

# What Mrs. Porter Learned

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When I became professional at the Llanerch Country Club in 1934, I inaugurated a junior golf class, and it was there that Dorothy Germain, now Mrs. Mark A. Porter, started her golfing career. Her victory in the 1949 USGA Women's Amateur Championship was therefore a source of great satisfaction to me. It would seem also to be a fine testimonial to the value of the junior instruction program which the PGA is now actively promoting.

We kept the children interested by holding tournaments with their parents, giving spring and fall parties, awarding prizes to each child and taking movies to record what each accomplished.

In teaching beginners, I first put them through a series of exercises. I teach the proper use of the arms by having them swing on a straight line backward and forward through the ball. Then I have them use their hands at the top of the backswing and swing through on the line of flight. Finally I concentrate on the backswing and through the ball.

When the pupils have achieved some sense of control, I go into the complete follow-through, teaching the proper use of the hands through the ball so they can hook, slice and hit low or high. I also have them exercise by swinging with the left arm alone, with the right arm alone and with two clubs together. The weight of two clubs seems to make them swing in the right arc.

I don't believe in telling pupils all their faults. I try to get them to concentrate on the right things to do.

I explain the entire golf swing, the Vardon grip, the various stances and the necessity of taking a firm hold with the left hand.

When addressing the ball, I teach my pupils to keep the right side relaxed, the shaft in line with the left arm, the weight slightly behind the balls of the feet, the knees relaxed and the shoulders,



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elbows and wrists free from tension.

The left side controls the backswing. The hands, arms and club must start back together, the body turning easily toward the right side, the left knee bending inward toward the right, the right leg straightening to support the weight and the left arm extending to the full to hold the club in a horizontal position, pointing toward the objective, at the top of the backswing.

The downswing starts with the left heel returning to the ground as the weight is shifted to the left leg. The shoulders turn toward the left as the hands and arms begin the downward sweep. The right shoulder slips under as the club is brought into the ball. The left arm is straight but not tense. The right elbow is comfortably close to the side. The head does not move forward with the swing. The hands return to the position at address, with the back of the left hand facing the hole. The right leg relaxes and follows around easily.