

# Golf Gossip



## Volume 4, April 2024—Putting Prowess

**W**e're off to a great 2024 season! Thank you to everyone who showed up and enjoyed the amazingly great weather on April 2nd. Over 50 ladies played in the four-person scramble, ate a delicious shrimp egg foo yung lunch, and listened to me passionately persuade you to be involved in the life of the club by setting good golfing goals, being kind and considerate to our Board Members, finding and making new friends, and volunteering your time to make it all happen all season long! **YOU** belong here with us! ♦



# President's Message



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**T**his was April Fools Month, that's why I put a jester hat on my head in the photo. I actually had only one person pull an April Fools joke on me (at Pulse Fitness) and, I fell for it (unfortunately).

What a great opening day we had on the first Tuesday in April. The weather played right into our golfing plans and was stupendous. Really, I couldn't have asked for a better day, not only because of the perfect weather, but because of **YOU!** You showed up ready to play **AND** ready to have fun! A big thank you to all our new members who joined us in a fun four-person scramble and who spent time after play making new friends. Let's do this every week!

This issue of the *Golf Gossip* is packed with putting facts. There's no April-fooling about it, putting is an important part of our game. One of the articles reminds us that we use our putter more than any other club during a game. That means good, consistent putting can have a significant impact on our overall score every game we play. Having said all that, one of my golfing goals for this season is to have a 2-putt average on at least 50% of my games ... I'm committed to improving my putting, and I hope you're committed to improving yours too!

Speaking of improvement, if you haven't turned in your 2024 golfing goals sheet yet, what are you waiting for? We all need goals to help us do better and to be better. You know I'll keep asking for them until I get them, so why don't you just turn them in?

Let's go golfing!

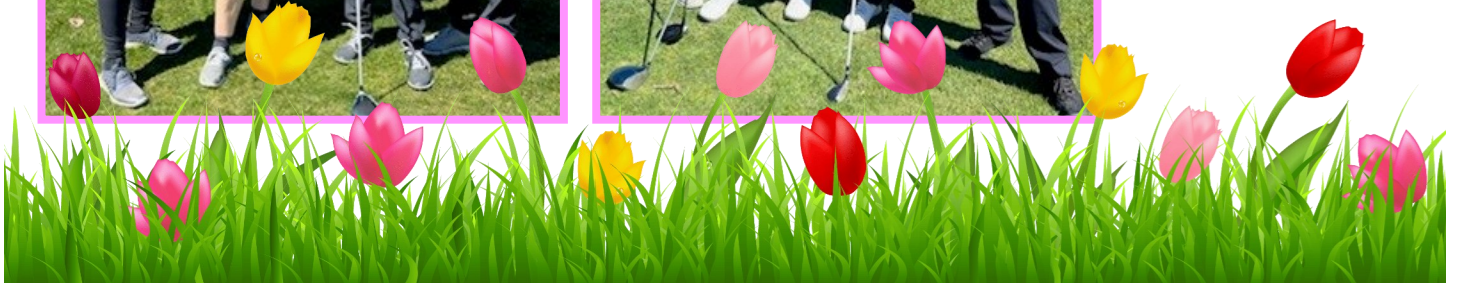
*Judy Brooke*



# Opening Day, May 2nd



Thank you,  
Debbie Knapp,  
for being our  
photographer  
on opening  
day!



# April Photo Gallery



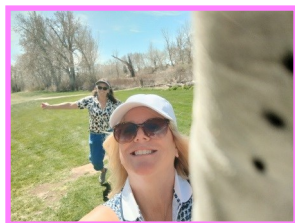
April 9th, new member, Rhonda Kudrna, winding up to take her best shot on Hole #4.



April 16th, on the tee at Hole #18 (L-R): Gail Ellingwood, Bev Hefferly, Ursula McManus, and Sara Dombrowski.



April 16th, showing off the beautiful views from the Carson Valley Golf Course (L-R): Jan Lieberman, Felicia Sotomayor, Debi Lang, and Suze Ericson.



**HAVING FUN WITH JUDY'S PHONE:** April 16th, Judy lost her phone on Hole #6 but this fabulous foursome found it. They did decide to have fun with a few photos before returning it, though! (L photo): Jan Lieberman, Debi Lang, and Felicia Sotomayor. (R photo): Suze Ericson in the background and Felicia in the foreground.



