



Homer Kelley's Golfing Machine: The Curious Quest That Solved Golf

By Scott Gummer

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The remarkable true story of a lone genius whose quest to unlock the science behind the perfect swing changed golf forever

In 1939, Homer Kelley played golf for the first time and scored 116. Frustrated, he did not play again for six months; when he did he carded a 77. Determined to understand why he was able to shave nearly 40 strokes off his score, Kelley spent three decades of trial and error to unlock the answer and to recapture that one wonderful day when golf was easy and enjoyable. In 1969, Kelley self-published his findings in *The Golfing Machine: The Computer Age Approach to Golfing Perfection*.

The bestselling instruction books of the day required golfers to conform their swings to the author's ideals, but Homer Kelley configured swings to fit every golfer. He found an enthusiastic disciple in a Seattle teaching pro named Ben Doyle, who in turn found an eager student in 13-year-old prodigy Bobby Clampett. Clampett's initial success in amateur golf shined a bright spotlight on Homer Kelley and *The Golfing Machine*, but when the young star suffered a painfully public collapse and faltered as a pro, critics were quick to blast Kelley and his complex and controversial ideas. With exclusive access to Homer Kelley's archives, author Scott Gummer paints a fascinating picture of the man behind the machine, the ultimate outsider who changed the game once and for all of us.

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Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #262206 in eBooks
- Published on: 2009-04-02
- Released on: 2009-05-14
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Few golf fans know the name Homer Kelley, writes Gummer, an acclaimed golf writer himself who admits even he didn't know Kelley's story until relatively recently. But Gummer aims to bring awareness to a man and the book he wrote that revolutionized the game of golf. Never a golfer himself, Kelley devoted his life to finding what made the perfect golf swing. Spending 30 years of his life in writing *The Golfing Machine*, Kelley analyzed the different components to a swing via geometry and physics, and insisted that there was no perfect solution—it was a system, not a method, and it was up to the golfer to find the proper components geared toward his own game. Even after his first book was finally published in 1969, Kelley continued to fine-tune his work, publishing several updated editions. And perhaps fittingly, he died while giving a seminar on the book. Alas, *The Golfing Machine* itself might have appealed to only the most physics-minded players: as one critic of Kelley's lamented, it all seems convoluted. Yet when one reads over the laundry list of professional golfers who benefited from Kelley's ideas, one wonders why Kelley's legacy lived in anonymity for so long. Gummer takes complicated ideas from Kelley's book and makes them easy to follow, and while the subject matter isn't universally fascinating, golf fans will find it to be a quick, enjoyable read. (May)

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Review

NEW YORK TIMES

"It is most worthy as an engaging and warm story of a simple but complex man obsessed with the simplicities and complexities of golf...Read the book and see for yourself. It is a tale that adds a charming piece to the puzzle."

"Homer Kelley for years loomed as one of the games last great mysteries, an obscure but important man who reshaped our perceptions of the modern swing. In this substantive and stylish book, Gummer unravels Kelley's elusive personal history and sheds light on his considerable influence. It's a story that will enlighten teachers, enthrall serious players, and entertain golfers at all levels."

-Guy Yocom, *Golf Digest*

"Scott Gummer has done a masterful job at a daunting task: solving the riddle of the man who solved (he thought) the riddle of the golf swing. *Homer Kelley's Golfing Machine* is a sad and funny story beautifully told."

-Curt Sampson, Author of *Hogan*

Review

GOLF DIGEST

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jonathan Nelson:

People live in this new day of lifestyle always attempt to and must have the spare time or they will get great deal of stress from both lifestyle and work. So , if we ask do people have spare time, we will say absolutely sure. People is human not only a robot. Then we consult again, what kind of activity do you have when the spare time coming to an individual of course your answer may unlimited right. Then ever try this one, reading books. It can be your alternative with spending your spare time, the book you have read is Homer Kelley's Golfing Machine: The Curious Quest That Solved Golf.

Charles Grove:

Your reading 6th sense will not betray anyone, why because this Homer Kelley's Golfing Machine: The Curious Quest That Solved Golf e-book written by well-known writer who knows well how to make book that may be understand by anyone who have read the book. Written in good manner for you, dripping every ideas and producing skill only for eliminate your own personal hunger then you still uncertainty Homer Kelley's Golfing Machine: The Curious Quest That Solved Golf as good book but not only by the cover but also from the content. This is one book that can break don't assess book by its cover, so do you still needing one more sixth sense to pick this kind of!? Oh come on your looking at sixth sense already alerted you so why you have to listening to another sixth sense.

Gloria Robey:

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William White:

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