



# Rock Harbor News

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## Continued Use of Long Putter Raises Concerns on Senior Tour

Story by Adam Schupak *New York Times* August 20, 2017

The Golf Channel analyst Brandel Chamblee was watching the second round of the United States Senior Open in June when television cameras zoomed in on Bernhard Langer as he attempted a 7-foot eagle putt on the 14th hole.

To Chamblee, it looked as if the butt end of Langer’s long putter was embedded in his shirt during the stroke and as if his left forearm touched his chest, a potential violation of Rule 14-1b. The rule forbids intentionally bracing the club against the body or creating so-called anchor points by pressing the grip hand or forearm against the body as a means of stabilizing the stroke.

“It’s just wrong,” Chamblee, a former player on the PGA Tour, said in a recent interview. “Whether he believed he was or not, the camera clearly showed he was.”

Two rules officials — Jeff Hall of the United States Golf Association and Brian Claar of the PGA Tour Champions — spoke about the issue with Langer, 59, who was cleared of any wrongdoing before his third round at the Senior Open. He ended up finishing in a tie for 18th place. But the controversy has hardly been confined to that putt or to Langer.



*Scott McCarron, who ranks second to Langer on the senior circuit’s points race this season, has used a long putter since 1991.*

Rule 14-1b, the ban on anchoring a putter, went into effect on Jan. 1, 2016, more than two years after players were told to prepare for the change. Since then, the broomstick putters have virtually disappeared from the regular PGA Tour, but they remain in use among a handful of players on the senior circuit, the PGA Tour Champions.

One of them is Scott McCarron, who ranks second behind Langer on this year’s money list and in the standings for the Charles Schwab Cup, the senior tour’s yearlong points race. His success and his putting technique, like Langer’s, have been called into question.

“It’s hurting our product and the credibility of the PGA Tour Champions,” said Tom Pernice Jr., a five-time winner on the tour.

“I believe in honesty and integrity,” Langer said in a statement July 7, “and I could not live with myself if I broke a rule and did not incur the penalty.”

Langer and McCarron have ardent defenders, as well. Rocco Mediate, 54, who used a long putter for about 15 years until 2009, said they deserved credit for figuring out how to use the broomstick putters without anchoring them — a challenge that Mediate found confounding.

**Continued on Page 3.....**

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Fresh From The Grill 2

Cole’s Corner 2

The Green 3

Pictorial Diary 4

Member Calendar 4

### Insert

Ask Denny 1

Member Corner 2

Before & After 3

Event Pictures 4

# Fresh From The Grill

*Beau Rudiger,  
RH Grill Manager:*

As Summer is coming to an end we look to the Fall and a new Fall Menu. We are currently working to get a new lunch and dinner menu out in a few weeks.

Since our last letter, we have hired a new cook, Dave Brannon. Dave comes to us with previ-

ous cooking experience from The Winchester Country Club. Please be sure to welcome him when you see him.

A few reminders:

Wing Night is every Thursday evening and starts at 5PM.

Rock Harbor Grill is also happy to supply sandwiches, wings and dips or any other foods for your

**WING NIGHT  
EVERY THURSDAY  
NIGHT  
5-9 PM  
.55 CENT WINGS  
MULTIPLE SAUCES**

tail gate parties as you and your friends watch the games.

Call us ahead of time to make plans for your next football get together at your house.

I hope everyone has a great September.



**Saturday Evening Dinner Hours 5-8:30 PM**

## Cole's Corner

*Cole Lee, Tournament Director:*

With the Golf season starting to come to an end, we begin to gear up for the **Harbor Cup**. With the teams all set, our two captains are already getting their competitive juices flowing and strategies in order. We have 28 players and 6 captains to make up the 2 teams each year and with this unique format, golf competition finally gets some much needed comradery. I congratulate all the players who qualified for this event and thank you for all your participation.

Our Labor Day event went extremely well with a full field of 72 players. I hope to get as much participation for the upcoming Chapman event on September 17<sup>th</sup>.

# The Green

Chris Dieter, Course Superintendent:

While in the middle of aerifying greens, the obvious topic this month you would think would be something to do with aerification. After watching the maintenance crew work so hard this week I would like to give credit where credit is due. (see picture below)

I have been receiving many compliments about our course conditions. While I appreciate the kind words I would like to point out the hard work of the maintenance crew and without their attention to detail Rock Harbor would not be as enjoyable.

“What are you going to do about the bunkers?” This has been a topic of much discussion the last month or so. Obviously we have bunkers in various degrees of disrepair. Lack of playability demands action. The bunkers all have their individual problems. In the next month we will begin working on the worst of the bunkers until we improve them all and the necessary improvements are made. This will be a time consuming process, however I can do nothing about whether your ball lands in the bunker or not.

Please feel free to stop me to chat, ask a question, express an opinion or complaint.

Thank you for repairing your ball marks and divots.



Many thanks to this crew!  
Back: Miguel, Audberto, Sergio, Mark  
Middle: Thomas, Brent, Ruben, Virgil  
Front: Monti and Cali

**Putting is not mechanical, it's a state of mind. The key thing for someone who doesn't putt well is get them to see the ball going into the hole.**

**Dave Stockton Jnr, Putting Coach to Michelle Wie**



.....continued from Page 1.....

“What they are doing is completely legal. It's 100 percent skill,” said Mediate, who played a round with McCarron at a recent tournament. “I said to Scotty: ‘How did you figure this out? It's like putting with a sledgehammer.’”

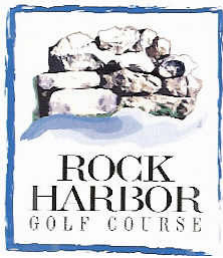
If the two camps can agree on anything, it is that golf's primary governing bodies — the U.S.G.A. and the R&A — has not done enough to educate the public about the new rule.

“There's no question they put us in a bad spot,” McCarron said.

Paul Goydos, who recently won the senior tour's 3M Championship, sympathized with Langer and McCarron. “The problem is they are perceived to be anchoring,” he said. “The way you beat perception is by education.”

For now, don't expect the players succeeding with long putters to yield to the unwanted scrutiny. McCarron said he and Langer had discussed the idea of opening a long-putter school.

“We could teach people how to do it,” he said. “I'm not shying away from it.”



## Pictorial Diary

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## Summer/Fall Activities for Members

**September 2—Glow Ball**

**September 4—Labor Day Outing**

**September 17—2 Person Chapman System**

**September 22, 23, 24—Harbor Cup**

**September 27- Sand N Suds**