(L-R): Kathy Belvel, Bev Hefferly, D-D Woodruff and Jill Bellamy.



(L-R): Jeanine Felix, Kristi McAteer, and Margaret Fay.



Seated: Clarice Lommori and Nora Stevens. Standing: Joan Sciarani, Julie Marraccini, and Mary Milligan.



Lorna Johnston took 1st place at the NNGA Senior Tournament on April 25th in the Women's Senior Net Stroke Play Division.



Seven Club members played in the NNGA Senior Tournament on April 25th (L-R): Vickie Rutledge, Lorna Johnston, Judy Brooke, Patti Parker, Jeanine Felix, Jill Bellamy, and Margaret Fay.

**Vickie, Lorna, and Jill each won a skin!**



# More Opening Day Photos



# April Photo Gallery (cont'd)



Margaret Fay and Patti Parker at the NNGA Senior Tournament at CVGC on April 25th. A perfect golfing day!



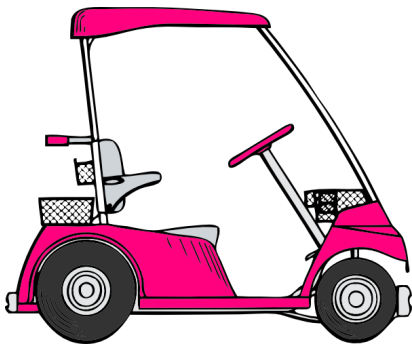
Rick & Vickie Oland enjoying the beautiful weather on the golf course in Sedona, AZ.



April weather 2 years ago!



April weather 3 years ago!



These two April golfing weather photos are to remind you how cold it was in April the last two years compared to the beautiful weather we have been experiencing this year.



On April 28th, the Carson Valley Women's Golf Club was well represented with 11 members in attendance at the NNGA Spring Meeting and Play Day at Toiyabe Golf Club. We enjoyed a delicious taco bar for lunch and then hit the course for a challenging 18-holes of golf. Those are the fastest greens known to mankind! Photo (L-R): Judy Brooke, Vickie Oland, Felicia Sotomayor, Vickie Rutledge, Louise Sparks, Gretchen Dermody, Jan Singyke, Jill Bellamy, Lorna Johnston, Jeanine Felix, and Margaret Fay.

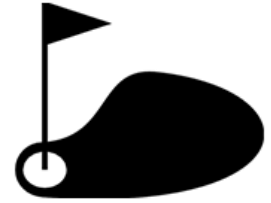


# April Tournament Results

## Opening Day—April 2nd—Four Person Scramble

- **1st Place Team**  
Phyllis Adair  
Melinda Johnson  
Monica Siewertsen  
Felicia Sotomayor
- **2nd Place Team**  
Jill Bellamy  
Jan Nolan  
D-D Woodruff
- **3rd Place Team**  
Judy Brooke  
Janet Brown  
Kelly King
- **4th Place Team**  
Sara Dombrowski  
Gail Ellingwood  
Shana Lakso  
Anne Marie Neacy
- **5th Place Team**  
Kathy Belvel  
Ledene Johnson  
Anna Pagoto  
Debbie Steele
- **Closest to the Pin:**  
Phyllis Adair  
Elaine Agnason  
Joni Becksted

## CLOSEST TO THE PIN



## April 9th—Best 14 Holes

- **Gross Winner**  
Kathy Belvel
- **Flight #1 Net**  
Lorna Johnston  
Julie Marraccini  
Vickie Oland  
Sara Dombrowski
- **Flight #2 Net**  
Mary Milligan  
Sue Europkin  
Lehua Shank  
Jan Nolan
- **Flight #3 Net**  
Suze Ericson  
Sara Cleary  
Bev Hefferly  
Nora Stevens  
Judy Brooke
- **Flight #4 Net**  
Jeanine Felix  
Peggy Frick  
Kristi McAteer  
Clarice Lommori
- **Closest to the Pin:**  
Rhonda Kudrna  
Kelly King  
Kathy Belvel
- **Chip In:**  
Clarice Lommori



