

“The Golf Expert” Peter Thompson Destroys the Myths & Produces Winners

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Peter exposes Ben Hogan’s swing plane theory as non-factual.



PGA Fellow Professional

Peter Thompson is a Fellow of the Professional Golfers Association

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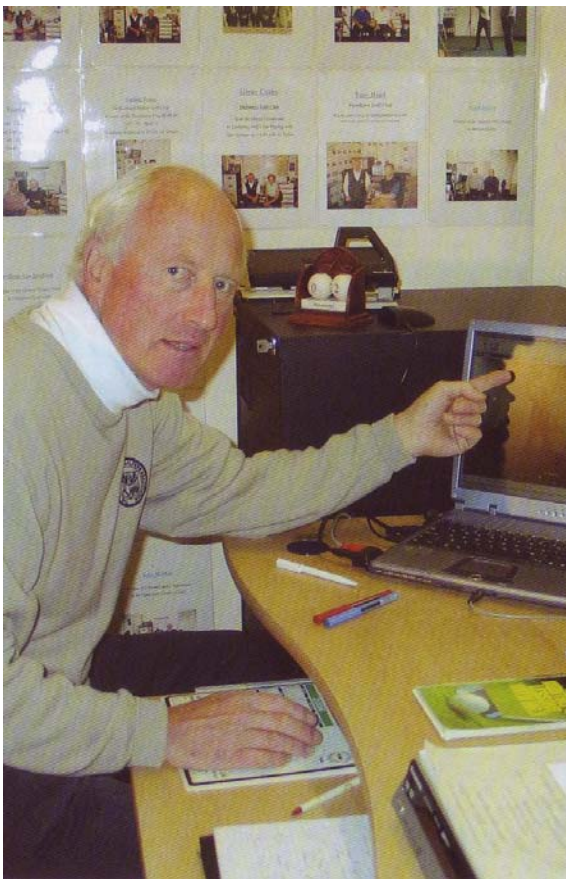
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PETER THOMPSON joined the PGA in 1965 as an assistant to his father Bill Thompson who was the professional at Belton Park Golf Club, Grantham, Lincolnshire.



Peter's enthusiasm for coaching was inspired 'early on in his career at Belton Park when he was asked to give a lesson to a member. Peter recalls the lesson quite clearly as he had played with the gentleman concerned and understood his faults. Mr Toogood was his name and within minutes of the lesson commencing the shots had improved. This is great Peter thought and still does 40 years on.

Whilst in Lincolnshire Peter won the Lincolnshire Professional Championship and the Alliance Championship. Two years were then spent in South Africa coaching and playing before returning in 1972 to become the head professional at the Kettering Golf Club in

Northamptonshire. Lessons were given to local schools and colleges and members of Kettering Golf Club and other local golf clubs.

It was at Kettering that Peter discovered 'the magic of video' and built one of the country's first video teaching studios that has been imitated many times in the last 30 years. Imitation does seem to be the sincerest form of flattery.

By using videotapes of the world's best golfers Peter was able to see what really happened in the swing Peter added: "I played the swings of top golfers through a video recorder onto a television screen and placed tracing paper on the screen, then I could play the swings frame by frame. I put dots on the hand at address and all the way through the swing to impact then the dots were joined together so I could see the line up and the line down. "Having heard thousands of times that the hands came down on the inside I was amazed to find that people like Jack Nicklaus, Ben Hogan and Arnold Palmer moved their hands down on the outside of the backswing line.

"I went to The Masters in 2004 and filmed many brilliant golfers including Ernie Els and his hands also moved down outside the backswing line."

One of the many myths shattered

Peter moved to the Army Golf Club in Hampshire in 1983 as their head professional and in his studio there he taught the winner of the Australian Open - Wayne Riley and the Portuguese Open Champion - Robert Lee.

By using cameras his pupils could see exactly what to do and their understanding was considerably enhanced. A move in 1990 as the proprietor of Farrington Golf Club in Somerset produced more winners including the Somerset County Champion Bradley Whitlock, the Kenyan Open Champion Jeremy Robinson and the National Assistants' Champion Mark Plummer. Mark still holds the record for the lowest score produced in the West Region with a gross 59 at Truro Golf Club. Peter coached the Somerset County Golf Squad for four years and in this time they won the South -West Team Championships for the first time since 1964.

A move to The Bournemouth Driving Range in 2000 has also produced some outstanding results. Five of Peter's pupils have been in the Dorset County Championship finals in the last five years with three victories including the 2006 winner Richard Morris from Ferndown Golf Club.

Martin Young from Brockenhurst Manor G.C. is the latest success with a five shot victory in the English Mid - Amateur Championship (the Logan Trophy) at Hayling Island with scores of 66, 71 and 71 on 27 August 2006.

Peter has a purpose built teaching studio that is fully carpeted and computerised with doors that can be opened in clement weather so shots can be hit onto the driving range. Freshly brewed coffee is offered to his customers

A good technique is crucial. As a fellow coach once said: “Anyone who thinks psychology is more important than a good technique ought to see a Psychiatrist.”

I wish I had said that - it is so true.

Remember the club and ball are static, so you are in complete control.

Best Wishes and Keep Golfing