to see if that driver suits you and read also my THE BAG.

Second check considers the longer between your driver and 3 wood versus your 6 iron, provided both shot's quality from Medium to optimum.

They are in the same column. Perfect.

They are in the next column. There is a doubt, better to redo the test.

Third check, your driver and/or 3 wood are to the right of your 6 iron of two or more columns:

1° - Have all your woods checked by someone who knows golf; if instead they already suit you:

A – you are over 50s or you have any physical condition, to the back perhaps? Read my THE BAG and get prepared for some change in your golf; be a little realistic and you will enjoy your golf much more the today.

B - are you a bold younger or a juvenile-adult? Back to square one and book a substantial package of golf lessons with a good Coach.

A fourth quick check is to confront, in sequence, the distance between two consecutive irons.

Should they be too close or too far one another, compared to the standard table:

Too CLOSE, 5 meters or less, the lie is correct, you are experienced golfers, it' time, with good probability, il to leave home your 5 iron, read my THE BAG.

Spacing between are 5 meters or less for all other irons, it's time to trim the number of clubs, see my 14 CLUBS? Below.

Spacing between are 5 meters or less for only specific couple of clubs, from six on, have those clubs' loft checked by a good club-maker.

Why do I always take 6 iron as the benchmark? Because today, 6 iron is the longest club that can still make golf balls FLYING at the age of 80 years; we three mature golfers are the first to testify it. Will be there a 7 iron as the longest club at 85? At this moment only time will tell.

HOME

14 CLUBS?® 19.0

by Massimo Gessi

In 1938 only, the club's maximum allowed number was limited to 14; before had been built club's set with half numbers, so a full set was made of 20 irons, plus few woods and a putter made up a golf bag of 28 clubs as reported in golf history books; but the clubs' variety did not end here, there were available specialized clubs as the wagons tracks club, the water pierced club, the chicken nest club, etc.

In 1934 Lawson Little wins the British Amateur with a 21 clubs golf bag while Francis Ouimet in 1913 wins the U.S. Open with only 7, seven, clubs in his golf bag.

It's funny to know one of, if not THE reason for which the Golf Authorities set the 14 clubs limit.

At that time was usual that a caddy, often a child (*no criticism allowed for what was normal at those times*) carried two golf bags. Due to the extraordinary weight that such golf bags could reach, it was noticed that "it hurt the game"; it is reported in many golf history books.

On this last point it is a definite opinion of mine that anybody can express his mind.

In Great Britain a very important tournament is won with a 21 clubs golf bag but in USA, Ouimet wins the US Open with only seven clubs versus Vardon and Ray, the strongest players in those times.

28, 21, 14, 7, an evocative sequence of 7. It is over 20 years that I advocate that 14 clubs in the bag are too many for us Golfers.

I advocate it with an informed choice because I actually tried to play on the course with a limited number of clubs for more than a time with my full satisfaction, but the day after all (and that means all) shots were of the exact distance of the missing club.

Golf cannot stand any second thought or doubt, thus I surrendered and returned to the full bag notwithstanding the fact that I pulled them out of the bag once in a blue moon.

Today however it is possible to practically prove it on my SCATTERED GOLF® hole.

Why do I so strongly sustain the reduction of the club's number?

Two are the reasons for a beginner; first is the total absence of shots repeatability, consequently hitting a 7 or an 8 iron will make a 'casual' distance because the different distances due to their loft are absorbed within the player's shot's variability but, here is the second reason, the player get totally confused by the fact that he can make the same distance with two different clubs, thus he is always in doubt about his club's selection, with the consequence that he will never learn what a 7 iron does and what different does an 8 iron.

Confusion and hesitation are absolutely lethal for a golfer progress.

A golf set containing only odd or even numbered clubs make a player progressing much more quickly because having clubs, like a 7 and a 9 irons, well separated in distance that are higher than his variability, he will quickly understand which club are to be used; then progressing, he will reduce the amplitude of his variability to the point where he will actually see that there is a gap in his distances that can be made up only with the missing 8 iron that will enter his bag with an informed choice.