## April 16th—Tee to Green

- **Flight #1 Net**  
Vickie Rutledge  
Julie Marraccini  
Sara Dombrowski  
Lorna Johnston  
Kathy Belvel
- **Flight #2 Net**  
Jan Nolan  
Margie Stephens  
Mary Milligan  
Michele Cline
- **Flight #3 Net**  
Suze Ericson  
Kathy Hanley  
Sara Cleary  
Ursula McManus  
Judy Brooke
- **Flight #4 Net**  
Nora Stevens  
Margaret Fay  
Jeanine Felix  
Sherrie Thorne
- **Closest to the Pin:**  
Suze Ericson  
Vickie Rutledge  
Debbie Steele
- **Chip Ins:**  
Bev Hefferly (2)  
Joan Sciarani



# April Tournament Results (cont'd)

## April 23rd—Stroke Play

- **Gross Winner**

Kathy Belvel

- **Flight #1 Net**

Julie Marraccini

Vickie Oland

Lorna Johnston

Vickie Rutledge

- **Flight #2 Net**

Margie Stephens

Kelly King

Michele Cline

Joan Sciarani

- **Flight #3 Net**

Judy Brooke

Bev Hefferly

Sara Cleary

Jan Lieberman

- **Flight #4 Net**

Dianne Ford

Jeanine Felix

Sherrie Thorne

Kristi McAteer

- **Closest to the Pin:**

Shana Lakso

Jill Bellamy

Nora Stevens

- **Chip In:**

Rhonda Kudrna



## April 30th—2 Person Combined Net

- **First Place Team**

Judy Brooke

Mary Milligan

- **Second Place Team**

Jan Singyke

Margie Stephens

- **Third Place Team**

Claudie Meyer

Debbie Steele

- **Fourth Place Team**

Jill Bellamy

Gretchen Dermody

- **Fifth Place Team**

Janet Brown

Jan Nolan

- **Sixth Place Team**

Joni Becksted

Gail Ellingwood

- **Seventh Place Team**

Margaret Fay

Vickie Rutledge

- **Closest to the Pin:**

Margaret Fay

Bev Hefferly

Judy Brooke

- **Chip In:**

Jan Lieberman



It's that time of year at the golf course. The baby goslings are everywhere. Special thanks to D-D Woodruff for this photo.





# Common Putting Mistakes

## And How to Fix Them



Putting is often described as the “make or break” aspect of golf. It’s where those crucial strokes are won or lost, and even the smallest errors can have a significant impact on your game. In this blog post, we’ll explore some of the most common putting mistakes and provide practical tips on how to fix them. Whether you’re a beginner or a seasoned golfer, mastering these fundamentals can transform your performance on the greens.

### Mistake #1 - Poor Alignment

Proper alignment is the foundation of a successful putt. Ensure that your feet, hips, shoulders, and putter face are all aligned parallel to your target line. To check your alignment, use alignment sticks or pick a spot a few inches in front of your ball as a reference point.



### Mistake #2 - Incorrect Grip Pressure

Gripping the putter too tightly can lead to tension and a loss of feel. Conversely, gripping it too lightly can result in a lack of control. Find a grip pressure that allows you to maintain a light but secure hold on the putter. Your wrists should feel relaxed, and you should be able to swing the putter smoothly.

### Mistake #3 - Ignoring Green Reading

Many golfers underestimate the importance of reading the green. Take the time to study the slope and break

of the green before your putt. Look for subtle clues like the grain of the grass, any visible slopes, and rely on your instincts to gauge the speed and direction of your putt.

### Mistake #4 - Inconsistent Tempo

Consistency in tempo is key to a reliable putting stroke. Find a comfortable tempo that works for you and practice it regularly. A metronome or rhythmic

counting can help you maintain a consistent cadence during your stroke.

### Mistake #5 - Fear of Missing Short Putts

It’s common to feel nervous about short putts, but letting this fear affect your stroke can lead to missed opportunities.

Trust your line and practice short putts regularly to build confidence. Visualize the ball dropping into the hole before making your stroke.

### Mistake #6 - Neglecting Pre-Putt Routine

Develop a pre-putt routine that includes a few practice strokes to gauge distance and feel. Stick to this routine for every putt to build consistency and confidence in your stroke.

### Mistake #7 - Overthinking

Overthinking can lead to hesitation and missed putts. Once you’ve assessed the line and speed, trust your instincts and execute the putt with confidence. Avoid making last-minute adjustments during your stroke.



# Common Putting Mistakes (cont'd)

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## Mistake #8 - Lack of Follow-Through

A proper follow-through ensures that you maintain a smooth and steady stroke. Focus on keeping the putter moving toward the target after contact with the ball. A good follow-through helps with distance control and accuracy.

