

Who's really pulling the strings?

Jonathon Fleming

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Golf is a fickle game. There is a real mystery surrounding performance, and the lack thereof from one day to the next, or at times, one swing to the next. And it's not something that just the weekend warrior suffers from, professionals are often at complete odds as to where their game has gone, and how to get it back?

It is something as a golfer you are intrinsically aware of, and perhaps what makes us such resilient and grounded people. Just knowing that at any moment the wheels can fall off for no apparent reason, keeps us from getting too carried away when things are going well. So, with this realization lurking in the darkest recess of our minds, it is no wonder why so many of us have turned to some type of superstition.

Are you currently on a hot streak with a golf tee that makes all your drives go straight? Is it slightly unnerving when only one of your lucky red socks comes back from the laundry?

You are not alone if that's the case.

One of the most famous superstitions is Tiger's red shirt on a Sunday. This comes from his mother who believes red represents power, and Tiger's had his fair share of powerful Sundays.

Jack Nicklaus believed in the number 3. He only ever played a number 3 golf ball, and would always have 3 coins in his pocket when he won! He won a lot.

Every time Ernie Els makes a birdie, he will immediately swap his ball out as he is convinced that all of its luck has been used up.

One of the most bizarre rituals though comes from Fred Funk. Fred flips a coin before marking his ball on the green. If it lands on tails he will mark it with the tail facing up. If it lands on heads, its heads up, but the head *must* be facing the hole.

These quirks and rituals are proof that regardless of ability, we have accepted that this game is far from fair. Simply leaving luck to chance is almost a resignation that we have no control over our golfing fate.