For the descending phase of a golfer, it is not his variability the problem, instead it is the weakening of his energies that makes his shots shorter and shorter until the spacing between become so narrow to fall below his actual acceptable variability between two consecutive irons, so he is back to square one: he can make the same distance with two different irons but now he knows the why of the phenomenon but still there is a very small difference between the two irons, which one should I choose: an easy seven or a strong eight? Doubt = any possible bad shot because of the second thought that he could have made the wrong choice, pity that nothing would have changed with the other club; the doubt is the real cause, not the club.

All experienced golfers know that, but it always comes to mind AFTER the bad shot. We bury it deep in our subconscious, but our brain is in continuous contact with it, considering that is the brain who actually makes the shot, we condemn ourselves to any unspeakable kind of shot.

A golfer deep in his downward spiral should use only even or odd numbered irons, but the 5 iron has to be changed in a 21° hybrid.

Now the method that substantiates what I said above and to CERTIFY my statements it becomes necessary to MEASURE the loft of each club from 5 to lob wedge since there is not a standardization of the club's loft versus its engraved number; an 8 iron may have any loft from 28° up to 35° when the 'normal' loft is 33° and average loft difference between two consecutive irons is 4°-5°.

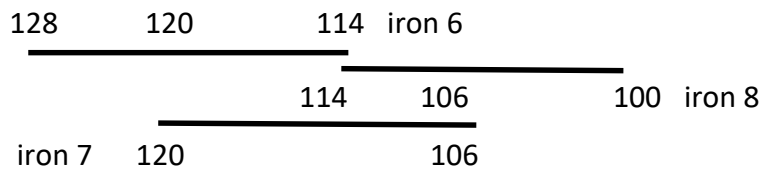
This is the best way to the longest clubs on the market; some firms have almost all clubs moved near one iron more, their 8 iron's loft is only 1°-2° from the other firms' 7 iron. A little search on the web will confirm it.

Any player may even jump the loft checks and go straight to the following test, but should he renounce a club, he does not know if it's me the one that is right or, might be, that club has just his loft wrong.

REPEAT EXACTLY THE ABOVE TEST BUT ALL SHOT'S QUALITY MUST BE WITHIN MEDIUM AND VERY GOOD, IN CASE FEW SHOTS WILL BE REPEATED and, possibly, wind wind calm or very light.

Any player has its own tolerance, variability. I know not the Pro tolerance, mine for the 6 iron that averages 120 mt, is around $\pm 6 - 8$ meters and I think than there is a very little change for the other clubs; I don't believe furthermore that I am far from general average about tolerance, perhaps just a little straighter.

my 6 iron goes from 128 to 114 meters,
 my 7 iron averages 112 mt. and goes from 120 to 106
 my 8 iron averages 106 mt. and goes from 112 to 100.



The three lines are the distances made by my 6-7-8 irons.

My 7 iron guarantee a lesser error when the flag is at 112 mt, but for a fundamental assumption that must be taken into account: THE DOUBT.

- 1 A player just estimates the distance; for the approach shots, even with a GPS, distance is estimated because those center green are not so precise, but for those few renowned golf course actually mapped, thus what will be the exact distance? Try too remember how many times you changed the club because of this doubt.
- 2 how many times a light wind set in you the doubt: iron 6 or 7?
- 3 how many times a little slope or a bunch of grass made you wondering: iron 7 or 8?
- 4 test against; how many times did you find yourself just beside the 100 meters plate and you made a very good shot with the club you just pulled out of the bag without a second thought?

This is what I mean with 'trimming' the bag!

When three consecutive clubs are like the above scheme, the middle club is useless.

Having a bag with a set of irons that make the player FOR EVERY SHOT, JUST A LITTLE SHORT OR LONG, would make the player improve his ability because he would never be in doubt and the longer putts would be recovered by the lesser number of mistakes.

I prepared a little program "CLUBS CHECK" found in DOWNLOADS that will visually display all possible combinations, both from your actual data and simulated data.

Bag's trimming is not an imperative until the time that a full bag will start instilling doubts on which club to use. In too many instances, that will be the time to have a test to see if a trimming might be necessary.

