

Lesson #15

MORE ABOUT THE IRONS

You read the sport writers report on Jimmy Demaret's fine iron shots into a roaring gale, then when anything more than a mild zephyr blows across the fairway you flounder and worry and press your hearts out, and we have to let you do it. Because of the many many lessons I have given I can count on a very few fingers the members who have asked me to help them defeat head wind, tail wind, or cross wind; yet a golf ball flys through the air just as an aeroplane, and any pilot will tell you plenty about how he allows for drift.

Jimmy Demaret is probably the greatest of the present day wind jammers. If you watch him play into the wind you'll see him take a number three iron for a normal number four iron shot and toe it in slightly, or in golfing language - close the blade, and then with a shorter back swing he'll stroke the ball smoothly just as if he were playing on a mild summer day. You won't find any fine player overswinging because it's windy, or making any seemingly conscious effort to overcome the wind. But if you watch closely you'll see a two iron played with a three quarter swing right at the pin and by hitting it firmly with the toe slightly in - the ball will bore right at the pin.

Trying to allow for cross winds with a left to right shot and vice versa is a scientific fine golfers' shot, and as often as not the wind velocity changes while the ball is in mid air. So beware unless your course is constantly subject to more than normal winds and then see your pro and practice constantly. For the desired amount of hook or slice is getting down to the really fine points of the science of the game, and I take it you're playing mostly for the fun of it, and my first tip on hitting them with a closed blade and a three quarter swing will get you by most of the time.