



THE FUTURE OF GREEN READING

PART 1

HOW OFTEN DO YOU PRACTICE GREEN READING? IF THE ANSWER RANGES ANYWHERE FROM NOT VERY OFTEN TO NEVER, THEN THIS COULD BE THE MOST IMPORTANT ARTICLE YOU'LL EVER READ ON PUTTING!



This article will apply a modern-day spin on how green reading can be learnt and developed, and how the iPhone can now be utilised as a useful tool for gaining an accurate understanding on exactly where to aim when putting.

It was said that 18-time Major champion Jack Nicklaus began his green reading from as far away as 30 yards. He would use his eyes to scope the terrain ahead of him, taking in the slope and contour surrounding the green.

TUNE INTO YOUR FEET AND VISION

Conventional green reading tells us to go behind the ball, down low to the surface, in order to get the best look at the line, though for many golfers, they simply lack the experience of the trained eye.

In order to become great at green reading, we must understand the important role the eyes and feet play. We need to tune into our sense of 'feel' through our feet and our 'vision' through our eyes.

THE EYES

The next time you're approaching the green, pay particular attention to the high and low points, as these are key indicators of the direction of slope.

The eyes should also be used to gain a feel for distance control as well as your target and alignment awareness.



SHORT GAME SAVERS WITH STEVEN GIULIANO





THE FEET

Your feet provide the feedback to your brain to determine subtle variations in the degree of the slope. Remember, the more severe the slope, the more relative break you'll need to play.

Next time you're reading a close range putt, walk from the low side of the hole. Walk a semi-circle around your ball until you feel yourself walking from uphill to flat, to downhill.

When you cross from up to down, you've just crossed over the inflection point. Once you've found this point, you've found the flat spot in relation to your ball. This is a great indicator of where the direction of the slope is going. From here you can begin to ascertain whether the putt is left-to-right or right-to-left. From the low side, all putts to the right-hand side of my feet will break from the right, and vice versa.



TECHNOLOGY AND GREEN READING

Without doubt, the future of green reading is becoming less of an art and more of a science. With technology moving faster than ever, we now have revolutionary green reading methods such as the AimPoint Green Reading System, which is based on the highly accurate Aim Point Technology, as seen on the PGA Tour.

Revolutionary applications such as the AimPoint App will allow us to get accurate information on expected break amounts. Although we can't use this app during competition, we can use the AimChart, which acts as a yardage book for the green. Stay tuned for Part 2 of this series in next month's issue!

Steven Giuliano is a fully certified AimPoint instructor and delivers regular clinics at The Mines Resort & Golf Club on AimPoint Green Reading techniques.