Putting may seem deceptively simple, but it's a skill that requires practice, patience, and attention to detail. By addressing these common putting mistakes and implementing the suggested fixes, you can become a more confident and consistent putter. Remember that improvement takes time, so keep practicing, stay focused on your fundamentals, and watch your putting game soar to new heights.

Click on this link to view this article on online: [Putting Mistakes](#)

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## 8 Putting Green Rules Every Golfer Should Know

In a typical round of golf, you and your foursome can find yourselves all over the course depending on how well everyone is playing. While you might take different paths to get there, it all ends on the putting green.

Making sure that you use proper etiquette on the green is important, but you also want to be sure you're following the rules of golf. It can be the difference between you closing out a match or having to settle a bet.

Here are some of the specific rules in place just for the putting green according to the USGA's Rules of Golf.

### 1. Putting Order

Players should putt in order of farthest to closest from the hole. If you're playing a more casual round with friends and everyone agrees on playing ready golf there's nothing wrong with that. In fact, it keeps your group moving along with the course's pace of play.

If your first putt results in an easy tap-in or just a short one to clean up, you may ask your partners for permission to finish first to help speed things up as well.

### 2. Green vs. Fringe

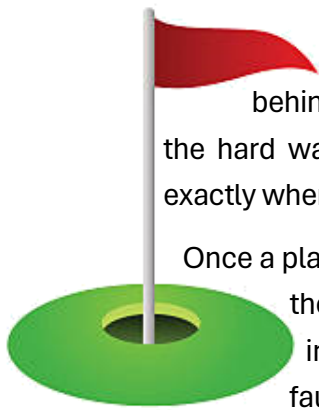
Players who are new to the game might not realize that a ball on the fringe is technically not on the green. When you are on the fringe, you are not entitled to some of the benefits you receive for being on the green, including the ability to mark, lift and clean your golf ball.

### 3. Marking, Lifting, Cleaning

Properly marking your golf ball when it's on the green can feel very technical in the early stages of playing but becomes second nature as your game progresses. A ball marker should always be placed directly behind the golf ball before you pick it up. Once your marker is down you are free to clean your golf ball. When placing your ball back down on



## 8 Putting Green Rules (cont'd)



the green it needs to be fully at rest before removing the marker behind it. As Lexi Thompson learned the hard way, you must replace your ball exactly where it was marked.

Once a player marks their spot on the green, they own that spot. If, after replacing their ball, the ball moves by no fault of the player, they are entitled to replace it at no penalty. If you watch enough golf on TV, you'll sometimes hear the broadcasters say "he better go mark that quickly" after a ball nervously comes to rest on a sloped green. If the ball rolls down the slope before it is marked, its next resting point becomes its location. However, if the player marks the ball, they are entitled to play their next shot from that spot.

### 4. Improvements

The putting green is an area of the golf course where you can move loose impediments from around your golf ball. This includes leaves, sand, and dirt that can impede your ball's path to the hole.

Players are also free to fix any ball marks on the green, and common courtesy includes fixing your own. Ball marks in line from your ball to the hole can be fixed with a repair tool, tee, etc. but no improvements can be made beyond normal repair.

### 5. If Your Golf Ball Moves

If your ball is on the green and moves due to a natural occurrence, such as a gust of wind, you are allowed to move the ball back to its original spot without penalty. There is also no penalty if you

accidentally cause your ball to move on the putting green, simply replace the ball to where it was before making your stroke.

### 6. Testing of Greens

Players are not allowed to test greens, even if your golf ball is marked. The only exception is if the hole has already been completed by the entire group.

### 7. The Flag Stick

In 2019, the USGA began allowing players to leave the flagstick in while putting. However, if somebody is tending the flag for you, they must remove it. If the stick is being tended, you are still on the hook for a penalty if your ball hits it as it drops in the hole.

