In this report, I will be covering the information you’ve seen in Putting Videos #2, 3, and 4.

But first, I just wanted to make sure you have been out to the course and begun your “Short Line Drill” practice (from Video #1). It will make you into a great putter in very little time, and it is a simple and fun drill that anyone can do. I started each of my four sons with this drill. None of them were allowed to swing a golf club until they could putt with some degree of consistently. It paid off, too, because they all became good players.

Drill 2: The “Long Line Drill”

The next drill we are going to learn is the “Long Line Drill.” This is Part 2 of the Video series. I am certain you can already guess what that is all about just by the name. We are going to learn how to see and feel the distance of a putt.

In my opinion distance control is more important than direction control. I know that sounds crazy to most of you, but I have come to that conclusion—and it is definitely the proper conclusion—through many, many years of experience.

If you will take the time to really think about it, you will soon see why I make this statement. I say it because

"THE DISTANCE YOU STROKE THE GOLF BALL ON THE GREEN WILL DETERMINE THE DIRECTION OF THE PUTT."

Darrell Klassen Inner Circle

pg 1
That is one hundred percent a true fact. Let’s examine a five foot putt which breaks to the right. You will notice I did not say how much it will break to the right.

First off we will put a very thick shag carpet on the green so our ball will be rolling the entire five feet on this shaggy carpet. As a result of this shaggy carpet, the golf ball will roll very slowly, and we will have to rap the putt a bit firmly in order to reach the cup. The shag carpet will not allow the ball to break very much, even on a bit of a side hill.

Next we will take away the carpet and replace it with a piece of linoleum. Now the golf ball is going to roll like greased lightning. As a result, the same exact five foot putt which is still on the exact same slope is going to break a tremendous amount. We will have to start this putt WAY above the cup and do our best to get it to break in a very exact spot, in order to have any chance of dropping into the hole.

I have demonstrated for golfers for over four decades how one could stroke that same five foot putt on normal greens and hit it hard enough to take all of the break out of the putt. The problem with the putt is that the speed at which we would have to hit it in order to accomplish this would not allow the natural force of gravity to have any effect on the ball as it darted right on over the center of the cup.

**We MUST learn to see and feel distances in order to become a good putter,** and there is no way around that fact. Distance is the most important factor in putting in my opinion.

My wife and I were playing Pebble Beach shortly after she took up the game. She had just knocked it on in two on hole number eight, which I believe is the toughest hole four-par on the course. She had hit her three-wood about 240 yards with her tee shot, and then she hit her five-wood approximately 195 yards in order reach the green in two strokes.

She could really hit the ball hard, and it was great fun to watch her do it.

When we arrived at the green she had a twenty-two or twenty-three foot putt for her birdie. She asked me what she should do from there. She was not that accustomed to being on the green in two strokes, much less on such a long difficult hole.

I advised her to simply roll the ball about twenty-two to twenty-three feet on a line about an inch or two outside the cup on the right side, and then to merely go over and tap in her remaining putt. It all seemed too simple and ordinary to me, because I had been doing it for a lot of years.
You should have seen the look on her face when I told her that. She immediately put her hands on her hips and announced to me, “How am I supposed to know how far twenty-two or twenty-three feet is supposed to be? I am a woman, and I sew. I know what one-quarter of an inch is, and I know what a half-inch is. How would I ever know how far twenty-three feet is?”

That one stumped me completely. I had never stopped to think of the fact that men play football, basketball, baseball, and so on, and they are very familiar with distances. Women normally do not play all of those games, and, quite frankly, they have no idea how to relate to distances the way men do.

It finally dawned on my lightning-fast mind, after over twenty years of teaching, why women tend to absolutely rip longer putts. All they see is that it is a long, long way over to the cup. Surely it must require quite a rap in order to get the golf ball to roll that far.

The first thing we did when we got back to the hotel was to measure how far she walked in ten normal strides. In her case those ten normal strides just happened to be twenty-two feet. That meant five steps for her would be approximately eleven feet, etc.

From that point forward I had her step off each of her putts, even the shorter ones. I wanted her to begin to find some way to be able to start “seeing” and feeling her distances. It worked wonders for her, too. In very little time at all she began to understand distances, and then she also started to learn how to “feel” the amount of putting stroke required for the various lengths of her putts.

Here’s How To Set Up The “Long Line Drill”

We are still going to set the balls up in a straight line going away from the cup. However, this time we will start the line somewhere around the five to ten foot mark and place a golf ball approximately every five feet. This will allow you to easily work your way out to a distance of at least thirty or forty feet by using six or eight golf balls.

**Do not worry about making these putts.** All we are trying to accomplish with this drill is to learn how to get the balls to roll to within one foot of the cup—whether they are long or short makes no difference in this drill—so we can thus learn to never leave a tap in putt which is longer than that one foot length.

If you have begun to get quite sharp with your “Short Line Drill” you will not have any problem anyhow. You will be able to make everything up to five or six feet, so putting will no longer be a problem in your golf game.
WE HAVE JUST ELIMINATED ALL THREE-PUTT GREENS FROM YOUR GOLF GAME with these two drills, and that should help you drop at least five to six strokes from your eighteen-hole scores. If that doesn’t get you excited, you had better check to see whether or not you still have a pulse and are still breathing. Saving strokes is what this game is all about, and you are off to a great start.

