ATTENTION: ALL GOLFERS!

GOLF'S MYSTIQUE SOLVED!

BONUS:

Bobby Locke's TRUE Putting Secrets Revealed for the FIRST TIME!

Forward by Former US Open and World Champion Dick Mayer

*THIS BOOK NOT RECOMMENDED FOR BEGINNERS*
Bobby Locke in action and maybe learning something that would aid me in my own putting.

The first tournament I played in was the Dunlop Masters in Johannesburg. During that week I daily observed Bobby Locke on the putting green, but could learn not anything just as a bystander looking on.

The following week, I played in the South African Open, (which Bobby Locke had won about 10 times), held at the Royal Johannesburg Golf Club and I had the unbelievable good fortune of being personally introduced to the one and only, Bobby Locke, by a mutual friend. We reminisced with Bobby about Bobby's phenomenal play in the United States during years of 1947, 48, and 49.

Bobby, after arriving in America early in 1947, made more of an impact on American golf, up to that time, than any other foreigner by winning four of the first six tournaments he entered. Including in his victories was the exclusive and prestigious Goodall Round Robin Invitational which contained such golfing greats as, Nelson, Hogan, Snead, Middlecoff, Demaret, to name a few.

Golf, in those days, did not have the huge sums of prize money the pros enjoy today and there wasn't much money to spread around among them. Naturally, this "INVASION" by a foreigner into the American pros pocketbooks did little to enhance Locke's acceptance and popularity in America.

He was treated quite coldly by several of his competitors. They went as far as to give him unflattering nicknames, because he didn't look like a matinee idol, nor did he possess a classic looking golf swing. But one thing was for certain, when it came to putting, they all respected, admired, and envied his putting ability.

He was eventually banned by the PGA from participating in any PGA sponsored event. I'm sure this ban was due to some sort of misunderstanding by both sides and the PGA later lifted the ban. However, after that, Bobby confined most of his remaining playing years to the British Isles, (where he won the coveted British Open four times), the European continent, which he dominated for sometime, and his native homeland of South Africa, which he also dominated.

In August, 1950, George S. May, fired Bobby back to America with a huge guarantee of prize money for the famed Tam O'Shanter tournament, in Chicago, Ill.

Bobby found himself standing on the 14th tee of the final round needing four birdies on the last five holes to tie the tournament leader Lloyd Mangrum. Bobby proceeded to dispatch birdie putts of 35 feet, 6 feet, 25 feet, and 20 feet in a row for an eventual tie, once again proving the might of his superior putting method. He went on to the following day to post a 69 to Mangrum's 73, and thus, adding another American victory to
overlapping grip, but with both thumbs running straight down and squarely on top of the shaft saying, “Grip it lightly”, “Laddie”, the ART of putting lies in the tips of your fingers”. “You must grip it loosely to acquire a “delicate touch”. I then asked, “Why do you use the regular overlapping grip rather than the “reverse” overlapping putting grip used by almost all other golfers”? He explained saying, “You hit all your playing shots with a “regular” overlapping grip and you develop your best “feels” with this grip”. “When I get to the green and try reversing my grip to putt I feel uncomfortable and this uncomfortable feeling carries through to my regular playing and has a very bad effect on all my shots.” “Therefore, I grip every club the same, changing only my thumb position as I previously explained”.

“Laddie”, when you get back to America, get yourself a “flat” putter like mine”. He went on to explain that a “flat” putter made you stand back from the ball to such an extent that it automatically made you take the putter back on the “inside” the instant you started the putter back from the ball. Like a door opening and closing, the putter scribes the same inside arch over the ground each and every time you take it back, provided you are standing far enough away from the ball and the line of putt to establish a pivot or hinge point. (SECRET #1)
Hagen, personally, in 1937, and mainly attributed this "Hooding" action to his exceptional putting success.

Further, he explained that most putts are missed because the putterer does not start the ball on the right line or at the right speed by allowing FAR too much break and simply aiming outside the hole, (SECRET #6), or does not take his putter head back far enough, thereby, not building up sufficient potential energy in the putter head to get the ball to the hole. Sensing this lack of necessary energy, the putterer then either shoves the putter into the ball with his arms with an uncontrollable force in an effort to make up for this "sensed" lack of necessary energy necessary for the putt at hand, and thus, pushes the ball to the right, or he slaps at the ball with his hands, which in turn causes the left wrist to flex causing the putter face to close, and sending the ball to the left.