### 8. The Waiting Game

If your birdie putt decides to simply hang on the lip of the hole, all hope is not lost. You are allowed a "reasonable" amount of time to walk to the hole plus an additional 10 seconds to see if the putt tips in. You are not allowed to jump up and down or create a breeze to guide the ball into the hole. If the ball doesn't go in, that extra centimeter still counts as a stroke. ♦

To read this article online, click on this link:

[8 Rules](#)



# Start by Getting Close to the Hole

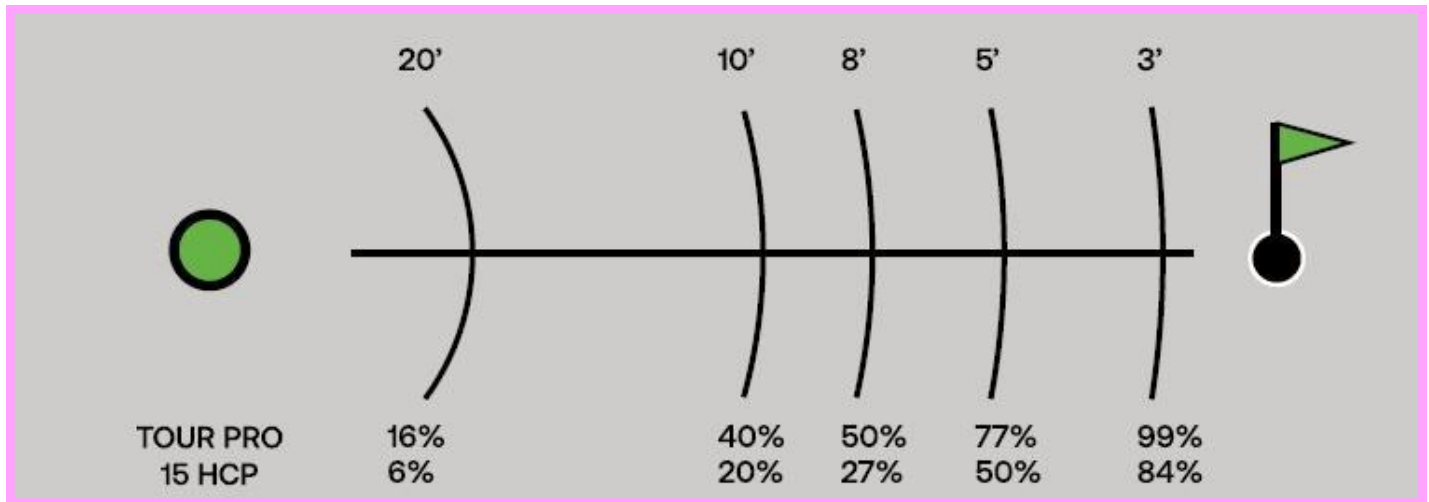


There is one underlying, inescapable fact that is at the root of almost all amateur putting issues. To start shaving strokes off your overall score through better putting, you need to start by getting closer to the hole. Obvious? Of course. This clearly falls into the category of a “no-brainer.”

the hole. The illustration also shows the corresponding probabilities for PGA Tour players from identical distances:

## SUCCESS RATE FOR PUTTS OF VARIOUS DISTANCES

This data clearly shows the importance of getting within



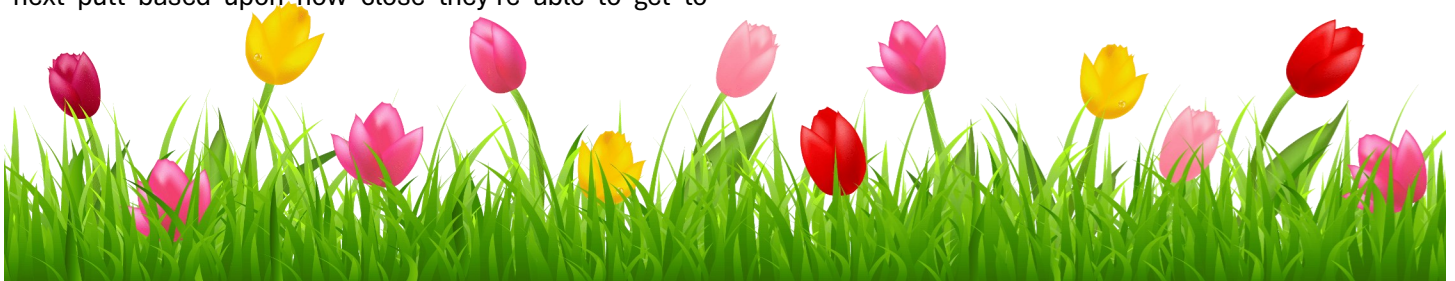
But it's worth thinking about a little deeper and understanding the ramifications of *just how* important it is to get as close as possible to the hole, whether that is as a result of better long-distance lag putting, better chipping from off of the green, etc. The goal should always be to get your ball to a distance from which you have a reasonable probability of making your next putt.

