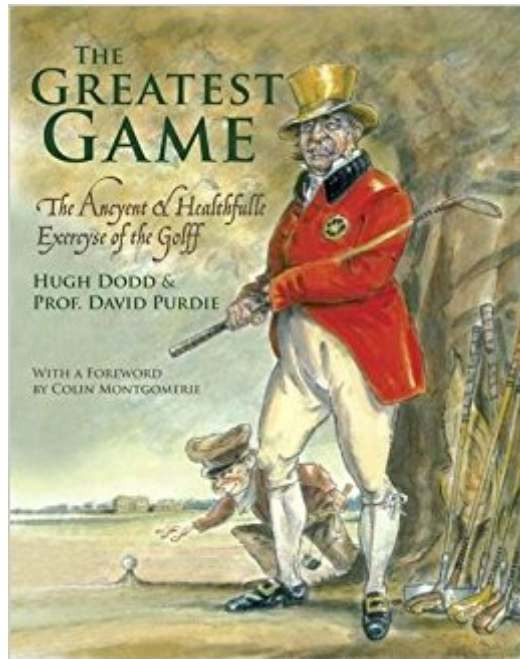


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The Greatest Game: The Ancyent And Healthfulle Exercyse Of The Golf



Synopsis

Did you know that Shakespeare was a golfer? And that Rembrandt was no stranger to the fairway? Professor David Purdie takes a seriously humorous swipe at our collected knowledge of the game in this enlightening and entertaining compendium. Based on firm facts where available and on firm invention when not, the book examines the curious roles of the Golf Club, the golf ball and the golf player, explores the culture of the game across the world, including the USA, China and India - and sweeps aside all claims for the game's origin outside of Scotland. Accompanied by hilarious caricatures, *The Greatest Game* offers an alternative view of golf and tries to make some sense of the collective madness which pervades the links each day from dawn to sunset.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Professor David Purdie's career in academic medicine - and golf - has ideally fitted him to describe the physical, and, especially, the mental afflictions of the golfer. His work as a journalist and as a speechwriter for Sam Torrance and Colin Montgomerie has given him insights into the game at the highest level. He can now be revealed as author of 'The Major', the legendary column in *Golf International* featuring the obsessions and outbursts of Major RJM Warren-Dawlish the explosive (and fictional) Secretary of Royal St. Luke's Golf Club, the oldest, and oddest, club in the world. Hugh Dodd's illustrations for each chapter comprise full-colour plates plus pen-and-ink vignettes. A contemporary Scottish artist and illustrator, his recent work has focused on the art of golf. He has exhibited widely since 1980 and his work can be found in numerous private and public collections throughout the world and appears in books, prints and cards. His work has also appeared in most

leading UK newspapers and magazines including The Daily Telegraph, The Spectator, The Scotsman, The Herald, The Scottish Field and others.

I've been teaching golf for over 40 years and a cursory glance at my bookshelf finds over thirty books on golf. The Greatest Game by Hugh Dodd and David Purdie will soon join them but first I've placed it on reserve at my University library. Purdie's insightful prose and Dodd's illustrations happily and rapidly move the reader, in a travelogue-like manner, through centuries golfing history, topics, and lore. While my students have found this to be the perfect complement to their efforts on the course, there have been a number of fellow faculty who've stopped in my office to thank me for discovering and sharing this book. Purdie's unique and humorous look at a variety of golfing topics from around the world is one to savor. Whether you've played, as have I for over a half-a-century, or new to the game this book will confirm Bernard Darwin's claim that golf is "without doubt, the greatest game mankind has ever invented."

I liked it very much

I should not have ordered this book without being able to review it. To my great regret, I find the illustrations to be third-rate at best, so bad that they ruin the book for me. I even refused to give this book to another golfing friend, it is so bad.

Is the game of golf the ultimate bridge between East and West? Apparently so. David Purdie includes every important civilization and culture in his wonderful "The Greatest Game" from the Ming Dynasty to Rembrandt, from Emperor Claudius to Mary Queen of Scots. Golf is much bigger than life. Like the Upanishads everything is part of god, only in this case god is golf. Any golfer can attest to that. From U.S. bombers landing on the fairway at Troon during WWII while Purdie's father is addressing his ball to the spurious presentation of Dermot Mulligan (the original Mulligan) and his ram jet farts, Purdie and Dodd give us a book to serve as The Canterbury Tales of Golf. At once erudite and apochraphal the reader learns so much about everything, never knowing if any of it is true. For example, Purdie gives us the formula of the speed and momentum of Mulligan's fart in Newtonian Physics. It is this juxtaposition of the ridiculous with the sublime that makes this book one that you hesitate to pick up and read but impossible to put down once you begin. We learn so much about culture, never knowing whether any of it is true. Who cares! You love golf, Purdie and Dodd love it more and they have created in perfect pitch the ancient history of the greatest game.

The Greatest Game: The Ancient & Healthful Exercise of the Golf is a must read for any one interested in golf lore and history and the keen sense of humor which golf and golfers are famous for. The illustrations are first rate and worth the price alone. Add a large dose of David Purdie, golf's foremost after dinner speaker, and you have the literary equivalent of a hole in one- on #16 at Cypress Point!!!

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