HOME

putts	SCORE	hole	mt.	clubs	tee 6			PAR	D	2°	3°	D
		1	346	Drvr	2	+	ir 5	5	180	124	42	180
		2	346	Drvr	2	+	ir 6	5	180	116	50	M a c h i a v e l l i
		3	347	Drvr	2	+	pitch	5	180	82	85	
		4	332	Wd 3	2	+	Wd 5	4	174	158		
		5	334	Wd 3	2	+	sand	5	174	63	97	
		6	119	sand	8	+	lob	4	63	56		
		7	141	Wd 7	141			3	141			
		8	116	ir 6	116			3	116			
		9	82	pitch	82			3	82			
		TOT										
putts	SCORE	hole	mt.	clubs	tee 6			PAR	D	2°	3°	ir
		1	349	Drvr	4	+	ir 5	5	180	124	45	123
		2	349	Drvr	4	+	ir 6	5	180	116	53	M a c h i a v e l l i
		3	351	Drvr	6	+	pitch	5	180	82	89	
		4	332	Wd 3	2	+	Wd 5	4	174	158		
		5	340	Wd 3	7	+	sand	5	174	63	103	
		6	119	sand	8	+	lob	4	63	56		
		7	141	Wd 7	141			3	141			
		8	116	ir 6	116			3	116			
		9	82	pitch	82			3	82			
putts	SCORE	hole	mt.	clubs	tee 6			PAR	D	2°	3°	ir
		1	349	Drvr	4	+	ir 5	5	180	124	45	123
		2	349	Drvr	4	+	ir 6	5	180	116	53	M a c h i a v e l l i
		3	351	Drvr	6	+	pitch	5	180	82	89	
		4	332	Wd 3	2	+	Wd 5	4	174	158		
		5	340	Wd 3	7	+	sand	5	174	63	103	
		6	119	sand	8	+	lob	4	63	56		
		7	141	Wd 7	141			3	141			
		8	116	ir 6	116			3	116			
		9	82	pitch	82			3	82			
putts	SCORE	hole	mt.	clubs	tee 6			PAR	D	2°	3°	D
		1	309	Drvr	24	+	ir 5	5	150	124	35	150
		2	308	Drvr	23	+	ir 6	5	150	116	42	M a c h i a v e l l i
		3	303	Drvr	18	+	pitch	5	150	82	71	
		4	332	Wd 3	2	+	Wd 5	4	174	158		
		5	318	Wd 3	2	+	sand	5	174	63	81	
		6	119	sand	8	+	lob	4	63	56		
		7	141	Wd 7	141			3	141			
		8	116	ir 6	116			3	116			
		9	82	pitch	82			3	82			

TEE 6: when it is necessary to guarantee the return distance for the second or third shot, in this column appear the meters that the starting tee has to be advanced, his position is found on the lateral distance signs toward the opposite side.

CLUBS: it is MANDATORY to use only those indicated even when they are not suited for the distance. The 3° shot of a par 5 is free. Here you train meanwhile playing, including adapting to unusual situations.

No handicap, play is scratch. Medal play limited to the double bogey.

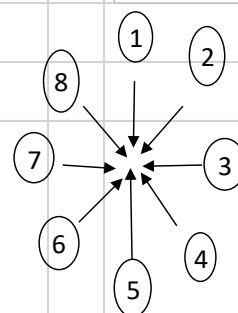
Ball unavailable for play, it is placed on the next GPS point, after an approach to the green shot, it is placed on the center of the collar on the farthest point from the flag, adding a virtual shot to the score.
Drive is out of bound, place a ball on the 2° shot GPS point; 2° shot is lost, place a ball on the 3° shot GPS point for a par 5 or in a par 4, place a ball on the center of the collar on the farthest point from the flag.