This is as true for the pros on the PGA Tour as it is for the amateurs at the local municipal course. The difference, of course, is that the pros make a much higher percentage of putts from all distances. They're also much better at chipping and lag putting, so their chances of saving pars are also much better. But statistically speaking, the relationship between proximity to the hole and strokes saved is obviously valid for any golfer.

The graphic above will give you a better feel for the probabilities of a typical 15-handicap golfer making their next putt based upon how close they're able to get to

3-5 feet of the hole. That is the magic distance range for amateurs where there's at least a decent chance of a make. From 3 feet, even 15-handicappers will make over 8 out of 10 putts. And if you are able to get within 5 feet of the hole you still have a 50-50 chance of converting. But if you're unable to lag putts to within this 3-5 foot circle, you can see that your make probabilities decline very quickly. From just 3 feet further outside this range, 15-handicappers will make less than 3 out of 10 eight-footers. And from 10 feet, those same amateurs will likely miss the putt 80% of the time.

So, although advising amateurs to “start by getting closer to the hole” seems to be self evident, the real guidance here is to urge you to spend more of your practice time improving your distance control on your lag putting and on your greenside chipping so that you'll be able to get inside that 3-5 foot circle a larger percentage of the time. ♦ To read the full article click here: [Putting Stats](#)



# 10 Things You Need to Know About Putting

**1. Putting is important.** Regardless of skill level, putting accounts for approximately 43 percent of your total strokes, taking into account your good putting days and the ones where you're ready to snap your flatstick over your knee. Lower this percentage and your scores will go down. Allocate at least one-third of your practice time to becoming the best putter you can be.

**2. Aim is critical.** You can't dominate with your putter if you don't know how to aim it correctly, or how much break to play. Nail these fundamentals first.

**3. Keep your stroke "on-line" through the impact zone.** If you hook or cut-spin your putts, your chance of success goes down. If your putts roll off the face in the same direction your putter is heading immediately after impact, that's good. If your putter moves one way and the ball another, you've got problems.

**4. Face angle is even more important than stroke path.** And not insignificantly — it's six times more important. Even if your path is good, unduly opening or closing the face at impact spells doom.

**5. You're only as skilled as your impact pattern.** Catching putts across the face produces varying ball speeds. Find one impact point. My recommendation: the sweet spot.

**6. Putts left short never go in.** When you miss, your putts should end up 17 inches past the hole. If you roll them faster, you'll suffer more lip-outs. Roll them

slower and the ball will be knocked off line by imperfections (footprints, pitch marks, etc.) on the green.

**7. Proper putt speed comes from proper rhythm.** At our schools, we incorporate rhythm into pre-putt rituals, then carry that same rhythm through the stroke. Rhythm is the harbinger of consistency. You've got to find your own, and groove it.

**8. Putting is a learned skill.** Having the "touch" in your mind's eye to know how firmly to stroke a putt (so its speed matches the break), and then also having the "feel" in your body to execute that touch is gained only through experience and solid practice. See No. 1.

**9. Be patient.** Sometimes poorly-struck putts go in and well-struck putts miss. Sometimes badly-read greens compensate for poorly struck putts. Results can confuse golfers when they

don't understand the true fundamentals of putting. Having the patience to learn to be a good putter is an incredible virtue for a golfer.

**10. Putting is like life.** You don't have to be perfect, but you can't do any of the important things badly. My advice? Believe in yourself. Becoming a great putter isn't easy, but it's possible (Phil Mickelson, at age 48, is enjoying the finest putting season in his career). Maintain a good, hardworking attitude as you work through items 1 through 9. I've seen success stories happen thousands of times. Everyone is capable of improving.

*By: Dave Pelz, Coal Creek Golf Course. To see this article online, click on this link: [10 Things](#)*



# The Best Indoor Putting Mats

**P**utting is the game within a game that's vital to how well you score overall. You use your putter more than any club in every round you play, so improving your performance on the greens is one of the fastest ways to shoot lower scores or save rounds when your long game is not at its best.

Here is a list of recommended indoor putting mats from four different online golf websites to help you improve your putting skills at home.

