

What can any self-respecting golfer do when presented with a dearth of good movies over an entire summer? Spend the time watching some good - golf -videos instead, naturally!

Two really good videos have been released in recent months, the first of which is a Golf Channel presentation - The Story of Golf. It is described as, 'A commemorative three-hour documentary celebrating the great game of golf' and is a collector's item for anyone fascinated with the history and development of, and wishing for a peek into the likely future of, the greatest game ever played.

Starting out with a description of all the possible origins of golf as it is played today, the video goes on to describe why golf became a game played over precisely 18 holes; the types of balls used in earlier days; how clubs evolved to suit the balls used; and finally every single man and woman of import in the sport's history.

Amateurs and professionals, the three men considered the (original) great triumvirate of golf, and the three who made up the American version of that triumvirate, and all of the great women who played golf are given due credit.

Famous architects who changed the look of the golf course from wind-blown, sheep infested farms to acres of well-manicured lawns; modern technology in golf; and how one man - Eldrick Tiger Woods single-handedly increased the popularity of golf exponentially, form a part of the eclectic offerings of this video.

In golf, as in life, there are moments of great joy and poignant sorrow, and all of the important moments are captured for posterity in this video - from Babe Zaharias' valiant battle with cancer to Francis Ouimet's amazing, against-all-odds US Open victory, (also featured in the film 'The Greatest Game Ever Played').

The 'Story of Golf' is fast-paced, with never a boring-old-history moment, and with lively commentary from influential golf association office-bearers, commentators and journalists. It is certainly a must-have collector's item for any golf history buff.

The other landmark video to hit the stores this summer is Tom Watson's Lessons of a Lifetime. Remember Tom? The man whose chip-in at the 1982 Pebble Beach US Open was probably the most amazing shot in golf? Also the man with the lion-heart who almost won the 2009 British Open at the age of 59, forcing the R&A to review the 60-years age-limit for former champions to participate in the event? That inveterate gentleman who epitomizes what a gentleman's game should be all about?

Tom Watson has put together a two-video package which gives inputs into every aspect of shot-making. He starts with the 'fundamentals' including grip, aim and alignment, then describes in detail the back- and down-swings and adds information on how to increase distance. He describes and demonstrates hooks and slices, high and low shots and shots from uneven lies. His

videos have information on every aspect of the short game and also on fault-fixes. There is nothing a golfer might like to know about ball-striking that has been omitted from the Lessons.

Every piece of instruction is clearly and simply stated and filmed, and reviewed at the end of each individual segment, leaving no room for ambiguity. The only down-side to the entire package is that, as with instructional information from all the great players, the teachings are subjective, and depend a lot on some of the old sayings which have passed down over the years as 'gospel' without scientific backing. What works for a great player, honed through years of hard-wiring, may not necessarily work for a club golfer with no time to practice, and barely any time to play the occasional round of golf.

The video is definitely a must-have for the golfer making a collection of instruction from the great players, for it has a lot that the average golfer can benefit from, whether it be tips on playing into the wind or how best to play with a hybrid club or even how to hit the ball out of a buried lie in a bunker.

Both videos are certainly great time-pass material for the avid golfer.