Wrong ball, continue to play it, add a virtual shot to the score.

by Massimo Gessi

SCORE check the bag		Ex: 3L = light wind from right	Hard Wet		5 = 2-5 10 = 6-10 15 = 11-15 20 > 15	Left or Right of center	X = out P oor M edim V G ood	putt numb from collar as well						
CLUB		wind	ter rain	distance	disper sion	L - R	qua lity	n. pUtt	SCORE			Dri ver	iron 6	
	tee											230	151	Find your 6 iron distance in the right column, then look in the left column where your driver is. Should it be in a higher position have your 6 iron checked properly. If it is just one line below, test it again, if confermed, have your driver checked. If driver is two or more lines lower, face it, it is time to make it leaving your bag. Driver's distance considered for the graphic is the one on the tee, while for all other clubs is from ground .
	grou nd											220	142	
	tee											210	133	
	grou nd											200	129	
	tee											190	123	
	grou nd											180	113	
	tee											170	106	
	grou nd											160	99	
FIVE	tee											150	92	
	grou nd											140	86	
SIX	tee											130	78	
	grou nd											120	70	
SEVEN	tee											110	62	
	grou nd											100	54	
EIGHT	tee													
	grou nd													
NINE	tee													
	grou nd													
PITCH	tee													
	grou nd													
GAP	tee													
	grou nd													
SAND	tee													
	grou nd													
LOB	tee													
	grou nd													

WIND, MANDATORY to insert the number first: wind direction from the target line, see the figure at the right, then its intensity: C = calm, no direction to insert ; L = light, a breeze; S = strong. it's important to follow instructions for the computer to be able to analyze data. Calculate wind intensity with your ears. *Example: 1S = front strong wind, 7L = light wind from left.*



Practice Range and NEW PLAY'S PRACTICE RANGE®, almost a play on words, instead it is a revolutionary new concept of the 'Practice of Play' intended as training while playing.

The idea came to me after writing my SCATTERED GOLF® and THE SHOT®; it is based on two 'revolutionary' concepts for Italy and all those countries with a golfer population that scarcely reach numbers with 5 digits, when they can.

I assert that it is precisely because they are perceived as revolutionary that golfers are not coming by the hundreds of thousands.

1° - OPEN DOORS TO THE OUTSIDERS AND PLAYERS COMING FROM THE SCATTERED GOLF® AND FROM THE NEW PLAY'S PRACTICE RANGE®, with precautions.

2° - THE ASSURANCE OF THE TOTAL INDEPENDENCE OF THOSE PLAYERS AND BEGINNERS FROM ANY SPORT AUTHORITY AND/OR FROM ANY MANDATORY ASSOCIATION.

Membership or enrolment must be a free voluntary action of the player because he finds useful for him such an act.

OUTSIDER: any person, accompanied by a Golfer, who do not play Golf yet but likes to try it, without any bureaucratic lace nor burdened by expensive commitments.

How to verify if the companion is an established golfer; like they do all over the world: the Coach has the companion making few swings, if still in doubt, he will make him hitting a couple of balls then the Coach will take the final decision.

PRECAUTIONS are of obvious good sense on a SCATTERED GOLF® hole, but are absolutely different on a NEW PLAY'S PRACTICE RANGE®.

It would be a good practice to have a cumulative insurance policy against medical expenses due to accidental contacts between a golf ball and the bones of a third player, not the companion.

The entry ticket should be such that all golf facilities are available, including play of one single hole for the player and beginner. The player is made responsible not to get in the way of other players on the hole.

It is a fact that such an open policy to beginners would not be detrimental for the Coaches incomes because without such an opening, that specific beginners would never even come near the Range; on the contrary, should those beginners come in numbers, a part of them would become an assured income for a Coach because many of them, wishing to improve their Golf in a short time, would turn to a Coach, since a player will never teach like a Coach, condemning the beginner to the slow trial and error process.

Technical requirements for a NEW PLAY'S PRACTICE RANGE®.

There must be at least one golf hole with a putting green at the least 15 meters long and 10 wide with a stimpmeter of 7-8, a green bunker and a green for chipping and practice.

At least one hole must become an organized SCATTERED GOLF® hole; a dogleg hole would not allow all 93 different holes, but still a good number would remain available to make it a GOOD TRAINING HOLE FOR PLAY.

A golfer spending here an hour or two having a friend TRYING TO HIT A BALL ON A CHIPPING GREEN, HOLING A BALL ON A PUTTING GREEN AND FINALLY LOOKING THE GOLFER WHILE PLAYING A REAL GOLF HOLE would see almost half of the newcomers asking him to return the next day.

In my experience I had seen very few persons, already sportsman, remain insensitive to the challenge of Golf, in particular when put this way.