

## Off The Fringe

# Read This Book . . . to Combat Whining Hackers

**NEWTON ON THE TEE WILL GIVE YOU AMMUNITION TO USE AGAINST GOLFERS WHO BLAME EVERYTHING BUT THEMSELVES FOR HIGH SCORES**

If you played a round with author John Zumerchik, you would learn plenty of things you never knew. But you also might want to wrap your nine-iron around his head when he yammered on about “coefficient restitution,” “kinetic chain events,” “gravitational acceleration” and “vibrational energy.”

Lucky for us (or maybe him), Zumerchik, the esteemed editor of the *Encyclopedia of Sports Science*, has given us all this science talk of golf in a surprisingly accessible book form — *Newton on the Tee: A Good Walk Through the Science of Golf* (Simon & Schuster, \$23).

In a way, Zumerchik repeatedly points out the obvious — golf is really, really, really hard, and the slightest mistake in any one of myriad factors can lead to

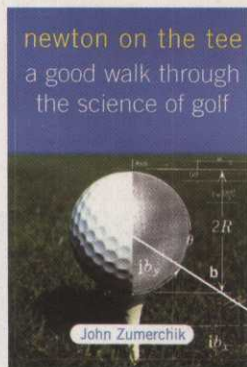
disaster. However, what Zumerchik does so nicely in this volume is explain not only the physics — and physiology — behind things such as backswings, follow-throughs, lofts, acceleration, friction and lift, but he also shows us how to use this knowledge to improve our game. He breaks all this down into interesting chapters that deal, by turns, with swing, muscle memory, equipment, conditioning, and statistics and probability.

He also rightly grumbles about subjective USGA rules and unrealistic claims by equipment manufactures, and dispels a great many myths about physical conditioning's role in golf.

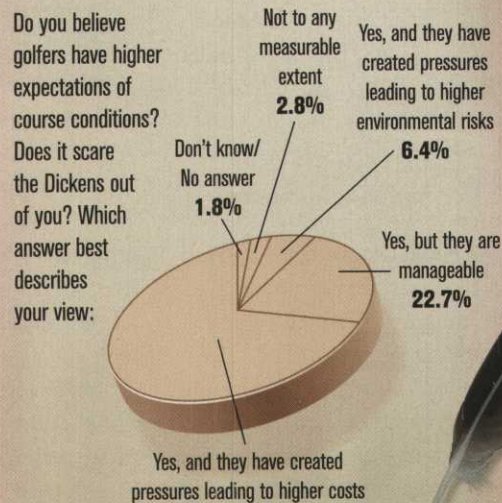
The information in *Newton on the Tee* will give superintendents some impressive ammunition to use against whining hackers blaming everything but themselves for carding 95s, as well as providing ample opportunities for mischievous physics-based gamesmanship.

Next time you're on the tee-box of a par 3, try the following: “Hey Joe, your allowable angle of lateral error to get that 1.68 inch-diameter ball into that 4.25-inch diameter hole can be measured in the one one-thousandth degree range.”

Joe will ponder and surely shank, and you just make sure to quietly thank Mr. Zumerchik. — **Mark Luce**



## Great Expectations



SOURCE: GCSAA  
ILLUSTRATION: DAN BEEDEY

Golfdom

## Quotable

**“This is like a wet T-shirt contest for guys.”**

— *The ever-quotable Peter Jacobsen on the sweat-inducing conditions at the John Deere Classic in July (Moline Dispatch).*

**“They’re just overstepping their bounds. They’re yelling before you hit and screaming after you hit. When you walk up on a green, they’re telling you which way a putt breaks.”**

— *PGA player Davis Love III, on golf’s overexuberant (is that too polite?) gallery (Associated Press).*

**“We will not be bullied, threatened or intimidated.”**

— *Hootie Johnson, chairman of Augusta National, in a statement lashing out at a women’s group for urging the club to open its doors to female members.*