## Golf Span

1. **VariSpeed Putting System** (20" X 10') available from Amazon for \$89.99.
2. **PuttOut Pro Golf Putting Mat** (20" X 8') available from Amazon for \$69.99
3. **SKLZ Accelerator Pro Putting Green with Ball Return** (16 ¼" X 9') available from Amazon for \$41.28.
4. **Abco Tech Golf Putting Green Grassroots Mat** (12" X 10') available from Amazon for \$59.99.

Click on this link: [Golf Span Website](#)

## Golf Monthly

1. **Perfect Practice Putting Mat** (15" X 9.6') available from Amazon for \$64.99.
2. **PuttOut Slim Putting Mat** (9.8" X 8') available from Amazon for \$39.99.
3. **WellPutt 26' High** (20" X 13') available from Amazon for \$189.00.
4. **ChampKeep Puttech Pro Putting Mat**—two styles. (1) Premium (10.2" X 15') available from Amazon for \$39.99. (2) Two-Holes (10.2" X 15') available from Amazon for \$59.99.

Click on this link: [Golf Monthly Website](#)

## Golf Influence

1. **Par 3 Putt-A-Bout** (3' x 9') available from Amazon for \$34.89.
2. **SKLZ Accelerator Pro Putting Green with Ball Return** (16 ¼" X 9') available from Amazon for \$41.28.
3. **Putt-A-Bout Putting Mat** (3' x 11') available from Amazon for \$44.28.
4. **Putt-A-Bout Medium Putting Mat** (9.5" X 7¾') available from Amazon for \$69.99.

Click on this link: [Golf Influence Website](#)

## Honest Golfers

1. **Perfect Practice Putting Mat**. Price is based on length: 15'6" for \$159.99 and 9'6" for \$139.00. There's also a model that's 15" X 9'6" available from Amazon for \$64.97.
2. **ChampKey Hazard Golf Putting Mat** (9.5' long) available from Amazon for \$39.99.
3. **WellPutt 26' High** (1.64' X 13') available from Amazon for \$189.00.
4. **SKLZ Accelerator Pro Putting Green with Ball Return** (16 ¼" X 9') available from Amazon for \$41.28.

Click on this link:

[Honest Golfers Website](#)



**The SKLZ Accelerator Pro Putting Green with Ball Return**  
(This is the one I bought).



# What is a "Condor" in Golf?

**W**hat does "condor" mean in golf? In golf, "condor" is the term for an exceedingly rare score on an individual hole: **4-under par**. There are five par-5 hole-in-ones cemented in the history books.

**Larry Bruce** is credited as having the first ever recorded condor. In 1962, he smashed his ball over a copse of trees on a 480-yard par-5 at Hope Country Club in Arkansas and found the cup on the hole that doglegged sharply to the right.

In 1973, scratch golfer **Dick Hogan** aced the 456-yard par-5 8th at Piedmont Crescent in North Carolina—though he told a newspaper 40 years later that he was never convinced of its legitimacy and that he'd always just assumed someone had played a practical joke on him. (If they did, they kept it to themselves.)

**Shaun Lynch** also used a corner to his advantage in 1995 when he needed no more than a 3-iron to hole

out on the 496-yard 17th at Teign Valley in Devon. The shot cleared a 20 foot high hedge on the horseshoe-shaped hole, hit a down-slope, and just took off on its way to rolling in.



The elements helped **Mike Crean** make the longest hole-in-one ever recorded. In 2002, the par-5 9th, at 517 yards, fell to his mercy but the shot was aided by the thin air at Green Valley Ranch in Denver, Colorado which is a mile above sea level.

The last recorded par-5 condor came in 2007 when 16-year-old **Jack Bartlett** showed off his supreme strength at the 511-yard 17th at Wentworth Falls in Australia. ♦



- Diane Ford 05/02
- Louise Sparks 05/03
- Kathy Emanuel 05/12
- Kathy Belvel 05/27
- Theresa Beggs 05/27

We want not only your photos for future editions of *Golf Gossip*, but also any fun/funny tidbits of golf gossip you experience with your golfing partners! You can email your pictures and stories to: [judypsalms100@gmail.com](mailto:judypsalms100@gmail.com).

Thank you for helping make *Golf Gossip* fun, informative and worth reading.

*Judy Brooke*  
President & Editor

