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Golf and Helpful Hints
by
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Well, the WV contingent of kids and grandkids left on Friday and I already miss them. First time for my daughter-in-law Amy and the kids, second for my son. It was interesting to drive around listening to my son gush about The Villages, instead of me or Judy. He wants to age quickly so they can live here, too, but I told him not to wish old age on himself even if the perks we enjoy here are fantastic. Retirement will come all too quickly as it is. I did try to plant a bug in his ear about locating his medical practice here when he gets out of med school, but I'm not sure he's ready to come this far South. Every day he was here he would open the front door and say, "Well, it looks like another beautiful day in The Villages. Don't you ever have bad weather here?" After an all day trip to Magic Kingdom, and another one to MGM Studios everyone was content to spend the other three days lazing around the house, swimming at the pool, playing Boccie Ball, riding around in the golf carts, and cooking a few steaks on the grill. By the way, many thanks to John and Jean who graciously loaned us their golf cart to ferry the kids around. Good friends.

As much as we enjoyed the visit of family Judy and I both missed the opportunity to get out on the links for our regular golf time. She's really getting to like the game and, of course, I love it. Golf is such a strange game if you think about it... You swing down to get the ball to go up... Swing left and the ball goes right... The person with the lowest score wins... and if you're lucky enough to get a hole in one, you have to buy everybody drinks. Go figure!

When you play do you and your playing partners make it a habit to give each other "gimmees" on the green? Some guys say it's just a courtesy to a fellow golfer, but a recent e-mail told me that the definition for a "gimmee" is: "An agreement between golfers who normally don't putt well." Have you noticed that the worse you are playing the more gimmees you get from your golfing buddies... some even from 10 feet away? By the way, I've discovered that it's easy to tell when you are a bad golfer... If you miraculously make a par and one or more of your foursome say, "You got a par... are you sure?"

Judy and I were invited to play a scramble with 7 other neighborhood couples a few days ago and we had a great time. Most of you know that a "scramble" is where a team of four plays and the best ball of the four which are hit is used for the next shot. An additional rule was that at least one of the drives of each golfer must be counted during the round. The ladies normally play from the forward tees and the men play from either the back or middle tees. It's a great way to have fun and get everyone involved regardless of their skill level.

I believe when playing a game a person should do his or her best to win the competition, regardless of what the game might be. Because of this I've been accused of being too competitive but I let it go. I'm not a fanatic but I do like to win. There are some, however, that would rather play "just for the fun of it." Two of the ladies in a foursome wanted to hit from the men's tees, with the intent of improving their game, which is a good thing under normal circumstances. Their team members agreed but suggested that on the par fours and/or the more challenging par threes they play from the forward tees to give the "team" a greater opportunity of having the lowest score. One of the ladies asked, "You're not actually thinking of winning this game are you?" Her husband, a competitor like me, could think of no safe answer, so he wisely changed the subject.

I've received many comments from ladies who read the column which delineated the different sets of rules to which the male and female species adhere in golf and all of them thanked me for getting their husbands to see themselves in print. Guys, I thought I was the only one guilty of trying to play my wife's game for her... could this is a man thing going on here. Let's watch ourselves guys and not chase our wives away from their involvement in this wonderful game. Remember, the more they love it the more we'll get to play. Since so many ladies read this column... assuming they're telling me the truth... I thought I would leave you with a few household tips I've come by. No kidding, these are honest to goodness valuable tips for you. I'm sure most of you have already heard them, but I'll put them in anyway.

-If you're washing windows, use vertical strokes for the outside and horizontal strokes for the inside... this helps you know on which side the streaks are.

-If you've got a challenge with celery going limp in the refrigerator... wrap it in aluminum foil. It'll last a lot longer.

-Put candles in freezer 3 hours before burning and they will burn longer and brighter.

And here's one we all need to hear:

-To keep Tupperware from staining from tomato sauces, etc., spray the Tupperware with Pam or some other non-stick cooking spray before putting sauce in.

Well, got to go, Judy's two sisters from TX and WV came in yesterday for a week. Welcome Carol and Shirley to The Villages. Get ready for a good time.

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