In our next sessions we will be doing some other drills which will help you begin to built some marvelous touch on the greens.

Putting Drill 3:

“Putt and Look Away”

I told one of my tour players recently that no one can EVER become a good enough putter of the golf ball. The fact is they can never become good enough at chipping and pitching the golf ball, either. This is where the ENTIRE game is played.

Just since I sent you the last few notes and instructional encouragement I saw another of my touring players. This one is a full time player on the Canadian Tour. He had just shot six under for two days and missed the cut by one stroke. He reported his first day to me repeatedly. He could not tell me enough times how he had gone around the course in twenty-two putts on that first day. He said he hadn’t really struck the ball all that well from tee to green, but twenty-two putts for the round had ushered him into a nice little round of 67. He was very proud of himself, because I have been riding him about his short game pretty hard lately.

He didn’t want to talk much about the second round, because he said his ball striking was just excellent. Nonetheless, he has only shot a 71 in that round. He said he had hit fifteen greens that day, and only eight greens the day before.

It doesn’t take a rocket scientist to see that on the second day his short game—both chipping and putting—were not the strength of his golf game.

After you have done the short line drill and the long line drill you will want to do these drills.

The first one is designed to help you to train your subconscious mind to stop trying to help the putt. I have seen this even in the best of the best touring players. As they make the putting stroke they peek just a wee bit with their whole head in an attempt to see if they have the ball started on the proper line.
When the head moves forward in the putting stroke the shoulders move right along with it. When the shoulders move forward on the putting stroke we pull ourselves out of our intended path of that stroke and we ALWAYS make a poor stroke. We will usually pull the ball off line just a bit, but it is almost always just enough of a wee bit to pull the putt off line and miss the cup.

I want you to set your golf balls up the same as you did in the short line drill. This time when we make our stroke through the ball we are going to IMMEDIATELY look up and away from the cup and away from the line of the putt. In other words, when you make the stroke I want you to look backwards away from the putt.

This will help you to learn to trust your stroke on the greens. You can listen for the sound of the golf ball rattling into the cup. You do not have to see it in order to know you have made the putt. It is impossible for the head and shoulders to move forward while at the same time you are looking backward.

Just as in the regular line drill, you should do this drill at all sorts of different angles around the cup on a sloping green, so you can learn to trust your stroke on straight putts as well as breaking putts. You will be totally amazed how much this simple little drill will help you.

You might wish to do the same thing with the long line drill. Once again you can only benefit from all of this practice. You can never be harmed be any of it. I like to do both, even though I did not show you the long line drill while looking away on the video.

**Drill 3: Putt & Look Away.**
Line it Up... Stroke the Putt... Look Away (just listen for that ball dropping into the cup)
Drill 4: “Close Your Eyes” Drill

Variation of the “Stroke and Look Away” Drill.

Another good drill for the shorter putts is to once again set up the line drill. I like to do this one at all of the different angles, also.

In this drill (which is video 4 in the series) you will take a look at your line and the cup. Then you will look back at the ball as you would in a normal putting stroke. However, this time I want you to completely close your eyes to make the stroke. This will really feel strange to you, but it will help you build a lot of trust in your stroke.

In this drill I would like to make all of the putts, however, if I don’t achieve that goal I am not disappointed with myself.

The real mental drill here is to learn to feel and trust the stroke and to feel and to learn to trust the line. There is no way any of us can cheat on this drill. It is eyes closed for the stroke with no peeking whatsoever.

Give it a go and see what you think. If you are a complete failure at the first, keep on practicing, and you will soon see a great deal of success. You will feel quite good about yourself and your putting stroke when you start making a decent percentage of these putts.

When you are doing any of these drills, do not take very much time over the golf ball. These drills are designed to help you begin to “see and feel” the putts. Too many times I see a golfer stand over his putts as if he has been sculpted out of granite.
He will take his address position and then begin to study the alignment and think of the distance. I'm never quite certain what all is going through this golfer’s mind, but I can assure you it is not good. Any time we stand over any golf shot for too long we do nothing but build tension and pressure. Those are two things which can guarantee nothing but failure in our golf game.

I like to look at the putt and give it my best attempt to read the break—if there is any. Then I like to take a couple of rehearsal strokes to see if I feel like I am comfortable with the distance of the putt.

Then I like to approach the golf ball, take my address position, and make the stroke I have just rehearsed and on the line I have predetermined. This way there is only one thing which can actually go wrong. I will either make or miss the putt, but it will usually be because my read of either the line or the associated distance was not correct.

I ALMOST NEVER MISS A PUTT BECAUSE OF A BAD STROKE. That is not something most of you can truthfully say. What I am referring to in this statement is that I always prefer to feel as though my thought process was not correct, rather that feeling as though I cannot trust my stroke or my golf swing.

I want my mistakes to all be on the mental side, because I work on becoming smarter and doing a better job of evaluating a shot far easier than I can fix a golf swing or putting stroke. In other words, I want to be able to trust my golf swing and my putting stroke one hundred percent. Then all I have to do is to learn how to make good decisions, based on proper evaluations.

**How Are You Going?**

Drop me an e-mail at askdarrell@gmail.com and let me know how you are doing with these drills. I want to hear about your progress. I also want to hear of your difficulties, so I can help you work through them. I'm looking for your e-mail. I am interested in your comments and questions.