

# CHANGE YOUR POINT OF VIEW

Even a faulty swing can look good

**T**he best analogy for swing analysis that I can think of is how you read a putt (or at least should be!). To get a true picture of the slope and grain on a green, and to ascertain the speed and line for a putt, good players make sure they read the green from behind the ball, from the hole, and from the side. Just reading a putt from behind the ball is not enough, and you're likely to get an incorrect read.

The same thing applies to swing analysis: now you may often ask someone else to view your swing from behind you (down the line view) to check that you're swinging on plane and hitting the right positions. The trouble with that is that often a swing that looks pretty good from behind the player, might in fact be suffering from swing faults which will only become apparent when viewed from the front (face-on view), or vice versa.

Have a look at my student Priant Randhawa who was struggling with his ball striking. Now Priant was checking his backswing positions while swinging with a mirror behind him, and couldn't gauge anything wrong. When I looked at his swing from this position, it looked good to me too (1).

The real picture emerged when we looked at his swing from a face on view: Priant was swinging the club up mainly with his hands and not turning his torso enough (5). This was forcing him to use the weaker muscles to propel the ball when, in fact, he should have been relying on his body to swing the club.

I had Priant work on a drill to ensure a greater turn of the torso in the backswing (6) and that made all the difference to his ball striking. Now he makes a much fuller body turn (4) but we may never have identified that, had we not checked out his swing from different angles.

Even if you're practicing in front of a mirror at home, make sure you check your swing out from different angles to get a true picture. Better still, get a coach to do that for you. ♣

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