

BUNKER SHOTS

Ramblings from a Semi-Warped Perspective

By Ken Williams, CGCS

Tiger is injured again. How the heck do you keep getting hurt as a pro golfer? Golf isn't a contact sport like hockey or football. Which reminds me, hey Tiger, why do you keep trying to look like a line-backer?

And my request to Phil, please go to a bigger-sized shirt. The small-medium you are sporting is just not right.

Have you seen "Morning Drive" on the Golf Channel? Erik and Gary are great, but have you checked out their sidekick Holly Sonders? Whew! Between her and Christina Loren, the weather gal on KNBC, their reporting will open your eyes first thing in the morning!

Driving around in traffic has been bugging me lately. I almost rear ended a guy with Vermont plates twice the other day. He kept making complete stops at stop signs. Jeez, this is California. I thought my air bag was about to blow!

Speaking of stopping, before smart phones what the heck did we ever used to do at red lights? My Status Update was almost from the back seat of that guy's car from Vermont!

Now to Harley riders, yes you look bad and all, but can you just have your attitude without all that noise? Jeez that is annoying. I thought a helicopter was landing on my car the other day. I'm sort of glad you have to wear ear plugs to ride your own bike.

Then there are the golfers. It is sort of a love/hate thing with most of us. I hope your golfers don't try to pull as much stuff as they do at my place. Rules seem to be for the other guy, especially if nobody is watching. People just don't think about using common sense. I don't know who said it, but common sense just isn't very common!

Finally, it is nice to see the GCSANC Board coming up with fresh ideas for meetings and heavily promoting them. I just wish the economic times were better and so many of us weren't so worried about our occupations. I think now, more than ever, we need to get away from our daily grinds. Although with technology, it is basically impossible to get completely away anymore, at least GCSANC still gives us the opportunity. Let's make the effort to get to more meetings. They are something we can't allow to fade away.

RESPONSE TO BUNKER SHOTS

Dear Brian,

I would like to respond to Ken Williams' Bunker Shots in regard to where he takes a shot at the PGA Tour wearing steel spikes.

First, I contend that no one can honestly claim they lowered their handicap after the introduction of "soft spikes, or even played with fewer putts per round. They became popular after Raymond Floyd could not win golf tournaments but was still popular enough to be a pitchman for a bad gimmick.

The reason the people who make their living playing golf wear steel spikes is because they are in an athletic contest and they need solid footing. I no longer play golf but when I was playing wearing soft spikes, I experienced at least two miss hit shots a round because of losing my footing due to the absence of steel spikes.

In the 1980s, the USGA began a study of putting surfaces using different types of shoes with soles other than steel spikes. All types

of knobby soles were used, some were even for sale in golf shops. Those shoes were later banned from golf courses. They published the first half of the study and continued on but then suddenly halted the study, failed to publish the second half report, and refused to discuss it ever again. And then along came soft spikes and USGA jumped on this one. They had someone doing heir huckstering for them and the clubhouse carpets were saved. If the USGA were really honest about this they would change their motto from "For The Good Of The Game" to FOR THE GOOD OF THE CLUBHOUSE CARPETS because that is what it is all about. It is really quite simple. Keep spikes out of the clubhouse and establish shoe changing facilities.

With the knowledge available; the assistance available; the materials available; and the modern equipment available, if a superintendent cannot maintain excellent putting green conditions on his course he has missed his calling and should seek another line of work.

Sincerely, Gale L. Love

TWEETS FROM THE OPEN

Luke Donald

(*Luke_Donald*)

Thinking about moving to Northern Ireland!!

Kelly Tilghman

(*KellyTilghmanGC*)

Rory McIlroy has now reached the age of the youngest competitor in the field...16 under.

Bubba Watson

(*bubbawatson*)

What should I wear today??

Kelly Tilghman

(*KellyTilghmanGC*)

Phil Mickelson favoring the Democrats at Congressional. All of his misses are way left.