

BALLANTYNE[®]

magazine

CROSS-CULTURAL
CONNECTION:

**HOST A
STUDENT**

**HI, MY
NAME IS**

BUSINESS IS A
'CONTACT' SPORT

**FRESH
FLAIR**

OGGI SERVES
TASTY ITALIAN

SHOE-IN

PUT SPRING
IN YOUR STEP

PLUS

**BIG
HEARTS**

LOCAL DOCS
VOLUNTEER
IN BELIZE



**SITTER
ANGST?**

HOW TO CHOOSE
A GOOD ONE

**HIT IT
SOLID**

YOUR SHORT
GAME WILL
LOVE YOU

**DUTCH
TREAT**

PETALS, PEDALS
& MASTERPIECES

**DELUXE
TRAIL MIX**
BEATTY PARK

**wing
Ding**

BIRDERS LOVE
BALLANTYNE

Solid Contact

Improve Your Short Game with Proper Ball-Striking

By Doug Breuer, Senior Instructor, Dana Rader Golf School Photos by Ray Sepesy

IF YOU WANT CONSISTENT CONTACT and the ability to control distance on and around the greens, make sure to use the club the way it is designed.

All clubs are built with a forward-leaning shaft; hence, the handle is in front of the club head. When you address and strike the ball (for right-handed golfers), the left wrist will be flat and the right wrist will be bent and behind the shaft (Figure 1).



Doug Breuer

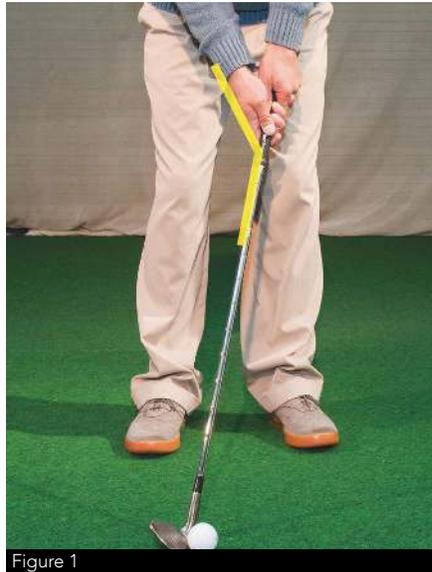


Figure 1

compression. That is the soft feeling of the ball in a well-struck golf shot.

To understand this, think about everyday tools. When we use a paintbrush, the handle is leaning in front of the bristles. With sweeping, a broom is on an angle in front of the bristles. We use a hammer with the butt end in front of its head (Figure 2).

Here is a drill to train the right wrist to stay bent and behind the shaft through impact. Start with your putter and get about one foot from the hole. Hold the club with your right hand only and exaggerate the lean in the shaft to really feel the bend in your right wrist. Hit some putts focusing on the bend in your right wrist and hold your finish every time (Figure 3).

If you let the club head pass the handle and lose the bend, fix it to get the feel of the finish and repeat the putt. Make a lot of practice strokes; this will speed up the process. Then move yourself to five feet from the hole, then 10, 20 and 30. You should then move off the green to the fringe and try it with a lofted club.

The more consistent you are in making solid contact with the ball, the more consistent your distance control will be on and around the greens. 



Figure 2

to understand that the golf ball is a compressible object, just like a basketball. When a basketball hits the ground, it flattens on one side (compresses) and springs back up into the air. The golf ball is no different with the exception, of course, that it is a harder object.

To compress the ball, pressure needs to be applied. When a bent right wrist and a forward-leaning club shaft are applied at impact, it puts pressure into the ball — which leads to



Figure 3