

# BETTER PUTT'S, DRIVES & IRONS

How To  
Play Golf  
The Natural Way

Using Your  
Mind and Body



Welcome To Better Putts, Drives and Irons 'How to Play Golf The Natural Way - Using Your Mind & Body'... you like playing golf and you want to improve your game. This is a book of long-lost forgotten secrets that will help you improve your game using your mind and body - and improve your current game one hundred per cent by playing golf NATURALLY.

You may think that the game has moved on and the contents of this book that was originally written in the 1950's may well not help you.

Well like most sports golf hasn't changed at all and the basics and the goals that you aspire to reach remain exactly the same. The mindset needed for golf and the little techniques remain the same too.

The only thing that could be rightly argued about the modern-day golfer is that the equipment used is superior to the technology available to golfers in years gone by.

This fact is immaterial because it does not matter at all what expensive custom fitted clubs you prefer to play with because this book is not about equipment or recommending it nor trying to sell you some.

It's about playing golf naturally and explaining how if you master the techniques and advice in it you will notice a definable improvement in your golf game with better scores, more confident strokes and FAR less frustration...and dare i say it anger...otherwise known as golf rage.

If you want more consistency in your golf game, then you need to learn 'How To Play Golf The Natural Way ...Using Your Mind And Body'.

The help and advice in this book comes from professional golfer Jack Burke who won 2 majors in 1956 The Masters and The PGA Championship.

In the year 2000 he was inducted into World Golf's Hall of Fame. He played in 4 Ryder Cups for the USA and was playing Captain in 1957.

On the PGA tour he had 16 wins, he's worked as Phil Mickelson's putting coach and shares his permanent locker at Augusta National - the home of the masters with Tiger Woods.

This is what fellow professionals say about Jack and his methods....

***"I knew Jack before he was old enough to chew bubble gum. I thought then that he might become a great golfer. After reading his book, I'm sure of it"*** - Jimmy Demaret - 3 times winner of the Masters.

***"Jack burke puts golf on a common sense basis. His book reads the way a golf pro talks. It doesn't clutter up the readers mind with a lot of impractical theories. What's more, Jack doesn't teach you how to hit the ball and then leave you stranded on the lesson tee."***

***He steers you around the course, showing you what clubs to use and what shots to play."*** - Byron Nelson the all time competing money winner.

***"This is the handbook to big league golf. If you're taking lessons, reading Jack Burke's book is the ideal way to supplement them."*** - Claude Harmon winner of the Masters in 1948.

***"Jack shows you how to play the game from the green back to the tee, which is the way golf should be played. I particularly recommend the chapter on putting."*** - Lew Worsham World championship of golf winner in 1953.

***"Jackie Burke is one of the few people left who really understands this game in its entirety,"He's really current with the game. He's seen all the great players. He knows how they hit it. He understands the golf swing, he's made it happen and he's been a great player in his own day."*** Hal Sutton - PGA Championship winner 1983.

And here is a famous quote from Jack himself that may resonate with you ***"The average player doesn't play golf. He attacks it"***

What you are about to hear is the definitive way to play golf in the words of Jack Burke...study and absorb the advice and of course ...play well.

**THE NATURAL WAY TO  
BETTER GOLF**

**by JACK BURKE  
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FIRST EDITION

to my father, JACK BURKE, Sr.

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# CHAPTER ONE

## Nothing new in golf?

There are a number of die-hards who insist that nothing can be said in a book about golf that has not been said before. They claim that, however you phrase it, hitting a golf ball consists of only three things: A slow backswing, Keeping your eye on the ball, and The follow-through.

It just so happens that I don't think you need take a slow backswing, keep your eye on the ball, or follow through in order to hit the golf ball properly. This book, then, will not appeal to the die-hards, stubborn as they are in their belief that during the last half century no one has improved on the techniques of either hitting the ball or playing the game.

These people claim there just isn't anything new in golf. They dismiss today's lower scores with a toss of the hand. All due to improved equipment, they say—like the steel shaft and the sand wedge.

In the winter of 1952 I managed to win four tournaments in succession across the lower border of this country with a total score that was sixty-six under par. Half a century ago these same tournaments could have been won with sixty-six *over* par.

That's a difference of 132 strokes. Make any allowance you want for the steel shaft or the sand wedge. That still leaves a hell of a lot of strokes unaccounted for.

Nothing new in golf?

In the past, too much emphasis has been placed on the science of the golf swing rather than on the art of hitting the ball. There are thousands of theories on the former, almost none on the latter. Golfers are becoming unbearably self-conscious about their pivots, the way they shift their weight, and (this one always stops me) how they look *after* they've hit the ball. The golf world is turning into a society of shadow-boxers, and the day may not be far off when all our golf will be played in locker rooms.

Too many people today want to look like golfers rather than be golfers. I have lost patience with those who believe that a newly discovered twist of the wrist can have them hitting 300-yard drives, winning endless national championships, receiving the plaudits of galleries that couldn't be seated in Yankee Stadium.

Let's face it. Golf cannot be reduced to anything as simple as a twist of the wrist.

Golfers should be learning how to relax and enjoy the game. Because this is the only way to win at golf. And if a golfer doesn't play golf to win (though his opponent be only himself), he shouldn't play it at all.

In order to win you have to get the ball in the cup. In order to get the ball in the cup you have to play the game. And in order to play the game you have to hit the ball.

Whatever else goes along with this is so much foam on a glass of beer.

As I say, I don't think it is necessary to try to take a slow backswing or to try to follow through. And yet, perhaps because I don't *try* to take a slow backswing or follow through, I am told I take a slow backswing and follow through admirably.

The truth is that most self-taught golfers fail to distinguish between cause and effect. A follow-through, for example, doesn't cause anything. Most golfers' swings, then, are founded on principles which are largely myth.

I have no intention of inserting a fault into your swing in order to correct an even greater fault, of handing you an exaggerated hook, for example, in order to cure you temporarily of a slice. In this book you do as I say *and* as I do.

Golf is your pleasure, but it's my business. This year, in tournaments alone, I will play forty golf courses in as many different cities. The prize money will total close to \$900,000. One of them has a \$50,000 first prize—the largest sum of money being offered anyone for doing anything in sports.

By the time I've completed this tournament circuit, I will have used a hundred dozen golf balls and have worn out — twelve pairs of shoes walking eighteen hundred miles of fair-way, the distance between Houston and Los Angeles.

My father was a golf pro—a player as well as a teacher. Some people who should know what they are talking about have told other people, who are careful what they listen to,

that my father was the best combination of both they had ever seen.

I first played golf when I was three. I played again this morning. In between I have played every day I have been capable of getting out of bed.

I was pro at my own club when I was nineteen. Since then I have taught golf from San Diego to Westchester County, and played it from the banks of the Seine to the shores of the Philippine Sea.

Now, I'm going to tell you what I've learned.

