



Tony's Update

"Not Just Golf"

I would like to hope that 2007 proved to be the year that you had hoped for and would like to take this opportunity to wish you a healthy, happy and successful 2008.

Golf Development - Trinidad & Tobago

During December I had the opportunity to visit Trinidad & Tobago on behalf of the R&A and what I found there was pleasantly surprising the Caribbean region is well known for its cricket where it is the national game and Trinidad can claim the birth place of the great Brian Lara. More recently T&T has found a liking for its football especially when they qualified for the last World Cup, but Golf is making some small waves.

Steven Ames (currently 32nd in the World rankings) is their best known player but if the President of T&T Golf Association, Asraph Ali and Director of Golf, Chris Harries along with other members of their board have their way then Steven will have others following in his footsteps. Together they have developed a junior programme that will have a significant effect on the lives of some of the countries children as they strive to make golf a game for **ALL**. I for one wish them all the best in their efforts to popularise the game.

New Rules

From January 1st a new set of rules come into force. One new Rule of Golf will be introduced which limits the 'spring-like' effect of driving clubs for all golfers of all ability. It has already been applied at the elite level, via a Condition of Competition, since 1 January 2003. From 1 January 2008 the rule on limits for the spring like effect comes into force. The introduction of this Rule was announced in August 2002 and will affect the conformance status of some drivers currently in the marketplace and in players' bags. Golfers are encouraged to check their own driver, and any driver they may buy in the future, in preparation for 2008.



Check the list of Conforming Driver Heads <http://www.randa.org/index.cfm?action=rules.equipment.confdrivers>

Website Developments

In light of the recent changes in the academy structure, and the activities undertaken by myself, our website www.tonybennettgolf.com has been redeveloped, with thanks to John Bird of ASM Systems. The new website will have specific modules on Coach Education, Business and Learning and be officially launched by the end of the month. In the meantime we are seeking volunteers to test the navigation of the new site; if you are interested in helping e-mail info@tonybennettgolf.com. Additionally we are asking all readers if you would spend a few minutes to complete a simple questionnaire, which can be downloaded at www.tonybennettgolf.com. Thank You!



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Sports Development - Socatots

With a growing interest in sport worldwide, governments, authorities and sports enthusiasts have been tasked with the responsibility of finding new ways to help the growth of different sports. In this month comment, Tony looks at one such scheme operating in Football.

Most football fans will recognize that the Brazilians know a thing or two about playing football. In fact at the recent FIFA World Player Gala 2007, Kaka won Player of the Year, Pele won the Lifetime Achievement Award and the Women's Player of the Year Award went to Marta, a member of the losing finalists at this years World Cup. Brazil also currently rank 2nd in the World rankings of Mens football marginally behind arch rivals Argentina. So how do they develop so many outstanding players?

There is no doubt that soccer schools in Brazil start players at a young age, they are very competitive and are focused on developing some the worlds best young talent. Interestingly it is not simply the formal part of training that is responsible for creating good players. The type of football that youngsters play informally is played with a small weighted ball in a reduced playing area, the game is called "futebol de salão".

The work ethic and focus on developing skills of the Brazilians attracted Simon Clifford to start a company called Brazilian Soccer Schools which now promotes a programme called Socatots aimed at improving the level of skills found amongst aspiring footballers. According to Clifford youngsters can start very early, some as young as 18 months old!



►► The Socatots programme teaches kids skills amongst which is to kick with both feet and learn other life skills not just associated with the game but also discipline, respect and the creation of a strong work ethic that is focussed around having FUN.

Socatots has been developed by Simon Clifford and further details can be found at www.socatots.com.

If you have any comments about this article or have a recommendation for future topics from the world of sport, please e-mail Tony.



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Introducing - P.M.A

What is a good attitude? Ever heard of PMA. POSITIVE MENTAL ATTITUDE. Sometimes people get the wrong idea about PMA they think that you have to walk around with a permanent smile. PMA is more about being solution orientated, finding the good in every situation, focusing on reasons why rather than reasons why not. A positive attitude faces tough challenges and problems by looking at them as simply stepping-stones to the desired result.

Golf is a game that can teach players so many personality traits, such as honesty, self-discipline, resilience and persistence, all wrapped up in a game that can be enjoyed from being a toddler to being an elder. Normally the golf course is a great place to be while we enjoy beautiful surroundings. We are all in our own game, we take notice of others, sometimes are influenced by others and yet it is our self determination that will ultimately decide how good a player that we become. "Make excuses or make improvements, but you can't do both". A positive attitude has no room for excuses, winners do not use them, they accept responsibility for their actions and take the rewards of their success.

