

Bartenders Preachers and Golf Pros is a collection of stories about golf and life and how they blend together. Chris Rowe tells stories about family experiences to playing with celebrities at Whispering Pines.

Bartenders, Preachers and Golf Pros

By Chris Rowe

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BARTENDERS, PREACHERS AND GOLF PROS

CHRIS ROWE

HARVEY PENICK TEACHER OF THE YEAR

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This book details the author's personal experiences with and opinions about golf.

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Embarrassment at Church



ANYONE WHO READS my articles knows I love music. If Van Halen called tomorrow, I wouldn't quit my job at Whispering Pines, but I would love to get on stage with those guys and rock out! So many years ago, when I was playing in my band Built for Speed, I would practice a bit on the drums. I was the lead singer and played guitar, but never was very good at keeping a beat. This is why I wasn't the drummer!

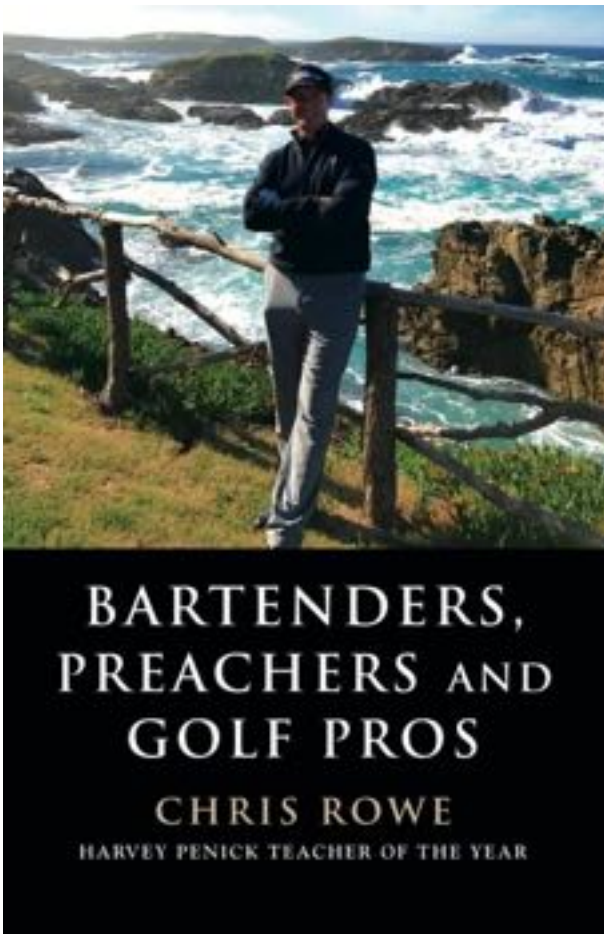
The problem with me is that I thought I could play drums. When we finished practice, I would get on my buddy's drum set and pound away. I knew my playing wasn't great, but thought I could keep a beat. One night at church, the drummer didn't show up. Yes, you guessed it: I walked up to the drum set and told the pianist I was going to fill in. The first song began, and I started playing. Have you ever felt that hot streak run up the back of your spine when you realized you were in trouble? As I was trying to keep the beat, I looked out in the crowd and saw my horrified mother looking at me with embarrassment. She couldn't save me, and I couldn't get off the stage fast enough. The pianist looked at me and wondered, *What in the world is he doing?*

The truth was, I should have never gotten on stage and tried to play drums! I could have played a guitar because I played guitar all the time, but the drums were not my area of expertise. I've never lacked confidence, and humility is a hard pill to swallow, and I've made a habit out of embarrassing myself.

In golf, many times we get ourselves in the same situation. We think we can pull off a shot we haven't practiced. We play the back tees when we don't have the length to play them. We get in bets over our head that we shouldn't be in. We try and hit the miracle shots when we are in the woods, rather than taking the easy punch back into the fairway

shot. All this to say that I did this (played drums) in front of an entire congregation and absolutely crashed and burned. When you're on the course and you're faced with a shot you haven't practiced, don't try and create a miracle. Stick with what you're comfortable with. If you are not the best chipper, then putt from off the green when you have the opportunity. If the hole you're playing is a dogleg left and you don't draw the ball, hit your standard shot and choose a line that fits your shot. If you know your bunker game is not the best, don't challenge the tight pin tucked next to the bunker ... You get the picture!

The next time you're faced with an uncomfortable shot, remember me, Chris Rowe, trying to play the drums during a Sunday night church service, and stick with what you're comfortable with! It will be the best decision every time.



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