

# THE NEW YORKER BOOK OF GOLF CARTOONS

REVISED  
AND  
UPDATED



EDITED BY ROBERT MANKOFF  
INTRODUCTION BY DANNY SHANAHAN



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## INTRODUCTION

**T**iger hasn't called me yet, and I find that very surprising. Why? Why would the (arguably) best golfer the world has ever seen bother to pick up the phone to pick the (arguably) nimble, certainly golf-challenged brain of a *New Yorker* cartoonist? I'll tell you why. Because the world of professional golf and the world of professional cartooning have a hell of a lot more in common than you might think. And a golfer who's having trouble enjoying himself, and having trouble enjoying golf? Well, it doesn't matter how many swing coaches, strength coaches, or life coaches you have; you're spinning your cleats without a humor pro. And that's where I come in.

Being a cartoonist for the past thirty years or so, and a golfer for, oh, a good ten times that long, I possess the unique ability to help anyone, world-renowned pro or struggling hacker, to raise the level of his or her game, to actually take strokes off a handicap. And it has nothing to do with costly instructional videos, weird hinged clubs, medieval straps, or special square golf balls. I don't preach Zen, I don't preach diet and fitness, and, although daydreaming is a huge part of my work week, I steer clear of any kind of "stroke visualization" or "being the ball." My teaching philosophy is a simple one: Learn to laugh at your game.

It's a tried-and-true practice that has taken my own game from the horrors of a twenty-eight handicap all the way down to a surprisingly mediocre thirteen. And, as I've already mentioned, it works for everyone. From Greig, my Largs, Scotland, golf pro friend, to Gregg, my Rhinebeck, New York, contractor friend, everyone benefits (full disclosure: I scored free short-game lessons and a discounted remodel to die for). Golf is simply a flat-out hilarious game, and not taking it seriously will do wonders for you, even if you're a rank beginner. Game face? Nah! Smiley face? Yes! I've personally laughed my way around eighteen holes so many times that I've had to use the nineteenth hole to sober up.

As my friends and fellow competitors can attest, I have used humor as the fifteenth club in my bag on countless occasions. My finely honed ability to make light of my game has helped me through the snap hooks, the topped drives, and the screaming shanks. It has helped my friends get over their "yips," laugh off their shanks, and give the boot to the dreaded "toey" (you know who you are). When I'm out on the course with my friends in the middle of that infamous "good walk spoiled," I always take the time to joke, to rib, to smell the roses; then I mow a bunch of them down with a five iron, à la Carl Spackler, one of the greatest golf geniuses of our, or any, time.

Now, I know what you're thinking: fine and good for you and your buddies, Shanahan, but where am I going to find a golf partner funny enough to turn a bad putt into a bad pun, a duffed chip into a deft quip? How can I manage to bust a gut before I bust another seven iron? Can I really go from being a hellacious heckler of the golf gods to being an appreciative, even enthusiastic admirer of their seemingly random, somewhat malicious comedic stylings? Are the polyester plaid pants and the eye-popping poplin sweater vests of Seventies golf

fashion the only answer? Or am I going to have to hire some sort of comicaddie, a hybrid golf/laugh machine that's certainly going to cost me as much as one of those new drivers, the ones with all the screws and plates and Faldos and tiny little nanorobot thingies.

No, no—a thousand strokes no. You hold the answer in your hand. *The New Yorker Book of Golf Cartoons* is the first step, the instructional manual that will improve your game beyond your wildest fever dreams. In this one slim volume you'll find more ways to laugh at golf than in all of those other "How to Golf at Golf" manuals combined. And no weekend duffers here! From Koren, Addams, Price, and Steig to Mankoff, Darrow Jr., and Chast, these are the best cartoonists to ever tee it up, true titans of the game! Once you've thumbed through this collection (keeping a firm yet relaxed grip—use a glove if you'd like), you'll soon see your drives splitting the fairway, your irons darting the greens, and your putts finding the center of the hole.

So buy the book and lighten up. It's only a game.



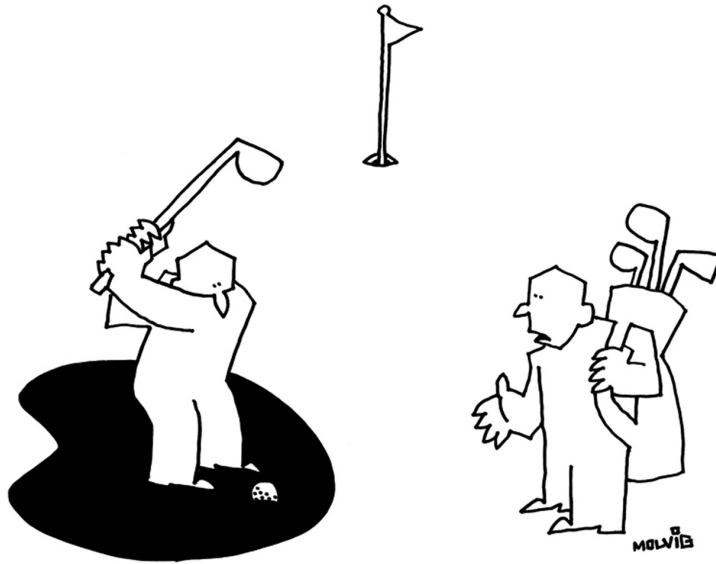


Shanahan

*"Let's let them play through."*



*"Maybe it would be more fun with a smaller hole."*



*"Better use the ink wedge."*