With an adequate length backswing, enough energy is accumulated into the putter head, (SECRET #7), to allow for a smooth unaltered forward stroke which can he guided a few degrees to the outside, (SECRET #3), through the ball and do not flex that "Left Wrist", (flexing the left wrist turns the putter blade to the left sending the ball off line to the left), as he squeezed my left wrist harder, thus locking the wrist, (SECRET #4), and making it impossible to flex, as he guided my hands through the stroke to the outside with the blade still hooded and perfectly square to the hole. Naturally, the putt went right into the hole. He then cautioned me to be sure to hold the shoulders absolutely level on the forward stroke making sure the left shoulder did NOT rise, (SECRET #5). "Laddie", if the left shoulder is allowed to rise on the forward stroke then the hands will "open", and you will lose the "Hood", thus, sending the ball off line to the right!

He then had me address the ball in the toe of the blade explaining "With the ball positioned at the toe of the putter, it is easier to take the putter back on the "inside" of the line of putt and helps to swing it back to the ball on an outward path to impart top spin at impact with the "sweetspot" of the blade".

He then took hold of the top of my left hand and rotated my top three fingers counterclockwise, thus, taking the putter head back from the ball in a "hooded" position. (SECRET #2). He then clamped his hand around my left wrist and said, "Now swing the putter a few degrees to the outside, (SECRET #3), through the ball and do not flex that "Left Wrist”, (flexing the left wrist turns the putter blade to the left sending the ball off line to the left), as he squeezed my left wrist harder, thus locking the wrist, (SECRET #4), and making it impossible to flex, as he guided my hands through the stroke to the outside with the blade still hooded and perfectly square to the hole. Naturally, the putt went right into the hole. He then cautioned me to be sure to hold the shoulders absolutely level on the forward stroke making sure the left shoulder did NOT rise, (SECRET #5). "Laddie", if the left shoulder is allowed to rise on the forward stroke then the hands will "open", and you will lose the "Hood", thus, sending the ball off line to the right!"
have this long stroke back and through the ball in a pendulum fashion. A much more detailed description of Bobby Locke’s putting method may be found in Bobby’s own book, “BOBBY LOCKE ON GOLF”, published in 1954, by Simon and Schuster of New York.

HOWEVER:

SECRET # 1. — Stand far enough away from the ball and the line of putt to establish a “pivot” or “hinge point”.

SECRET # 2. — How to “actually” HOOD THE PUTTER FACE by rotating the top three fingers of the left hand “counter-clockwise” to create the “HOOD”.

SECRET # 3. — Swing the putter a few degrees to the “outside” on the forward stroke. Make sure the putterhead gets to the ball first on its outward path, ahead of the hands.

SECRET # 4. — Actually “lock” the left wrist on the forward stroke.

SECRET # 5. — Holding the left shoulder “level” and not allowing it to rise on the forward stroke, thus, preserving the “HOOD”.

SECRET # 6. — Not aiming too far out of the hole.

SECRET # 7. — Taking the putter back far enough to build up the necessary potential energy to be accumulated in the putter head for the particular putt at hand . . .

are NOT to be found in Bobby’s book. I would call these — “Bobby Locke’s Lucky Seven Secrets”!!!

Why did Bobby Locke give up his innermost putting secrets to a friendship existing for only a few days? God, only knows! Maybe God thought I needed the help. (Which I desperately did!), or maybe I just caught him in a melancholy mood reminiscing about America and he let his guard down. Maybe it was just the fact that I caught him in the “twilight” of his glorious career, and him knowing my being an amateur golfer, at that time, was no threat to his profession.

Whatever the reason, my own personal putting changed to the “spectacular”, and I am well on the way to having my combined holed putts, since then, to be reaching one way to the moon, myself, though I may never catch my friend Dale.

Since, Bobby considered the putter the “PAY OFF CLUB”, and since you NOW know his innermost putting secrets, you can now make your own putter “PAY OFF” for YOU! Another “MYSTIQUE”, solved! — GOOD LUCK!!!