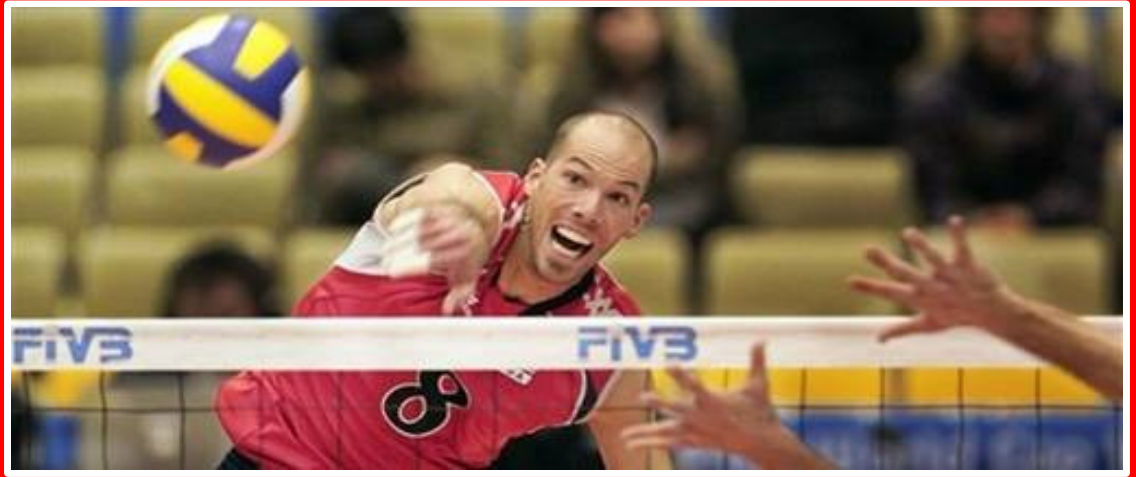
Unfortunately some people are too stubborn to change, it will always be someone's or some thing's fault, but then again they will always under achieve. A person with a positive attitude looks for solutions and if they can't find them, they counsel with someone who can. More importantly, a positive attitude is attracted to and attracts other positive attitudes, there is an old saying that goes, "misery loves company". In business, school or sport you will often see people get together in a sort of pity party, sharing their misfortunes. Pity parties waste time, effort and make everyone feel worse than before they started. We must all count ourselves lucky to be alive and we only get to be here once so we had better enjoy it. An attitude of joy and peace within ourselves is vital for those who are privileged to play the wonderful game of golf. I believe that one of our responsibilities is to encourage and uplift others, perhaps we could expose some youngsters to the game of golf or some other pastime, remember that we lift ourselves when we lift others.





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Community and Youth Sport

Why do we encourage youngsters to play sport? What is the value of sport when taken in the context of the community? It has been said that "sport should be cherished for its capacity to bond and bind people together across ages and national borders". Alan Tomlinson in his paper "from athleticism to commercialism: engaging with the future" states that sport teaches participants:

- Lessons which last for life
- How to be both a winner and a loser
- How to play by the rules
- Accept the outcome with good grace
- How to be part of a team
- To create friendships

Additionally there are health benefits. Do you have a view? If so write to Tony at scoringzone@gmail.com.



PGAs of Europe – AGM Murcia

At the recent PGAs of Europe AGM in Murcia, The PGA Brazil represented by the President Paulo Rocha was invited by Sandy Jones PGAsE, to become the latest international member of the association. Tony who has been working with the Brazilians for the last couple of years, was happy to hear the news that membership had been granted and he looks forwarding to continuing helping the association in the future.

Also at the AGM Tony was announced as the new Director of Education for PGAs of Europe. Tony will work closely with the PGAsE 37 member countries along with many emerging countries.

New Year thought




Most people make New Years resolutions, it is an opportunity to make a fresh start, to change some things in our lives for the better. Some people succeed in making those changes last long after January has come and gone, while others slip back into old habits. Tony Robbins states:

"Any action is a cause set in motion and its effects build on past actions to move us in a definite direction, which leads us to our ultimate destination".

Many of you will be aware that our website www.tonybennettgolf.com provides regular updates, instruction, plus archives of recent copies of Tony's Update, why not take a look.

Tony will be in Lisbon on Friday the 18th of January, for individual and group sessions.

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